MLA Katrine Conroy presses Environment Minister on Lemon Creek spill

by Art Joyce

Now that spring is upon us, with snowpack melt flooding out Slocan Valley creeks, last July’s jet fuel spill in Lemon Creek rises from its winter sleep. Kootenay West MLA Katrine Conroy recently pressed Environment Minister Mary Polak for answers in a legislative debate. The minister mostly evaded direct answers, citing the class action litigation as a reason for maintaining confidentiality. However, Polak did say her ministry would accept baseline data collected by Slocan Valley Streamkeepers. This was a positive step after SNC Lavallin, the firm hired by Executive Flight Centre to provide post-spill environmental monitoring, claimed that Streamkeepers’ 15 years of data was “not required.”

However, Slocan Valley residents can’t expect any compensation from the BC Government at any time soon, Polak continued. “We don’t have the authority or the ability to collect in terms of compensation or, in fact, to provide compensation.” She further states: “Generally speaking, decisions about compensation would rest with some combination of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General. On the specifics, though, I really have to be careful about how far I comment just because of the lawsuit.”

The minister didn’t address provisions within the Emergency Program Act’s Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation, which provides relief to BC residents affected by “minimizable” natural disasters, including overland flooding and groundwater seepage. Some landowners are also covered, although last year, David Curtis of Emergency Management BC said the government doesn’t have to provide additional compensation for Johnson’s Landing residents because the Province wasn’t fault for the slide. It’s unclear how a man-made disaster such as the Lemon Creek fuel spill fits into the legislation.

“What ends up happening is the people of the valley are the ones that are suffering,” Conroy told the minister. “It’s not the ministries. It’s not the government. It’s not the companies that are involved. They’re all fighting with each other over who has to pay. I think it would be appropriate for the ministry to consider some kind of compensation for the victims and then for the ministry—the government—to fight with the company to determine before the courts who actually should be doing the compensation for the people that are affected.”

Conroy admitted this might be a “novel concept” but urged the government to consider “making a new rule” in light of the impact to valley residents. Minister Polak claimed the government “would not have the authority nor the ability to do anything more than recoup our reasonable response and cleanup costs.”

Conroy further argued that allowing Executive Flight Centre to hire its own post-spill environmental monitoring firm represents a conflict of interest. “They’re evaluating the environmental impact for the company that’s paying them,” she pointed out, with obvious implications for the conclusions drawn.

Another red flag was raised by SNC Lavallin’s refusal of Streamkeepers’ baseline data. Although no specific point with regard to litigation was raised by Conroy, the minister still claimed she was constrained from answering. When asked about SNC Lavallin’s refusal of Streamkeepers’ data, Polak said while she couldn’t answer for the corporation, her ministry “would certainly welcome the data from the Streamkeepers.”

Conroy asked if the minister would “contribute to some kind of an enforcement of jet fuel storage and transportation standards in remote rural areas.” Here again the minister was evasive, citing a division of jurisdictions. While storage of hazardous materials is governed by the Province, transportation of dangerous goods is a federal jurisdiction. Last year, senior Public Affairs Officer, License Bawness of the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure told the Valley Voice: “The ministry has adopted the national standard for the transport of dangerous goods. Transport Canada develops safety standards and regulations, provides oversight and gives expert advice on dangerous goods accidents…”

Meanwhile, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) released a report in October 2013 on the Lac-Mégantic disaster that noted a steady program of federal deregulation. In late 2012 the Harper government issued its Cabinet Directive on Regulatory Management (CDRM), “focusing departments and agencies to repeal at least one existing regulation for every new one that imposes an administrative burden (i.e., red tape) on business,” according to the CCP’s Bruce Macdonald. Basically, argues Macdonald, “the CDRM promotes non-regulatory options such as ‘self-regulation.’”

Conroy cited the efforts of Anne H. Director Walter Popoff to help coordinate Lemon Creek disaster response efforts, but said the results highlighted the need for a more effective disaster response and containment strategy for rural areas. Conroy added that the Lemon Creek fuel spill is an object lesson for oil tanker spill response on the west coast. “How can we safely say we’re going to deal with that if we can’t even deal with this in Lemon Creek?”

Popoff has taken the matter to the UBCM (Union of BC Municipalities) and Minister Polak said they are willing to continue working “more broadly with UBCM in terms of ensuring that all communities have well-established protocols.”

“Within months later, and residents of the Slocan Valley are still feeling the aftermath of the spill,” said Conroy. “I’m hoping that the ministry, even though there is a court case hanging over their heads, can still take the opportunity to look at those responses and to respect the work that’s gone into it.”

Michelle Gordon and欧阳 at the Shushannah Gallery’s annual Easter Egg Hunt.

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BC government decisions on Jumbo Glacier Resort backfire

by Art Joyce

The BC government’s attempt to quickly amend Environmental Assessment regulations so that all season resorts or gas plants no longer need to undergo environmental assessment has backfired. When northern BC First Nations kicked government representatives out of a meeting April 10, Environment Minister Mary Polak promptly issued a retraction of the order-in-council that had introduced the changes without any public consultation. The Jumbo Glacier Resort Municipality in the East Kootenay would have been among the first to benefit from this change. Polak later apologized for the decision, saying the government failed to discuss the amendment with First Nations prior to its approval.

The new municipality, which currently has a mayor but no residents, has also benefited from a $51 million dollar infusion of taxpayer cash in addition to the $290 million it received last year to establish a municipal council. Both announcements have been met with a storm of controversy. The million-dollar infusion will be doled out incrementally as part of the municipality’s five-year plan, despite more than 1,300 letters of opposition from across BC submitted during recent public consultation. The Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG) recently passed a motion opposing any further funding of the empty municipality.

The proposed all-season, four-glacier ski resort, which would include over 6,000 beds at full build out, still faces a legal challenge from West Kootenay EcoSociety. The society is challenging the Pincher Act illegally when it created a municipality with no residents in order to expedite planning for the resort. The East Kootenay Group Wildfire is running a campaign asking citizens to protest this use of their tax dollars. MLA Norm Macaulay and Michelle Mussglng brought the bill to the legislative and budget discussions for the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. But unlike the environmental assessment decision, the government so far isn’t backing on this one.

BC NDP Energy Critic Spencer Chandra-Herbert condemned the proposed changes, which would have lowered environmental standards for oil and gas plants. According to the NDP, other legislation introduced by the BC government will still allow them to weaken protection of provincial parks and farmland without any notice, consultation or public process.

“Environmental Assessments are designed to give people a say over what takes place in and around their communities,” said Chandra-Herbert. “Failing to meaningfully consult with First Nations and local communities only slows industry down and creates greater uncertainty on the landbase. First Nations leaders echoed the BC Liberal government what true leadership looks like this week. It starts with listening to the people that you represent.”

Meanwhile the deregulation of resorts from environmental assessment also attracted criticisms from environmental groups. “If these changes to the Environmental Assessment Act are indeed aimed at facilitating the Jumbo Glacier Resort,” says Wildlight’s Robyn Duncan, “this would be the second time the government has made legal changes in order to do so. Last year, the Province revoked legislation to allow for the creation of a municipality without residents, also in favour of Jumbo Reserve.” Jumbo Glacier Resort’s 2004 environmental certificate, which expires in October this year, was issued based on resort proponents meeting 159 legally binding conditions.

According to the West Kootenay EcoSociety, the BC Supreme Court has ruled against the Pincher Act in its case against the Jumbo development. The Ktunaxa Nation argued that the spiritual significance of the area should preclude permanent settlement, but the court disagreed. A similar suit was proposed for Valemount, BC, is now in the planning stages, and is being developed by the same architect behind the Jumbo proposal.

Local governments call for consultation on ALR changes

by Jan McMurray

The widespread opposition to proposals to loosen BC’s Agricultural Land Reserve (Bill 24) found company in our area’s local governments at the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments conference in Creston April 8-11. The conference passed a resolution asking that Bill 24 not be brought into force until there is consultation with the public, local governments, the Union of BC Municipalities and other affected parties.

The bill, if passed, would create two zones in the ALR. It would be status quo in zone 1, but in zone 2, which includes the Kootenays, non-agricultural home-based businesses would be allowed. This was seen by attendees as part of the original vision, to place farmland and rural communities in the ALR.

The bill was passed forward the resolution at the AKBLG conference, asking that ‘regions that wish to remain in the Agricultural Land Reserve’ be either not or categorised into Zone 2 and that the provincial government accept application from local governments that wish to remain categorized in Zone 1.”

The original resolution was amended to call for consultation before passing the bill into law.

Farmers from the Creston area gathered outside the Creston Recreation Centre with tractor and signs to show their opposition to Bill 24 and support for Nelson’s resolution.

That same afternoon, a new agriculture minister, Norm Letnick, was sworn in. A press release issued by the NDP on April 17 states that Minister Letnick “is acknowledging that there has not been real consultation to allow for the Liberals’ Bill 24 to move forward.”

The WCB has decided to block the legislation from the within the agriculture sector is causing him to revisit the government’s lack of consultation on the legislation,” the NDP release says.

The chair of the BC Agriculture Council was on CBC Radio on April 17 and said he would be meeting with Minister Letnick on April 23 to discuss the council’s concerns with the bill.

Nakusp youth entrepreneurs get ready for Junior Dragons’ Den

The Nakusp Secondary 11th grade team has made it to the top eight in the West Kootenay Junior Dragons Den program.

Mocked after CBC’s ‘The Dragons’ Den’, the Junior Dragons’ Den program is a West Kootenay-wide business contest for youth entrepreneurs.

Speakeasies by Community Futures, students in grades 9-12 from throughout the West Kootenay Boundary region were invited to submit a business concept paper and a brief video elevator pitch, explaining their business idea. Submissions were then evaluated based upon: finances, marketability, the product or service and the overall plan presented.

“We’re excited and inspired by the level of detail and sophistication presented by all applicants and would like to congratulate everyone on a job well done,” stated Dan Freschi of Community Futures in Trail. “Business concepts ranged from eco exhaust filters to outfit matching apps.”

The top eight Junior Dragons will now work with a mentor from the local business community on everything from start-up considerations and marketing, to coaching, leadership and presentation skills. They will refine their business concept into a working business plan, and produce a new video for their business as part of their pitch.

The competition culminates with the top eight pitching their business ideas Friday June 6, in a live show format at Charles Bailey Theatre in Nelson, to a panel of local West Kootenay Dragons.

“With $5,000 in cash prizes up for grabs this promises to be a show not to be missed!” says Freschi.

To meet the Junior Dragons, and to watch their videos and vote on them, visit www.juniordragonsden.ca.
Silvertone Gallery to close as venue for public events June 1

by Jan McMurray

The Silvertone Gallery will be closed as a venue for public events as of June 1, due to fire safety concerns. The closure will remain in effect until an architect or other qualified professional certifies the building as safe for public events. The Village will pick up the cost of the architect.

