Wildfires in Slocan Valley keep crews busy

by Art Joyce

It looks like 2014 is shaping up to be another ‘summer of fire’ for BC. The Wildfire Management Branch has responded to 1,036 wildfires this season and there are 77 active fires across the province. The Slocan Valley is no exception – lightning strikes last week’s fires near Slocan Park, Silverton and on Perry Ridge during Kaslo JazzFest weekend. An evacuation alert—one step below an evacuation order—was issued for Slocan Park residents on August 5 and remains in effect.

While the Perry Ridge fires were only a few hectares, the one near Slocan Park spread from 100 to 120 hectares but fire crews were able to prevent it from growing any larger. Jordan Turner, Information Officer for the Southeast Fire Centre, says the region has had 84 fires from strikes, but the majority are very small and not threatening communities. A smoke advisory was issued for the Nelson-Castlegar area but was lifted by press time. Fires burning in Washington and Idaho were contributing to the poor air quality.

“The fire’s mostly on the ridge now so we’re not feeling too nervous,” said Slocan Park resident Craig Spriken on August 8. “It’s way up on the mountain now. Monday night was the worst for everyone. I watched the last helicopter fly away at 7 pm and then the fire just took off, it cascaded. Very, very difficult terrain. I’ve got to hand it to them. They’re doing as much as they have.”

The Southeast Fire Centre initially brought in a 60-person attack crew with two helicopters and two air tankers. That was later increased to eight helicopters. By Monday, August 10 crews had built nine heliports so crews don’t have to hike two kilometres to the fire lines and hose lines around the west, east and south flanks were nearly completed. Fire suppressant was sprayed near the Telus cell tower and FortisBC power lines.

“There’s a continuing temperature inversion over the next few days,” says Turner, “with the possibility of thunderstorms tomorrow and Wednesday so that could bring rain. There’s also the possibility of some light lightning with lack precipitation so we’re getting ready for that.”

A wildfire about 8.5 kilometres east of Silverton was growing but too remote to be a threat to the community. The fire near Fennell Creek spreed quickly, from seven to 100 hectares. The terrain was too steep and dangerous for fire crews but was doused by helicopters using water buckets.

“We have the unit crew on it today putting a guard in place so it doesn’t come around into the drainage to Silverton,” Turner reported on Monday. “We also have a sky crane working on it. Our hope is to keep it contained to where it is in the Fennell Creek drainage where it will burn out.”

There were three more fires up the Woodbury Creek drainage just outside Kaslo-Granville Provincial Park. The largest was reported at nine hectares, while the other two were just over one hectare apiece. This too is difficult terrain so unless the fires change direction toward inhabited areas they will be allowed to burn out. Two lightning strikes also started fires on Perry Ridge.

“On top of that ridge initially we believed there were two fires but we only actually discovered one so one may have started on its own and was put out by rain,” says Turner. “The one that was there was 0.3 hectares and we had crews put that out. There are no other fires on the ridge.”

The situation is so dire that the BC government has had to call in extra firefighting crews from Ontario and Quebec. These resources join more than 1,100 provincial staff, nearly 600 BC contractors, over 500 out-of-province personnel and eight air tanker groups already engaged in fire-response efforts. A further force of 80 Australian firefighters was also brought in. They could remain in BC for up to five weeks, providing vital time off for exhausted crews. The Province has also increased its air tanker capacity, adding another six planes to its fleet.

Hot and dry weather conditions have elevated fire danger ratings throughout the province. BC’s fires are part of a trend toward more frequent extreme fire seasons sparked by global climate change. California has declared a state of emergency and in many areas is experiencing water shortages. While no single wildfire can be said to be caused by climate change,” said White House science advisor John Holdren, “climate change has been making the fire season in the US longer and on average more intense.”

As lighting activity within the province increases, the Wildfire Management Branch is urging campers to exercise extra caution. Each human-caused fire diverts critical firefighting resources away from naturally occurring fires. Campfire bans and open burning prohibitions are currently in place for many areas of the province, including the Southeast Fire Centre zone that includes the West Kootenay/Boundary region.

For more information and regular updates visit: http://www.bcwildfire.ca. To report a wildfire or unattended campfire, call 1 800-663-5555 toll-free or 5555 on a cell phone.
Disciplinary Notice—Vladimir Stuchlik, P. Eng., Nakusp, BC

A disciplinary panel of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) found that Mr. Stuchlik engaged in unprofessional conduct in failing to respond to the Investigation Committee and with respect to his design and installation of a reclaimed water sewerage system without authorization.

Mr. Stuchlik is suspended from practice for 8 months. Upon resumption of practice, Mr. Stuchlik will be the subject of practice restrictions. Mr. Stuchlik must pay the inquiry costs in the amount of $35,328.54 and a fine of $5,000.

The full disciplinary decision panel is posted on APEGBC’s website apeg.bc.ca. Further information about APEGBC’s investigation and discipline process can be found on the website or by contacting APEGBC toll free at 1.888.730.8035 or complaints@apeg.bc.ca.

Joyce to read from book on Home Children submitted

Are you one of the four million Canadians descended from British Home Children? Over an 80-year period from 1869 to 1949, more than 100,000 boys and girls were scooped from the streets and orphanages of Britain to work as indentured servants on Canadian farms. Author Sean Arthur Joyce’s new book on the topic, "Lending the Children’s Ghosts to Rest—Canada’s Home Children in the West," exposes this little-known aspect of Canadian history. Joyce will read from the book at the Argenta-Johnsons Landing Road crossing over Gar Creek was re-opened shortly after the slide occurred, as it was assessed safe for the travelling public. This road has been upgraded and more signs have been installed. A portion of Houston Road, Holmgren Road and the beach access road continue to remain closed due to the unacceptable amount of risk associated with their location within the slide area.

The RDKC brief also addresses concerns about future slides, urging residents to contact the 24-hour Emergency Coordination Centre’s toll-free number at 1-800-663-3456 if any changes are noticed. These include water turbidity or muddiness, a sudden change in colour, debris accumulation, decrease in water flows, ground cracks, etc. The likelihood of a landslide of sufficient volume to travel onto the Johnson’s Landing bench and continue to Kootenay Lake is estimated at 1:1,000 per year. Up-to-date snow accumulation information on the Gar Creek drainage can be found at http://birc.env.gov.bc.ca/ Links to Emergency Management BC can also be found on the RDKC website at www.rdkc.bc.ca.

Fibre and mixed media artist Morgan Bardat will present her show "Embrace (A Slow Work in Progress)" August 11-15 at the Hidden Gallery in New Denver. A reception will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 7-9 pm, with Michael Taylor on guitar and banjo.

"Embrace" includes an "Old Age Security Blanket," a work in progress about this artist’s personal journey of inquiry into ideas of security, economics and growth. Drawings in graphite and pen and ink depicting roots and rocks explore the interaction between organic growth and solid obstacles.

"Changes in Latitude" by Bougie Elinga will be exhibited at the gallery from August 18 to 23. A reception will be held Tuesday, August 19, 7 to 9 pm, introduced by a brief discussion about ‘sources of inspiration for making art’ and featuring Erin Burkholder on the violin.

Elinga is a graduate of Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, has taught drawing, painting and art history throughout the region and works at her studio in Hills. Her new works, done in oil, watercolour and pen and ink are based on ideas from her recent trips to Mexico and Peru.

Joyce will read from book on Home Children

"Lending the Children’s Ghosts to Rest—Canada’s Home Children in the West" exposes this little-known aspect of Canadian history. Joyce will read from the book at the Argenta community hall, Wednesday, August 20, 7 pm and at the Nakusp Public Library on Friday, August 22 at 7 pm.

The book is available locally through Raven’s Nest Books in New Denver, Meritzell Books in Nakusp, 1806 Books and Jewelry in Kaslo and Other Books in Nelson as well as through Hagios Press and Amazon. For more information visit www.hagiospress.com.
Medical marijuana production facilities won’t be classified as farms

by Jan McMurray

Medical marijuana production facilities in BC will not be eligible for farm classification for property assessments or tax purposes, whether they are located on Agricultural Land Reserve lands or not.

All local governments have recently received this news in a letter from the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. The letter explains that many local governments have expressed concern about farm classification for medical marijuana production facilities. Properties classified as farms are taxed at a much lower rate than other property classifications.

Medical marijuana production facilities will continue to be allowed on ALR land, and local governments are advised in the letter that “the Minister of Agriculture does not intend to approve any bylaw that would prohibit the production of medical marijuana in the ALR.”

