BCUC issues decision on BC Hydro smart meter opt-out fees

by Art Joyce

The BC Utilities Commission released its 197-page decision on BC Hydro’s Smart Meter Program on April 25. It allows BC Hydro to charge $23.20 per month (instead of the proposed $32.20 per month) to those who chose to keep their analogue meters. Those who chose a radio-off smart meter will be charged $22.20/month, the same as what was proposed by BC Hydro, plus a one-time installation charge of $22.60. BC Hydro is to refund with interest any difference between these fees and the interim fees charged customers since December.

Estimated billing was also addressed in the decision. The Commission has determined that if a customer’s meter is read less frequently than bi-monthly, BC Hydro cannot charge for meter reading it has not performed. BC Hydro has been directed to file a solution to the problem of estimated billing and lack of meter readings by June 30 this year.

The monthly fee for those who kept their analogue meter was reduced from the proposed $33 to $32.40, thanks to an argument by the BC Sustainable Energy Association that by not accepting a smart meter, customers are saving BC Hydro money on new equipment.

Although BC Hydro had proposed an initial $100 fee for customers choosing a radio-off meter, BCUC allowed an initial $22.60 installation fee and a $35 fee at the time the customer accepts a smart meter.

The ‘failed installation charge’ of $65 was approved.

And there’s more—fees for customers who move. Customers with analogue meters cannot keep their meters or have an analogue meter installed at their new location. When they move, they will be charged $77.60. BC Hydro had proposed $100. Those with radio-off meters who move will be charged $122.60. BC Hydro had proposed $155.

Those who choose to retain their analogue meters will be allowed to do so until such time as the Measurement Canada meter seal expires or until it stops working. No new analogue meters will be provided although these are available on the market. Customers who choose the radio-off meter option will be able to retain this meter indefinitely.

The summary of the BC Utilities Commission’s (BCUC) decision begins by discussing the Liberal Cabinet directive that compelled them to allow BC Hydro to charge opt-out rates. “Direction No. 4 requires the Commission to ensure that BC Hydro’s rates allow it to collect sufficient revenue” to recover its “additional costs” from customers choosing radio-off smart meters or who choose to keep their analogue meters. The Commission further notes that the Cabinet directive gave them only 30 days notice to implement the charges prior to its review process. That directive also mandated a “failed installation charge on an interim and refundable basis.”

As an indication of just how seriously British Columbians view the situation, the BCUC hearings saw 35 parties registered as interveners, 152 individuals registered as interested parties and 1,109 individuals who filed one or more letters of comment. BC Hydro received more than 800 questions in the first round of information requests, leading them to request an extension to their deadline for filing with BCUC.

The Commission noted that while the many submissions from interveners and interested parties were well presented, they raised issues deemed to be beyond the scope of the hearings. The BCUC decision notes that “as a result of the prescriptive nature of Direction No. 4, the issues within scope in this public hearing are very narrow,” limited to “whether the proposed charges would enable BC Hydro to recover expenditures that are considered program costs, investigation costs and infrastructure costs…” The BC Liberal government was thus able not only to legalize fees for BC Hydro but also to limit and define the scope of the BCUC inquiry.

This meant that a host of relevant issues were overlooked, including affordability of the proposed charges, privacy, health and safety issues, comparable charges in other jurisdictions’ opt-out programs, and the fact that the smart meter program was exempt from a full review prior to implementation — to name only a few. Another issue considered “beyond the scope” of the enquiry was whether customers should be allowed to have analogue meters despite moving residences. The broader question of the democratic implications of Directive No. 4 was also deemed irrelevant, since “the Commission does not have jurisdiction over constitutional questions.” The government directive excluded health and safety concerns and it further excluded business customers from participating in the Rate Choices program. The result is an enquiry that was narrowly defined around balance sheet accounting for BC Hydro infrastructure servicing costs.

The submission from RCKK Area D Director Andy Shadrack made the argument that the imposition of ‘smart’ meters on unwilling customers was also a Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms issue. Shadrack contends that the meter fees “effectively constitute a penalty for disability or is otherwise discriminatory.” He argues that for those suffering from electro-hypersensitivity (EHS) it is “denominating and discriminatory to force a disabled person to pay a penalty as a result of their disability.” BC Hydro responded that the BCUC had already determined in the FortisBC case that the Charter question does not apply, a finding Shadrack sees as “an error of law.” However, once again the rebuff from BCUC asserts its lack of jurisdiction over Charter issues. An attempt to argue that Directive No.4 fails to comply with the Utilities Commission Act was also struck down.

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Sharon Montgomery, Chuck & Dawna Dinning honoured and celebrated

by Ian McMurray

The Nakusp Citizens of the Year banquet, held April 26, celebrated the achievements of Sharon Montgomery (Citizen of the Year) and Chuck and Dawna Dinning (Lifetime Achievement Award). Dan Nicholson of the Nakusp Rotary Club emceed the event. After a delicious dinner prepared and served by Legion Ladies Auxiliary volunteers, the ceremony began.

Dorothy Dobert presented the three honourees with certificates from MP David Wilks.

Laurie Page, representing MLA Katrine Conroy, told the three Citizens of the Year that they had made their community a richer place to live with their volunteer work.

Page then added her own “two cents” about the three award recipients. She said perseverance is the key to any successful community endeavour, and Sharon’s gift of perseverance is worth more than any treasure chest of gold.

About Chuck and Dawna, Page said there is something special about the spirit they bring to the community work they do, inspiring light and laughter. “You are like incorrigible, outrageous angels,” she said.

Mayoer Hamling thanked the Rotary Club for bringing the community together every year to celebrate. She was very pleased to recognize former long-term resident and Citizen of the Year Brenda Mayon, who was in attendance at the banquet on a visit to Nakusp.

The mayor said a few words about the deserving award recipients. She said Sharon had been relentless in her pursuit to keep the community open, and also keeps it “interesting and fun” by changing the displays.

Mayoer Hamling said Chuck and Dawna had served tirelessly, and listed the many community organizations and projects they have been involved in. Laughter filled the hall when she said she thought Chuck’s biggest lifetime achievement is his marriage to Dawna, and Dawna’s biggest lifetime achievement had been “teaching me to play bridge and sticking with it for years.”

Doreen Desrochers presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Chuck and Dawna. She said the couple became “nurses and shakers” in the community right away, “jumping in with both feet.” Through the Kinettes and Kinmen Clubs, they were involved in many projects, and Chuck became district governor of the zone. Chuck was on the hospital board and was instrumental in building the first phase of the Arrow Lakes Hospital. He is also a member and volunteer at the golf course, and served for many years as treasurer. They deliver Meals on Wheels, are members of the seniors association, and work tirelessly for their church.

Dawna plays piano and sings at the church, P.B. Nights at Hulcoy Hosa, and other events. She is on the Hospital Auxiliary executive and volunteers in the Thrift Shop. She also organized the Red Hat Ladies and had them all in the July 1 parade.

When Chuck and Dawna received their lifetime achievement plaques, Chuck said, “We were completely flabbergasted that this should happen to us. We try to do what we like to do and if it’s good for the community, that’s great.” When he retired, he vowed never to wear a tie again, but he said this was such an important occasion that he had to break that rule.

Cliff Wolfson presented Sharon with the Citizen of the Year award, praising her for her dedication to the history and pre-history of Nakusp. He has been working with her on a new pre-history room in the museum. “It has been an honour and a pleasure to work with her on this world-class display,” he said.

Sharon thanked the Rotary Club and congratulated Chuck and Dawna. She said she was raised in Nakusp and then was absent for 37 years. “When I came back, I was more than ready to give back,” she said. “The museum provides a creative outlet for me as an interior designer. It’s fun!” Sharon is a fourth generation Nakusp resident on her mother’s side and third generation on her father’s side. During open mic, people expressed their appreciation for Sharon’s excellent work at the museum. Hillary Bitten, minister of the united church, said a great lesson she learned from Chuck and Dawna was to always laugh.

The candle lighting ceremony in honor of past Citizens of the Year who are no longer with us was performed by Rotarian Kees and Maymar van der Pol.

FOOD SPECIALS

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<tr>
<td>Bananas Chiquita Brand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cantaloupe Golden Glory</td>
<td>$2.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breyers Classic Ice Cream</td>
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<td>Co-op Tomato Sauce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nabob Coffee Traditional</td>
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<td>Co-op Gold Juice</td>
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Coleslaw Fresh Express Pack | $1.49 |
Marzetti Dip Dill or French Onion | $2.59 |
Mott’s Cilantro Regular or Extra | $3.99 |
Co-op Gold Egg Noodles Medium | $2.19 |
Kraft Phil Cream Cheese brick | $3.99 |
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The Valley Voice May 7, 2014

Jack Kelly is Silverton’s Volunteer of the Year

by Katrine Campbell

A large crowd packed Silverton Memorial Hall April 26 to honour Jack Kelly as Volunteer of the Year.

Mayor Kathy Provan introduced Kelly, and a number of his old friends got up to share stories about him, recalling how willing he was, and still is, to help.

“More than anything, he’s just the kind of guy that, if people ask for a hand, he’s there,” Provan said later. “Jack’s a well liked guy. He speaks for itself by how many people came to honor him.”

Jack was born and raised in Silverton; the Kelly family has been here “since at least the early 1900s,” Provan added.

Kelly volunteered in many areas. He was the ice maker at the curling rink for years; he coached hockey and softball. Every winter, he creates a skating rink for the kids in his front yard.

And Remembrance Day wouldn’t be the same without Jack Kelly’s trumpet sounding the Last Post.

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Offer accepted for Meadow Creek Cedar forest licence and mill

by Ian McMurray

Meadow Creek Cedar owner Dale Kooner has accepted an offer for the purchase of the forest licence and the mill property, located in Cooper Creek north of Quesnel.

Rod Arnold, Register/Professional Forester at Meadow Creek Cedar, said the potential new owners want to run the mill and put in a co-generation plant “to get rid of the waste wood.”

“It’s good news for the area,” said Arnold.

He was unable to say who made the offer.

A ministry spokesperson reported that the district manager has postponed the cancellation of Meadow Creek Cedar’s licence, pending the successful conclusion of a licence sale agreement.

James and Zarelli attend pre-trial hearing

by Jan McMurray

Dennis Zarelli and Marilyn James appeared in front of Crown Counsel Caroline Nason on April 22 for a pre-trial hearing. The two Sixaita representatives are charged with contempt of court for continuing to block Happy Ridge Ranger Road after being served with a court injunction on March 4.

James, who will be representing herself, is to return to the court on May 26 to set a date for her trial. Crown Counsel informed the judge that they would be calling seven or eight witnesses during the trial.

Zarelli will be back in court on May 20, when Justice McIvor is expected to make a ruling on whether he is innocent or guilty of contempt of court.

Zarelli’s lawyer, Don Whit, asked if Zarelli’s hearing could take place before a different judge, due to issues regarding

Valley youth and friends looking for projects to improve their lives

by Katarin Campbell

Transportation and jobs for young people were the two key issues that arose during an April 24 workshop at the Hazelton Community Hall, organized by Columbia Basin Trust Youth Union Michelle d’Entremont, the meeting introduced CBT’s Community Development Youth Fund program to the approximately 45 participants, half of whom were youth.

According to Kathryn Koep, who was hired by CBT to pull the workshop together, the group comprised of “a lot of different people from different areas of the valley.” They discussed the possibilities and options for projects which would qualify for funding.

“The group as a whole decided on a second meeting. People needed time to think about options, and some wanted to do more research.”

Some of the issues and ideas raised were transportation, how to move kids around the valley so they can access programs, what’s going on in employment – job creation, and what the programs can do to help kids become employed, creating bike trails for recreation; mental health.

This last ties in with employment. Koep says “there’s an incredible amount of adult talent here. If there was some way we could coordinate and get adults together with kids to teach them some skills...usually kids come out

Cody Caves Road.