This decision was made at Silvertone council’s in-camera meeting on April 15, and made public in open meeting immediately afterwards. Councillor Jason Clarke, council’s liaison to the Slocan Lake Gallery Society, says he recommended the closure after reading “all the documents and meeting notes” and sitting down with society president, Art Joyce.

“When you review all the evidence, there really isn’t any other option,” said Clarke.

The report that puts the safety of the building in question is the September 2013 fire prevention inspection report, which lists numerous “impertinent” corrections required, including installing a fire alarm, fire detectors, and fire doors.

Society President Art Joyce said, “It is as an unfortunate decision, but somewhat inevitable given the state of the building and the amount of money required to bring it up to code. Had there only been one fire inspection report of this type, I would have fought it much harder, but given that we have a few years of those same kinds of reports, I can see where that could start to alarm the Village and the insurer.”

Based on his research, Joyce says he thinks it would cost anywhere between $100,000 and $250,000 to re-open the building to the public.

Joyce confirmed that the gallery society will continue its arts programming, using the Memorial Hall. The Village has offered the use of the hall and the fastball meeting room at a cost comparable to the gallery lease fee. Also, the gallery can still be used as a meeting space.

The Valhalla Fine Arts Society is impacted, as it holds its theatre school at the gallery, and uses the space for its summer music school, as well. Katrina Summall, president of VFAS, says she was sad to hear about the closure.

“There is no place as it is suitable as the gallery for the theatre school, but I’m always flexible, so I’ll make other arrangements,” she said.

Joyce says the society board, in discussions with Silvertone council, has been arguing since September that there are ways of keeping the building open and meeting the fire safety standards incrementally.” However, he says he agrees that the closure is the right thing to do at this time. “I understand it because of the potential liability implications, not only for the Village but also for the directors of the society.”

Clarke says when he met with Joyce, he outlined his concerns about fire safety and told him there were two ways to go. They could either close the building, or the Village could sell it to the gallery society for a dollar, thereby absolving the Village of any liability. “Art recognized that you can’t have the place open when there is enough proof that it’s not safe, and he doesn’t think the society has the capacity to become the stewards of the building,” said Clarke.

Joyce and the Village had previously offered the building to the society for $1 and the society turned it down because the Village would still own the land where the building sits. “My recommendation was to reject that because we’d have no real property value, we’d just inherit all the responsibility for the building,” said Joyce.

Since he became president in September, Joyce says he has gone right through the building with a few professionals and contractors to try to determine “how much work needs doing.” Retired City of Nelson Building Inspector Steve Cannon generously donated his time to produce a detailed work plan, but the Village and the RDCK building department insist that the work plan must be done by a registered professional who is currently working.

“The whole point to bringing Steve in was to avoid the architect’s fee,” said Joyce. Architect Charmaine Fairbairn has quoted $5,800 for a work plan.

“We ask people from the community to come on board if they truly value the gallery,” said Joyce. “The current board doesn’t have the capacity to deal with the building in this state.”

“Tough both these responsibilities to the community and our fiscal health is a real concern,” said Joyce. The Village has not put any reserve funds away for any of its public buildings and the gallery society didn’t push the issue of trying to stem the deterioration.”

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Community Calendar

Wednesday, April 23
Slocan Lake Showboat Meeting
Village of New Denver Valley
7 pm - 9 pm

Thursday, April 24
Slocan Lake Showboat Meeting
Sheltered Memorial Hall
7 pm - 9 pm

Community Dressed Youth Fund Workshop
Slocan Park Hall
8 pm - 9 pm

History of Slocan Fruits with Jakes Connor
Frasor Hall
7 pm

Supporting Youth Workshop
Kako Youth Centre
5 pm - 6 pm

Friday, April 25
Firewise Workshop Workshop
Slocan Community Service Society
1 - 3 pm.

Saturday, April 26
Trash to Treasure
ROCK & RIDE
9 am - 4 pm

Artsil Press: A Show of Stateliness
Artsil Hall
7 pm

Nakusp Glisan: Year of the Horse Awards
Nakusp Legion Hall
50th anniversary

Sunday, April 27
Rosedale Parks and Recreation Society AGM
Nakusp Hall, New Denver
Nakusp Legion Hall
11 am

Nakusp Community Initiatives Update
Nakusp Community Hall
Nakusp Legion Hall
11 am - 1 pm

Slocan Valley Co-op AGM
Frasor Hall
11 am

Falls Choral Society AGM
Falls Community Hall
11 am

ALC Community Arts Concert
Nakusp Legion Hall
Nakusp Community Hall
11 am

Yard & Yarn Sale
Slocan Valley Thrift Shop
11 am - 2 pm

Monday, April 28
Valley View Golf Course Open
Valley View Golf Course, Nakusp
11 am - 4 pm

Tuesday, April 29
Concert Youth Choir Concert
Monarch Hall, Silverton
7:30 pm

Friday, May 2
EP Robinson Party with Jonnie
Three Lions Pub
8 pm - 10 pm

Saturday, May 3
Windows Maker Day
Downtown Winkin
11 am - 1 pm

Multi-Family Yard Sale
7th Ave, Nakusp
10 am - 12 pm

Sunday, May 4
Nakusp Legion: CCA Tournament
Nakusp Legion Hall
1 pm

Green Party AGM & Potluck Party
Nelson Community Centre
Nakusp Legion Hall
1 pm

Monday, May 5
Slocan Festival Brotherhood AGM
Frasor Hall
1 pm

White Sturgeon Touch & Learn
Mametza Plaza
10 am - 11 am

White Sturgeon Touch & Learn
Cardinale Community Complex
10 am - 11 am

Tuesday, May 6
Jahvas Car Tuning Workshop
Kako Senior’s Hall
1 - 2 pm

New Dower Water System Tour
Kako Hall, Nakusp
11 am - 12 pm

New Dower Water System Tour
Kako Hall, Nakusp
12:30 - 2:30 pm

Nakusp Rotary Club
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Military spending

In light of the government’s decision to spend billions of our dollars on war planes, I ask my fellow Canadians: Who are we expecting to go to war with and why are we not investing in methods of peace? Are Canadians not known as peacekeepers as we have shown in the past? Do we need to contribute to the killing that is taking place around the world? No.

What would happen if we dropped clean water, food and medicine instead of bombs?

Remember: “An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind” and “do unto others as you would have done unto you.”

What are we doing allowing these people who are elected to represent us to spend our collective money—billions on war, instead of actions of peace, and healthcare, education, housing, and food?

As Gandhi said, “May we be the change we wish to see. I wish you all a peaceful and happy future.”

Matthew Thomas
Kaslo

Keeping ‘oldies off the road’

I am writing this letter in support of all seniors who have had their driving licence taken away at the age of 80 or older. I have empathy with all those who have gone through all I have suffered in the past year by not having a car and having to depend on others.

I have been driving for 40 years and feel that I am a responsible driver and have never had an accident or incurred any fines. I would be interested to know how many seniors have lost their licences in the past few years. There seems to be an attitude of “getting older off the road.” What about the drunken drivers or those under the influence of drugs?

I would be happy with a restricted licence so that I could drive in the Kaslo area in order to go shopping, to church, etc.

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

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

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The Valley Voice April 25, 2014

Canfor has concerns with area-based tenure process

As many of our mailboxes know, the BC Government is undertaking a public consultation process focused on setting parameters for converting some volume-based tenures in the province to area-based. Canfor understands that the brief consultation process is part of Minister Steve Thomson’s mandate letter and we hold Minister Thomson and his officials in the highest possible regard.

However, BC’s interior forest sector is undergoing a significant transformation in the wake of the mountain pine beetle epidemic, and in our view, this is absolutely not the time for major changes to tenure administration.

Government and industry must focus on understanding what tenure is available and what adjustments are needed in a very rapid manner. We feel the benefits of area-based tenures are marginal at best and there are many higher priorities that would yield greater positive impacts. More importantly, the public opposition to this proposal is a deal breaker. As far as Canfor is concerned, the risk of signing the public against BC’s largest forest companies outweighs any marginal benefits of expanding area-based tenures.

We need access to enough fibre to meet the needs of our customers, and we need the support of British Colombians to operate on public land. Canfor would only support a fully transparent process that is fair to all licencees and involves sufficient public involvement so we could be confident it has support of British Colombians.

If government moves to an area-based tenure process, Canfor would participate in order to protect our interests. But we would do so reluctantly. We consider it a needless diversion of vital government staff time—and our own staff time—away from higher priorities.

We believe that government resources should be focused on maintaining the health of the interior forest sector, completing an updated forest inventory to support planning and decision making, recruiting smaller tenure holders and the BC Timber Sales program so they can access their tenure volumes, and assisting communities with any necessary rationalizations in primary manufacturing.

Don Korne
President and CEO, Canfor

TV Society meeting disappointing

I attended the Arts 11 North TV Society AGM April 11th held a day after its constitution mandated “within 90 days” of fiscal year-end. I note The Valley Voice reporting April 9 and would like to make the following comments.

I was disappointed with some aspects of the conduct of the meeting and was pleased to hear Mr. Walter Popoff from RDCG mention at the end that a workshop may be forthcoming possibly under the auspices of CSI to educate society directors as to Robert’s Rules of Order in regard to conduct of meetings such as AGM.

I was also disappointed as to some directors’ apparent attitude to the use of taxpayer money. This despite Mayor Bandit’s information to the meeting, plus the already clear recognition by the society board of directors, the mayors of Silverton and New Denver and the RDCK director, that too much of it had been going to the TV Society relative to its actual operational expenses and thus the pre-emptive agreement to drop its mail rate by some 40 percent starting in 2014.

I thought the decision to re-elect the “existing seven board members present” (7 I believe the constitutional minimum, maximum 12) as opposed to the “existing board” which would have included Dr. Trevor Harper who was unable to be present was, what’s the word—“chicanery” to put it kindly.

I note that most of the people who signed the petition last year that resulted in the funding cut (and sparked this AGM’s turnout to vote for essentially the status quo, which includes the large expense of purchasing a generator) did not attend — this was also disappointing. I was pleased to hear from Mr. Popoff that the survey might be possible (I would hope carried out in a way to minimize its expense to taxpayers) to more precisely gauge the issues (including I would presume as to whether user pay should be the ‘business’ model).

The role of the society is much diminished by reason of the alternatives now in use by most people, i.e. satellite and internet. It’s not clear that it should remain a socialized service. I heard a comparison made with the regional transit service, which is heavily taxed and subsidized. I don’t see how the two are comparable—one for mobility where alternatives are too costly or unavailable and the other for personal entertainment, etc. In the case of TV, the alternatives are affordable and available. Show already charges the TV Society for its limited-channel signal to the tune of about $600 per annum (I suspect the actual user number is much less) and $7,000 per year.