Feds want pot-prescribing doctors reported

submitted

“Marijuana is not an approved drug or medicine in Canada and has not gone through the necessary rigorous scientific trials for efficacy or safety,” says the federal government.

“Health Canada does not enforce the use of marijuana, but the courts have required reasonable access to a legal source of marijuana for medicinal purposes. The Government of Canada believes that this must be done in a controlled fashion to protect public health and safety.”

To this end, the government is calling for amendments which would require licensed producers “to regularly report to provincial and territorial medical and nursing licensing bodies who doctors and nurses are authorizing marijuana and in which quantities.”

The proposed amendments will be published in Canada Gazette, Part 1 for a 30-day public comment period, at www.gazette.gc.ca/rp/pt1/2014/2014-05-14/html/reg-1-eng.php. If you have any comments on this issue, you can submit them to Health Canada by July 13: Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulatory Reform, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9 or marijuana-regulations-bc.gc.ca.

Health Canada says it “will continue to work with healthcare partners to develop information to help meet the needs of the medical community regarding the use of marijuana for medical purposes.”

No decision on rental changes in New Denver

by Karinne Campbell

A request from Hills resident Lorna Visser to allow property owners in New Denver to rent out their properties as vacation rentals was discussed at a Village Council Committee of the Whole meeting July 29. Visser requested amendments so the Business Licence Bylaw and Zoning Bylaw regarding vacation rentals of residential property.

At present, residents may rent their houses for a maximum of four weeks, usually to the families of Valhalla School of Fine Arts participants, if they obtain a licence from the Village. Visser said in her original request that she wanted to invest in real estate but residential rents in New Denver were “absurdial.”

Nine people showed up to express their opinions, both for and against, and Mayor Ann Brucka says council listened but made no decision on the matter.

“We thought we could look into it. A couple of councillors didn’t have anything that made them want to change [the bylaw]. A couple wanted to see what went on in other places. There was understanding of both sides of the argument.”

“If we’re going to do anything it has to be in the OCP [Official Community Plan] review process, and we’re not looking to do that this year.”

Byrnes adds that “it’s a question of we need a reason to change it.”

BC Hydro starts paying back opt-out customers

by Jan McMurray

BC Hydro customers who have opted out of the smart meter program are now seeing credits applied to their bills.

For those who chose to keep their analogue meters, the difference between the interim fee of $35 per month and $32.40 per month has been credited retroactively to December 2, 2013.

For those who chose a radio-off meter, the difference between the interim set-up fee of $100 and the Kootenay Country Craft Distillery

submitted

Competing against distilleries from all over the world, Waukulow-based Kootenay Country Craft Distillery has won gold medal from the Beverage Tasting Institute (BTI) of Chicago. The award honours Valhalla Vodka, the distillery’s original handcrafted, small-batch distilled spirit.

Following an independent, professional blind tasting, the BTI gave Valhalla Vodka a rating of 93 points (exceptional), and described the artesian spirit as “Clear in color. Bold aromas of toasty rye grain and apricot grama with a soft, dry-fruit matrix to full body and a honeyed vanilla, cinnamon, and delicate pepper finish. Lots of fruit character that will make for flavor-packed cocktails.”

The distillery handcrafts Valhalla Vodka from pure Selkirk Mountain spring water and organic heath frowth grown in the famous community of Canyon. The distillery, which opened in March 2014, also produces gin and a variety of fruit and herb-infused vodkas.
Editorial: Summer Road Safety

After the fatal motorcycle crash on Highway 31A – the mountain pass between Kaslo and New Denver – I’m imagining a new driving safety video. It would begin like this: “We’d love to see you here in the beautiful Arrow and Slocan Valleys and North Kootenay Lake.” Next frame: “But we’d prefer to see you in one piece. Not like this.” (Image of car or motorcycle crash.) Having lived in the West Kootenay most of my life, I have to say I’m seeing more and more reckless driving in the summer months. With over 30 years of experience driving on our narrow, twisting, often unpredictable roads, I can tell you there’s little or no margin for driver error.

Is it a phenomenon of urban living, with the wide open blacktop of multi-lane freeways and city roads giving us a false sense of freedom? Yet another indication we’re living too fast for our means? Or is it just another symptom of our disconnection with Nature? Our absorption in technology can make us forget that we are subject to the laws of physics like any other creature. And those laws dictate that too much speed on a curve, or too little room to brake behind a vehicle that suddenly stops to avoid hitting a deer, will often mean disaster. On a mountain road even the most skillful motorbike rider will probably meet his end if he crosses a double solid line on a blind corner and a semi truck comes around that corner. On average here in the valley we lose one motorcyclist every year as a result of such fatal errors.

According to the BC government, “while motorcycles are estimated to make up about three percent of insured vehicles in BC, they account for approximately 10 percent of road fatalities.” Between 1996 and 2010, motorcycle fatalities increased 57 percent. I would remind� readers that bikers on our own local highways contributed significantly to that death toll. In 2013 motorcyclists comprised 11 percent of total traffic fatalities in BC. The fatality rate for young drivers under 25 years of age is an average of 15 times higher than drivers over 25.

I would cite as highly irresponsible the YouTube video posted by one motorcyclist who claims he did the Kaslo-New Denver pass in just 17 minutes. A car travelling that route at safe speeds requires 40 minutes. One local rider with over 40 years’ experience explained to me that motorcyclists are engineered these days to have incredibly fast acceleration and braking capabilities. But less than half the time it takes a car? You’d have to be doing 160 K an hour.

At that speed, one deer bolting in front of you and you’re dead. Remember, folks: this is a mountain pass – it’s inhabited by deer, elk, moose, coyotes and other wildlife. Even for safe drivers who live here year-round chances are good you’ll hit one sooner or later. And while the trend of total driving fatalities is down over the past five years, Australian research indicates that for every motor vehicle related death there are about 12 seriously injured victims, with a quarter of these catastrophic injuries. Is the thrill of sub-light speed really worth rolling the dice on death or permanent disability?

We’d love to see you here in summer’s paradise. Please, whether in a car or on a motorbike, arrive and leave in a safe, responsible manner.

Art Joyce, Acting Editor

Attention BC Hydro:

Please note that on Friday August 1, 2014 I paid the full amount BC Hydro claims I owe, including outstanding ‘legacy’ meter payments, overrates, rate rider and taxes for the same.

I wish to make it absolutely clear, however, that any payment of the above, excluding the amount for electricity and related taxes, has been made entirely in response to BC Hydro’s Disconnection Notice of July 25, 2014 and should in no way whatsoever be considered acceptance of ‘legacy’ fees and so-called estimates.

I have been billed for manual meter readings for my ‘legacy’ meter and repeatedly harassed for non-payment of the same from December 13th to the present; despite the fact that so-called ‘smart meters’ were not installed until April 2014, meaning that my meter required no more and no less labour or expense to read than anyone else’s.

To this day, as far as I can tell, ‘smart meters’ in my community, and in neighbouring ones as well, do not have their ‘smart’ functions enabled, thereby requiring no less resources to read than that of my apparently less intelligent analog meter. Why then am I being coerced into paying for a service while others, receiving the identical service, are not? Are we ‘smart’ meter objects being made to bear the expense of everybody’s meter readings as retribution for non-compliance with BC Hydro’s madcap scheme? That’s what it looks like to me.

In addition, in January my meter reading was based on an ‘estimate’ – which is actually not an estimate at all, but merely a repeat of the amount for the same period from the previous year (which is quite possibly an ‘estimate’ in itself). Even BC Hydro admits, in its recent proposal, that this practice of billing for meter readings when no actual (manual) readings were done is unfair. Unfortunately the realization does not yet seem to have filtered down to the billing department.

Is it any wonder BC Hydro fails to win the cooperation it most so wish for? One can only hope that, out of the bunch of bullies that determines BC Hydro’s policies and strategies, a few individuals of conscience and imagination might some day emerge.

Alas, that day does not appear to be any time soon.

Laurence Charles Lundsahl Pasquier

Open letter to BC Hydro

Before you disconnect our service:

Please respond to our previous letters. Please prorate the extra kilowatt hours from the April 2014 reading to the entire time period of estimated meter readings and provide us with an adjusted bill. Please provide a detailed explanation for any adjustments that appear on our bills. Please tell us what you will do with the Legacy Meter Charges during the time the readings were estimated. Please respond to our requests and inquiries before threatening us based on “amounts owing.” Please treat us as customers who pay for a service and would like to have a say in the service we require. Please consider that you are threatening to disconnect the service to a family of four that has two children aged five and seven.