Arnold reports that it is very difficult to get seedlings, but they were able to pick up 114,000. “A lot of other provinces are getting our nurseries to grow trees for them so we can get trees on a regular basis until 2016,” he said, adding, “I think this will affect all licences.”

Arnold has been working on documenting its sulphuric acid liabilities. He says surveys still have to be done on 2,500 hectares in order to complete the job, and those surveys are scheduled to be done this summer.

Arnold reports that he is currently in discussions with the government on the mountain caribou issue. In 2009, the Province designated some areas off limits for logging and road building to protect mountain caribou. Arnold maintains that Meadow Creek Cedar’s licence was suspended in February 2011 due to the company’s poor performances in meeting its sulphuric acid and road maintenance obligations.

ULRIKE ZOBEL, LAWYER

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Community Calendar

Thursday, May 8
New Denver Water Systems Tour Kootenay Hall, New Denver
9:30 - 11:30 am
New Denver Water Systems Tour Kootenay Hall, New Denver
12:30 - 2:30 pm

Friday, May 9

Thursday Art Exhibit Opening Shuswap Gallery
7 pm
Saturday, May 10

Etna Bingo at the Pumphouse Shuswap Valley Co-op
7 pm
Shuswap Family Market The Whole School, Sicamous
9 am - 2 pm
Whole School Spring Market The Whole School, Sicamous
9 am - 2 pm

Monday, May 12

Digital Bank Food Bank
Selkirk College, Nakusp
9:30 - 11:30 am

Nakusp council
Nakusp council
Nakusp council

Tuesdays, May 13
New Denver Community Market/AGM Hidden Garden Gallery, ND
7 pm
New Denver council Council Chamber
8 pm
New Denver council Council Chamber

Wednesday, May 14
Shuswap Community Economic Dev Council Shuswap Council Chamber
5pm

Thursday, May 15
New Denver Royalty Pageant Bonson Hall, New Denver
7 pm
RECOX boarding RECOX boarding
9 pm

Friday, May 16

New Denver May Days celebrations New Denver
7 pm - Late
Kootenay May Days Celebrations Keloi
4 pm - Late
Take Back Your Power (Wii) Thredes Guild
7 pm

Saturday, May 17
New Denver May Days Celebrations New Denver
6 pm - Late
Kootenay Rufus Teddy Smorgasbord Keloi Arena
6 pm - 8 pm
Kootenay May Days Celebrations Keloi
6 pm - Late
Nakusp Farmers Market/bugina Nakusp
9 pm - 1am

Sunday, May 18
New Denver May Days Celebrations New Denver
7:30 - 8:30 am
Kootenay May Days Celebrations Keloi
6 pm - Late

Monday, May 19
New Denver May Days Celebrations New Denver
5 pm - 4 pm
Kootenay May Days Celebrations Keloi
6 pm - 4 pm

Tuesday, May 20
Silverton council Silverton
7 pm
Shuswap Valley Heritage Society/AGM NRT Graham School
7 pm

Nakusp Rotary Club
Meets Wednesdays at 5:45 pm
at Gabi’s Restaurant • 211 - 6th Ave NW
Unhealth system

“On Sunday I had to take my son to Nelson Emergency because he had a kitten that was stuck which wasn’t during bankers’ hours. I thought things would improve after the weekend but to my surprise it just turned out to be a day of rush. They filled him with morphine and called me in Kaslo to do the 1+hr trip each way to come back and get him. He is told he has to go to Vancouver or Calgary to be helped, which of course he can’t afford.

He has phorad around for assistance and nobody will (or can) do anything! He called the Victorian Community – ‘Health’ Centre in Kaslo and the Minister of Health and I know he is supposed to spend the rest of his Life standing on morphine and oxygen until the stone is so large it ruptures. I knew our ‘Don’t Care’ system has been destroyed by such organizations as Kaslo. Unhealth! I honestly never dreamed it was this bad. Trust me, it is.

Forty years ago I warned people, we are a third world country (we sell our natural resources and produce nothing) and we are for a male awakening. Believe me, it’s here. Forty years ago we would not be told to go away and die quietly. Believe me, it’s here.

Len Roger
Kaslo

Evolution of life and wireless technologies

Thank you Valley Voice for honouring freedom and diversity of thought in a time when our western civilization has lost all light, and creates more and more destruction and darkness all over the planet. It seems to have lost all will to live and leads us to the cry of the Earth, our sacred planet.

I write to share a few thoughts inspired by the bio-scientist Ulrich Werke who is an expert on nature’s evolutionary process.

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.

Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

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

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

Fellow residents:

The recent announcement of the closure of the Silverton Gallery after 35 years of outstanding community service, I find deeply saddening and disturbing.

As a Silverton resident for 33 years with continuous gallery involvement since its inception in 1979 and as Silverton council correspondent for the Valley Voice for seven years, this I know.

The Silverton Gallery has been recognized far and wide as a premier West Kootenay cultural venue and Silverton’s landmark building.

Successive generations of Silverton councils have sought funding for all other municipal properties and facilities while ignoring the gallery’s persistent code deficiencies noted to them by building owners in annual inspection reports. I fail to understand this unceasing blight on Silverton’s collective municipal conscience. The gallery lease has always stipulated that the society will provide regular maintenance and will keep in good repair all water, gas and electrical fixtures, glass, pipes, faucets, locks, fastenings, hinges, heating and cooling apparatus, on or attached to the premises.

However, over the years, in lieu of Village of Silverton action, various gallery boards and members have countered, both from their own pockets and through completed fundraising campaigns, funds to address various building needs – as a show of good faith. Now the society can no longer continue our programming in the building and are paying the ultimate price with the gallery closure.

It’s neither real nor possible for the society to be able to continue its varied programming in other community facilities. None are available in summer for required dates. Several performance bookings already have had to be reconsidered. There simply is no substitute for the gallery space, its amenities, equipment and architecture.

No other dedicated, large exhibit space between Vernon-Revoske and Nelson-Castlegar for large art shows and other exhibits exists. There are no other suitable art workshop spaces available for the many workshops provided for adults and children.

Last year’s marketing questionnaire sent to Silverton taxpayers implied taking on a huge debt load and large tax increase to bring the gallery building up to code compliance. Various Village administrations and councils sought and received substantial funding from a variety of sources for its other projects. To keep the current temporary closure from becoming permanent, considerable concerted, concrete commitments are needed. Can we just say “Too bad, so sad. It’s the end of an era” and walk away? Shall we be content to accept our personal and communities’ self-improvement?

Everyone, including Silverton taxpayers, will feel the economic consequences of permanent gallery closure. Silverton will no longer be a year-round cultural destination drawing people locally and from afar, and we will all be poorer for it – in every sense.

Who will continue paying the insurance, heat and electricity for the building (including the Silverton Historical Society Interpretive Centre and Archive room) Why would the gallery society or anyone else elect to do so for space it cannot use? The Village of Silverton and its taxpayers would then be responsible for the cost, future and probable deterioration of the building while watching the gallery become a blot on the Village landscape.

Council’s unenlightened intentions for the gallery building have yet to be heard. Demolition would be costly. Selling the building without the land, unremedial Subdivision and new septic costs would be substantial.

Those who may be applauding the gallery closure – who responded with unatmospheric hostility to the Village questionnaire – are celebrating a costly, hollow victory.

My gratitude to the countless creative workers and volunteers who have kept the gallery alive, providing a cronscape of experiences that cannot be erased.

Judith Ann Maltz
Silverton

The Valley Voice

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Shape shifting Jumbo
As we visit Jumbo Pass from time to time, all seems in perfect harmony with each other and the beautiful Alpine blossoms, gleaming glaciers, pristine peaks, soothing scents, sensational skyscapes, nightly nightlights and possible glimpses of mountain goats. Jumbo Pass is a perfect shape.

In Jumbo Valley, evidences of human shapings are passing with the years. The old mining district is nearly gone over and rock slides have closed the old logging road to all but recreational vehicles. This shifting shape becomes another, every municipality of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy directly to the south allowing long ranging canyons, and their numerous prey, to expand their home ranges.

Though we acknowledge nearly 50 active avalanche clumps and rapidly sliding glaciers, the Jumbo area is known, near and far, as a place of peace and restoration for our bodies, minds and souls. Our hearts sense sameness in this refuge from the present world of constant pressure and environmental shifts. Here at Qut Mukt our spirits mingle with the dancing spirit of the gezzy bear.

Issuing the Master Development Agreement for the substantial rehabilitation of the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality (JGMRM) caused no discernible change shaped shift in the time. February 2017 JGMRM received a $200,000 start-up grant, standard practice when municipalities incorporate (plus $60,000 for personnel). After incorporation every municipality must annually file a five year financial plan listing anticipated revenues and expenses. When JGMRM filed February 2017, the five year plan listed no new revenues, liabilities with no tax base for assets. Simultaneously they applied for and received a Small Communities Grant for $250,000 for this year plus $250,000 annually for the next four years. As a result, Jumbo took on a new shape for BC taxpayers, who are supporting a missing persons municipality, and anticipate supporting a road that goes nowhere but will cost the same as maintaining the Roger’s Pass corridor.

Quite recently CBC announced an Order in Council that changed the determinations in which ski resorts would be built. We braced ourselves for a jumbo shift. However, next day the order was rescinded – the present shape holds.

Next steps to a Lake Management Plan?
Even as a former Slocan Lake Water Users Board member, I am a bit lost about what has happened to the Lake Management Plan process. I have not heard of any progress for this for a very long time. A Shoreline Guidance Document for Slocan Lake was recently made official. This was based on studies that identified and mapped some fish and wildlife habitat values and it gives decision makers some broad parameters to work within, but it has almost always been abnormally clear that these guidelines would fail for short of offering comprehensive protection for the Lake.

The guidelines represent an incredible amount of volunteer effort, as well as a lot of work on the part of our regional public servants. But we all appreciate that these guidelines are about bureaucracy – about getting approved processes explored – much more than about lake protection. This was just a necessary first step towards a Lake Management Plan – or so we were told.

In the Imagine Slocan Lake survey, our communities resoundingly affirmed our desire to protect the health and beauty of Slocan Lake. In doing so, we agreed to form an RDKC to get this Management Plan underway. Clearly, we were not looking for token protection of some small range of values. Community members who were seeking for things that could be, in effect, circulated by almost any 'Qualified Environmental Assessment.

We were asking for a Lake Management Plan that would formalize meaningful protection for Slocan Lake.

It hardly needs repeating that the thrust we perceive is the inevitability of development pressures that is perfectly normal and rational folks increasingly re- creating the shoreline in their own private or corporate interests. The unintended consequence of this is that, in time, what we want as a community, will be forever and irrevocably lost. As other lakeshore in southeastern BC become more developed, Slocan Lake will not be spared unless we make the effort to imagine and plan a different future. That is what has begun with the Imagine Slocan – our communities thoughtfully and emphatically stated that we want a healthy and beautiful lake protected by a comprehensive Lake Management Plan.

It is true that we have an opportunity to do something profoundly good that reaches far into the future, aside from our day to day activities that impact each other and the planet. The Imagine survey showed that 500 people showed up for an all day big community participation in the survey we demonstrated that we believed this was an important movement for us for and the lake. Diverse as we are, we found a lot of common ground in our appreciation for the lake and in wanting it protected and impelled for future generations.

Nearly 15 months has passed since our community engaged in this endeavor. I suspect that many of us are now eager to know what progress is being made toward this goal. Can someone enlighten us about this? Let's keep our passion for this place alive and make sure that what we have been surreptitiously trying to do here is not lost. What is the next step?

Chernene Deneil Silverton

Closing of Silverton Gallery
It saddens me deeply to think that from June 1, the 36-year Silverton tradition of arts and culture will see the end of an era. We’ll undoubtedly continue arts programming and acting as liaison for the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) and its programs. The faithful old schoolhouse turned gallery and concert studio goes into a deep sleep, but the spirit of the arts can never die.