As to the generator for protecting equipment, I thought there were electronic methods available to cushion shutdowns and start-ups. Why run the UPS flat in a BC Hydro outage? A dedicated generator is unnecessary in my opinion as it is not for an essential service. The society board shouldn’t be looking for ways to spend its unjustifiably large surplus of public funds — these funds should be in public use elsewhere or rebated somehow.

Stephen L. Phillips
New Denver
Popoff opposes bylaws that could lead to dissolving commissions
by Ian McMurray

The hot topic at the April 17 RDCK board meeting was a draft bylaw that would change the way business is done with 17 Regional Commission members. Area H Director Walter Popoff was one of the most vocal directors against the draft bylaw. In the end, it was given final reading and is expected to come back to the board in May for final adoption.

There are in fact two bylaws being considered by the RDCK board that would change how the board operates – the Water Supply Board Bylaw and the Subregional Services Committees Bylaw.

“My position is always that governance should be from the bottom up, not the top down – and the top down approach is what is happening with these two bylaws,” said Director Popoff in an interview after the board meeting.

The bylaws would create committees, made up of RDCK directors only, that would be charged with decision-making being done by the RDCK directors themselves. In Area H, anyway. (Some RDCK areas do not rely on commissions as much as Area H does.) Commissions are made up of appointed members of the public and include the RDCK directors involved.

“As a rural director, I rely on my commissioners,” said Popoff. “Unlike municipalities, I don’t have councils to rely on. I put a lot of consideration into my appointments to the commissions. I try to have well-rounded commissions, with different personalities and different geographical areas and from the different sectors like social, environmental, arts and culture, and business.”

Currently, commission members vote on issues that then go before the RDCK board as recommendations. The RDCK board has the final say on the commission’s recommendations. Under the proposed Subregional Services Committees Bylaw, the RDCK directors involved with the issue could make decisions without bringing them to the board, as long as the decisions are within the approved budget. Anything outside of the approved budget, and the acquisition and sale of holdings, would have to go before the board.

RDCK Board Chair John Knetle said in an interview that the reason behind the proposed change in governance is “to make things more efficient” and to recognize that the RDCK is ultimately liable for all decisions now being made at the commission level.

“The commissions are advisory, but some have taken on more than they were intended to,” said Knetle. “People [on commissions] don’t want to increase water rates or have reserve accounts, but you can’t continue to do that. In order to meet the requirements of BIA under the Drinking Water Protection Act, things are going to have to change.”

Popoff says he’s very concerned about taking the decision-making process away from the commission level. “So before adopting the bylaw, I would like the board chair and CAO to come to a meeting of the commissions and explain how this is going to work,” he said.

The Subregional Services Committees Bylaw would also grant the commission independence from the RDCK board. The Slocan Valley Services Commission would consist of Directors Popoff (Area H), Elliott (Slocan), Man (Silverton) and Banks (New Denver).

The scope of the committees would include all RDCK services shared by some or all of the committee members. Popoff said the sub-commissions will discuss issues currently before the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, Recreation Commission No. 6, the Rosebery Parklands and Trails Commission, the Winlaw Regional Park Commission, and the Slocan Valley Commission of Management.

At the April 17 RDCK board meeting, Director Elliott asked if the commission would be dissolved or eradicated as a result of adopting this bylaw: CAO Brian Carruthers replied, “Once the committees meet, they would make recommendations around that. My recommendation would be to dissolve the commissions. The concern was around consistency and the consistency model around voting. There’s no sense to have this bylaw and the commissions,” he said.

He indicated that the bylaw establishing the Subregional Services Committee was in conflict with the bylaw establishing the commissions, as they represent different governance models.

“[The CAO] has suggested that they become advisory committees. If they were to become advisory committees, I think they would lose some of the ownership they feel they have. That would lead to difficulty in appointing members to those commissions,” Popoff said.

For the liability issue, Popoff said, “Liability is always a concern with all organizations, and that’s why RDCK has liability insurance through the Municipal Insurance Association.”

At the April RDCK board meeting, this bylaw was deleted at length. Director Popoff made a motion to exclude the Slocan Valley Services Committee from the bylaw, but the motion was defeated. Director Popoff then asked if just the Area H Director could be excluded, but that failed as well. Two other directors put forward motions to exclude their proposed service committees, but those motions also failed.

CAO Brian Carruthers explained at the meeting that the bylaw is an empowering bylaw, not a regulatory bylaw. “It provides the ability to cost in a committee and make decisions. If you choose not to, the board is not holding any one committee to account.”

FARM F O O D F OR K O R K s u r pas s e s e x p e c t a t i o n s

submitted

April 5 and 6, over 400 people participated in the many different avenues of inspiring food festivities that made Farm Food Fork’s debut celebration a resounding success. This healthy attendance exceeded expectations of organizers Shamus Teare and Malin Christiansen. F5F’s main goal, to educate and engage residents in their food system while providing space for stakeholders to develop and strategize together, was more than achieved.

Participants for both the festival and the forum were served remarkable 100 percent local meals, put out by the chefs from Waterstreet on Saturday and the Hanna Hotel on Sunday.

Networking, connection, and opportunities were explored and the bursary fund, created by the events ticket sales, was awarded through a Fork Vote to three local initiatives: The Region Producers Co-op out of Nelson, seeking to provide distribution structures and logistics for producers in the Boundary/Kootenay region, received the most Fork Votes.

The WE Graham Community Service Society from Slocan City, which is developing a permaculture garden/commercial kitchen/food oven and food forest to feed its Food Bank and community, was awarded the second most Fork Votes.

The Queen Bee Project, also in Slocan, was awarded the final Fork Vote (tie for second) to fund a bee-keeping program and to further develop a bee sanctuary with medicinal herbs to promote healthy pollinators.

In addition to the bursary fund supporting these projects in the community, the event helped deliver the message of the positive ARI situation to the large audience, rejuvenated discussions about developing a regional food alliance, and created connected business opportunities amongst attendees.

The food system is a large economic driver in this country. F5F has brought to light the visible economic development that can happen with the support of consumers choosing local food when possible and producers working together to support one another’s initiatives and needs.

The final step in the Farm Food Fork project is the soon-to-launch KootenayFood.com website. This is an easy to use directory to put consumers in touch with seasonal local food, gardeners in touch with resources and inputs, everyone in touch with educational opportunities involving food and farming, and to be the umbrella of food group efforts in the region. The site has a directory completed for the Slocan Valley, but any food-related business can login and add their information for the rest of the Kootenay communities. Anyone can use the classified section for farm/Food-related needs and over the summer you will see farm features appear online with stories and imagery from some of the region’s most inspiring farmers.

Farm Food Fork was made possible with the generous support of the Columbia Basin Trust, RDCK, Selkirk College, the Kootenay Co-op, and Transton Nelson, along with the help of many of our local food businesses.

ARGENTA FILM FEST:
A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY
Saturday, April 26, 7:00 pm, Argenta Hall
We proudly present three local multi-award winning film artists:

1. Marion Needoba’s EYES IN THE FOREST - The Portraiture of Jim Lawrence – a restrained study of landscapes and wildlife and a conversation between two artists and their art forms.
2. Jim Lawrence’s LIFE ON CLEAR WATER – a contrast in composition that focuses on the gentle ways of the wild using dips of daily life along Kootenay waterways with lyrical scenes to soothe the soul.
3. Rachel Schmidt’s DEFENDORA - Documents the historic and on-going land and community defence struggles of Myay Neeq’em communities in eastern Guatemala, and their struggle for justice and remedy in Canadian courts against the nickel mining company Hudbay Minerals.

Meet the Artists, Refreshments, Admission by donation to the Guatemalan Women’s Legal Defense Fund.

For more info visit www.defendoraefilm.com or www.facebook.com/Defensora

2013 Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award
Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the Legion Hall
This year we honour Sharon Montgomery and Chuck and Dawna Dinning

Tickets are at Hub/Barton Insurance $20.00 (Dinner included)
Doors open at 5:30 pm. Dinner served by the Legion Auxiliary at 6.00 pm.
Sponsored by the Nakusp & District Rotary Club

Nakusp Citizen of the Year

Thirty volunteers showed up over two days to spruce up the Kooten Garden At Nine Dinner. Now’s ready for the seven weddings and two performances already booked for the summer. This smiling group was the Saturday night, stopping for a Soup de Jour lunch treat.
The Silverton Community Club was given permission, with thanks, to make improvements to the bar at the Silverton Memorial Hall by installing a task and counter, security door and roll-down door at the serving counter. The club has set aside $2,000 for the project. The Village will make it clear that certified contractors must be used when required by the building code.

Council granted Silverton Community Club’s request to hold a Boar’s Garden at the Creekside Campground during July 1st celebrations.

A review of the management of Memorial Hall by Village staff was referred to the Committee of the Whole meeting, to allow for more discussion.

Council’s selection of Silverton’s Volunteer of the Year was referred to in camera. The awards ceremony takes place April 26 at 7 pm at the Silverton Memorial Hall.

The audited financial statements for 2013 were adopted as presented by the auditor, Berg Lehman.

Council Man reported on the Business Retention and Expansion survey. Results were presented to the public on April 2 and 3. The next step is for the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission to meet with the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce to discuss ways to address the needs of businesses as identified in the survey. She mentioned bringing in workplace training, and moderating a banking services round table discussion.

Main has had some discussion with Uli Masteler of Selkirk College, who is interested in helping with training and communications issues.

Council Chair reported that the West Kootenay Tourism Alliance has launched their new “Explorer” brand for the region – the West Koote Route – covering the Slocan Valley, Nakusp and Arrow Lakes, and Kootenay Lake. He said the goal was to have visitors stay for a week or two in the region, rather than travelling through on a day trip. It’s the Kootenay Route 60 shaped with a Kootenay twist,” he said, adding that the brand was well received at the public launch. Councillor Johnson also attended the launch and said he was very impressed with the brand.

Chair also reported that Recreation Commission No. 6 has uploaded its Grant in Aid application and feedback form.

Bob LeFevre, CAO and Acting CFO, reported that he is working on renewing an Office Assistant/Bookkeeper. The Village is still considering working with Nelson on CFO services. The Village is also looking at the feasibility of collaboration with other Villages in the region on financial services. A consultant has been hired to do this feasibility study. Silverton, Slocan and Salmo are participating in the study.

The report from Melisa Miles, administrative assistant, states that the Memorial Hall is almost completely booked for weekends through the summer (weddings, reunions, etc.).

A draft noise control bylaw was presented. Council asked staff to simplify the bylaw and bring it to the Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion.

The amended personnel policy was adopted. Amendments to do with pay for emergency days, holidays, and sick days were introduced.

Stuart Horne, Chief Financial Officer at the RDCK, sent information on the Village’s tax requirements for regional services in 2014. The total tax requirement is $40,580, broken down as follows: General Administration $4,919; GIS Service $996; Building Inspector $2,826; Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission $485; Emergency Communications 911 $3,177; Emergency Planning $1,432; Cemetery $1,624; Refuge (Waste) $6,541; Septage Disposal $1,001; Regional Parks $3,256; Summit Lake Sluice Hill $1,069; TV Society $4,206; Recreation Commission No. 6 $3,181; Transit $9,618.