We look forward to hearing from someone in a format other than a computer-generated form letter.

Andrea Kodling & Rayn Butt-Gran
New Denver
A resident’s update on Lemon Creek

I have not noticed any jet fuel odour to speak of in Lemon Creek since about late May/early June 2014. Up until then, it was fairly consistent, although even on those days the winter. I was away for three weeks and the first thing I did after I got back in early February was to walk down to the creek. The first thing I noticed was the smell of fuel.

The birds are back after abruptly departing on July 26, 2013, the day of the spill. They came back in the spring and are still hanging around now that the air is consistently fresh again. They are a lot smarter than we humans, who tend to dig our heels in and stay put, no matter what the consequences.

Due to the cold winter, Lemon Creek was frozen for longer periods than usual. Actually, it was frozen about 80 percent of the winter. The creek froze from the bottom up, causing the trapped fuel in the water to rise, spread out and flood onto the banks to a much higher level than the water in the creek was during and just after the spill. After the heavy rains, much of the fuel was flushed downstream, which was a good thing because we didn’t have a strong, prolonged spring runoff.

What’s left of the fuel has degraded and lodged in the sand on the bottom and sides of the creek and river and was detectable levels in the river side channel after samples taken in May 2014 were tested. Now that the freshet is over, I have seen what remains — water, and that’s it. As far as I can tell, they’ve tested again but Lemon Creek looks a lot better than it did before the spring runoff. There is very little, if any, visible evidence of the old creek downstream from our place.

There is still fairly prolific algae growth in certain portions of the creek and I think they should test again for invertebrate life, as it was all killed off during the spill and that is important for the future health of the fishery in Lemon Creek, which (pie spill) was just starting to bounce back after being in decline for many years.

We were not evacuated. As strange as that may seem, being right here in Lemon Creek, we left voluntarily because the odor was unbearable. It was only when we got to our daughter’s house in Vilcan that we were all evacuated. When the evacuation order was lifted, we came back to Lemon Creek. It was like coming back from a long time in the air. We found it atrocious, at least as bad, if not worse than the day before. The MOH should never have lifted the evacuation order for all parts of the valley simultaneously. That was an irresponsible mistake. It would seem that the so-called ‘powers that be’ and people in positions of authority don’t have the people’s best interests at heart. They answer to a higher power and that higher power is money (the economy).

Jon Burden
Lemon Creek

Jumbo culture clash

In the beginning according to Cheopsite, our Kootenay archaeologist, the Ktnuuxa peoples arrived as the great glaciers melted. Being gatherers/hunters they were following the herds into new ice-free lands. Their pre-history territory was far larger in all directions than now. However, after suffering the ravages of the foreigners’ airborne communicable diseases that preceded ‘contact,’ like all indigenous populations, their population was greatly reduced. Ktnuuxa survivors all moved close to the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers. They live at that time, a safe place. They welcomed their distant cousins, the remnant Pegan (Blackfoot), and later their shuntrel relatives, the Kanasask (Kanasket). The greatly reduced Ktnuuxa territory became what it is today — all the drainages of the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers.

Since the Jumbo Glacier (Alpine) Resort first came to light, the Ktnuuxa Nation has often publicly reiterated, “We affirm our responsibility given by Creator to protect Mother Earth from which generations of Ktnuuxa people survived only because of the responsibility and the love she offered to our people.” Living traditional spiritual beliefs that uphold their laws and life ways is the Ktnuuxa Nation’s way.

Our provincial government is generally based on parliamentary protocol which means, among other things, that when judicial decisions are made they are made “for the greatest good,” and with very few exceptions, defer to (the House of Lords/Senate) business as usual/ follow the money/and that, of late, equates with for-profit corporations. Living traditional Christian, capitalist, consumer beliefs that uphold our laws and life ways is our Dominant Culture.

Proponent/developer Oberto Oberti, President of Phéridax Project Management Corporation and owner of Oberti Oberti, Inc., Architect and Urban Design, immigrated to Vancouver in 1974. He was born and raised in Milan—Italy’s largest financial, industrial, polluted, unnatural consciousness concrete jungle. Milan is Italy’s second largest city.

I met Mr. Oberti in 2004 after our protest march, the largest in Nelson since Vietnam, at the Open House the Environmental Assessment Office obliged him to hold. Locals had called him into his eyes when I said, “The Jumbo Valley area is sacred!” He quickly responded, “Yes, that’s why I want to develop it — so the world can see it. That’s my rationale behind this proposal. From someone who believes that to be really sacred, THE Sacred needs human enhancement and development.Quickly be thrust, “You should keep your hands off the land!”

Many years ago my old friend Red Cloud Laboucan said it was time for “a cross-cultural fertilization,” surely an idea whose time now has come. Can we not learn qualities from all cultures that promote consciously caring for not only our beloved Planet Earth but one another? And perhaps it’s time Canada emulates other nations by giving constitutional rights to Earth. As well, we add, NO DEVELOPMENT ZONES in thriving habitats.

Rowena Elowe
West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild

Valley Voice reporting inaccurate

I am writing to correct at least some aspects of the July 14 Slocan Council Meeting report (Valley Voice, July 30).

When a request comes before Council, I ask myself two questions: (1) Does this accomplish its intended goal? and (2) Is it in the best interests of the Village? If the answer to either or both is “no,” I vote no.

According to my grade 5 English teacher, the five ‘Ws’ of journalism are “Who?”, “What?”, “When?”, “Where?”, and “Why?”. I am the Valley Voice reporter, Mr. Mulcahey, usually manages the first four by default, “Why?” is almost invariably absent, giving the readers the impression that I am motivated by sheer oppositional defiance.

Without having been provided with the current plan for the project, Council passed a motion to approve a building permit to expand the Lemon hill out on public roadway. In this case, the lack of vital information at the outset made answering the two questions impossible, and I voted “no.”

The original proposal last year involved an “old fire escape”, which was already approved, and that the fire escape was on hill property. The Village’s proposal was to replace the old open fire escape with a permanent wall addition to the building. After having brought to Council’s attention that the fire escape was on public roadway, I made a motion, passed on May 13, 2013, that Council review the blueprints and look into the proposed extension of the building on the road allowance prior to making any decision.

Fire escapes are given leeway as temporary encroachments to allow some building for their remaining life. The old fire escape, on the highway allowance of arguably Slocan’s busiest corner, which no one should ever be seen under, around and through. Visibility at this corner, while families may be seen walking on the road every day, is of concern.

At the following meeting, however, on June 10, 2013, Council passed a resolution “to support the project (whatever that means) without any such review, which I opposed. The issue was then completely ignored until, on May 14, 2014, over a year after I had pointed out the problem, the Village’s architect notified me that confirmation that the Village would be willing to allow the Village to extend the northwest corner of the hall onto dedicated public rights of way.

I reiterated my concerns via email, but I did not point out that, if the project were to proceed, the simplest and most sensible approach would be to un-dedicate the portion of the roadway occupied by the proposed addition and add it to the hall lot. No one else had any constructive comment whatsoever.

A further eight weeks of complete silence followed, until, at the July 14th Council meeting, the Village unveiled a scheme, for which it provided no rational basis, under which the Village would be given a 10-year occupational license to build an addition out on the road allowance to the hall for which it had a five-year tenure.

Although Mr. Mulcahey suggested I write to him, I felt this would not be productive, as the Village has been working with the five Ws and the only real true object was the Village administration as a whole, including Mayor and Council, who, for over a year, neglected to deal with an obvious difficulty of which they had been made fully aware, and failed to support my attempt to have it dealt with.

In later conversation following the meeting, Mr. Ashton agreed that the greatest obstacle and source of frustration for both of us has been a lack of openness and communication on the part of the Village. Obviously, everyone sat down at the gate, once the plans, and looked at potential problems and alternatives, the likelihood of the project proceeding smoothly would have increased exponentially.

I am now committed to draft an agreement to transfer ownership of the Village’s library collection to the Library Society — which simultaneously consulting with a lawyer to make sure the Village can get them back — well, I’m sure it is obvious why I couldn’t vote for something so straightforward.

These are only the high points.

Further answers to “Why?” are, as always, available on request.

Patricia McGreal
Slocan
Kaslo's new Fire Hall is nearing completion

by Art Joyce

Kaslo’s new Fire Hall will soon be completed, according to regional district Fire Chief Terry Swain. As of press time the drywall and paint will have been finished and floors installed, with kitchen and bathroom areas and cabinetry to go in shortly afterward. Area D Director Andy Shadrack has set aside September 21 for opening ceremonies.