Since joining the board of the Slocan Lake Gallery Society (SLGS) in September 2013 and even before, I have spent countless hours every week searching for an alternative solution. I’ve lost many sleepless nights over this, called in every favour I could to help us out. To all no avail.

Some very generous hearted individuals helped in ways along with donations of their time and effort. But also... my heart has considerable experience with restoring heritage buildings. Retired City of Nelson building inspector Steve Cooper joined the board to help us draw up a work plan. Architect Chris Fairbanks came from Nelson to get the same tour of the place. Contractor Garry Grey also worked on the building, with my son Dayrell and Garry all did a walk through with us. Some thought donation advice, some maybe not so much – at least, not without major capital and a fully committed board.

However, it needs to be stated here that so far no building inspector and no Regional District building department officer has joined the board to help. Should we find an opportunity with the RDCK to get this Management Plan underway. Clearly, we were not looking for token protection of some small range of values. Community members who were seeking for things that could be, in effect, circulated by almost any "Qualified Environmental Assessment.

We were asking for a Lake Management Plan that would formalize meaningful protection for Slocan Lake.

It hardly needs repeating that the thrust we perceive is the inevitability of development pressures that is perfectly normal and rational folks increasingly re- creating the shoreline in their own private or corporate interests. The unintended consequence of this is that, in time, what we want as a community, will be forever and irrevocably lost. As other lakeshore in southeastern BC become more developed, Slocan Lake will not be spared unless we make the effort to imagine and plan a different future. That is what has begun with the Imagine Slocan – our communities thoughtfully and emphatically stated that we want a healthy and beautiful lake protected by a comprehensive Lake Management Plan.

It is true that we have an opportunity to do something profoundly good that reaches far into the future, aside from our day to day activities that impact each other and the planet. The Imagine survey showed that 500 people showed up for an all day big community participation in the survey we demonstrated that we believed this was an important movement for us for and the lake. Diverse as we are, we found a lot of common ground in our appreciation for the lake and in wanting it protected and impelled for future generations.

Nearly 15 months has passed since our community engaged in this endeavor. I suspect that many of us are now eager to know what progress is being made toward this goal. Can someone enlighten us about this? Let's keep our passion for this place alive and make sure that what we have been surreptitiously trying to do here is not lost. What is the next step?

Chernene Deneil Silverton

Art Joyce President, Slocan Lake Gallery Society

Shocked and appalled by Slocan Lake Shoreline Guidance meetings
The Valhalla Wilderness Society sent three spokespersons to the Slocan Lake Shoreline Guidance Document meetings on April 23 and 24. We came away shocked.

South Slocan community has been led to believes that provincial, federal and regional government authorities were working with the local group, the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS), or a lake management plan for Slocan Lake. The SLSS had provincial, federal and regional representatives backing them up. This was a thing that the Valhalla Wilderness Society never advised or wanted in quite that way. The federal and provincial governments at this time are extremely anti-environment. They do not back small environmental organizations and help them protect their lakes out of the goodness of their green hearts. Once consulted, any single group can be used and easily betrayed when they are no longer needed. Nevertheless, the SLSS people were very committed, tenacious and worked very hard. We hoped there might be some kind of safety in the kind of public involvement that the SLSS was engaging with in its Imagine Survey, etc. However, at the recent meetings we learned that there has been a serious lack of government and First Nations agencies – the Kootenay Lakes Partnership – had been given the management of Slocan Lake, and that the SLSS was not going to do anything towards the SLSS, or on some guidelines for fish management. Some of these agencies, such as the City of Nelson, have no mandate to protect the environment, may contain or be stayed by development interests, yet will not suffer the impacts from damage to our lake environment. The SLSS are not included except within the RDCK, and we know how helpless that agency was to deal (end) Jumbo. The delusion of community input for control appears to have evaporated.

The main efforts of mega-development along the lake will not be fish, but to the people who want to live on the lake. The lake guidelines are opening, not closing down the development of the lakeshore.

Development companies eye our lake and its shores presently as a place for condominiums, minis and docks that the wealthy will want for investments and relaxation. It will be at the cost of everyone living here in one way or another. The rise in land prices is always followed by higher taxes etc... ordinary people can no longer afford to live in the areas they have long inhabited, or in which they were born. It has happened again and again to recreational communities.

One of the government promoters assured us that development could only occur by way of lake management guidelines. Unfortunately guidelines helpfully left half of the lead of Slocan Lake easily available for that purpose). But, as the news constantly reports, the government has gone wild with all almost without thinking big and so-called development. Sales of Crown land around the lake are a very real possibility.

At the Silverton meeting, I asked explicitly: how do you think wordpress towards a plan? It because apparent that there is no plan in the works. After seven years, all we have is virtually the same fish guidelines presented twenty years here, and they will not even protect fish. My colleagues and I were appalled.

Some people believe that these guidelines were the product of the SLSS, and the first step towards a lake plan. I believe that was so, I would perhaps be more respectful of it. But actually, at least six lakes in the province already have some kind of lake management plan that do need to be based on a Habitat Assessment.

Such studies used to be done by provincial biologists; but after the government slashed the budgets and staff of all environmental regulation agencies to the bone, it formed the BC Lake Stewardship Society, a consortium of public and private partners. Through this province-wide organization, the government was able to get the SLSS to do the Slocan Lake Habitat Assessment with grant money from the Columbia Basin Trust and other sources. It appears that the provincial government has received much more or cheap labour from our communities for years. It is not in the way and we have no lake protection, nor was any avenue for further public input brought to light. The SLSS admirably kept working towards a lake management plan. But I cannot stress enough that in times like these, it is public opposition, not collaboration, that protects the environment from huge, malignant development. Fish management guidelines cannot be negotiated in this valley, for many voices have fallen silent in the belief that the lake will be protected.

Anne Sherrod
New Denver
New Denver council, April 29: Community Initiative Grants awarded
by Karine Campbell

• Council accepted the recommendations on the CBT Community Initiatives funds from the adjudication committee: Harvest Share, $3,000; ND & Area Youth Centre Society, $1,250; Slocan Solutions Society (Reading Centre upgrade) $300; Healthy Community Society (food program), $645; LACE, $2,000; North Slocan Trails Society, $1,000; Kootenay Sufferers Society; $3,000; Hills Nordic Ski Club, $1,000; Hidden Garden Gallery, $1,200; New Denver Hospice Society, $1,500; Health Arts Society, $1,000; Freedom Quest Regional Youth Services, $1,573; Slocan Lake Golf Club, $826.62.

• Fire Chief Lionel Casley attended to report on the fire department’s recent activities, and to ask for a longer meeting to show a presentation on FireSmart. The department is reviewing its policies and procedures, which Casley noted is its weakest point. The department has been putting $25,000 per year into reserves for a new truck, which will cost about $350,000. Breathing apparatus is also on the list, at $50,000 for ten units. As everything has been budgeted for, there will be no increase in taxes for the fire department, Casley said, and thanked council for the great working relationship.

• The Village will move ahead on a bylaw allowing a change in land use for the property at 214 7th Ave, the former Turner Memorial United Church, from Public and Institutional to Single Family Residential. Council made the decision after being reassured by new CAO Bruce Woodbury that it do so would not create a precedent.

• Staff were directed to prepare a bylaw to amend the CCP and the zoning bylaw. This will be reviewed at the next council meeting, and if approved, the change will be advertised to neighbours, notified, and a public hearing set.

• Mayor Ann Banka reported on RDCK business. The board moved to investigate with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations the conditions associated with the possible Crown land tenure of the former Girl Guide Camp in Hills for a regional park. This info would also be provided to the Rosebery Parklands and Trails Commission for consideration.

• Banka said she voted against the motion, because she believes the taxpayers can’t on too much and “we need to get a handle on parks.”

• The board also accepted Peter Rostlock’s resignations from the commission, and appointed Craig Pettit in his place.

City of Nelson director John Dooley was endorsed to stand for election to the board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

• Mayor Banka and Nikkie Centre Manager Monica Ito will attend the May 20 AGM of the Slocan Valley Legacy Society. The society approved a grant for the Centre’s 20th anniversary celebrations.

• Council gave first, second and third readings to the May Financial Plan and Tax Rates bylaw. Final adoption was slated for a special meeting May 5.

• Council was invited by the Province to comment on an application from Trevor Holowarch for a Crown land licence of occupation to conduct guided cat-skiing in the Silverton Creek vicinity. Council moved to support the application.

• Council approved an RDCK request for an assessment to the Area H NCP bylaw. The assessment would introduce Development Permit Area regulations regarding licensed medical marijuana production and research facilities within Area H north of Slocan.

• A May Days committee request to build a small dirt track in Centennial Park for a mini bike race was approved.

• Council received a report from Linda Cummings, executor of the late Webb Cummings’ estate, to purchase a 10-foot section of the road allowance (boulevard) on 8th Ave, as the house overlaps onto the boulevard. Staff was directed to ask Ms. Cummings for a surveyed sketch plan of the property, to notify her of the process involved in the closure, and how to apply for a Development Variance permit.

• Nadine Stein’s request to place an art installation, ‘Homeless’, on the north dyke of Carpenter Creek for the month of May was approved.

• The Multiple Sclerosis Society was granted approval to use the western end of Sixth Ave (Main St) as the start/finish point for a bike race on August 10/17.

• Council approved a request for data sharing and licensing memorandum of agreement with the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute. The RDI wants “economic, social, cultural and environmental data, including cadastral data from regional districts and participating municipalities.” The full data would also be available to all participants. The CAC assured council that some of the data would contain any confidential information.

• Council approved sending a letter of support to the Okanagan River Water Board for their campaign to stop invasive mussels reaching BC lakes and streams. A copy will also go to the Ministry of Environment and the Slocan Lake Snowboard Club.

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COMES THE OLD GEEZERS JUMP TO THE PUMPS!
Saturday, May 10
10-3
Slocan Valley Co-op

This is a Kootenay-Slocan Lions Fundraiser supporting community programs in the Valley: pancakes for breakfast, hotdogs and smokies for lunch. The co-op pays the Lions 4 cents per litre and helps with 1/2 the cost of the food. Drive in with an empty tank!

The Whole School hosts spring market, May 10
submitted

Just as we are thinking about planting and pruning and the return of the sun, the 17th annual Whole School Spring Market comes along to help us with this celebration. On Saturday, May 10, from 10 am to 3 pm, bring the whole family to The Whole School (5641 Highway 6, Wallowa) and join in the festivities.

There will be a huge plant sale as well as many local artisan and vendor booths scattered around the schoolyard. The kids can play the day away with a variety of activities in the Kids’ Zone. Check out all treasures to be found in the many silent auction sections. The BBQ will be fired up for a delicious lunch, or choose from the assortment of savoury snacks, baked goods and cool drinks throughout the day. Admission is only $2 at the entrance.

The school also hosts an ‘Inter-generation Vibration Dance Party’ on Saturday, May 24 at the Wallowa Whole Community Centre as part of our ongoing legacy campaign. Doors open at 7:30, music starts at 8 pm with Lady Humble & the Devils, Lady V, Maras Sa and Interact. Enjoy delicious home baked goods. Admission is $10 to $20 (sliding scale at the door (kids 12 and under free). Come raise your vibration with folks of all ages and dance the night away!