This year’s budget for the West Kootenay Boundary Regional District is $7,025,896. Silverton’s contribution is $13,236, down $1,857 from last year. Mayor Povon reported that hospital taxes are down by 16 percent, but there will still be a $2 million contribution to the capital reserve fund.

She reported that Interior Health has indicated there will be no regional planning for at least three years, due to lack of funding.

Povon also reported that IH will bring results of an assessment of Trail Hospital’s flow and space issues in the coming weeks, followed by a call for more funding for the emergency department to the June board meeting.

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

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

Lions BenchMark Project honours community members and raises funds

SLOCAN VALLEY

The Lions Club was often approached by individuals and community groups wanting to place benches in memory of family members and friends. In response to these requests, the Lions incorporated a secondary component to the project to build and place memorial benches as a fundraising project.

The building, placement and sale of benches has enabled the Lions to continue the Community Recognition Benchmark Program on a self-funding basis.

Six additional benches have been built and placed, five along the rail trail. The cost of the benches is reasonable and competitive to benches of comparable quality. All profits from the sale of memorial benches goes back into the community recognition Benchmark Project and other Lions projects.

“Hi, I’ve been able to build about two or three benches a year,” said Bench Committee chair Charlie Dalesits, “but we make them to last.”

If you would like to honour someone with a memorial bench, contact Lions President Will Rimmer, at 250-226-7528 (kootenayoscolions@gmail.com)
KASLO & DISTRICT

Kaslo Forest Community AGM participants discuss ways to spend $60,000

by Jan McMurray

About 20 people attended the Kaslo and District Community Forest AGM on April 16. Three directors were on the board were firlled by acclamation. Jeff Mattes and Steve Fawcett were re-elected, and Ross Lake and Cloc Baymore-Holland and Ross Lake will be the new directors. The two directors re-elected are Ezra Bird, chair and Village rep; Chris Webster, vice chair and RDCK rep; Jeff Mattes, treasurer; Stan Baker, Secretary; and Paul Johnson, alternate director for Ross Lake, Cloc Baymore Holland and Ross Lake Steve Anderson, who served as secretary for the past two years, was the outgoing director.

The 2013 financial statements were presented. When Greg Lay said asked how much of the $1,276,930 in logging costs was paid to local contractors, Chris Webster answered, “The majority.” Lay said he would like to see the local contractors the amount of money the society pays local logging contractors. Jeff Mattes noted that this was also requested at last year’s AGM.

Bill Kestell, KDCCS manager, said the society is a business, but it is stated up front that there is a five percent ‘local bonus’ in the adjudication process. “We’ve very aware of keeping things in house,” he said. Mattes also pointed out that in 2013, the society decided to go back to pasture land and to get more into the silviculture reserve fund rather than $3. He said it was fairly standard in the West Kootenay, and “we want to do good business.”

Bird said Sabrina Mutte, who was contracted to oversee the silviculture program, has developed a spreadsheet which tracks silviculture information for all 64 blocks. “Having this itemized is good for the organization, and the forest, said Bird.”

Kestell gave a summary of the recent forestry forum hosted by the society. He said outcomes included working with local politicians to get the voices of small timber holders heard in Victoria; bringing in education and training in partnership with Selkirk College; and looking into creating a forestry training centre in the area.

Chris Webster reported on last year’s “beautiful” summer youth programs for children, who worked on projects hired to do trail maintenance and improvements. He said another eight week youth program was being started this summer, with Webster as coordinator. Webster and Bird indicated it had been difficult to find funding for the program this year, but they were very successful Winter in the Festival Forest, with 400 attendees. It estimated 100 were from out of town.

The board asked the members to think about the water monitoring project and provide them with their feedback. Bird said the program was not yet up and running, but it was too expensive for us. We will not be continuing it, because we couldn’t make it work if didn’t see us putting it off in 2015.”

The board was asked if they would like to see the society to think of what they would like to do that could be made into a full-term job. The board had decided to put in a request for a senior housing project since 2005, but no housing project has gone ahead despite the efforts of the housing group.

Mattes said, “There are a lot of needs and wants out there and the board was interested in hearing what the members felt were priorities. He made it clear that “it will come down to a directors’ decision.”

Maggie Winters and Maggie Crowe from the Kaslo and Area D Health Care Select Committee presented their case for the money to help with physician recruitment efforts. The committee would like the society to hire a health care select committee officer, and funds are needed to create materials promoting Kaslo, to distribute materials at physician conferences to try and pay for physicians to visit Kaslo. Steve Anderson suggested putting the funding into the KDCCS summer youth program, considering the grant money applied for were not granted.

Val Koegel said he’d like to use the money deposited into the KDCCS operating fund into an endowment fund where the capital remains and the interest is spent on projects. Koegel said the society, “It was government wanting to see an arts and culture economic analysis for Kaslo.”

Susan Melnyk suggested the money should go back into the forestry jobs, as per the ideas generated at the recent forestry forum in Kaslo.

Pat Mackie would like to see the $60,000 used to leverage more funding to get big projects such as the City Hall completed.

Ronnie Carmen, the society’s paid staffperson, said she feels the money should go back into the society’s operating account. “We paid $3 instead of $7 for silviculture for four years, so that money came out of our operating money, not out of our disbursement money. I think this should go back into the operations fund to help us stabilize for the next three or four years. We’re behind in silviculture and we have to take care of that.”

Kaslo council, April 8: Fuel treatment project nearing completion

by Karen Campbell

After being on a boil-water advisory since 2003, the 60 or so households on the Fletcher Creek system can look forward to having treated water by 2017.

At the April 16 RDCK Rural Free workshop on advance care planning submitted

Imagine: one day, without any warning, you find yourself in a hospital. Your doctor is there to speak for you. Your doctors don’t think you will live the hospital alive.

We all hope to die peacefully, able to communicate to the end, but the simple fact is most deaths don’t occur this way. More than 70 percent of Canadians die in a hospital and one in five of these deaths occur in an Intensive Care Unit, often while being treated for another disease.

In the above scenario, what would you want? Would you want the health care team to try everything possible to save you? Or would you rather just drift away? How would the people around you know what to do? Have you written down your wishes? Have you decided who will speak for you? The responsibility of making medical decisions for another individual can be overwhelming. Are you a caregiver or a designated decision maker for someone? Have you thought about your advance care plan?

According to a poll 90 percent of Canadians agreed that people should plan for the end of life when they are healthy and—yet 70 percent of them had done so not themselves. We need to communicate our feelings around end of life care. Make sure your voice is heard. Remember: you are not alone: ‘asking for help can make a difficult road easier. You are invited to attend a free workshop on Advance Care Planning in Kaslo, May 6, 13: 1pm at the Seniors’ Hall. Please join the executive committee of the Elder Abuse Prevention Program of Nelson and lawyer Tom Ephritsophes. For more information contact the Hospital of North Okanagan Lake, 205-353-2599.

The amount of community disbursements available this year is $51,596 and the requests from community groups totalled $142,713. Disbursement funds come from setting aside $2 per cubic metre harvested.

Discussion took place regarding the $50,000 that the board has decided to keep. It has been held in trust for a senior housing project since 2005, but no housing project has gone ahead despite the efforts of the housing group.

Mattes said “there are a lot of needs and wants out there” and the board was interested in hearing what the members felt were priorities. He made it clear that “it will come down to a directors’ decision.”

Maggie Winters and Maggie Crowe from the Kaslo and Area D Health Care Select Committee presented their case for the money to help with physician recruitment efforts. The committee would like the society to hire a health care select committee officer, and funds are needed to create materials promoting Kaslo, to distribute materials at physician conferences to try and pay for physicians to visit Kaslo.

Steve Anderson suggested putting the funding into the KDCCS summer youth program, considering the grant money applied for were not granted. Val Koegel said he’d like to use the money deposited into the KDCCS operating fund into an endowment fund where the capital remains and the interest is spent on projects. Laura Mosk wants to see an arts and culture economic analysis for Kaslo.

Susan Melnyk suggested the money should go back into the forestry jobs, as per the ideas generated at the recent forestry forum in Kaslo.

Pat Mackie would like to see the $60,000 used to leverage more funding to get big projects such as the City Hall completed.

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Nakusp council, April 14: Preparations underway for Hill Climb event in September

by Art Joyce

A late item was introduced to the agenda: the Nakusp Hill Climb scheduled for September 20-21, with staff seeking direction from council. “We’re just working with them and all the things they need and they’re working with the Ministry of Transportation.”

said CAO Linda Tyas in an interview after the meeting. “They asked to store the cars overnight in the public works yard and have people stay in their RVs overnight in the compound.” Council will recommended instead that people should stay in campgrounds or local accommodations but will monitor security for cars stored in the works compound. There will be a traffic closure on the Hot Springs Road. As long as we do lots of advertising we can work around the closures to make it as accessible as possible for patrons of the Hot Springs,” added Tyas.

Councillor Mueller reported that she had notified Convention in Bloom that Nakusp will participate in this year’s competition in the ‘novice’ category. She noted that the AKBLG (Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments) conference proposed a resolution supporting those promoting the use of $1 million in taxpayer funds for Juanbo Glacier resort municipality, which has no residents. A resolution supporting continued protection of ALR lands also was passed.

A request by Woodlire Piza for sidewalk seating prompted a discussion about Village policy and procedure. Staff will process the request as per policy.

The first two readings of the building inspection bylaw amendment were passed, the final reading was given at the next meeting. This is a formality required as part of the Village’s participation in Regional District building inspection services.

Council agreed to participate in the Heart and Stroke Foundation’s public access defibrillation program by donating the CAO to apply for one free defibrillator unit for the Centennial building.

A resolution was passed to allow the CAO to discuss a data-sharing agreement with the Rural Development Institute (RDI), proving due diligence where issues of confidentiality are concerned. “We just don’t understand the program well enough,” said Tyas. The RDI is proposing a Digital Basin project that will cross-link information about Columbia Basin communities.

The 2013 audited financial statements and Statement of Financial Information were found by the CFO to be in order and received by council.

The Federation of BC Hydro notified the Village that its electrical substation upgrade, originally planned for 2016, has been deferred for “a minimum of three years due to a new electricity load estimate indicating that a new substation is not expected to increase in use as originally assumed. The number of on-siteers in the Nakusp area is not expected to increase as a result of deferring the in-service date for the project.”

Council received notification of the Regional District’s annual task force, Treasure day, scheduled for Saturday, April 20. Residents may place in front of their properties “generously used, unwanted household items” such as books, bicycles, clothing, toys, furniture etc. for others to pick up.