The Kaslo fire department will be moved in well before then but will need to complete work on changing over paging and radio systems, coordinating with Telus and TK Electronics. There will be a few finishing touches added before opening to the public, such as raising the flagpole and installing the sign. Adjoining on the upper floor will remain unfinished for now.

The bay area will accommodate six apparatus; more than is needed for the current equipment but the hall will soon have space with Search and Rescue vehicles. There will also be capacity for BC Ambulance to store a unit there if they decide to move in. The wildland structural protection must, currently stored at the Kaslo airport, will be stationed there. There will be offices for the fire chief, a training officer, and one for ambulance if needed. A large training room will double as meeting area for general public.

Kootenay Sufferfest needs volunteers

by Katrina Campbell

Jules Neufeld is hoping for a surge of volunteers. The Kootenay Sufferfest race director says the event is low on people for all three communities – Kaslo, New Denver and Nakusp – that are hosting the bike and foot races.

“We’re definitely going to be scrambling to the last minute,” she says. However, “scrambling up until the day of the race – that’s normal.”

Neufeld hopes, however, that more people will step forward soon. They are needed to help out at aid stations, marshalling, road crossings and first aid.

If you can’t help, come out and watch – the athletes need spectors to come out in droves and support them too, be it on route or in town at the finish.

The sponsors and the host communities have been offering great support. Neufeld says, and she has “top-notch” help on the organizing end. Now, if the volunteers would just sign up.

The Sufferfest takes place on the Labour Day weekend, August 30 to September 1. The event organizers call it a “weekend of physical endurance, but the weather forecasters have promised no snow this year.”

The program is: 30km Martin Dump fun bike crit; Sunday 7.5 km, 14k, 40k, 100k and the trail run Idaho Peak Mountain Marathon. 

• Nakusp (Monday September 1): mountain bike, downhill, Fun 50k cyclo-cross, 5k fun run and 20k fun cyclo-cross.

The event flagged in the three-day Loonie Town 200km trail race from Kaslo to Nakusp. Neufeld is “amazed” at the calibre of participants so far.

“The amazing, the number of participants from how far away they’re coming to ride,” she says.

until the court says otherwise.”

The amended petition was filed one day before the Jumbo Mountain Resort Municipality was to hold a public hearing on a zoning in the Jumbo Valley that would allow a lodge and 3.7 km of ski lifts. The community opponent Glacier Resorts Limited would still need permits from the Resort Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations in order to begin construction. The Ministry has been clearing avalanche debris off the Jumbo road for over a week to allow access to the proposed resort area.

West Kootenay EcoSociety and other organizations are encouraging concerned citizens to camp at the Jumbo Road in August and September for the purposes of monitoring any ongoing development. The organization claims that the proposed development has not yet met the 135 legally binding commitments as part of its environmental approval. The Environmental Assessment Office is aware if the developer moves forward before meeting all of its commitments to the BC public and to the environment.

The Jumbo Resort was first proposed in 1991 and received environmental approval in 2004. BC law requires that the environmental certificate expire if the project has not “substantially started” by October 2014, ten years to the day from the initial approval.

Jumbo Resort lawsuit moves forward

submitted

Nelson-based non-profit society West Kootenay EcoSociety filed an amended petition August 5 respecting its legal challenge to the incorporation of the Jumbo Glacier Resort Municipality (JGRM). The amended petition asks the BC Supreme Court to quash the incorporation of the persons municipality and to strike down the legislative amendments which purported to allow the creation of such an entity.

In the amended petition filed today clarifies West Kootenay EcoSociety’s legal argument challenging the incorporation of the JGRM. The West Kootenay EcoSociety argues that for the Province to create a municipality in BC, there must be a local population as well as a defined area. According to the province, a persons municipality contravenes the common law principles that municipalities must be democratic and must act in the public interest.

The second line of the petition further asserts that the patchwork legislative amendments to the Local Government Act implemented through Bill 41 in 2012 create inconsistency and incoherence within the Local Government Act as well as other municipal legislation, most notably the Community Charter. The creation of the JGRM appears to be the first time in history that an area without a population was granted municipal status, as well as being the first time the Province sought to incorporate a municipality under the provisions implemented through Bill 41.

“In the government’s rush to pave the way for the Jumbo Resort, they’ve deeply undermined the democratic process,” said David Reid, Executive Director of the West Kootenay EcoSociety. “Not only is the legislation inconsistent and incoherent, but we’re concerned that the Minister and Lieutenant Governor in Council have disregarded legal and constitutional requirements in creating the municipality. The Jumbo Resort Municipality is an unlawful and illegitimate body, and should not be moving forward with zoning and other potentially substantial actions with their current accommodations at the hospital.

“Once we’re finished building, we’ll sit and have a serious talk with them at that time,” says Swain. “It’s our belief that local emergency responders located in one building has cost advantages for everybody. Particularly when we get into situations where it’s a multi- agency response – it’s good to have everybody on top of it.”

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Karl and Jack Carlin enjoy the picturesque Kaslo Town Road.

Old Wagon Road re-opened at Zwicky Road entrance

submitted

The Old Wagon Road trail that links Kaslo to Sandon has been re-opened for recreational use.

Jeff Bates, his son Morgan and the crew at Sunshine Logging donated machinery, fuel and time to make the eastern entrance at Zwicky Road passable again.

For many years, there was a misunderstanding about the legal standing of this initial stretch of the trail. Thanks to funds provided by the BC government and the Regional District, a survey was done and shown that the existing road lies entirely within the legal limits of the 60-foot width of the highway right-of-way.

So gone are the rocks, stumps, and trenches that threatened to disrupt Sufferfest last year. The private landowner involved is happy to have a smooth, viable entrance to his property, and Kaslo has an uninterrupted link to a recreational trail network that stretches all the way to Nakusp.

“We are very happy to have this resolved,” said Herb Thompson, president of the Kaslo to Sandon Rails to Trails Society. “We would like to thank all the people involved for their cooperation and hard work in reaching a satisfactory conclusion.”

VENTURA Dilk Stoots

The Valley Voice August 15, 2014
SLOCHAN VALLEY

Cole Harris to release series of booklets on Slocan history
by Art Joyce
For a historian, it’s a rare day you get to unearth and publish an original manuscript. Cole Harris, whose grandfather Joseph Colebrook (JC) Harris was one of the first permanent European settlers in New Denver, will release a series of history booklets based on his family’s writings. The first, Boom Days in the Slocan, will feature excerpts from his grandfather’s diary. Cole, 14, was born in New Denver on Thursday, August 14, 7 pm.

“It was written because my mother asked my grandfather to write an account of his coming to Canada from England, attending Guelph Agricultural College, moving to Vancouver Island and then to the Slocan Valley. My mother was working for the CBC and thought they might possibly be used for some broadcasts. My grandmother had died and so she thought, ‘Well that might be a way to take a grieving old man away from thinking about his loss.’”

The tactic worked – JC Harris poured out 150 pages of reminiscences on a typewriter. But after his death in 1951, Cole and his brother, still in junior high school, were in much of their family papers for decades. Cole Harris, by then embarked upon an academic career in historical geography, decided about 1970 they should be preserved in the BC archives in Victoria along with others of his grandfather’s papers. It was Cole’s son Doug who recognized the spark of interest in JC’s manuscripts. Upon retirement, Cole decided it was time to do something with these valuable historical documents.

“My son Doug copied a number of them and tried to set them in scene some sort of order. My grandfather went off in a number of tangents and just wrote whatever occurred to him. He could be a very competent writer. Then I spoke to you about it and I think you called it a ‘gold mine.’ So that continued on until it turned into this.”

Although JC Harris came from a well-educated, privileged English family, his writing is primarily anecdotal. But what anecdotes! Imagery getting an eyewitness glimpse of the characters who first populated or passed through the upper Slocan Valley in the late 1800s! While New Denver pioneer Eric Carpenter is well known historically, JC’s writings of even earlier settlers such as Martin Fry: JC himself arrived here from Vancouver Island in 1899. Twelve men were fishing in the Slocan at the mouth of Carpenter Creek in the winter of 1891–92, he writes in Boom Days. [The next year] hundreds were flocking in from British Columbia in Nakusp and from there over the nearly 40 miles of rough trail to New Denver. Still more came in by boat up the Kootenay Lake to Kaslo and from there by toll (soon to be made into a wagon road) to Three Forks and on down Carpenter Creek to New Denver.