With all this growth and blossoming happening within the minds of the students, and with the promise of a lighterizing our space and making room for new beginnings, The Whole School opens its doors to the community once again. Registration for Kindergarten is happening now and we welcome any new family interested in our school to call and set up a time to visit with us. No family is turned away for financial reasons. Call our school coordinator at 250-226-7737 or email wholeschoold@comcast.net for more details.
Kaslo council, April 22: Curbside recycling to begin May 22

by Jan McMuray

- Council agreed with the CAO’s recommendation to hire Kootenay Waste Services Ltd., the current garbage contractor for the Village, to also handle the curbside recycling program in Kaslo from May 22-December 31 this year. The company will be paid $540 per ton to collect the blue bags and haul them to Castlegar. Recyclables will be picked up 10 times in 2014, every other Thursday. Smith said the cost would work out because with the amount the Village receives from Multi-Material BC (MMBC) to run the program. He said he was “a bit nervous” to see what will happen, but this arrangement with Kootenay Waste Services would “allow a week by week, month by month assessment of the ground realities of the curbside program, making a subsequent 2-year sub-contract that reflects the Village’s arrangements with MMBC more accurate and certain.”

- Council had hoped to issue a Request for Proposals for the recycling contract, but Multi-Material BC (MMBC) did not provide the details necessary to do so until it was too late. The new recycling program comes into effect May 10. A tender or RFP will be issued November 14 for a two-year contract (2015 and 2016) for both garbage and recycling services.
- An amended fuel treatment plan for the Washington unit was approved by UBCM on April 17. The deadline for the work to be completed was April 30. Without time to put out an RFP, council agreed to direct award the $17,640 contract to Leki Tree Services.

True Blue Ventures was originally going to do the work on the Washington unit, but the amendment delayed the start date of the project, and True Blue was no longer available by the time the amendment came through. The amendment was made to accommodate the ministry’s directive that no burning could take place in the unit, because of its proximity to buildings. All wood had to be chipped. This added to the cost, UBCM agreed to provide more funding.

A letter of thanks will go out to True Blue Ventures for the excellent work on the other units.

- Council approved the Health Care Select Committee’s response letter to Health Minister Lake. The letter states that the committee would like Kaslo to participate in a pilot project using a telemedicine model for after hours ER care. Given the fact that there would still be a significant shortage of doctors in the province even if all of BC’s physicians graduates stayed in BC, the committee feels that tele-medicine is a good solution for rural and remote communities. The letter urges the minister to consider the project.

Kaslo interface project successfully completed

by Art Joyce

Kaslo residents can breathe a little easier about arts projects: They staged a project at far less risk from wildfires, thanks to the newly completed fire interface project. A total of 13 workers were employed and about $20,000 for the project, putting nine hectares of municipally-owned land by removing six small diameter trees and fuel break. The areas treated are described by projected art projects. They staged a project at far less risk from wildfires, thanks to the newly completed fire interface project.

Kids celebrate Earth Day, April 22

submit

Kids in classrooms around the Columbia Basin celebrated Earth Day April 22.

Those participating in Wildight’s ‘Beyond Recycling’ program planned a variety of hands-on activities to celebrate, showing what they’ve learned with their schools and their community. Recycled art projects, planting salad greens and pollinator-friendly flowers, making paper from recycled newspaper, ensuring clean-up projects, such as a ‘Trash to Treasure’ at encouraged them to consider consumption in a new light.

Miss Frankie’s Grade 4/5 class at JV Humphries expanded their vegetable gardens, celebrating local food production by planting salad greens and pollinator-friendly plants.

With the encouragement of Don Dobkins, they made their own planter boxes and filled them with salad greens and radishes that will be ready for students to eat this spring. They also seeded the existing boxes, so they’ve doubled their food production!

Students at Brent Kennedy Elementary in South Slocan created recycled art projects. They staged a project that encouraged the students to rethink consumption by repurposing and reusing, along with the traditional 3 Rs of ‘reusing, reducing and recycling.”

Beyond Recycling is a 22-week, classroom-based program for Grades 4-7 delivered in 11 schools across the Columbia Basin. The program takes students on a journey to understand the impacts of lifestyle choices and highlights the importance of individual actions in creating sustainability. It is action-based, solutions-focused curriculum, inspiring and empowering youth to take a leadership role in making positive environmental and behavioural changes in their homes, school and communities.

Wildight wishes to recognize the Columbia Basin Trust, Government of Canada, BC Hydro, Fortis BC, Regional District of the Central Kootenay and Waste Management Inc. for their generous support of this program.
Nakusp council, April 28: Council hears plans for Hill Climb race

by Art Joyce

Can you hear the scream of racing engines yet? Councillor Guy Duchaine spoke to council at its April 28 meeting on behalf of the Nakusp Hill Climb Society to explain the logistics of the auto race planned for September this year on Hotsprings Road. The Confederation of Autosport Car Clubs (CCAC) is the sponsoring organization, providing a $5 million liability policy. If they don’t approve the application based on a thorough assessment of the course, the race doesn’t go ahead.

The steep grades on the road are a concern to the CCAC; if they decide these are too dangerous, plan B is to use half the course. There are nine corners and another eight serious bends in the road, creating a challenging course at an anticipated racing speed of 160 km/h.

However, "nothing has been left to chance," Duchaine said. The Clerk of the Course has "absolute power" over the race and marshals are placed at regular intervals along the course. In the event of an accident, the entire course is shut down until the situation is handled.

An effort will be made to keep foot traffic off the road during the event. The gravel pit will provide a staging area for spectators with a view of an 800-metre portion of the course. There will be 135 volunteers on site and Duchaine has communicated with anyone who will be impacted by the race. CAO Linda Tyan has said she is awaiting advice from the fire department and other staff on the proposed event.

Council discussed engaging a consultant for the biomass district-heating project proposed by the Nakusp District Heating Group. CAO Tyan recommended a feasibility and business case study to determine the best operating model. She estimates the costs of such a study at $25,000 plus $5,000 for moisture analysis of local wood waste material. Tyan recommended using tax revenue set aside for this purpose. Councillor Mueller said she would like to see the larger figure scaled down if possible. Council voted to proceed, provided tax funds are used.

CAO Tyan reported that the MMBC recycling program is scheduled to begin in May but that the Village has done "very little advertising because we’re still negotiating, although it appears we’re close to something we can agree on." Bags will be used at first because bins haven’t been purchased yet. Bags have to be clear blue to MMBC one can see at a glance which ones are ‘contaminated.’ A mail-out will go to residents to explain what items will be picked up.

First and second readings of the tax rate bylaw were given. Tax revenue of $913,444 will be collected this year by the municipality, up from $895,937 last year. This approximates a tax increase to the average home and business of 2.5 percent. Residential properties contribute 71 percent of tax revenue; businesses contribute 25.5 percent. Chief Financial Officer Mullins further said there are two variables affecting the tax costs of property owners: assessment values and tax rates. "There’s a constant discussion that a decrease in assessments means that less property taxes will be paid," said Richards. However, because municipalities need to raise a consistent amount of taxes to cover services every year, decreases in assessed value must often be met with corresponding municipal rate increases.

CAO Tyan discussed the Village’s annual control bylaw in reference to local interest in raising chickens. Although the current bylaw restricts animals creating excessive noise and does not allow raising livestock, it says nothing about keeping poultry. Chickens are not technically considered livestock.” Councillor Duchaine spoke against allowing chickens in the village while Councillors Hughes and Mueller favoured setting limits as to the number allowed per household. Councillor Zelenuk would be interested in seeing other municipal solutions and staff will report back to council.

Final reading and acceptance of the building inspection bylaw amendment was postponed to council’s meeting on May 24. Although CAO Tyan said her recommendation would have been to have a contract agreement for inspection services with the Regional District, the RDCK is not in favour of such an arrangement.

Patricia Dehnel of Carbon Neutral Kootenay (CNK) appeared before council to give a progress report on the completion of the five-year program. According to Dehnel, Nakusp and District Community China for GHGs for 2013 and will receive $3,900 in CARP funds for 2013. Nakusp council joined the initiative in 2012 and will be seeking a budget for the next year for leadership in the project. The provincial Climate Action Charter (2008) committed local governments to achieving carbon neutral operations by 2012, a target date that has since had to be revised. Dehnel explained that the three Regional Districts participating in the project at this time are Nelson, RDNO and RDEK and RDKB – and the first and only partnership of its kind in BC. Collectively that represents almost 400 municipalities, which own and operate 95 vehicles, with a total of $214 million spent on energy annually. Kaslo and New Denver chose to retain their carbon neutral status post-project development after project completion. Overall greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) declined by 10 percent during the project.

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Nakusp council, April 28: Council hears plans for Hill Climb race

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Nakusp, area CBT vote results in funding for all local projects

by Jan McMurray

Seventeen projects were voted on for Nakusp and Defined Area CBT Community Initiatives funding on April 27 at the arena.

With $161,500 in available funding and $173,600 worth of requests, all projects except one were received funding. Fourteen projects were fully funded; two were partially funded; and the only project that received no votes and no funding was the Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital Foundation’s Critical Care Campaign.

The two organizations that received partial funding were the Arrow Lakes Riders (ALRR) and the Beaver Arm Crossing Association (BACA). The ALRR will receive $20,136 instead of the $30,000 requested for a multi-season trail groomer. BACA will receive $3,034 instead of the $4,850 requested for a documentary film on area fly fishing.

Organizations that will receive full funding for their projects over $10,000 are: Arrow Lakes Search and Rescue, response safety clothing, $16,253; 422 votes; the Nakusp Ski Club Association, groomer replacement upgrade, $30,000; 416 votes; Halcyon Assisted Living Society, installation of automatic door openers, $11,011; 398 votes; Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce, Community Events Coordinator, $18,000, 378 votes.

Organizations that will receive full funding for their projects under $10,000 are: Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services, Food Bank and Breakfast Program, $7,000, 250 votes; Nakusp & Area Community Trails Society, Redbud Trail to Moosic View and Kiskunmat Mountain Trail, $9,655, 217 votes; Music in the Park, $1,999, 208 votes; Nakusp Senior Citizens Association, band partial funding, $4,837, 185 votes; Nakusp Centennial Golf Course, fuel tank restoration, $9,800, 164 votes; Options for Sexual Health (Nakusp) $4,999, 161 votes; Nakusp & District Museum Society, SS Minnow Whistle Compressor, $2,000, 150 votes; Freedom Quest Regional Youth Services; West Kootenay Parkour Leadership Program, $3,671, 136 votes; Nakusp Rotary Club, Concession Food Equipment Project, $10,000, 123 votes; Kootenay Sufferfest Society, trail maintenance, $5,000, 112 voices.
Mud bogging a continuing problem at Burton flats

by Art Joyce

Burton residents continue to be at a loss for solutions to the chronic problem of disrespectful ATV users who use sensitive wetlands as a race track. Although the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) had erected barriers and posted signs warning of penalties for crossing fish-bearing streams, these have been torn down by unknown persons. The recent Easter long weekend saw a replay of the problem.

Lester Dumneraad, a Burton resident and director with the Arrow Lakes Stewardship Society (ALSS), says there are numerous issues at stake. The ancient history of First Nations settlement here makes the Burton flats of archaeological value. Three of the creeks that feed into the wetlands are spawning streams for bull trout and kokanee. Wetlands are also well known for providing nesting sites for shorebirds such as sandpipers; disturbing them can have a damaging impact on bird populations. Residents have also seen ATV users cross the creeks that supply their water systems. Yet despite years of grappling with the problem, if anything Dumneraad is seeing more, not fewer, ATV users camping out on the flats. It’s one of only two wetlands left on the Arrow Lakes since the dams went in, he says. “I left my name with the ministry but it didn’t seem to do anything. I think the community is frustrated that no progress is being made.”

Dumneraad was told by the Compliance and Enforcement branch of FLNRO that the only sure solution is to catch offenders in the act, something locals are reluctant to do for fear of angry confrontation. Compliance officers – now known as Natural Resources Officers – are in short supply these days due to budgetary cuts. According to an FLNRO spokesperson, Natural Resources Officers “are conducting patrols to monitor this area.” However, he said it was not practical to post an officer at the flats on weekends when ATV users typically show up – especially Easter and May long weekends. If you can catch offenders the penalty is stiff – a $575 fine, making mud bogging a potentially expensive habit. But so far this year, no tickets have been handed out. Although there’s a campground within a kilometre of the flats, it does not allow ATVs.