Mayor Hamling reported on her attendance at the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District regional district board meeting March 26, noting that there will be no tax increases this year. “Tax for a $250,000 house in 2013 was $776 and this year will be $778. The board is able to do this because of a decrease in requests for capital funds this year.” There will be a $2 million contribution to capital reserves again this year, bringing the reserves up to $5.738.80. The board approved a request to make Arrow Lakes Hospital emergency ward a funding priority.

The mayor was reappointed to the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust (SIDIT) as the RDCK representative.

Mayor Hamling reported on a Columbia River Treaty Local Governments’ Committee meeting March 14 in Cranbrook. The Province is now working with the federal government on a framework and agreement for moving forward. Twenty-three classrooms have signed up to learn the Columbia River Treaty. Maria Hamling attended the session in Nakusp April 2. CBTR plans to provide funding to pay the committee’s executive assistant. Bill Green attended on behalf of the Ktunaxa Nation Council and reported the Ktunaxa have largely reached an agreement with the Province, but concerns remain regarding their “profound disagreement” over one enumeration. The need for an agriculture study was discussed. After local elections this fall, committee members will continue until February 2015, with the option for new members. The committee identified the following priorities: Basin communications, working with First Nations, meaningful engagement, water management for Kootenay system including coordination of Libby Dam operations, full implementation of Columbia and Duncan Water Use Plan, their education.

AALC Community Concert

On Sunday, April 27, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents the second Come Together Community Concert at the Bonnington Arts Centre at 2 pm. This concert will also be a fundraiser for the Fujishihashi sculpture on the Nakusp waterfront.

The concert will include singers, dancers, stories and skits from the writer’s group, strings, bands and choirs. Come and support these talented artists as they share their love of music, dance and the spoken word.

Please remember that this day is also the voting day for Community Initiatives for Nakusp residents. Vote between noon and 1:30 pm so you can make both activities.

The doors open at 1:30 pm, and as there are no reserved seats, come early so that you get the best seats in the house. There is no set charge, there will be a donation jar at the door.

If you want to also become a sponsor for the upcoming concert season, please call Gail Panto at the door, and she will see that you get a proper receipt and the choice of which concert you wish to help sponsor.

RCPM: Break-in near Burton submitted

On April 6 the Nakusp RCMP received a report of a break and enter in the 500 block of Highway 6 South, near Burton. The perpetrator(s) broke into the residence sometime between April 4 and April 6, while the owners were away for the weekend. Liquor and other personal effects were stolen.

They have any information relating to this break and enter please contact the Nakusp RCMP at 250-265-3677 or CrimeStoppers, 1-800-222-8477.

Nakusp Citizen of the Year Banquet honours

Sharon Montgomery & Chuck & Dawna Dinning

Tickets are $20 – Available at Barton Insurance

Join the team at Hot Springs Halcyon Hot Springs is growing and we need to fill positions year round and seasonally. We are hiring: Housekeepers, Guest Services Attendants, Cooks If you like to work in a positive and team oriented environment please apply with your resume to Sabine Burmeister, GM sabine@halcyon-hot springs.com

Global warming in a rural setting School District #10 Arrow Lakes P.O. Box 460 Nakusp, BC Canada V0G 1R0 Part-time (2.5 days/week) Payroll/HR/Benefits Professional – SD #10 (Arrow Lakes)

Qualifications and Attributes:
• CPA (Canadian Payroll Association) designation, accounting background, several years experience in computerized payroll and benefits systems are sought
• Post-secondary training in Payroll, Accounting or Business Administration
• Strong collaboration and teamwork skills; excellent interpersonal and communication skills
• Exceptional verbal and written skills
• Proficiency in MS Office, SDS (School District Software), and accounting software is an asset
• Superior attention to detail and proven ability to competently meet deadlines
• Ability to adapt, flex and learn new tasks quickly
• Experience working positively with unionized employees

Please submit your resume and cover letter with supporting documentation, together with three current professional references by email, no later than noon on Monday, April 28, 2014 to:
Ms. Terry Taylor Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer terry.taylor@sd10.bc.ca

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. For a complete job posting, please check sd10.bc.ca.

Monthly Crib Tournament Last Sunday of month Crib Tournament for April will be played on May 4 as well as on May 25. All members and guests are welcome-play starts at 1 PM in the Lounge Entry fee is $10 Royal Canadian Legion Br.20-Nakusp

PUBLIC NOTICE
Nakusp Hot Springs will be CLOSED from April 22/14 to April 30/14 INCLUSIVE, FOR OUR SPRING MAINTENANCE.
RE-OPENING MAY 1/14
SUMMER HOURS
9:30 AM TO 9:30 PM DAILY
Sorry for any inconvenience

The Valley View April 25, 2014
BC Hydro responds to concerns about estimated billing

by Jan McMurray

In the last issue of the Valley Voice, we published an article, ‘Fire BC Hydro bills causing concern.’ In that article, we raised questions we were warranting BC Hydro’s response. Here are the questions we asked and BC Hydro’s responses.

Many of us in New Denver have been under the impression of receiving an estimated bill at the end of March 2013. I understand the meter readers were laid off in April 2013. Were any meter readers (field metering service) on retainer with BC Hydro? As you know, BC Hydro has been modernizing its metering system and this means there will be a change in the type of service roles we are used to in the field. The new metering system reduces the need for manual meter reading, but with more than 1.9 million pieces of new equipment, the need for technology-based roles increased. While we’re phasing out the use of manual meter reading, we will still be using the services of field workers to download hourly data from the meters and do the calibrations by hand. The Seniors Housing Society elects new board

Seniority, outreach, and research into future housing projects are the key ideas for the newly elected board of the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society.

At a special membership meeting in March following the resignation of all previous board members, the new board was welcomed heartily, with power to appoint new directors and steering committee to steer the organization through to its September AGM. All those elected are part of the original organizing committee in the 1990s that planned and raised the funds and community support to build Passmore Lodge president Rita Meir, vice-president Lyda Kanis, treasurer Cheryl Close and secretary Sally Mackenzie. They have since appointed Mabel Kabatoff and Willie Harasemow, who have also served previously on the board.

At the March special meeting, BC Housing Regional Director Ann Howard addressed the difficulties and conflicts of interest that can arise when tenants sit on board. The special meeting was chaired by Andrew Janey, who has worked with many non-profit societies in the Kootenays. Rather than fractions, the meeting was calm and thoughtful, with tenants and community members contributing their hopes for the future.

The new board has met weekly, with briefings on administration, grounds and gardens, maintenance and bookkeeping. The board is also resuming its research into future seniors housing and will hold full representation at the September annual meeting.

The society recently received increased public support (through Dot Day) for its yoga, exercise, and art therapy program. Passmore Lodge’s beautiful gardens and grounds will be a site on this year’s Garden Tour, the first time since 2006, and the society will have an information booth at the upcoming Wallow Water Day. For more information about Passmore Lodge or the exercise and outreach programs, please call administrator Nita Illigsen at (250) 226-7136.

THIS YEAR, WE BRING THE FISH TO YOU!

There will be no public event to release juvenile white sturgeon into the Columbia River this year. However, there are two opportunities to view, touch and learn about the white sturgeon on Monday May 5, 2014 at:

• 10:00 – 11:00 am - Waneta Plaza, Trail
• 2:00 – 3:00 pm - Castlegar and District Community Complex

Come out and join members of the Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (UCWSRI) to learn more about these amazing fish and touch the “ancients of the deep” that have remained largely unchanged for 175 million years.

These events are hosted by the UCWSRI with funding support from BC Hydro, FortisBC, Teck, Columbia Power Corporation, and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program.

For more information, please call at (250) 356-4550 or visit uppercolumbiasturgeon.org.

Lucerne Elementary Secondary School Principal – SD #10 (Arrow Lakes)

Qualifications and Attributes:
• A Master’s degree in an appropriate field and training and experience in complex organizational
• Superb abilities as a teacher, leading learning, and in building relationships
• Proven commitment to educational leadership and educational transformation
• Proficient use of technology to support teaching, learning, and administrative tasks, including BCSiS
• Practice embedded in current pedagogical research; leadership implementing the BC EdPlan
• An outstanding team player and team builder; outstanding meeting facilitation skills
• Excellent working relationships with parents and community in support of student learning
• Community-minded; eager to be involved in the whole school community; dedicated and focused
• Highly effective communication and collaboration skills
• Eligible for membership by the BC Teacher Regulation Branch

Please submit your resume and cover letter with supporting documentation, together with three current professional references by email no later than noon Wednesday, May 7th, 2014 to:

Ms. Terry Taylor
Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer
terry.taylor@sd10.bc.ca

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. To view the complete job posting, please go to sd10.bc.ca
A Landscape Year at Studio Connexion Gallery

COMMUNITY
submitted

Studio Connexion Gallery curator Anne Beliveau is very enthused by this year’s line-up, a Landscape Year with some variations. This season starts on Victoria Day long weekend on Friday May 16. Nakusp landscape artist David Nacino will present his oil paintings in his first solo exhibit. He has been painting for many years but kept it secret until he did a few group shows with the ALFA Guild for their ‘local focus’.

Also doing her first solo show is Denyse Marshall, who has been working on a new series of oil paintings depicting in a very different style her sacred mountains and shores of the Arrow Lakes. Last year, she shared the space with Holly Woods with their beautiful watercolour cards and matching envelopes. Holly will have exclusively at SCC her original watercolour cards and matching envelopes.

Claire Paradis has been invited to do the only photography exhibit of the year. People know her as a reporter who sometimes includes her photos in her articles. Fans have been looking for her return to view her wonderful nature abstracts.

Beliveau was able to secure an exhibit of the Carlyle Group with the help of one member. The five Kootenay painters do a different plein air project each year. Last August, the Carlyle Group went to Mt. Assiniboine for a week. Studio Connexion will present a selection of paintings produced from this excursion by Brigitte Desbois, Jennie Baille, Louise Descher, Stéphanie Guayvin and Mirja Vahala. Their show will close the Columbia Basin Culture Tour.

August will continue with Sharon Bambur’s third solo exhibit, featuring both new and older works. The soft pastel wildlife artist is being praised internationally. She was very excited last fall by an invitation to become an associate member of the Society of Animal Artists and to spend a week with Robert Bateman.

In September, the gallery will host Betty Fahlinn with her new series ‘Water’. Betty is also an award winner who belongs to the Federation of Canadian Artists and is one of the founding members of the Arrow Lakes Fine Art Guild.

To finish the season, Beliveau is pleased to showcase the paintings of Nadine Stefan, a mixed media artist who has been active for the past 30 years and has received numerous grants and awards. Nadine will present close-up landscapes that surround us with a mixture of seasonal changes and growth patterns in a nature abstract manner. She will also give us a taste of a new drawing project.

Studio Connexion Gallery is truly delighted to again have Jennifer Chocolates for its opening receptions. You can become a Friend of Studio Connexion Gallery by buying a $10 membership which will keep you informed first about the artists and their exhibitions along with special events. Members can book the space for small gatherings; plus the gallery can help you with your artwork in your home.