The thread that has tied local history to our American cousins was evident even in the earliest days, when the mining boom brought prospectors from all over North America. But while ‘lunch law’ prevailed in many American frontier outposts, from the start our more British way of life meant a strict code of law and order. JC seems to have had an eye for the unforgettable moment, the frontier characters etched indelibly into memory. He writes of Gold Creek, where Abe Sproul and a local policeman named MacDonald calmly taking weapons from a tough American mountain man without so much as raising their voices. Bobbery – another tact occasionally indulged south of the border – also failed to stir the course of British justice here. These are just two examples of many recorded in Boom Days in the Slocan, making it a vital addition to the canon of local history along with John Norris’s Old Silverton. The next booklet planned for the series, The Beginnings of the Bonon Ranch, will recast JC Harris’s memories of building a life for his family here. To this day Cole and Murid Harris maintain a summer home on property originally staked out by JC. The mark made on the historical landscape by his grandfather has been echoed by Cole on the academic landscape. The three-volume Historical Atlas of Canada, released in 1987, has become a standard text in universities. Cole edited the first volume, a monumental task that he says “took far longer than it should have.” He emphasizes however that the booklet series will not be academic writing and will feature writings both from himself and his father. Not insignificant to the first Nations inhabitants of the landscape, one booklet will discuss evidence of their presence on Idaho Peak.

When asked if his grandfather’s fascination with history had any effect upon his own choice of career, Cole has little doubt. “My whole experience with the Bonon Ranch, the creation of this new place on the edge of a new land, has influenced my whole scholarly career. A new geography of settlement was being created and in some respects what was happening here in this farn was going on across the whole country.”

For more information visit the Channelefire blog at www.channelefire.wordpress.com.

New Denver cyclist completes cross-Canada tour
by Art Joyce
David Everest decides that, at 67, if he ever wanted to see Canada from his bicycle, he’d better do it soon. He recently returned from a 10-week, cycle odyssey, completing 6,262 kilometres of a planned 7,500-kilometre journey from western to eastern Canada. Everest left on May 8, and arrived in Charlottetown on July 16.

“Last night was the first time I didn’t dream about cycling,” he said on his return. “I think I must have been having too much home at this stage if I wasn’t out on the trip.”

It was a monumental achievement for someone entering his 70s. What made him decide to undertake the trip at his age, when most of us would prefer to relax? Everest says he’d always wanted to do a cross-Canada trip but wanted to do it with a small carbon footprint. “I had done many cycling trips as a younger man. ‘I’m 70, then winter, next winter, I thought of the likelihood of actually pulling my bike off the road. Having been reading other peoples’ accounts of travelling by bike and got the itch to do, just to see if I could do it.”

To prevent the journey from becoming too profligate, he rode slightly less than about 1,000 kilometres this spring in the Kootenays

A blog called Crazy Day on a Bike in BC made a popular hit and possibly thousands of people used it as a host site to record their cycling adventures. He decided to add his travel diary to the blog, posting reports of his progress. It was on this site that he even made an internet connection. At times, such as on the more remote prairie roads, this meant several days without access. He kept in touch with his wife Nelly, checking in regularly by phone. Everest says travelling on a bicycle offers a far more intimate view of this amazing country. “It’s a great way to see the country side – the perfect speed, miles as a time. It’s the difference between the human scale and the industrial scale.” Although initially conceived as a cross-country journey, Everest didn’t want to have to backtrack from the west coast. So Slocan Lake, to use movie terms, acted as a ‘stand-in’ to his bike rider. For the Pink Lake area he took a ritual dipping of his bike wheels in the lake on May 8. The ritual was completed when he stepped into the Orbit St. Lazareus.

“For the first month I wasn’t saying I was going to coast on the east coast, just as far as I could go. I just wanted to see how far I could go. The original plan was to reach Newfoundland.”

There were many challenging alliances along the way. He had to change tires before he got to Fernie – his tires had looked solid but already had about 3,000 kilometres of wear. It was “a live and learn” lesson. He thinks he could have made it on the east coast without getting a flat if he’d started with new tires. Because he wanted to avoid major highways as much as possible, some of the roads he took were unpaved. A long stretch of gravel near Custer was unrideable. He tested both his bike and the bike’s. At one point the road dissolved into a patch of sticky clay, gumming up his wheels.

“The funny thing is, you’re living in the moment. If you get to the top of a long hill, you don’t think about it anymore. I don’t think I’ll ever complain about bad pavement again.” Everest used a special hammerock, sometimes slamming it up beneath a picnic canopy at a roadside campsite. He only had to buy water twice on the entire journey, on the recommendations of locals who said, “We don’t think the water here, we don’t think you should either.” Otherwise he was able to fill his water bottle at stores and restaurants. The elements are another challenge, particularly wind, which creates a powerful drag on energy. And it’s unpredictable. “If we’re going up a hill, you know you’re going to slow down afterwards,” says Everest. “But there’s nothing predicting whether a stiff wind will lift up by the next rounding.”

Some of the most memorable moments on the trip came from running into strangers. One man near Granby, Ontario drove past Everest, then turned around and came back. He’d been planning his own bike journey from Ontario to Alaska and, “It just made his day to see someone else doing a bike trip.” He pulled out $25 and gave it to Everest, saying. “Have, you’ll need this sometime.”

The total journey comprised 35 riding days and 13 rest days. Rest days were usually spent visiting friends or family. There were long stretches of the trip that were empty of people. “I have a high tolerance for solitude or boredom,” he says. “It was meditative, those long stretches. The great distances that comprise this massive country surprised even Everest when he’d look back over how far he’d travelled in a week. If he’d learned anything on his odyssey, it was that "stubbornness can take you a long way. There were times I wanted to bail but you’re in the middle of nowhere so you have to keep going.”

He says he felt like he was bringing a story to people as he met along the way. It wasn’t a big story, but they appreciated that someone was doing something like this, and that wanted to know the story. They wanted to be amazed.

Everest’s journey has already inspired others. A writer friend has said that as a result of reading his blog, she now plans to walk half the El Camino Santiago pilgrimage in Europe. Many other events he mentioned them were similarly inspired.

To read Everest’s trip diary, go to everestynabike.com and type ‘cycling across canada’ in the search bar.

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New Denver Hospice Society
The New Denver Hospice Society is offering their Volunteer Training Program
The schedule is Monday Sept. 26th half day, Sunday Sept. 25th half day, Tuesday Sept. 29th half day, Wednesday Oct. 1st full day, Monday Oct. 6th half day.

The Program consists of 7 modules.
This training is open to people wanting to become a volunteer and who are 18 years of age or over.

Pricing for this program is provided through a grant from RDKC and the program is free. To register and for more information please contact: Tanya Thompson @ 250-358-7298.
Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre celebrates 20th anniversary in style

by Art Joyce

A full program of activities for the 20th anniversary celebration at New Denver's Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre August 9 demonstrated the profound contribution of Japanese-Canadians to the culture of this country. Organized by NIMC Manager Momoko Ito with the support of Village staff and volunteers, opening ceremonies featured introductions from Mayor Ann Bork, MLA Katrine Conroy, Kyokwai Society president Gill Swanson, Roy Inoye and Japan's Consul General Seiji Okada. New Denver Village councillor Heather Foot was MC.

"New Denver is honoured to be home to this centre and it's a reminder of history that must not be forgotten," said Mayor Bork.

Inoye, who received Japan's Order of the Rising Sun in 2002, was an important early advocate for the establishment of the NIMC. He recalled hearing from New Denver resident Sakae Hashimoto that the old Buddhist church on the former internment site was to be moved and the remaining internment shacks demolished. Inoye at the time was a member of the Buddhist Church of Canada and a director of the National Association of Japanese Canadians. 'Though it took some convincing of Village council at the time, Inoye promised to find a way to finance the preservation of these buildings.' By that time the Japanese-Canadian Redress Foundation had been given $12 million in reparations payments by the government. Inoye and Hashimoto applied for and were granted $500,000 to begin work on the NIMC.

"This site is the only site of its kind in Canada, the US and Brazil," said Inoye. "It's unique in showing what the Canadian government did to the Japanese Canadians."

Consul General of Japan Seiji Okada, stationed in Vancouver, said coming to this event was an education for him. He spoke of touring the Nikkei Museum and Cultural Centre in Burnaby before visiting New Denver. "I drove from Vancouver yesterday and seeing how far it is I realized how far away the internees were sent from their homes on the coast," said Okada.

MLA Katrine Conroy congratulated the Kyokwai Society for "all the work they've done in the 20 years to make this possible, and also for council who had the foresight to support the centre, which has really put New Denver on the map. There's some good that has come of it because we have the Japanese heritage in our community because of it. People across the province talk about this place and how much it means to them."