Repeated calls to the North Okanagan RCMP detachment have also failed to produce results, says Dumneraad. Constable Paul Tishcott explains that for police it’s a bit of a grey area, since it’s not clear where trespassing is occurring on private land which is on Crown land. FLNRO is the responsible agency, with RCMP being an “agency of assistance.” There appears to be method to offenders’ madness, since by tearing down the Ministry signage, one can claim not to know what areas are considered sensitive. From a police perspective it then becomes difficult to prove intent to break the law.

“Reading the act, it doesn’t specifically say anything about mud bogging,” says Constable Tishcott. “We do patrol down there but as far as specific activity being prohibited it hasn’t been communicated to me what that is. We set up a roadblock out there on the Saturday night of the Easter weekend because we knew there was partying going on. We had some conversations with people and we were very well received. We’re doing what we can, but again, we only have limited resources.”

Clearly, RCMP and FLNRO staff aren’t communicating with each other. Tishcott says he has counseled about the problem with Burton residents, advising them that it’s “largely a matter of educating people about the situation.” Paul Peterson said in his 12 years as Area K Director, no solution has been found but he’s willing to support ALSS with funds for monitoring equipment such as a video camera if they feel that will do the job.

“Theres’ alcohol involved here and on Easter weekend they partied right till daybreak; the cops came down during the night. None of that seems to make any difference to these folks,” says Peterson.

“Last year I wrote a letter to the editor about it but that didn’t seem to help any,” adds Dumneraad. “In fact the number of people camping on the flats has increased over the years. We expect the May long weekend they’ll likely come out again. I think it’s up to the Arrow Lakes Stewardship Society to decide what actions to take, but it should be supported by the Burton community as well.”

ALSS will be meeting in May to discuss possible next steps.

An Evening with the Moderator of the United Church of Canada

by Dan Nicholson

Gary Paterson, head of Canada’s largest Protestant denomination, was in Nakusp on Friday, April 25, to talk to a full house at Robertson Memorial United Church. It’s no secret that church attendance has been declining all over North America, in every Protestant denomination. The Catholics are holding their own, largely because of immigration.

“It’s a challenging time for mainstream liberal Protestant congregations in North America,” says Paterson. “The way we’ve done church in the past isn’t working.”

“As we look for new models, may we see a vision that recognizes all our relations.”

“Service groups are going down, and there’s a huge anxiety about how we can change larger culture so the language and symbols don’t work anymore,” Paterson believes that it’s time for a fresh and radical renewal. “We can be certain that change won’t happen without pain, hope or a sense of possibility.”

According to Paterson, God’s hand may be in this diminishment of the church. “God is at work, but...

One Book One Kootenay shortlist includes Kaslo, Faququier and Sparwood authors

submitted

South of Elfride, Africa’s Unfinished Symphony, Blue Collar B&B – a more diverse list of titles is available here; their authors are on display at your library, on a poster advertising One Book One Kootenay, on the OBOK website, proudly proclaiming that they have been chosen for OBOK.

One Book One Kootenay, OBOK, is a public library driven celebration of Kootenay/Boundary literary heritage sponsored by the Kootenay Library Federation and a Columbia Basin Trust Sponsorship Grant. Each of the books on the list was written by Kootenay-based writers, South of Elfride (Brindle & Glass, 2013) by Kaslo’s Helley Rutinsky, Africa’s Unfinished Symphony (Grassroots Publishing Group, 2013) by Faququier resident, Lucia Mann; and Blue Collar B&B (Langstone Street Press, 2000) by Sparwood’s Bobby Hitchens.

The books were chosen, by a committee of discerning readers, from hundreds of titles written by Kootenay/ Boundary authors within the last five years. The OBOK Committee agreed that everyone in the Kootenay/ Boundary should read these books in 2014. They are books that grab you, books that you can’t put down.

Not only should you read these books, you should vote on the one you think should be this year’s OBOK. Vote at Nakusp Public Library anytime between May 5 and August 9. The books, ballots and a ballot box are available at the library. The selected OBOK will be announced on September 8.

You can meet the shortlisted authors at various events at Kootenay/ Boundary libraries. Watch for announcements at your library or on www.nakusp.org.

Amy Bohigian of Watershed Productions in Nelson has created videos of the authors discussing their work. The videos will be on the website and shown at OBOK Shortlist Events starting in June.

For more information about the 6th annual OBOK, go to obok.ca, or ask at the Nakusp Public Library.

FLOODING

Be prepared!

Floods and other weather-related events are a common occurrence in the Kootenays from April through July. Provincial agencies and local volunteers may monitor streams and rivers throughout the freshet/flood season.

Residents are responsible for having an emergency plan as well as the tools and items necessary to protect their homes and properties (such as sandbags). In potential life threatening circumstances, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, along with the support of Emergency Management BC (EMBC), may issue an Evacuation Alert or an Evacuation Order to residents living in a flood hazard area.

In advance of freshet season, EMBC provides sand bags to the RDCK to protect local infrastructure (bridges, highways, water treatment plants, communications etc.) and to residents if the need becomes apparent.

IN EVENT OF A FLOOD EMERGENCY

Listen to radio stations for more information on sand bag locations and current evacuation alerts & orders.

To report potential flooding or for more information call RDCK Emergency Coordinators:

Nelson / Kaslo Areas D, E, F 250-354-5543
Nakusp/ Slocan Areas H, I, J, K 250-205-1920
Creston Area A, B, C / Salmo Area G 250-254-8255

24/7 Provincial Emergency Reporting Number
Emergency Management BC - Emergency Coordination Centre: 1-800-863-3456

Dirty or muddy water please report immediately!

For information on debris flow hazards: http://www.rdck.ca/assets/Services/Emergency-Management/Documents/Debris%20Flow%20Hazard%20Brochure_FINAL.pdf

For information on Flood Preparedness, How to Sand Bag, Creating a Personal Emergency Kit and current River Flow Levels from the BC River Forecast Centre check out: www.embc.gov.bc.ca

For Kootenay Lake Water Levels www.forliscbc.ca

For local RDCK Flood/ Freshet Information Bulletins (when applicable) please see www.rdck.bc.ca
Ilene’s Garden at the Pavilion rebuilt over the weekend

Submitted

Over the first weekend of May, a big step was taken by the New Denver Hospice Society towards revitalizing the memorial gardens at New Denver’s Slocan Community Health Centre and Pavilion residential care unit. Ilene’s Garden, originally landscaped and planted in the early 1980s, has now been completely rebuilt under the supervision of Ray Nihill of Valley Landscaping. This garden was created in memory of Pavilion staff member Ilene Walker, a young woman whose tragic death in a house fire in 1981 deeply affected co-workers, family and friends.

A small backhoe was used to remove tree stumps, move landscaping rocks and distribute fresh topsoil. Gradually new contours took shape under Ray’s direction as rocks were replaced and an alcove was created for a wheelchair accessible contemplative bench facing south in honor of Ilene. Perennials and shrubs were planted on Saturday and Sunday, with an excellent volunteer turn-out.

The fate of all the memorial gardens and a number of trees had become uncertain last summer when bequest funding for their upkeep ran out and the Interior Health Authority (IHA) announced it would have to replace them with low-maintenance lawn cover due to cost. This IHA decision greatly concerned a number of local residents. Andrea Smith, an RN at the Health Centre, spearheaded a campaign to convince IHA to leave the gardens and trees intact if fundraising and volunteer energy could be used for their upkeep. Sue Davies, former Pavilion recreation director and Hospice coordinator, approached the New Denver Hospice Board to take on this project. Actress Robin Sherwood talked to Hospice coordinator Tanya Thompson about preserving the trees, and local teacher Katrina Smallwood wrote to the Hospice Board. The Hospice Board agreed to take on responsibility for the gardens and trees, providing that a garden committee could be formed to handle details. Andrea, Sue, Robin and Katrina were asked to sit on the committee. Colin Moss, owner of Slocan Yard and House Care, was also recruited, and ended up donating many hours of volunteer time in the garden. By December 2013 the Hospice Board had forged a workable agreement with IHA, and the garden committee had outlined several projects for the spring of 2014, prepared garden beds for the winter and pruned an enormous heritage black walnut tree.

Now that Ilene’s Garden has been rebuilt, the next project will involve laying down landscape cloth, snaker hoops and bark mulch over a number of the other gardens, which will require volunteer time needed for weeding.

New Denver Hospice would like to thank IHA, BC Hydro, New Market Foods, Valley Voice newspaper, Silvertown Building Supplies, the Slocan Lake Hospital Auxiliary, Home Hardware, Silvertown Transport and Slocan Yard and House Care for their generous contributions. Also, the Slocan Lake Garden Society (SLUGS) contributed to the memorial gardens by re-directing funds received from the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society. Many thanks to all volunteers who have put in time and contributed to the Pavilion Memorial Gardens project.

For more information and photos, please visit the garden section of the New Denver Hospice website at www.newdensehnrchosp.ca. To make a financial gift to support the gardens, visit the website or write a cheque payable to New Denver Hospice Society, PO Box 217, New Denver, BC V0G 1SO. A tax receipt will be issued for gifts of $25.00 or more.

COMMUNITY

Bikes not Pipes tour roars up Slocan Rail Trail

Submitted

With the clog-clang of bicycle bells and shouts of “Bikes Not Pipes,” the little tour paraded up the Slocan Valley Rail Trail this week. The four-person crew took just one day to go from Nelson to Winlaw, avoiding highway riding almost the whole way.

After an informal evening talking about the movement to stop bitumen pipelines at Winlaw’s Kayu Café, the tour continued the next day all the way to the end of the Rail Trail in Slocan City and up the highway to Silverton. A second evening dinner talking pipelines was at the Mercatado Restaurant in Silverton. With the weather delay from the previous week, plans had to be changed and the riders couldn’t go on to Kelby, this time.

“Glorious spring sunshine,” said Keith Wiley, who says it was great to ride up the valley. “We were so glad we postponed from the cold rainy days just last week.”

“The Rail Trail is wonderful, we got to Winlaw in one very easy day of padding, it could easily be done in three or four hours,” he said.

Another rider, Shannon Luanway promoted the Dogwood Initiative plan to push for a provincial referendum to ban bitumen pipelines from BC and tankers from BC’s coast.

Nelson’s John Alton said he wants to do the tour again next spring, but with more riders and a little more advance notice. “It’s a wonderful time of year to ride,” John said. “No bugs, no too hot, and all the water running everywhere makes spring such a great time to ride the Valley.”

For more info about the Bikes not Pipes tour, contact John Alton at 250-352-1204.

Ruby’s Flower Garden quilt

Submitted

The New Denver Quilt Guild’s 20.14 raffle quilt is now on display at the New Denver KSCU. The beautiful fabrics in this queen-sized quilt were donated by Ruby Robson, a founding member of the Guild. The quilt will be raffled off at 10:45 am on Monday May 19 at Centennial Park. Tickets are $5.00 and can be purchased at local businesses or at KSCU May 13-15.

The guild is taking a break this year from its annual May Days Show and Tea, but will return anew in 2015.

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<th>CEDAR CREEK GARDENS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Business Directory</td>
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<tr>
<td>5729 Highway 6, Winlaw, BC</td>
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<td>Art/Museum – C. Moore (250)226-7729</td>
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<td>Art &amp; Music Studio / Gift Shop</td>
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<td>Emery Herbals &amp; The Dispensary (250)226-7744</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.emeryherbals.com">www.emeryherbals.com</a></td>
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<td>GAIA TREE Whole Foods (250)226-7255</td>
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<td>Dr. Jessie Speirs, ND (250)226-6879</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.kootenaynaturopathic.com">www.kootenaynaturopathic.com</a></td>
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<td>Kayu’s Café (250)226-7374</td>
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KAYU’S CAFE, providing community, nourishment and music.
Come and enjoy the musical talents of CAROLYN MARK on May 9th. www.kayuscafe.ca

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Kaslo May Days kick off with a wine tasting, wraps up with free music in the park

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo May Days kick off with a wine tasting at the Langham on Friday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, hosted by Kaslo council.