Studio Connexion Gallery’s business hours are 11 am to 4 pm, Tuesday to Saturday, it is located in downtown Nakusp, 26 blocks from Broadway Street at 203 Fifth Avenue NW.

It is also possible to book private appointments to suit your busy schedule, call 250-265-3586 or 250-265-8888.

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The Valley Voice April 25, 2014

Let’s talk taxes

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Nakusp, BC
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Wine Festival in Nakusp a huge success
by Jan McMurray

Nakusp’s first wine festival was a resounding success, with 13 wineries offering samples of their wines to the 100+ people who came out to the event, held April 12 at the CMH K2 Rotor Lodge.

The Nakusp Rotary Club hosted the festival, which raised about $3,500 for the club from ticket sales, a silent auction, 50-50 draw and donations from businesses.

“We’ve had excellent feedback, and everyone wants us to do it again next year, so I’m sure we will,” said Kees Van der Pol of the Rotary Club.

“Several of the wineries told us they felt so welcomed by Rotary and by the Rotor Lodge, and they promised they would come back.”

Executive Chef Kevin McGowan created first class hors d’oeuvres, served by Nakusp Secondary School students. Overwater provided crackers and cheese platons.

The winner of the door prizes were Tl Niepada, who won the Kootenay 10-bottle wine cooler donated by Home Hardware, and Marilyn Taylor, Bill Mitchell and Ron Andolli, who won the three floral arrangements donated by Design by Darlene.

The event was organized in partnership with the Arrow Lakes Grape Growers Society, which is researching the viability of a grape-growing and wine-producing industry in the Arrow Lakes Valley. The society is collecting weather and soil data, and is growing 21 varieties of red and white wine grapes on a test plot in Caston. The research concludes in 2020, and will be available to the public. The data will be helpful to people planning to grow grapes or other agricultural products.

Nakusp Rotary President Bill Tobey says half of the funds raised will go towards Rotary International’s efforts to eradicate polio worldwide, and the other half will be set aside for one or more local projects. “We are looking for another major project that the community needs and that will serve our community for generations to come,” said Tobey.

In 1964, the Rotary Club of Nakusp started the Arrow-Casaqo Seniors Housing Complex, which has grown over the years to include four phases. The club also built the Rotary Playground, and refurbished it in 2010 with new playground equipment.

Concession Chef Kevin McGowan draws the door prizes.

The young food servers at the event were fabulous.

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Annual Greenhouse Opening now

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*Like us on facebook for the best updates on plant arrivals!
Slocan council, April 14: Taxi hike gets bigger for Slocan residents

by Barbara Curry Malaby

Acting Mayor Jessica Lunn reported that the mayor had met with Mats Olson, Slocan’s financial contractor. Olson had advised increasing residents’ taxes by 15 percent, instead of 10 percent as planned. Acting Corporate Officer Michelle Gordon reported that for residents, this would mean about $100 more last year in municipal taxes on a residence assessed at $170,000. The Village would have to transfer only about $50,000, of its reserve funds to cover this year’s budget shortfall. Council agreed that after public consultation it would raise taxes by 15 percent, and made plans to hold a special meeting as soon as possible to hold second and third readings of the amended five-year financial plan bylaw. Public comments at the end of the meeting showed support for the tax increase.

Four attempts to amend the proposed bylaw were made, only two were seconded and passed, both with opposition. The first amendment redrew “graffiti,” the second amended Mayor Michael McNeill’s motion to “clarify what was meant by ‘property.’” Councillor Jean Patterson proposed the first amendment. Councillor McNeill noted that the amended motions had not been seconded and that a motion to remove all reference to “graffiti” would be discussed and the second to increase the amount of time allowed for a landowner, after notification, to clean up the property. The amended bylaw was given second and third readings.

Councillor McNeill spoke against a motion confirming that all responsibility for the management and operation of the Reading Centre would be turned over to the Slocan Community Library Society. (The Reading Centre referred to in the motion is the current facility run by the Village. McNeill’s concern was that even if the Village called the SCL a reading centre, still what had been created was in fact a library being run in behalf of the Village and she did not want the Village to sanction the Library Society in this endeavor. Councillor Elliott said she had the Licence in Place allowing the Library Society to occupy their portion of the Wellness Centre had been written so that the Village would have no responsibility for it, but instead a municipal library. (The former CAO had continued that the council would not be “formalizing” its current relationship with the Library Society. The motion passed with McNeil opposing.)

The Village of New Denver Water Systems Tour

Location: Knox Hall, 521 6th Avenue New Denver, BC

Date: Thursday, May 8th, 2014

Time: 9:30 – 11:30 am and 12:30 – 2:30 pm

Help celebrate Drinking Water Week by attending a free one day event intended to raise awareness of our drinking water system.

The tour will start with a short presentation at the Knox Hall led by staff trained in Water Systems Operations. The discussion will be followed by a walking tour of some of the systems facilities.

The public are invited to use this opportunity as a way to learn helpful water saving tips and interesting facts about the water system that serves the community daily.

There will be 2 scheduled tours:
9:30-11:30 am and 12:30-2:30 pm

Remember to dress for the weather and wear shoes for hiking!

KLC REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
KLC Road Maintenance

Kalesnikoff Lumber Co. Ltd. is soliciting proposals from Contractors for general forest road maintenance and light de-activation. KLC is looking for an innovative company willing to provide maintenance works within a management and equipment package that provides quality of work within a cost effective framework.

Proposals must be received no later than 2:00 pm local time, Tuesday, May 20th, 2014.

Interested companies should contact:
Rob Giesler at robg@kalesnikoff.com or Ph. 250-399-4211

The Valley Voice opens season with Brock Zeman concert

submitted

On May 2, Brock Zeman returns to the Slocan Valley on his crocus Canada tour. He will be playing, along with his cohorts Blais Hogan and Dylan Roberts, on Friday May 2 at the Village Golf Clubhouse season opener from 7 to 10 pm.

The singer songwriter from the Ottawa Valley has released six albums and is known as a prolific performer, having given more than 300 live performances across North America every year for the last decade.

Before his mid 20’s, Zeman had signed with indie label, Busted Flat Records. He had played most major music festivals in Canada and performed on stage with some of the top talent of the contemporary roots and Americana scenes, including Steve Earle, Lynn Miller, Fred Eaglesmith, Corb Lund, Toby Keith, Prairie Oyster and the Rodeo Kings. Exclaim! magazine calls Zeman “a songwriter worth bearing over and over again” while CKUA says his work as “intelligent, thoughtful, heartfelt songs served up with an authentic but understated style.”

Recently Zeman has taken a new direction and formed Mud Room Records. His new album (2011), is a showcase for releasing his own material and the imprint for showcasing emerging roots talent in Canada, including albums by Robert Lariisse and Brothers Through the Hill, which Zeman also produced.

This is one your chance in BC to see these talented fellows on this tour so don’t miss out.

Dwain Boyer from Forest, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations spoke about the Slocan Lake Guidance Document. Elliott said much of the information he gave about the new Water Stains would not be put into practice. His legislation was “very disconcerting.”

In that most of the new initiatives were being downgraded to municipalities.

Councillor Elliott expressed delight that Anita Winji Nesteroff has volunteered to take charge of the Village’s monthly newsletter so that Slocan’s Acting Corporate Officer Michelle Gordon can concentrate on other duties. Council agreed that either Mayor Penner or the Acting Mayor would join New Denver’s Victoria Day parade.

Councillor McNeill will write her letter to Minister Thomson calling for those forest service roads that are the only access to provincial parks to be improved and maintained to a standard that the public can use. She will bring her letter back to council next month for review.

The RDCK’s Task to Treasure will be held on April 26. Items may be put out by the street, but any items not chosen by the public may be picked up by April 26. In Slocan Women’s Institute will not hold its annual plant and garage sale this year. Instead, many garage sales are planned in the village on April 26.

Annual Spring Clean-up Week will be held from April 28 to May 1. Each household may put out up to two piles, one for recyclables, each of no more than one cubic yard of garbage. Free trimming of other yard waste may also be put in. The Village will pick up goods containing Freon (such as refrigerators and freezers) at a charge of $20 each and white goods that don’t contain Freon (such as stoves, washers, dryers, and hot water tanks) at a charge of $10 each. Tags will be free at the Village Office.

Brook Zeman plays the Valley View Golf Course Clubhouse on May 2.

Brook Zeman plays the Valley View Golf Course Clubhouse on May 2.
by Katrine Campbell

Council again tackled one of the most complicated issues to come before it in a long time: a request from a potential buyer of the Tuner Memorial Church property for rezoning, which would also prompt an amendment to the OCP. The problem arises not so much with the church property, as with the precedent it would set for other zoned institutional, such as the school and the health centre.

In the end, the matter was tabled until the incoming CAO could review it.

"It's a terrible thorny problem," said Mayor Ana Buicka. "Who 'da think a property with a church on it would cause so much trouble?"

Councilor Henning von Krogh reported on the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society meeting. A presentation from Dwain Dower, Section Head Waier for Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations suggested the elevation of the lake's high water mark at 337.5 be used to regulate forest management.

The presentation also covered guideline intentions and the agencies involved in regulating forest use.

Hartland's Nadine Raymonds reported the Heritage Advisory Committee met to discuss the operations plan for the Nikkei Centre. Three new members have been added. A garden cleanup will be held April 27 from 10 am to 4 pm and the NICM and SUGS welcome volunteers.

Councilor von Krogh reported from the West Kootenay Boundary Hospital District meeting. Tax rates have gone down 16.2 cents, from 35.2 to 29.2 per $1,000 of property value. For the village as a whole, the requisition has dropped from $22,660 in 2013 to $18,064, a drop of $4,596.

Overall, the Village's requisition to the RDCK has dropped from $75,958 in 2013 to $71,381 this year.

Councilor Raymonds reported the Chamber of Commerce will have a new visitors' guide ready for the spring of 2015. The entrance floor will be repaired this year, which means part of the building will be closed for the renovations.

A report from Frankie and Tracy Oldham for "traffic calming" measures on Eelorsko Street between Slocan Avenue and Fifth Avenue was refused, and they and their cottage guests were asked not to barricade the dead-end street again. As similar requests have been made from other areas in the village, staff recommended that before embarking on a program to install traffic calming measures, "the Village should establish criteria for determining the priority of installations, rather than addressing requests on a first-come, first-served basis, to ensure that limited resources are allocated wisely."

Council approved the May Days Committee's request to reserve Centennial Park for May 18-19, to hold a beer garden, to use village streets for the Monday parade, to use Main Street (Sixth Ave) on Sunday for the bike rodeo and soapbox derby, and to book the portable PA system for use in the park. The rental fee for the park, $133.60, will be paid by a Village grant-in-aid.