Kyokwai Society president Gill Swanson acknowledged another key visionary in the establishment of the Centre, Mrs Kanagawa. "Sadly, many of our elders are no longer with us," said Swanson. "The centre is a reminder of the need for peace, tolerance and understanding of the world."

Mrs Kanagawa's memory was further honoured in haiku reading by Art Joyce to a soundtrack of Paul Gibson's banjo flite and recordings of Kanagawa reading her poems in Japanese.

NIMC Manager Momoko Ito joked that when she contacted Inoye about the celebration, he reminded her that the first goal of the business was to get event tests to shelter delegates from the searing afternoon heat. At the dedication ceremonies 21 years ago Inoye recalled having only volunteers holding umbrellas for shade. He read a message from Dr. Henry Shimizu, a former New Denver intern and past director of the Redress Foundation.

"From the beginning there was no question this project was a national one, despite its location and the small New Denver group," wrote Dr. Shimizu. "Thus you may wish to know that this site was designated a national historic site. Not only was it in the original site but had original buildings. Personally it is dear to my heart because my family lived here from 1942 to 1946."

Opening ceremonies were followed by the cake cutting. White Pines Dojo in Sicamous offered Taiko demonstrations in the Koham Garden while on the main stage Mauna Miwa Garrick Rice performed an interpretive dance. "Kootenay Shido Motorcycle Centre provided a demonstration of bang sam-e painting, followed by the haiku performance. Vancouver designer Terry Sasaki sent performers of his original designs with dancer Rachel Harms and models from Wallis, Morgen Bartel and Rhia Konuki.

The focus shifted back to the Koham for the opening of the centre's summer's A shokusho fete performed by Muster Takeo Yamashiro was given added drama by the interpretive dance of artist Emma Kobayashi. Judging by the 200 or so people who crowded into the Koham for the Utzime Taiko drumming performance, it was the 'hit' of the day. The Vancouver-based three member drummers Naomi Kajiwara, Ronnie Soon and Carolyn Chen. Kajiwara is a fourth generation Japanese-Canadian or Yonsei whose parents were born in the Tsukahara internment camp near Hope, BC. She said the troupe took its name from the Japanese goddess of laughter, Ame No Umae No Mikoto who, according to legend, first began taiko drumming.

Kaslo Jazzfest sees another successful year despite Saturday downpour

by Art Joye

It’s not only the Little Festival That Could, it’s been doing so for 23 years. Although attendance was down somewhat this year at Kaslo Jazz Ess, it is consistent with trends across the music festival business. But even lightening strikes and a downpour on Saturday afternoon did little to dimenish the enthusiasm of festival-goers. Festival director Jimmy Holland said he heard positive reports from people who came from as far afield as the Canvey Islands, Texas, Mexico, Florida and the Northwest Territories.

“We’ve had outstanding feedback. Personally I’ve got about 10 or 15 emails today full of gratitude,” said Holland on August 6. “I had notes of gratitude left on the windshield of my car.”

In our July 30 story we noted that the program featured a strong blues flavor. This year’s ‘discoveries’ were definitely British blues guitarist Matt Schofield and Australian dobro player Jeff Lang. Schofield played with the usual speed and ferocity of Sonny Ray-Vingiam while Lang’s acoustic slide guitar work was jaw-dropping. Aboriginal blues rock artist George Letch was another discovery. In the vocal department, Canada’s own Kelly Lee Evans wowed the crowd on the Upstage. In that respect the festival has continued its tradition of bringing in artists who may not be well known but are definitely of high quality.

Some patrons this year felt that the festival had strayed too far from its jazz roots. Holland says in part this is due to increasing competition in the music festival market. That and the lingering effects of recession have had an impact on ticket sales across North America. The Jazzfest board has heavily debated the increasing emphasis on the ‘eclectic’ side of the musical ledger.

“Because of the number of events now, I think the market is shrinking due to patrons having more choices. In the beginning jazz was our niche but as the market gets tighter and more competitive, there’s a sense we need to do all things to all people. I don’t necessarily agree with that. It’s definitely going to get more attention at the board level.”

This was the first time in several years that the main street stage was used. Plans are to do that again next year. “There seemed to be wanting interest from the business community for a few years but it was them that came to us and asked us to do that again,” says Holland. Judging by enthusiastic audience response to the Harpoonist and the Axe Murderer and Hungarian jazz band Djabe, the downtown stage is a hit. The Kaslo street vibe was further enhanced by evening performances at the Bluebelle Bistro, including popular acoustic blues duo Jon Burden and Bill Lynch.

A major change this year was the handling of alcohol on the festival site, reflecting changes in BC liquor laws for outdoor venues. In the past festivals have been required to cordon off drinking areas; now, patrons can drink alcohol anywhere on site. While this poses challenges for a family festival such as Kaslo Jazzfest, Holland says the RCM and the Liquor Control Board were monitoring the situation closely. Only two patrons were refused service and there were no major incidents reported. One man who became belligerent was under the influence of drugs and was taken to hospital by police. This year was the trial run for the new liquor policy and Holland says everything went smoothly. He estimates that alcohol sales were significant revenue stream for festivals - were about the same as last year at about $850,000.

Volunteers are the heart of any festival’s success. Holland estimates 240 people are needed to run Kaslo Jazzfest, including managers. This year volunteers booked in late, which made for some anxious pre-festival moments. But by Saturday volunteers were being turned away. "We see a lot of the same faces," says Holland. "There's a core crew that's been pretty steady for, gosh, ten years." Holland told the Jazzfest crowd the story of how the festival got started. A friend was in contact with renowned jazz musician Paul Horn and gave Holland his phone number. Horn said his usual fee was about that of the entire first year's music budget but was willing to take less money so he could perform in Kaslo.

Slocan Valley Co-op
3024, Hwy 6, Slocan Park
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Kootenay SUFFER FEST

Kootenay Sufferfest 2014
August 30 - September 1st

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Saturday in Kaslo: 10k, 25k 50k Trail Runs and Kids Races
Sunday 7 pm in New Denver: MARIN Denim Crit
Sunday in New Denver: 7, 15, 40 & 100k Mt Bike & Idaho Mt Marathon

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VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT!!!! We need over 200 volunteers to make the event a success. To be part of the exciting SufferCrew, please contact Janis at 250-265-8707 or janeuf@gmail.com. Receive a free lunch and t-shirt.

NOTICE: The event will be using most trails including Galena Trail, Wagon Rd, Kaslo River Trails A.S.S., and crossing over highways and roadways throughout the region. Please take extra caution and obey marshals. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.
Concert and guitar workshop with Stephen Palmer

The Slocan Lake Gallery Society and the Mercado Organic Restaurant present roots musician Stephen Palmer in concert on Saturday August 15. This will be Mercado’s and SLGS’s second ‘dinner and a show’ event of the summer, and they expect it will be as successful as the last one. On the menu is a sumptuous Mexican repast. Cost for dinner and show is $30 per person and reservations are recommended. Dinner starts at 5:30 pm, music at 7. There is limited seating so reserve by calling Shelley at 250-358-7722 or go to the Mercado in person at 404 Lake Street ( Hwy 6 ) in Silverton, Wednesday through Saturday.

Palmer’s engaging singing and playing style has been compared to “a shahtree on a hot summer’s day.” His country/roots concerts include a generous helping of folk, old time country, gospel, and his own unique originals. Audiences are invited to sing along with Palmer’s instruments on both six- and 12-string guitars, joining in on favorites from familiar artists like the Carter Family, Gordon Lightfoot, and Jim Tyson.

Based in Saskatchewan, Palmer has been picking and singing in Western Canada since the 1990s. In his early band work he shared the stage with an amazing variety of performers including Tina Turner, The Miracles and rock superstars Eric Clapton, Led Zeppelin, and The Who. Now an established acoustic-roots entertainer, he has four albums of original and traditional music recorded with Prudie Airs (2014) being his most recent.

Palmer is offering a country roots guitar workshop for intermediate to advanced players on August 17 from 10 am – noon. No formal music reading skills are required. He has been teaching guitar for many years, and for the last seven has offered country-roots guitar workshops when he plays at festivals.

“Cover several rhythm guitar styles and the basics of Carter and Travis style picking as featured in my concerts,” he says. “Hammer-ons and pull-offs are covered, and some good left and right hand development exercises.”

This workshop is partly subsidized by the BC Arts Council, costs only $20 per person, and pre-registration is recommended. It will take place at the Silverton Fire Hall.