The Kaslo Hotel has live music all weekend, with the John Burdon Band on Friday and Saturday nights, and DJ Steele and C. B. Biggles on Sunday. Show time is 9 pm and there is no cover (all three nights).

Vivian Farn is May Days central all weekend long, with a lively mood, full of food and craft vendors, live music and the baseball tournament going on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Loggers Sports is a must-see! It happens on Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm, with a beer garden on site. A chainsaw carver, Ryan Cook, will be working on a carving adjacent to the logger sports grounds all weekend and the finished carving will be a gift to Kaslo.

Show 'n Shine is one of Sunday's highlights. Check out the cool cars on the main street from 10 am to 3 pm. Trophies presentable at 2:30 pm.

On Saturday morning, the Fun Run starts at 9 am at the SS Moyie. The event includes a 5K walk, 10K walk and 5K run. To participate, pick up your pledge sheet from the Blueberry, Sunnyside Pharmacy, Carneous, or Willow Interiors or pay $5 in lieu of pledges. The proceeds go towards new playground equipment.

The kids will want to be at the park at 10 am on Saturday for the races. From noon to 4 pm, there will be helicopter rides from Front Street near Abbey Manor. A horse demonstration and pony rides take place at the riding grounds on Arena Road from 1 to 3 pm.

Don't miss the roller derby scrimmage Saturday from 6 to 8 pm at the arena. The roller derby girls from the Valley Vedettes and West Kootenay league will be out to show us how it's done.

Sunday starts out with a pancake breakfast from 8 to 10:30 am. Head down to the skatepark to try out some skateboarding in the morning and to watch intermediate and advanced riders in the afternoon. They'll be lighting up the barcode around midday at the skatepark.

On Monday morning, you can head down to the garden festival at Vinyx Park, which runs from 9 am to 4 pm, and then back up to Front Street for the parade at noon. This year's parade theme is the history of forestry. Following the parade, make your way back down to the park gazebo for the kiddie band performance, the May Pole Dance (1:15 pm), and St. Mark's Morris Men and the Family Singers. The Citizen of the Year presentation will be made at 2 pm. Then at 2:15 pm, the winner of the Kaslo Quillers quilt raffle will be announced. The quilt will be on display at the May Days Market, and tickets will be available as well.

The weekend wraps up with free music in the park, presented by the Kaslo Jazz Ec. Society.
Take in Kaslo Logger Sports at the Kaslo May Days Celebrations

by Jan McMurra

Kaslo Logger Sports fits right in with the theme of the Kaslo May Days parade this year—the history of forestry.

Logger Sports competitions had their beginnings in the logging camps of the late 1800s, and are still going strong today.

This is certainly true of Kaslo Logger Sports, now in its 38th year. The event is so popular that it has been ‘super-sized’ to fill up two days. Competitors and spectators come from all over to attend Kaslo’s top-notch show.

“Our show attracts a huge audience every year, with people coming from the local area and all over the world,” says Kathy Freeman, one of the organizers of the event. “It’s a real draw for Kaslo, and great for our local economy.”

Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18 will be action-packed days down at the logger sports grounds at Vincy Park on the waterfront. Novice and intermediate events take place on Saturday, and men’s, women’s and mixed competitions will be held on Sunday.

Upcoming art shows at the Langham Gallery

Nico Meijer-Drees will be showing a large collection of prints spanning several years and utilizing many mediums in her show entitled ‘Playtime in the Community Gallery.’ Bora in the Dutch East Indies between two volcanoes on Java, Nico brings an eclectic past (geologist, traveler, collector) to his artwork, which is both exacting and experimental. It is especially auspicious that this long-time Kaslovan and Langham volunteer will be showing during the Langham’s 40th Anniversary Celebration year, as he was one of the first artists to hang artwork on the walls of the Langham (before the walls were even finished!).

Both shows run from May 16 to June 29. Gallery hours are Thursday – Sunday, 1 pm-4 pm. The opening event takes place Friday, May 16, 7-9 pm.

Lots of support for Kaslo Food Forum

by Katrine Campbell

More than 50 people showed up April 12 in Kaslo for the first Food Forum, hosted by North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society and the Village of Kaslo. Those participating included farmed, homesteaders, housepeople, chefs, young families, seniors, food processors and reps from local and regional government and Interior Health.

“The purpose of the forum was twofold: first to engage our community in a review of the activities of the food security project over the past eight years and, secondly, to seek input from the regions as to how we should proceed with food security.”

The Village and RDCK reviewed and evaluated areas where they could work to improve community food security. One recommendation coming out of the forum was to generate a matching program between gardeners/farmers and food bank clients. This could take the form of a trade of labour for food, or a pooling for growers who have a harvest they can’t consume themselves, or sell.

Other major recommendations were to improve the growing season, by exploring the possibility of building greenhouses, and to appeal the meat abattoir regulation status “with the hope that we will be able to acquire the rural and remote status.” This would allow people access to healthy, locally-raised meat. Kaslo Mayor Greg Lay and Area D director Basil Shadbolt will arrange a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture to present the appeal. Lay is also interested in seeing a greenhouse built on the Kaslo airport lands.

Kaslo May Days 2014 ROLLER DERBY Scrimmage at the Kaslo Arena

Sat, May 17th at 6pm Doors open at 5:30pm

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Adults $5 Kids 82

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Magic in the park at New Denver May Days Celebration

by Jan McMurray

It’s a carnival!
That’s the theme of this year’s New Denver May Days celebration, and Centennial Park on Monday will feel like a carnival grounds. Bubbles the Clown and Jeremy the Magician will be there! A puppet show, featuring Squidgey and Widgey Pigs and George the magician happens at 11 am, and a magic show by Jeremy happens at noon.

The weekend kicks off with the Royalty Pageant on Thursday evening and the Naming of the Ambassador and Vice Ambassador on Friday evening. This year, two young men are in the program – Ethan Grissom and Elijah Collier. Come out and meet them at Bouson Hall at 7 pm both nights. The teen dance follows the Naming of the Ambassador event on Friday night.

Saturday is a day of golfing and fishing, topped off with a community dance from 7 pm to 1 am at Bouson Hall. The May Days’ golf tournament begins between 10:10 and 10:30 am. The fish derby begins at 8 am, with final weigh-in on Monday at noon. Register and weigh in daily with the campground attendant at Centennial Park. The three heaviest fish will fetch prizes. The fish derby is sponsored by Home Hardware, Mountainberry and Iron Peak Logging.

Start your day Sunday with a delicious presbyeast breakfast at Centennial Park, brought to you by the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce. Breakfast is served from 7:30 to 10 am.

Sunday features goings on both at the park and downtown, plus the 30th annual bike race from Summit Lake to the park. Bike race participants meet at Summit Lake Day Park at 9 am.

On Sunday morning, wander downtown for the soap box derby, starting at 9 am. This fun event is for boys and girls 3-12 years old. Registration costs $5 and begins at 8:30 am. Drivers are encouraged to dress in costumes. Good footwear (no sandals), gloves, and a safety helmet are required. In the afternoon, at 2 pm, there’s a bike rodeo on the main street.

An extra special treat this year will be free ice cream cones at What’s in Store on the main street from 10 am to 1 pm.

At the park, the 13th annual Thomson Bocce tournament starts at 10 am, and a kids soccer game starts at 11 am. At 11:30, there’s sand sculpting – bring your own buckets and tools. The hot and cold booths open at 11 am, and the Bavarian Gardens open at noon. In the afternoon, join the Zumba fundraiser for breast cancer at 3 pm and try out this fun way to keep in shape. You can bring your bike and ride the wave at 3 pm, and kids 3-7 years old can play T-Ball at 5:30 pm.

Evening entertainment on Sunday includes Bingo at the Bouson at 7 pm, and Movie Night at the park at dusk. The Lego Movie is showing, starting at 9:30. Bring a chair or blanket. Admission is free, and there will be a hot dog concession.

On Monday, the streets will be lined with people watching the parade, which begins from Larcher.

Eloise Charest to present film on Cambodia

On Thursday, May 15 the Nelson Public Library and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy are hosting a film presentation by valley resident Eloise Charest. All are welcome at this free event, which will take place at Winlaw School library from 3 to 5 pm.

During the Cambodian civil war in the mid-1970s, Eloise Charest and her sister ran an orphanage in Phnom Penh. As the Khmer Rouge surrounded the city, they were given notice to leave, but refused to do so without the children. Most of the children were under six months of age and many were survivors of entire villages that had been annihilated.

In a desperate move, the sisters and 55 children were flown to Vietnam by the American Flying Tigers, but were precipitated into another war. They finally managed to bring the children home to Canada.

Nakusp Farmer’s Market opens May 17

Vendors with wares ranging from food to crafts are welcome. The cost is $5 per space each week. If you’d like to set up at the Nakusp Market, please contact Collette at 250-269-7326 or email nakuspmarket@gmail.com.

Raven’s Nest

Welcome to New Denver May Days! Open 10-6 every day Main St. • New Denver

NEW DENVER MAY DAYS 2014

THURSDAY, May 15
Royalty’s Pageant 7:00pm Bouson Hall
FRIDAY, May 16
Naming of the Royalty 7:00pm Bouson Hall
Teen Dance (ages 13-18) 9:00pm Bouson Hall
SATURDAY, May 17
Fish Derby 8:00 am $5 per person
Golf Tournament 10:30 - 11:30am Slocan Lake Golf Course
Community Dance 7 pm - 1 am Tickets available at: New Market Foods, NURU, Mountainberry, & June’s Trinkets

SUNDAY, MAY 18
ALL EVENTS IN CENTENNIAL PARK unless otherwise stated
Fish Derby continues....
Pancake Breakfast 7:30 - 10:00 am Hosted by Chamber of Commerce
Sox Box Derby 9:00 am Main Street $1 entry Includes snacks & refreshments
30th Annual Summit Lake Bike Race Free event! Start at Summit Lake Day Park
13th Annual Thomson Bocce 12:00 pm $25/person What’s in Store - Main Street
Silent Auction 10:00 am
Hot & Cold Booth opens 11:00 am
Kids Soccer Game 11:00 am Hosted by Karina & Paula
Sand Sculpting 11:30 am Bring your own tools & buckets FREE!
Bavarian Gardens open 12:00 pm
Bike Rodeo - Main Street 2:00 pm Info: Teresa Steenhoff @ 356-2184
Ride the Wave 3:00 pm Bring your bike and ride the wave

MONDAY, MAY 19
ALL EVENTS IN CENTENNIAL PARK unless otherwise stated
Fish Derby, Bocce Tournament, & Silent Auction Continue....
Watch out for Bubbles the Clown & The Amazing Jeremy the magician in the park starting at 11am
Parade Line-up 9:00 am Lucasene School
Parade Begins 10:00 am Lucasene School to Centennial Park
Mr. New Denver Crowning 10:30 am
Quilter’s Guild Rafters
Puppet Show 11:00 am Featuring Squidgey and Widgey Pigs & George the Magician

SUNDAY, MAY 18, cent...
Zumba Fundraiser 3:00 pm Participant raffle: Art by Anita & Nadine Kids T-Ball 5:30 pm Ages 3-7 door in
Bingo - Bouson Hall 7:00 pm Slocan Lake Arena Society Outdoor Movie Night Movie: The Lego Movie Dusk FREE!!