The committee also asked that Mayor Ana Buicka ride in the parade and speak at the May Queen Pageant and the Naming of the Queen.

Council approved Helen Kosowam's request to close the 300 block of Main Street from 8 am to 3 pm on July 27 for the 114th Annual Antiqua and Collectible Street Fair. Councilor von Krogh, in his capacity as Baptist Church bikers' club organizer, again used the churchhouse in the Centennial Park campground.

Staff's recommendation was that the Village Council apply to include the churchhouse in the Centennial Park campground, and to allow the request.

This triggered a discussion on the confidence the Village has in it, but the equipment belongs to the Arena Society. The Village carries building insurance, but users must have their own liability insurance. Staff will check with the Arena Society to see if it carries liability insurance.

Council looked at participating in the Slocan Lake RCMP "Kids Don't Float" program, which would supply life jackets at Centennial Park for children and youth to allow safe boating. Councilor von Krogh said he likes the idea of having life preservers for young visitors, but asked where they would be kept, who would do the maintenance on the stand, and where the FPDs would be kept at Nelson's First Baptist Church also asked who would be responsible for inspecting the FPDs to ensure they were in good shape; the RCMP members rotate out on a regular basis and there was no guarantee the two constables who promoted the idea would be replaced by someone willing to do the job. Corporate Officer Catherine Allaway recommended telling the RCMP the Village was interested, but had too much going on at present to look into it.

The Village will give the Slocan Lake Garden Society a grant-in-aid for $500 to cover the cost of liability insurance for the Kolon Garden for 2014/15.

Council voted against supporting the Village of Slocan's wish to withdraw from the Regional Parks service. The withdrawal would cost New Denver $2,212, while saving Slocan $2,777. Council felt they were "all in it together" and New Denver shouldn't have to pay more when everyone uses the parks.

Mr. and Gayle Swanson were hired as campground attendants for the 2014 season.

Village of New Denver
PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The public is requested to take notice that the Village of New Denver's Regular Meeting of Council originally scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, in Council Chambers.

At the Nakusp/Rural Community Initiatives/Affected Areas Community Vote VOTE for Repairing the Road to Vicky's View & the Kuskakanx Mountain Trailhead

Help us make the road safer and these popular sites more accessible.

Vote: Sunday April 27, 2014 noon – 4 pm, Nakusp Arena

This is a project of the Nakusp & Area Community Trails Society

DOES YOUR CLUB OR SOCIETY NEED MONEY FOR A PROJECT?

The NACF is preparing to distribute their annual spring grant.
Application forms and qualifications requirements can be found at our website: nakuspfoundation.com
Application must be received by May 9th
For more information email: nakuspfoundation@gmail.com

This Nakusp & Area Community Foundation is a registered charity.


At the Bonnington Arts Centre Sunday, April 27, at 2:00 pm Doors open at 1:30 pm Donation jar at the door A Fundraiser for the Fujiyashike Sculpture
Crown land tenure for adventure tourism: ministry reps explain the process

by Ian McMurray

Information about applying for Crown land tenure for adventure tourism was presented by government representatives Harry Mitchell and Sharon Dalley to the RDCK Rural Affairs Committee on April 23. Mitchell and Dalley work out of the Cranbrook office of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and FrontCounter BC.

In the presentation, they explained that all commercial recreation operators who want to operate on Crown land must apply to FrontCounter BC for tenure under the Adventure Tourism Policy. This includes operators offering guided activities such as heli-skii, cat-skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, kite-skiing, river rafting and hunting trips with front camps.

Application can be made for Licences of Occupation (LoO) for intensive use sites or for extensive use areas.

Intensive use sites include Crown land whose operators have base camps, lodges, storage facilities, roads, fuel caches, ski patrol camps, etc. A 30-year LoO is the standard form of tenure, but leases may be issued in some circumstances. Lease arrangements grant exclusive use of the land, and the land must be surveyed.

For extensive use areas – large tracts of land for guided activities – a LoO is the only form available. LoOs for extensive use areas are not exclusive, so the public cannot be restricted; multiple LoOs may have LoOs for the same areas; and other activities, such as mining and forestry, may be authorized on the land. No improvements can be constructed under a LoO on extensive use areas.

Mitchell said there are many LoOs for extensive use areas in the RDCK, for guided backcountry skiing, guided river rafting, guided heli-tours, etc. “Guide outfitters and hunters are prevalent throughout the RDCK,” he said.

The application process involves submitting a specific adventure management plan and mapping to FrontCounter BC. Once the application is deemed acceptable, the proponent is advised to advertise the proposal. The application is sent out to First Nations for consultation and to referral agencies, such as the RDCK and Ministry of Environment, for comment. Sometimes the application is sent out to overlapping tenure holders. Spatial information is entered into the Crown land registry and conflicting uses are determined. A Land Officer reviews all this information and makes a recommendation on whether or not to approve the application. The proponent is given an offer or letter of deletion.

For tenure renewals, Dalley said information is sent to First Nations for consultation, but there is no requirement to advertise the renewal. The land officer ensures there is an updated management plan and mapping.

Mitchell said if issues come up during the time of the tenure, the ministry may negotiate for changes or cancel the tenure. Dalley added that proponents have to submit annual reports.

A tenure is a legal agreement that stipulates the purpose of the Crown land use, the terms, obligations of the proponent, the conditions of use. It states that the tenure holder must abide by all other regulation, such as RDCK bylaws. It may contain special conditions as specified by the ministry that fall within the jurisdiction and are enforceable.

Mitchell said ministry staff tries to ensure that operators build relations with nearby communities. “The counsel I always provide if there is a conflict is to try to get together with your neighbours and work out a staff intervention anywhere in the region is not our chosen method of interaction,” said Mitchell.

Hairdressing gold medal the product of passion

submitted

Winlaw’s Amber Beckjord put an exclamation mark on her bright future in the hairdressing business.

At 17 years of age, the young Winlaw resident student captured a gold medal at the BC Skills Competition in Hairdressing.

Cutting and styling against 30 of the most talented students in the province, Beckjord turned enough heads in Vancouver to bring home the top prize.

“I was confident, but I was still surprised when they called my name,” says Beckjord. “But it was a good surprise.”

The annual Skills BC Competition is part of the Skills Canada program, a proactive non-profit organization that partners with government, educators, private industry and labour to promote and celebrate the skilled trades and technologies as first-choice career opportunities for young people across the province.

In the hairdressing competition, Beckjord was tasked with coming up with three different styles – day style, night style and men’s progressive – in a grueling eight-hour day. In the end, she was recognized for her creativity, technique and polished final product.

Further adding to Beckjord’s impressive result is that she’s the youngest member of the Selkirk College Hairdressing Class of 2014. Beckjord is one of several Selkirk College students in a variety of trades programs capitalizing on the ACE IT Programs, which allows high school students to take part in a technical training that gives them dual credits for high school courses and college programs.

“Being hairdressing has been something that I have wanted to do for a while,” says Beckjord. “I have always taken classes above my grade, so I thought it was a good opportunity if I was going to do it anyway... who gets to go to college when they’re still in high school?”

Next week Beckjord will join the rest of the Selkirk College Class of 2014 at the annual graduation ceremony in Castlegar. In June she will join her classmates and rumours from Redmond. Also CMH were “good to have on the landscape. They will intervene when there is an emergency. They are our eyes and ears out there.”

The fee charged to tenure holders is calculated according to policy. For extensive use sites, licensees pay $4 per client per day. For intensive use sites, licensees pay roughly 7.5 percent of the assessed value for a lodge site.

RDCK Director Davidoff asked why there isn’t a referral process and requirement for advertising at renewal time. He pointed out that if a 30-year tenure is granted, there is only an opportunity to comment every 10 years.

Dalley explained that the number of tenures they were handling with a small staff did not allow them “to do that kind of work.” However, Mitchell said questions and concerns can always be brought forward, and mentioned that there is a complaint form on the website. Dalley added that a LoO can be cancelled within 60 days notice.

Director Poopaw mentioned the Lemon Creek flood spill, and brought up his concern about flood in the backcountry of Mountain Sentinel Secondary classrooms for her high school graduation.

The pace of Beckjord’s world isn’t set to slow down anytime soon. After Selkirk College graduation, she will finish off her studies at the Silver King Camps in Nelson. After that it’s off to Vancouver to sit at Union Salon in preparation for the Skills Canada competition in Toronto where Beckjord will represent British Columbia in June. If she manages to score a victory at that competition, Beckjord will earn a spot in the WorldSkills International Competition which takes place in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

“I told myself that gold is the only option for me,” says Beckjord. “With the talent Beckjord possesses, a trip to South America might just be in the cards.

Winlaw celebrates water

submitted

Saturday, May 3 marks the 11th annual Water Day celebration taking place in Winlaw.

Started by the Winlaw Watershed Committee, this colourful event is a celebration of all things water, and the importance of water and all its sources in the Shuswap Valley. It takes place at and around the newly renovated Kay’s Café and the Cedar Creek Gardens green space in downtown Winlaw.

Running from noon to midnight, the day features a diverse blend of artists, musicians, children’s crafts, community information booths, interactive aquatics displays, artisanal vendors, and of course, the parade which begins at 2pm.

Led by the Sama Band, those in the parade will walk, sing, and dance their way down to the Shuswap River for more celebration.

As this is a well-attended event, it is asked that those attending be respectful of the community when parking. Everyone is asked to see caution whether attending or passing through the area. If attending please be prepared for any type of weather.

To stay in touch about Water Day, find them on Facebook at Winlaw Water Day Festival 11th Annual. Winlaw is located approximately 30 km north of the Highway 5A junction on Highway 6.
RDCK board, April 17: Development of Slocan Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan

by Jim McMurray

- Director Popoff put forward a motion regarding a Slocan Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The motion, which passed, authorizes staff to provide a board report for the development of a Slocan Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the May board meeting.

In an interview after the meeting, Director Popoff explained that there are three reasons to develop a Slocan Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan. First, the Village of Slocan has asked to withdraw from the Parks Service 633 and the Recreation Service 788, as part of its efforts to make up for the loss of tax revenue from the mill. In a letter to Popoff, Slocan Mayor Derrick states: “Withdrawal from Service 633 and Service 788 will allow flexibility to raise municipal taxes and to support our other services such as the beach, boat launch, Curling, Legion and other facilities in the Village that are used by Slocan residents and Area H residents alike.” She also indicates that if Slocan withdraws, it may ask to remain in future. Silverton council has voted in favour of Slocan’s withdrawal; New Denver council has voted against it; Director Popoff is unsure if he will vote on this decision.

The second reason for a Slocan Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan is that Nelson and District is finalizing its Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and is holding a public meeting at Mt. Sentinel School on April 30. Director Popoff acknowledges that people from Area H are interested in the Nelson area, and believes Nelson and District intends to include Area H in its Master Plan. This would mean asking Area H residents to contribute tax dollars to the Nelson and District parks service.