To pre-register, call Carla at 250-358-7720 or e-mail silvertonalley@gmail.com. More information and links at www.silvertonalley.ca.

Dark Fire Cloud and the Lightning Band to play Silverton Hall

J Battle cut his teeth playing mandolin in his Ottawa Valley (the unduplicated bluegrass centre of Canada) family band. Learning the bluegrass chops from his father, Bill, J. and Stu Perry met under the banner of the Slocan Valley based reggae/jamband Deep Valley where they realized that they locked in the rhythm section with sublime ease.

Backed by his own guitar playing and with his echo harmonics strapped on, Dark Fire Cloud delivers spirituality charged and heartfelt, conscious music. With the rhythmic foundation set by Stu and J., Dark Fire Cloud and the Lightning Band brings the crowd to its feet to dance their tails off.

Kootenay Savings announces bursaries

Kootenay Savings has awarded four young people with $2,000 bursaries towards their post-secondary education. Mercedes Casey, of New Denver and Cec Moss of Kootenay West, along with Dawn Graham of Robson and Rossland’s Kolby Zanier.

As a local organization with strong ties to the community, Kootenay Savings says, it recognizes how important it is to reward local heroes who are doing their part to inspire community spirit and pride.

Since 2001, the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation has awarded these bursaries to Grade 12 and post-secondary students who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their communities.

Learn more at kootenaysavings.blogspot.ca/2014/03/community-bursary-program.html

In addition, this June at high school graduation ceremonies across the Kootenays, 18 $750 Kootenay Savings Community Foundation education awards were presented to students who are planning to continue their education. While the Community Bursary awards open to both numbers and non-numerics, the high school bursary winners or their parents must be members of Kootenay Savings.

Free theatre and a contest from SLSS

Campground storytelling is sponsored by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society as part of our Creating a Culture of Stewardship initiative.

How do you love Slocan Lake? Let us help you count the ways... in a contest sponsored by the SLSS to increase stewardship around Slocan Lake. Look for ‘Love Your Lake’ entry forms at local merchants and at SLSS’s table at the New Denver Friday Markets. Do any of the 12 things on the list and then turn your form in to SLSS at the Friday Market by August 29 and be eligible to win spectacular prizes. ‘Love Your Lake’ is an especially great outdoor activity for kids and visitors to learn more about our area and practice behaviours that protect the quality of our watershed.

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The Paddocks
265-3255
The Paddocks, located on Highway 6 and Nakusp is open 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Wed. to Sun. Midnight, Mon. - Sat. Choose from a squeeze or homemade burger, hotdog, wrap, donair, or something new on our menu. Great selection of beers, wines and some great cocktails. We’re open to the public Friday night with a fresh fish fillet or a scrumptious sundae. Come enjoy great food in the great outdoors!

Campgrounds
Nakusp Municipal Campground - Nakusp
(250) 265-1061 www.nakuspgolf.com
Coveniently located downtown. 1 block from public beach and just across the street from the tourist office. All sites are back-in. Sites start at $20, and include the use of a ski tow rope and a boat launch. Boats are available for rent.
Wilson Creek Resort & Campground - Rossland
(250) 358-7781 www.wilsoncreek.com
Just north of New Denver. Nestled between Wilson Creek and Galena Roads to Trails. Two minutes walk to lake. Power and water hookups, level mountain biking, hiking and lake tours. Paddleboat, kayaks and water sports rentals available. Turn off Hwy 6 towards the lake at Delta Drive (South side of Wilson Creek Road). Bring the binoculars.
Centennial Campground - New Denver
(250) 358-2867 www.new denver.ca
On the lake in New Denver, 50 sites, beach, electric & water hook-up, sani-dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, pets must be leashed.
Silverton Municipal Campground - Silverton
(250) 358-2472 www.silverton.ca
At Leadkilly and Turner Streets. 45 sites, 35/mile site and 25/tent site - open May 15 to Sept. 30. Tent and trailer sites, fire pits, picnic, water stations, trash, launch, boat cleaning amenities. New hormone treated and stained buildings.
Springer Creek RV Park & Campground - Silverton
(250) 355-2266 springer@telus.net
Open May 15 to Oct. 13. Located at 1020/21 Rte 26, Silverton. Turn right immediately off Hwy 6 towards Silverton. Full and partial hook-ups, tent sites, sani-dump, electric and water in available washroom and showers, wifi, pets on leash and seasonal Tourist Information available.
Karihu Park Cottages & Campground - New Denver
(250) 358-7717
1-866-452-7428 www.karihupark.com
Our picturesque property is located just off highway 6 in Winlaw, next to the Trail and Slocan River. We have fully equipped, comfortable cottages and 33 campsites in a forest setting, with power and water hookups, the rest are basic. Recreation area, gardens, pool, tennis court, and much more.
Kaslo Municipal Campground - Kaslo
(250) 355-2662 www.kasco.ca kaslo campground@yahoo.ca
April 3 - October 15, weather permitting. Serviced (527) Unserviced sites (222) Waters and power hook-ups, 6 ft. wide, wide, 110 volt power, water stations and restrooms and hot showers. Downtown location, close to park, beach, playground, 50 Mile Interpretive Trail and great shopping.
Woodbury Resort and Marina - Kaslo
(250) 355-7717 Serviced sites - Tent sites - Motorcycle friendly - Marina - heated pool - Boated swimming beach - IBS pub and Restaurant - Motel and Chalets - Boat rentals starting at $30/hour – Clayoquot Trails - Scuba Dive the Armonde wreck, 4 km north of Winlaw Hot Springs on Hwy 31.

Museums
Silvery Slocan Museum - New Denver
(250) 358-2203 The old bank of New Denver building at the foot of New Denver's main street. Special tours welcome. 250-358-2203 or 250-358-2205 for further information. Hope to see you soon!
Nikkel Internment Memorial Centre - New Denver
(250) 358-7238 306 Josephine St. nikkel-museum.weebly.com
Located in The Orchid in New Denver open 7 days a week 10AM to 5PM.
Sendon Museum & Visitors’ Centre - Sendon
(250) 358-7320 www.sandonmuseum.com
Open 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Located 13 km north of New Denver off Hwy 3A in historic silver mining ghost town. Collections of stunning photographs and fascinating artifacts. Admission ( Child: $5, and over: $10, 12-17 yrs. and Seniors $5.50; Children under 12 and Members Free. Daily 6:30-8:30)
S.S. Moyie National Historic Site - Kaslo
Ph/Fax: (250) 355-2725 www.lshc.bc.ca
345 Front Street, Kaslo BC. The world’s oldest intact passenger steamer on the Moyie. A heritage site located on the Moyie River, a world heritage site. The Moyie museum collection immerses you in the rich and colourful past of people and places of north Kootenay Lake and the Kaslo and Duncan River Valleys. Open weekends only June to September.

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription
Only $10-$30
Send Cheque or Money Order to: The Valley Voice, Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

VISITOR INFORMATION
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Things to do
CHOCOLATE SHOPS
Jennifer Chocolates - Nakusp
www.jenniferchocolates.com
105 3rd Street West, Nakusp, BC 1-800-563-1557
94 4th Ave - Our local artisan chocolate makers. We offer a variety of delicious, free of gluten and dairy chocolate bars. Working with local chocolate shop indulg in a dark chocolate truffle or cool off with a frozen banana dipped in chocolate. Bring friends and family and experience the fine art of chocolate making right here in Nakusp.

HOUSERENTALS
The Kaslo Shipyard Company - Kaslo
www.kasloshiroyard.com
1-866-452-1657

SPORTS/OUTDOOR SHOPS
Valhalla Pure Outfitters - New Denver
350 3rd Street West, New Denver, BC 1-866-286-5825

KAYAKING
Kaslo Kayaking - Kaslo
www.kaslo kayaking.com
1-866-452-1657
Volunteers wanted time for Toadfest!

submitted

NURAKUS & THE ARROW LAKES

Summer holidays may be winding down, but there is at least one more family-oriented activity to place in the calendar before they are completely over. Toadfest 2010! The free event held at Summitt Lake Provincial Park; just south of Nakusp, will be held on Tuesday August 24 between 4 and 7 pm, and August 27 between 10 am and 1 pm.

Toadfest is an opportunity for the public to get up close and very personal with the western toads - especially the tiny toadlets - of Summitt Lake. Attendees will be able to collect and safely transport the toadlets across the highway. Containers will be provided. In addition to helping toadlets safely across the highway, there will be other activities such as also including live aquatic insects, amphibians, and reptiles on display, as well as information on invasive plants, bears and other wild animals living in the region.