MONDAY, MAY 19, cent...
Artisan & Garden Market 11 am More info: Jeurg, mart@martidea.com
The Amazing Jeremy 12:00 pm Magic show
Bavarian Gardens 12pm - 6pm
Games & Entertainment 12:00 pm Burgers, Burgers, Burgers & More Burgers, Tug O’ War, Bubble Making, Finger Painting - Fish Pond & Games of Chance
Kids’ Races 1:00 pm Prizes and refreshments
Chicken Cribbage Tournament 1:00 pm info: Paul @ 505-9748 $10 entry
Treasuries in a Hay Stack 1:30 pm Prizes FREE!!
Mystery Eating Contest 2:00 pm Prizes FREE!!
Silent Auction Ends 4:00 pm
Duck Race Finale 4:00 pm May Day Raffle Draw 4:00 pm

For more detailed information: WWW.NEWDENVERMAYDAYS.COM
Find Us on TWITTER, INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK
#ndmaydays2014 #ndmaydays
New Denver Royalty Program teaches valuable life lessons

This year’s candidates in the New Denver Royalty Program are Elijah Collier and Ethan Grenison, both 16 years old. There are two page boys – Gavin Mark and Cole Hashimoto – and flower girl Solana Penner. Outgoing royalty are Miss New Denver Abbey McMillan and New Denver Princess Maddy Maximiuk.

The program has been running in New Denver since 1939. Although it has mostly been for young women, young men have participated before. In 1991, it was a ‘Mr. May Days’ program with four Mr. New Denver candidates. The New Denver Royalty Program is an opportunity for local young men and women that focuses on their self-development. It teaches youth valuable life lessons.

Over four months of training, the candidates are taught public speaking, introductory mechanics, etiquette and the importance of respect. They learn to be more comfortable while speaking in public, as well as with themselves. Overall, this program allows the candidates to gain self-confidence while discovering their true inner beauty.

The candidates are given the opportunity to discover how New Denver and area’s history has shaped our community by presenting a speech on our local area at the pageant. The royal titles are determined by a community vote and secret judges who observe the candidates at various times throughout their training and at the pageant. The candidates are not judged based on appearance. After receiving their titles, the royalty attend numerous functions in communities around British Columbia, representing New Denver. Over the year, the young people close friends with ambassadors from all over BC and create everlasting memories. Past royalty often reflect on this experience as one of the greatest opportunities they had growing up. They are astonished at the impact the program has had on their lives.

This year’s Royalty pageant will be held May 15. The next evening, the Naming of the Ambassador and Vice Ambassador will take place. Both events are at the Bonn Hall at 7 pm.

The New Denver Royalty Program is sponsored by the New Denver Community Club.
Slocan Lake Shoreline Management Guidelines don’t go far enough

by Jan McMurray

A document designed to help guide development on Slocan Lake was met with disappointment by many of the people who attended public presentations held April 21 in Slocan and April 24 in Silverton. The general feeling was that the document does not go far enough to protect the lake.

Some residents came to the Slocan session and about 30 came to the Silverton session. Several representatives from the provincial government and the Kootenay Regional District, the two agencies responsible for the document, were also on hand to answer questions.

Rynn van der Maai, chair of the Kootenay Lakes Partnership, thanked the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society for "pushing us" to get the Slocan Lake Shoreline Management Guidelines documented.

Donna Thornton, habitat biologist from the provincial government, explained that the intent of the Shoreline Management Guidelines (SMG) document for Slocan Lake is to protect fish and fish habitat. It will be used by government agencies to help make decisions on applications for development projects, such as the installation of docks, along the shoreline. It will also be helpful to private owners who are considering shoreline projects.

The "shoreline" or "foreshore" is commonly defined as the area extending from the low water mark to the fair high water mark. The SMG document provides clarity around this, introducing a jurisdictional boundary of 537.5 metres (1,767 feet) above sea level around the lake. This elevation marks the upper boundary of Water Act jurisdiction.

The SMG document includes a risk matrix that classifies the risk of different common development activities in the different zones around the lake. The matrix works together with a map of the lake that delineates very high, high, medium, low, and very low sensitivity zones. Waterfront property owners who want to do activities such as remove aquatic vegetation or install a dock can refer to the matrix and map to find out how risky the activity is in that particular location, and what laws and requirements apply.

At the Slocan meeting, Theresa DenCamp, who has been involved with the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society since its inception seven years ago, was very disappointed to see the outcome of the waterfront property owners can install docks smaller than 24 square metres without any application process - even in the high sensitivity zones. "The Arena II North (OC)Pays we want docks in five areas around the lake, not everywhere, so this document doesn’t support the OC," she said.

Another resident said docks brought motorized boats and were the thin edge of "the wedge into negative effects on the lake. We don’t want docks, no matter what size, in high sensitivity areas."

Wayne McCrory, local biologist, was disappointed that the document focuses mainly on fish and doesn’t take into account riparian habitat, amphibian habitat, species at risk, connectivity, etc. Rob McMurry of the provincial government pointed out that there is direction within the SMG document to bring in a professional in certain circumstances, and the professional would look at those other values.

The reliance on professionals was a bone of contention at both meetings. One resident pointed out that the professional is hired by the proponent, so "they can in essence cut against the hair of the proponent. How do we get responsibility from these third party hired guns?"

Another said there was a situation on the lake where a proposed development was approved by a professional, but when local people went to have a look, they found something very different than what was stated in the professionals’ report.

Paul Maika, Compliance and Enforcement Officer, said that when there is an application process, government staff is notified and follows up. He expressed concern about cases where there is no application. Residents were advised to call the RAPP (Report all Poachers and Fishlins) line whenever they see shoreline development that concerns them.

Anne Shroeder made a passionate plea for a lake management plan. "We’re seeing lakes being swamped with jet ski and houseboats, oil going into lakes, millions of dollars going into development, and the residents get driven out. The species most at risk here are the local residents," she said. "What will other values be considered? Is there an application process?"

DesCamp answered that the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society’s intention is to always have to work towards a Lake Management Plan and zoning. However, the society "has no power" and the decision to develop these regulations is a political one "we never saw this as an end point."

KLC REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
KLC Road Maintenance 2014

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 frame-work.

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

Interested companies should contact:

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Recess cancelled in Nakusp and New Denver schools

by Jan McMurray

With teachers on stage one strike action, recess has been cancelled at three schools in School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) – Nakusp Elementary, Nakusp Secondary and Lucerne.

During stage one, teachers are not doing any supervision of students outside of regularly scheduled classes. “This was not a decision that was taken lightly,” said Superintendent Terry Taylor. “The board was looking at the safety of students as the primary issue.”

Pat Dion, Arrow Lakes Teachers Association president, is very disappointed with the decision. “In my view, they didn’t have to cancel recess. They were able to do the supervision during the last job action, and we have more administration people now than we did then.”

In 2013, there was a similar teacher job action. “Because we’ve already been through this, we know what kinds of concerns it raised,” said Taylor. She said the board was also concerned about recent incidents in the playground that involved safety and bullying issues. “To ensure our kids’ safety, this is the best thing to do,” said Taylor.

Taylor explained that the district developed a supervision plan, using administration staff to provide supervision before, during and after school at all four schools in the district. “The district quickly determined... that without cancelling recess, we cannot ensure the safety of our students given the high demands placed on our exempt [administration] personnel and the significant number of students under their care,” Taylor states in a letter to parents.

Taylor explained that when teachers are not on job action, there are three supervisors out in the playgrounds during recess. If students have to go into the school, all teachers in the school are available to supervise in an informally way. Under the strike action, however, teachers cannot do this.

The district has four administration staff: the superintendent, the director of learning, the executive assistant and the information technology manager. Both Nakusp schools have one principal and one vice principal, and Lucerne has two. When the principals and vice principals are supervising every day at their schools, and the four admin people are taking at least two shifts per week supervising at the other schools.

The school day has been shortened at the three schools, as well as instruction is taking place during recess. With cancelled recess and the shortened day, the school day has the same number of instructional minutes.

At Edgewood School, where there are only 30 students, and prior to the strike, there were no changes to the schedule. The head teacher is supervising three days per week and the principal is supervising one day per week. Teacher strike action is expected to escalate. Stage two involves rotating strikes around the province and stage three is a full strike.

Dion said the two parties are “still far apart” at the bargaining table. “I think they’re trying to get us to go to full withdrawal of services so they can get a mandate to force us back to work and legislate the changes they want,” said Dion. “That’s what they did last time, and I think they are doing it again.”

Dion said that in BC, there is $1,000 less per student funding than the national average, and BC teachers mandating for School District 10. This project has integrated an e-text theme into a wide variety of art forms including painting, drawing, printing, fibre art, clay sculpture and eco-art.

A wall hanging constructed from the eco-dyed and block printed fabrics made by these students is currently being shown at the ArtStart Gallery in Vancouver (801 Richards Street) in a show titled ‘Timescapes’ which runs until August 30. If you are in the area please stop by and visit the ArtStart gallery — they enjoy visits from rural communities.

The third project with Bardati is ‘Round Art in the Garden’, happening in Katrina Sunrall’s Grade 4/5/6 classroom at Lucerne School. This series of art projects is designed to travel through geometry and botany leading to the creation of mosaic mandalas for the school garden. Connecting math, science and social responsibility through the art forms of drawing, printing, eco-earth art and mosaics, this project will be completed at the end of May. Watch for an opportunity to view the results in a public setting.

At the heart of Bardati’s own practice and teaching is a deep love and respect for the natural world.

“arization of art into core subjects is the way of the future in education,” she says. “In an evolving and challenging world where we may find ourselves seeking meaning and connection, the arts has much to offer. Art teaches the celebration of multiple perspectives, that problems can have more than one solution, that we are interconnected and that there is a way to learn to say what cannot be said.”

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Food for Thought talk: Coyote Myth

The Hidden Garden Gallery hosts a Food for Thought talk at Knot Hall in New Denver, Sunday, May 11 at 7:30 pm. Admission is by donation to benefit the Gallery.

Marc Mealing presents ‘Coyote Myth’. He is a folk artist, storyteller, poet, Anglican priest and retired anthropologist professor who lives on the west shore of Kootenay Lake. One of his specialties is folktale, particularly of the Great Basin region between the Rockies and the Coast Range, from central BC to central California and parts of the desert states. The Trickster is a true archetypal figure in world myth, and in our region Coyote is the figure who carries the stories. He is always around, wandering through the landscape causing tremendous trouble, usually to others and always to himself, until the right order of the world is revealed.

The stories are narrated by often outrageous humour, but they contain deep truths. Mealing has rewritten some of them into narrative poems.
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Things to do
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The Kaslo Chamber of Commerce is located downtown. 3 blocks from public beach and adjacent to the Community Park, which includes a tennis court, squash court, ball park & Kasson field. Music in the park on Wed, every 2nd weekend from July 4-Aug 4. Freeadmission.

CENTENNIAL CAMPFIRE - Silverton
And the best way to end a day like in New Denver, SO much electricity & water hook-up, san-dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, pets must be leashed.

The Slocan Valley Grassroots Grams members elected a new board to represent the grassroots groups. An idea of sipping a beverage beside the Little Slocan River in the company of friendly people, joining in on the local discussions in Africa and possibly finding a perfect spring gift for yourself or someone else appeals to you, please mark your calendar for May 25 and join the fun. For more information you can contact any member of the Grassroots Grams or Linda at 220-7304.
Nakusp Minor Hockey recognizes its players and coaches at awards ceremony

This year's Nakusp Coach of the Year is Mike Smith, coach of the Atoms team.

Victor Wilco was named the season's Best Defense Player of the Bantam team at the Nakusp Minor Hockey Awards Night, April 24.

The Junior Novice team received their Esso medals at Nakusp Minor Hockey Awards Night, April 24.

The Senior Novice team received their Esso medals at Nakusp Minor Hockey Awards Night, April 24.