Kootenays

‘Bikes not Pipes’ tour submitted

‘Kootenays for a Pipeline Free BC’ is going on a bike and speaking tour of the Kootenays next week. The ‘Bikes not Pipes’ tour will pedal from Nelson up the Slocan Valley to Silverton and then New Denver, then over to Kaslo. Come out to discuss the growing anti-pipeline movement to protect BC’s pristine landscapes.

The tour will host discussions at:

- Kay’s Café in Winlaw, 6:30 pm April 24; New Denver/Silverton, 9:30 am April 26; Bluebell Bistro, Kaslo, 6:30 April 26.

Come join Keith Wiley, Shannon Lasavay, John Alton and Friends to discuss recent events and plans for the movement. Or join us and come along for the ride. Contact John Alton for further information, at johmoval@ yahoo.com or 250-352-1204.

COMMUNITY

Carbon offsets

- The board discussed a staff report on carbon offsets, recommending the purchase of offsets from the Nature Conservancy of Canada’s “D’Arcywood” project in the East Kootenay. The RDCK must purchase 1863.3 tonnes of offsets to achieve carbon neutrality for 2013. The estimated cost will be anywhere between $28,250 ($15/tonne) and $46,582 ($25 per tonne). Directors discussed the possibility of using the funds on projects that would reduce the carbon footprint within the RDCK, such as replacing windows at the RDCK building with energy efficient ones.

The Slocan Valley Historical Society presents:

“A History of Slocan Park”

with author, poet and story-teller Jake Conkin

Thursday, April 24, 7:00 pm

Passmore Hall

SATE CARDS

The Regional District of Central Kootenay &
 THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY FRASER REGION FRASER DISTRICT

Join us for a relaxing day out on the Slocan Valley.

SATURDAY APRIL 26TH

PARTICIPATE WITH 8 EASY STEPS!

1. GATHER unwanted household items

2. PLACE them in a visible location at the front of your property where treasure hunters can safely access them without disrupting road traffic

3. CREATE a jazzy sign to let treasure hunters know they can help themselves and turn your trash into their treasure.

4. REMOVE all of your remaining items by 4:00 PM

5. WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE WASTE!

6. NAKED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BANQUET April 26 honours Sharon Montgomery & Chuck & Dawnieanning

7. TICKETS are $20 – Available at Barton Insurance

For information about how you can reduce waste contact the Recycling Council of BC at 1-800-667-4291.

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Food Bank Garden is growing in Slocan
submitted

South of Dustyje Slatec and adjacent to the W.E. Graham Community Service Society (WEGCSS) building in Slocan are two empty lots that are being transformed into the Slocan Valley Food Bank Garden. With a generous grant from the CBT, a house from the Village of Slocan, and enthusiastic volunteers, this land will become a permaculture garden that produces much-needed fresh organic produce for the food bank and serves as a hub for social gatherings and learning.

Slocan Valley Threads Guild lead with and Yardage and Yardage
submitted

On Sunday April 27, the Slocan Valley Threads Guild will once again throw open its doors and welcome the public for a wonderful day of deals, delicious, and garden delights. The annual Yard and Yardage Sale is coming again to Perry Siding, and all are welcome to come to Slocan through the nature of fabrics, the tea room and gallery, and pick up a few perennial plants.

The guild has fostered a fibre arts community in the Slocan Valley for more than 20 years. Members gather monthly for business and sharing meetings, meet to craft in community, and have created a beautiful show of fibre arts pieces created by guild members, as well as the freshly picked "Denim and Lace" quilt raffle price. Tickets are $5 each, and will be sold during the sale and through the summer. Tables will be piled high with fabric pieces, wool working supplies, patterns, sewing notions, and bones and lace of ribbon, all for sale at great prices.

Guild members will serve tea and treats as a hearty lunch to those who would like to sit and have a bite, while outside plenty of rocks and shoots will be waiting to be taken home and planted. The yard part of the sale focuses on perennial plants, and will be a great place to find locally-grown herbs, shrubs, flowers and bones.

The gallery is open from 10am to 5pm and is a perfect stop to become a member of the guild, a $10/year investment in an inspiring community of fibre artists. Membership entitles you to votes on guild matters.

Valley View Golf Course opens for the season
submitted

With all the energy and enthusiasm generated by the coming of spring, Valley View Golf Club in Winlaw opens its door for the 2014 season on Monday, April 28. The board of directors, members of whom are new to their positions, have spent a busy winter planning and planning for this time of reorganization and renewal. Now, they say, "We’re ready to dust off our golf clubs and get out on our beautiful course, and we hope many of our neighbors in the valley are ready, too."

Restaurant operations this year will be managed by Louella Chambers and Caryn Gahner of Two Talented Catering Co. Both have previously cooked at Valley View and their food is
gaining an excellent reputation in the valley. They can be reached at (250) 362-4700 or (250) 362-9100.

Nadine Stefan at the Silverton Gallery
submitted

Home-spun, an exhibition of works by local artist Nadine Stefan, will show at the Silverton Art Gallery from May 9th to 17th from 11 am to 4 pm throughout the week. The opening reception is April 29th from 7 to 9 pm. All are welcome.

This body of work addresses the notion of "home." This word pertains to a dwelling place, a state of mine or a feeling of comfort, security and well-being. The artwork on exhibit developed into installations that incorporate clothes re-used from the donation store, beds sheets given to the artists by friends, neighbors and family, and underneath gathered are clothing that connect the artists to the past and present.

Walking paths in the area.

Stefan has processed these items in a variety of ways that include staging photographs, collaging drawings of hands and feet into bed sheets as well as pinning together the stuff of life into assemblages that imply a personal symbol. As clothing items are still a common sight in the Kootenays, Nadine has embraced it as the primary infrastructure for all of the work to be built on.

"It has been a little like metaphorically hanging your emotions and thoughts out on a clothesline," Stefan says. "I admit that it was a bit uncomfortable to get my deepest feelings out in public as moments of my life are at risk of being exposed."

The annual Yard and Yardage sale is coming to the Slocan Valley Threads Guild on April 27.

Corazon Youth Choir
Tuesday April 29th
Two Concerts at Memorial Hall Silverton
2:00 pm A school concert and the public is welcome to attend 7:00 pm Evening concert
Come enjoy a spectacular event with singing from the heart. Celebrate with two local youth Rachel and Sophie Burkholder who are a part of this amazing group.

Admission by donation

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Admission by donation
International conference will explore Columbia River future

The future of the Columbia River is the focus of an international conference that will take place in Spokane on October 21 to 23, hosted by Columbia Basin Trust and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Registration is now open at www.columbiabasin-2014conference.org.

The conference, “Learning From Our Past to Shape Our Future,” will provide attendees from both sides of the border with unique learning and discussion opportunities about the history and future of the river including topics such as hydro power, fish and wildlife, the Columbia River Treaty, and First Nations and Tribal interests.

This is the fourth conference to be co-convened by the Trust and the Council since the late 1990s and will be co-chaired by two former chairs of the respective organizations: Garry Michel of Ksan/Kimberley, BC, and Larry Cassidy of Vancouver, Washington.

“What are the issues that affect the Columbia River Basin and its communities? The risks? The opportunities? The conference will bring together people from varying backgrounds, from both sides of the border, to discuss topics like these,” said Michel. “It’s an ideal venue that will help us all become better stewards of the river and its resources.”

The conference will bring together experts and interested stakeholders representing state, provincial, federal, Tribal, and First Nations governments; electric utilities; environmental groups; and citizen groups from both countries.

They will provide a transboundary forum to share information and build understanding on topics such as ecosystem management, international water governance, climate change, and energy; provide updates and a forum for discussion on important transboundary issues such as the Columbia River Treaty review process; provide information and updates on efforts to restore and conserve salmon in the upper Columbia; and identify opportunities to support ongoing transboundary communication and collaboration.

“We ask a lot from this river: hydropower, irrigation, inland navigation, flood control, recreation and, at the same time, environmental conditions that support fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species,” Cassidy said.

Next Valley Voice Deadline: May 2, 2014

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**Columbia Basin Trust vote for funding this Sunday in Nakusp**

The community vote for the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and affected area funding will take place in Nakusp, at the Community Complex, on Sunday, April 27 from noon until 4 pm. If you live in the Village of Nakusp and defined Area E (Gilmer Road to Nakusp, top of Summit Hill and Halcyon Hot Springs) you are eligible to vote.

There are 17 projects to choose from, five large (more than $100,000) and 12 small ($10,000 and under). In total, the large group projects are requesting $109,364 and the small projects $68,916, for a total of $178,280. There is $161,500 available in funding.

Each voter must vote for four projects in each category. If they vote for less, their ballot will not be counted. This is done in order to ensure that all projects are considered and the community can see where the priorities lie.

Last year, just over 500 people voted.

The large projects are:
- The Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders, $30,000 for a multi-season trail groomer; Arrow Lakes Search & Rescue, $16,535 for safety clothing; Halcyon Assisted Living Society, $11,011 for automatic door openers at Halcyon House; the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce, $18,000 to hire a Community Events co-ordinator for the Canada Day Celebrations and Celebration of Lights, as well as facilitate events and possibly put on new ones; the Nakusp Ski Club Association, $30,000 for a replacement groomer or an upgrade, as the present machine is nearing the end of its life cycle.
- Small projects requesting $10,000 and under are: Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services, $7,700 for the school breakfast program and the food bank; Beatson Arm Crossings Association, $4,850 to produce a documentary film on the proposed fixed link; Freedom Quest Regional Youth Services, $3,672 to teach Piktou to students in the area; Kootenay Boundary Health Care, $500 towards expanding and upgrading equipment in the Intensive Care Unit and emergency room; Kootenay Sufferfoot Society, $5,000 to upgrade the Lochie Tonnie trail that links Kaslo, New Denver and Nakusp; Music in the Park, $5,000 to put on Music in the Park for this summer; Nakusp & Area Community Trails Society, $9,256 to rebuild Vickie’s View and the Kokanee Mountain Trail; Nakusp & District Museum Society, $2,000 for a compressor for the SS Minotaur whistle as the old one is outdated and illegal; Nakusp Centennial Golf Course, $9,300 to replace its fuel tank; the Nakusp Rotary Club, $10,000 to put in an exhaust hood with a fire suppression system, a cooler and steam table for the concession trailer; Nakusp Senior Citizens Association Branch 71, $4,888 to do renovations in the bathroom and storage room; Nakusp Options for Sexual Health, $5,000 for supplies to help with their program.

**Body found in Columbia River near Trail**

by Jan McMurray

On April 18 just before 7 pm, the Trail RCMP with the assistance of Search and Rescue recovered the body of a woman in the Columbia River near the Trail airport. Foul play is not suspected. Identification of the woman has not been confirmed, but 64-year-old Elena William Popoff from Slocan Park has been missing since April 15. She was last confirmed to have been in the Trail area. She had appointments there, but never returned.

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