The Atom team with their certificates, medals and trophies at Nakusp Minor Hockey Awards Night, April 24.

RDCK Resource Recovery Facilities

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All Waste Facilities will be CLOSED on Monday May 19, 2014

Summer hours will be in effect at Edgewood Transfer Station with additional opening on Sundays from May 18th, 2014 (12 noon to 4:00pm)

For more information contact the Recycling Council of BC Hotline at 1-800-667-4321 or the RDCK at 1-800-268-7325 or our website: www.rdck.ca
Wetlands monitoring project to study Wilson Creek drainage

by Art Joyce

A consortium of independent groups has formed to monitor the upper Slocan Valley watershed, including Slocan River Streamkeepers, Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, and Slocan Solutions Society. One of the wetlands that the Slocan Wetlands Assessment and Mapping Project (SWAMP) will focus on is the Beaver Lakes wetland in the Wilson Creek drainage – one of the areas defined by Streamkeepers biologist Jennifer Yew as a “biological hot spot.” Richard Johnson of the Slocan Solutions Society says he expects it to be a five-year project. Of the total 185 wetlands in the Slocan Valley watershed, testing will be done in nine of them this year, spread throughout the Slocan watershed. The goal is to eventually collect data on all wetlands in the watershed.

“Our goal is to get specialists out there with technicians who can learn from them, to see how healthy these wetlands are, because they affect the health of the entire watershed,” says Yew. “It’s a gymnastics undertaking; you could do it for the rest of your life. But if we can get good indicators for keystane species we can rate it in overall health.”

Indicators studied will include amphibians, invertebrates, fish, soils, and bird nesting. The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program has done some studies that can be added to the total dataset. Funding has been obtained from the Columbia Basin Trust with support from the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP), both of whom are on the steering committee. In part the project arose from last summer’s [Black] Bear Hunt, which was also sponsored by the BCWF. Environmental students from Selkirk College are expected to join the bear hunt field experience as part of the program. Johnson, who will coordinate the project financially, is also working with Gary Davidson, the expert birder from Nakusp. Ryan Dunand, an independent specialist in wetlands, will be supervising data collection.

“First we have to find out what we’ve got before it’s gone, so this is a straight inventor,” says Johnson. “But we’re also creating new rules of how to assess wetlands.”

Environment Canada set up CABIN, a protocol for monitoring bear habitat in flowing water ecosystems. Yew and Streamkeepers will be working with Environment Canada to establish a CABIN protocol for standing water systems such as those being studied here. Part of the project will involve determining the “indicator species” for each wetlands type. Indicator or “keystone” species are typically seen by biologists as critical to the health of an ecosystem so any changes in these species are often indications of the overall system’s health.

“Criteria needs to be developed locally to define what we consider ‘sensitive,’” says Yew. “Right now most of the criteria we have come from the west coast, which isn’t applicable here, although there are of course some commonalities.”

The Regional District has also expressed support for the project, since it will provide invaluable data for assessing development applications in sensitive areas.

“My interest is gathering the data and in climate change,” says Johnson, a geological engineer by profession. “I’m not interested in standing up and yelling at people; I want to make a difference. I just want to get the data so other people can make those decisions in an informed manner.”

Grand opening held for new Fauquier Firehall

submitted

On Saturday, April 26, Fauquier celebrated the grand opening of its new firehall – a very roomy two-bay garage

with a small office/airport office at one side.

Construction began in spring 2013 and was completed last fall, but it was decided to wait until spring to ‘cut the ribbon.’

This project had its genesis in the spring of 2012 when the Fauquier Volunteer Fire Brigade was looking for a replacement for its aging pump. The brigade was able to acquire a suitable vehicle for about 20 percent of what the budget allowed. Left with a large surplus of cash, the brigade started discussing the possibility of acquiring a full fire hall, and retaining the old truck.

“We knew we were going to need outside financial help in the money we had was only going to be about half of what we would need,” said John Barta, brigade chief. “Eventually this assistance came from three different sources: the Regional District and the Fish and Wildlife Areas Rep Paul Peterson, the Columbia Basin Trust, through the Community Initiatives Program and the Fauquier Community Club.”

by Art Joyce

The theme of the show is transition, and Nakusz has certainly made one of the most interesting and unusual transitions in his own life – from logger to artist. I spoke to Nakusz to explore his motivations for this major life change.

How does the title of your show relate to the work shown?

It’s images that meaning something to me because everything is so transformative. Everything changes every day. The Mars water bomber is going to be gone soon so that’s one reason I wanted to paint that. I used to be a logger so I’m seeing transition with the beetle kill. My glacier painting is called ‘Alpine Island’ because it was the one place in Glacier National Park where it hadn’t been affected by beetle kill. One of the paintings is based on the bear that charged me while I was painting on the Revelstoke dam project.

I have a forest fire painting in the show called ‘Random Selection.’ The main reason I paint is to capture a subject that’s not going to be seen again in my lifetime. What is your preferred medium for painting?

This show is all oils; it’s my favorite medium. I used acrylics but I just couldn’t cope with it. It dries too fast and I didn’t like the colors. I enjoy building up layers like you can do with oils, so you can get that glow.

You’ve been mentored by artists such as Erik Renk and Les Weirich. What other artists inspire and inform your work?

I only spent one day with Erik but I spent months with Les – we came to be quite good friends. Ken Drysdale’s style impressed me the most because of the way he captured the light in his famous gothic painting. I like Botemian’s work to a point. I want to appreciate other artists but it’s more important to me to create my own style, otherwise, why bother? Like the Group of Seven or Emily Carr, they’re known for their style. When I’m in transit the US like to visit as many galleries as possible to study artists’ techniques, because you learn a lot from people’s brush strokes. It’s amazing how different it is from place to place, each one seems to have an accent of its own.

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Nakusz artist David Nixon has first show at Studio ConneXion

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### Classified Ads

- **Nakusp Farmer’s Market**
  - Starting May 17. Market will be held the usual spot on 5th Ave., between credit union and What’s Brewing. From 9 am to 9 pm every Saturday until October long weekend.
  - Join us and enjoy a cornucopia or wares from produce to garden seedlings, crafts and all sorts of eclectic items.
  - For more info: nakuspmarket@gmail.com

- **Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast**
  - At the Silverton Legion, 502 First St., Silverton. May 11 from 8:30 to 11:30 am. Adults $8.50, $6 & under $5. Great food! Everyone Welcome. Please join us for the Silverton Community Legion Mother’s Day Fundraiser.

- **New Denver Community Market Society AGM**
  - Monday, May 13 at 7 pm, Hidden Garden Gallery, New Denver. AGM

- **SLOCAN VALLEY GRASSROOTS GRAMMAS**
  - Invite you to Afternoon Tea on May 25 from 2 to 4 pm in Silverton. To order your seat, contact Earle of Slocan Grassroots to support Australian grandmothers’ projects through the Stephen Lewis Foundation. $5 tickets available from members or call Linda at 226-7830.

- **NewDENVER ADVENTURES**
  - “Ernest Hemingway” by Anna linear, May 19-21, 7 pm, at the Green Mill. Tickets available online or at the door.

- **Silverton Gallery**
  - May 1st and 2nd, 6-8 pm. Free admission.

- **Silverton Library**
  - The Language of Insects: May 25-31, various media at the Arrow Lakes District Library. Come and enjoy the diversity of talent amongst our community with “spoken word.”

- **Playhouse Spring Show**
  - “Homecoming” by Anna linear, May 19-21, 7 pm, at the Green Mill. Tickets available online or at the door.

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### General Information

- **The Valley Voice**
  - May 7, 2014

- **Lady V and Mama Slim Interests**
  - Music starts at 8 pm. Door opens at 7:30. Tickets at the door - $10 to $20 sliding scale (girls 12 and under free). A Whole School Legacy Benefit... enhance your heart vibration higher and support a good cause!

### Current Events

- **Silverton Market**
  - May 10 from 10 am to 3 pm, come join us at The Whole School (314 Hwy 6, Whiskey) for tons of family fun. There’ll be loads of garden plants, super fun Kids Zone, BBQ concession, local artisans and vendors, silent auction, ‘party’ goffle and more... only $2 at the entrance. Interested in vending or performing? Contact June 250-226-7731, Welcome Spring... are you there?

### Additional Information

- **Nakusp Market**
  - One mile from Nakusp, on acreage. 4 BDR, Privacy.

- **Full Furnished 4 BDR House**
  - Above Slocan Lake available for weekly rentals and June to Sept. $700/week for family of 4. $700/week extra per person for up to 10 people. Mountain views, quiet, 10 min drive to amenities & lake. WIFI.
Certified Mango at the Silverton Gallery

submitted

If you like your world music with a jazzy, sometimes oblique edge, this is the band for you. Certified Mango plays the Silverton Gallery Saturday May 24. Doors open at 7 pm, showtime is 7:30, and tickets are $10 at the door.

Certified Mango presents all original music composed by Paul ‘Garbanzo’ Gibbons with influences ranging from Cuban rumba and mambo, to tango, samba, bossa nova, cumbia, and North African beats. Moods move from dreamy, groovy and hypnotic to up-beat and danceable. All the musicians are from the New Denver/Silverton/Kaslo area. This is the line up:

Howard Bearham: tenor, soprano and baritone saxophones. Howard is a well-known and well-loved improviser in the Kootenay music scene and has been blowing horns since 1974. He plays on occasion with Shades of Loud, the Jim Van Gold band and The Seventy 7s.

Lorna Visser: clarinet. Lorna rounds out the horn section with her ‘licorice stick’. She is also a member of the Pavana Ensemble and the Slocan Valley Community Band.

Aiko Jackson: piano. Aiko provides just the right combination of dense rhythm and compelling harmonic flights on the keys. She has played with various Kootenay groups including the Dave Scanlan Band.

Tsuneko ‘Koko’ Kakubo: bongos and percussion. Koko, with a nimble and graceful approach, has performed with the Extraordinary Clown Band and the Tiger Band in Vancouver.

Shelley Dobia: bass and occasional vocals. Shelley, a self-described “rhythm junkie, multi-genre monkey,” lays down a cool and solid bass-line.

Paul Gibbons: congas. Paul has fronted a series of local musical groups including Gringo Bongo and Enque. He has played with Takao Yamashiro and Uzume Taiko, and often performs with Montreal dancer Rachel Harris, and Vancouver singer Anna B. He records and performs original solo works under his ‘Garbanzo’ moniker.

This concert is part of the Silverton Gallery’s ‘Live at the Gallery’ CD project. This is the final concert in the recording series, which is supported by a grant from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance.

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Early Adopters

For Marty and Lena Horswill, both longtime Nelsonites and recent retirees, it’s the place they’ve chosen to downsize and simplify their lives. When the project is complete, they will move from their acreage outside of town into a two-bedroom, corner apartment at the Commons, where driving will no longer be a necessity.

“T’ll be able to see my doctors office through the window,” 66-year-old Lena said, smiling. Within two blocks of the development site there are movie and performance theatres, athletic facilities, restaurants and cafes, clothing stores, pharmacies and banks. “If the time comes when one or both of us can no longer drive, we’ll be able to walk to everything we need.”

With the Co-op focused on designing their new store bringing a range of new offerings that will include a 50 seat cafe and the BC Wine Guys moving in right next door, the Nelson Commons Development continues to market condo units and expects to start building this summer.

For the Horswills, moving into the Commons is sure to bring a boom to their social lives. They’ll have friends and neighbours living just steps away and the activity of downtown all around them.

“We’re going to have to discipline ourselves in terms of spending,” laughed Lena. “Where we live now, it’s easy to stay in a lot of the time. I expect we’re going to become a lot more social and go out a lot more when we’re living right downtown – we’ll have no excuse not to.”

A variety of units still available. Visit our Display Suite & Sales Office at 621 Vernon St, 12:00 to 5:00, Wednesday to Sunday (or call to book an appointment).