The public are reminded not to collect or transport any toadlets across the highway outside of this organized event.

The event is both to help the western toad population at Summitt Lake, and to bring awareness about their natural history, habitat needs, and the challenges that they face. Every year tens of thousands of toadlets, each not much larger than a dime, get agitated and cross the busy highways to make their first migration from the shoreline of Summitt Lake, across Highway 6, to upland habitats.

While they are still relatively strong in numbers at Summitt Lake, their distribution is shrinking and the centre of the world's distribution has shifted from the USA to BC - says Trevor Onnoures, program manager in the Columbia region for the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, a partnership between BC Hydro, the province, First Nations and public stakeholders.

They are an indicator of ecological health and an important part of a complex food web, so it's extremely important that we look after them.

The event, now in its fifth year, provides an excellent opportunity to talk to biologists, and get "hands-on" experience at handling an amphibian in need. Western toads are listed federally as a species of concern and are BBA listed (vulnerable) in the province. Conservation Issues at Summitt Lake Provincial Park cannot be reserved. Parking is limited and capped so encouraged. For more information about Toadfest call 250-354-6333.

Prayers offered for the health of the Columbia River

The August river prayer vigils will provide people who care about the Columbia River an opportunity for ethical and spiritual dialogue. The vigils will help highlight that people want a healthy river, where salmon can travel freely from the ocean to the headwaters and vice versa. The annual river prayer vigils will help underscore the public interest in modernizing the Columbia River Treaty to ensure a functioning ecosystem throughout the Columbia River Basin.

Dementia support group in Nakusp submitted

Alzheimer's disease and other dementias can serve family caregivers feeling isolated. However, Nakusp residents are not alone. There are other people to share the journey with you, says, Julie LeFebvre, the Alzheimer's Society's Support and Education Co-ordinator for the West Kootenay.

The society runs a monthly dementia caregiver support group for area residents who "want to prepare themselves with current information that will help improve quality of life with the disease," she says. "It's a safe environment where you can learn, laugh and help each other through mutual understanding."

In addition to emotional support, the group offers the chance to exchange information and friendship with others affected by dementia, access the current information, and learn and share practical tips for coping with change.

It meets on the last Wednesday of each month from 1 to 2:30 pm in Nakusp.

For more information, contact Evelyn at 250-265-4014 or Julie LeFebvre at 1-855-301-6742 or jlefebvre@alzheimer.org.

More information on Alzheimer's disease, and resources for coping with its impact, are available on the Society's website at www.alzheimer.org.

Wildlife artist Sharon Bambar exhibits at Studio Connexion

by Art Joyce

Sharon Bambar’s executive panel paintings will be featured at Studio Connexion in a new show titled Wildlife Connexion. This new series will exhibit both new and previously seen works from August 13-30. Bambar’s paintings will be of interest not only to art collectors who love her unique style but also to nature, landscape and wildlife enthusiasts as well.

"This show explores the idea of connections on a number of levels," says Bambar. The interaction between animals of the same or different species, and the interconnection between the environment with in which they live; my personal relationship and dialogue with what I’m experiencing, and the connection that I am trying to make with the viewer of the painting." Bambar is a new member of the prestigious Wildlife Artists of Canada (SAA) based in New York City. Last fall, she spent a week with Robert Bateman. And in the spring of 2013, the artist will travel to the top of the BBC International Wildlife Artist of the Year. Membership with the SAA has brought new opportunities for expanding the audience for her work.

She will be meeting fellow artists from the Society at the Jackson Hole Fall Arts Festival in September this year. She will also visit the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Cody, Wyoming to see new works by Robert Bateman, Bob Kuhn, Georgia O’Keeffe, Alexander Pope, Charles M. Russell, Newell Converse Weyr and many others. Given that Bambar’s artwork relies so heavily on a close observation of nature, she finds the current "nature deficit" in society disturbing.

"Connections to the natural world in all its diversity creates such a deep sense of well being that it is hard to explain to others in words. From the earliest cave drawings, humans have looked to nature for spiritual help and have tried to find a natural path through which to communicate meaningful experiences to others. It would be wonderful if my work encourages even just one person to really explore what nature means to them and how it is reflected in the world around them."

Gallery visitors are invited to spend an afternoon with the artist from 1 to 4 pm on the last day of the exhibition August 30th, when the opening reception is held.

"This is really just an opportunity for me to meet with anyone interested in my work and to answer any questions on a one-to-one basis that anyone may have about my art, my processes and my thoughts. It is aimed at both fellow artists and the public." Studio Connexion Gallery is located at 203 Fifth Ave, now downtown Nakusp. The gallery can be found at the corner of Broadway Street, regular hours are 11 am to 4 pm, Tuesday to Saturday or for private appointment call the gallery at 250-265-3850.

H. A. Benson Inc.
Chartered Accountant
Howard Benson CPA - CA, Daleyse Allen and Rob Bambar join to announce the opening of H. A. Benson Inc.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff of Howard Benson who showed such enthusiasm and caring the wonderful doctors, nurses, and staff of “Nakusp General Hospital” who made it possible for Rob to work so comfortably and with full care. It was an experience we will remember and thank you for. Rob and his wife, Sandra and all their family wish to express their deepest gratitude to the staff of "Kootenay Care" for their care and support during this difficult time. They wish to express the utmost appreciation to Dr. Peter and the staff of "Meadowview Care" for their care and support during this difficult time. They wish to express the utmost appreciation to Dr. Peter and the staff of "Meadowview Care" for their care and support during this difficult time.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buddy's Pizza, Kassel - Award-winning, hand-tossed artisan pizza. 250-353-2282.

Do You Have a garden that is producing too much bounty? - Not enough to rent a table at the open air markets??? If so, then drop off your produce or value-added goods (a New绍on 'BOUNTY SHARE TABLE' located under the tree canopy at the New Denver FRIDAY MARKET! We can sell it for you in exchange for a 20% fee to cover expenses. Contact Jeff at 250-358-2465 or email community connect to learn more about arrangements (sponsored by the Healthy Community Society and the CBT).

New Vernon Valley RideShare Program sponsored by The Healthy Community Society. For more information check community connect.


Along with a brief description of your work, include a number of pieces and medium used, include a few photographs and/or a CD of your work.

CLASSIFIED ADS

VALLEY VIEW GOLF COURSE

WALLET IN CAR - STOLEN
On October 10, 2014, a wallet was lost in the New Denver area. It contains Id's and a $200 bill. Contact the New Vernon Police if you have seen it. 250-358-2465.

COURET ROOTS - Artist Stephen Palzer in concert at the Mercato Restaurant in silverton, Saturday, August 16th. Authentic, organic and delicious Mexican meal. $30 per person dinner and show. Dinner served at 5:30. Show at 7:30. Call 250-358-7722. GUITAR WORKSHOP with veteran picker Stephen Palzer for intermediate to advanced players, Saturday, July 12th at the Silverton Fire Hall. Fingerpicking styles, open tunings and more. $20 per person. Register at 250-358-7198 or silvertonadvertiser@gmail.com. Saturday, July 12th at the Silverton Fire Hall. 250-226-7241. www.galwaybays.ca

-one of the valley's favorite venues -
-valentine's day - wedding venues -
-small theaters -
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Deborah Joan Jones (nee Williams), July 17, 1959–July 11, 2014. Deborah (Deb) was born on July 17, 1959 in Ohio, Alberta. She was the fourth of six children born to Eric and Joan Williams, Morris after she was born, Deb and her family moved to Nakusp. In 1973, after many years spent with good friend Denise Jones (Marchitelli), Deb began dating Denise’s brother Warner Jones. On April 30, 1983, Warner and Deb were married in Nakusp. On November 21, 1983, Warner and Deb celebrated the birth of their first child, Haley Morgan. Four short years later, Maxx Russell was born to complete the family.

Deb graduated from the Nakusp Secondary School in 1977. After graduating high school, Deb moved to Calgary to attend university and work, catching figure skating. After university, Deb returned to Nakusp and worked for Club 4 until starting her career. On October 27, 1990, Deb was hired with the Nakusp School District where she worked ever since.

Deb’s passions included her family, the children she worked with, and figure skating—she was an amazing coach and had many tales. Deb grew quite pride in helping the lone skater in the most inconspicuous ways. She would go above and beyond for anyone in need. Deb had a very clever side to her and loved to share jokes, mostly at the expense of her husband Warner. Deb’s husband, Warner, her children Haley and Maxx, and the schoolchildren she worked with were the lights of her life. Deb shared an individual room with each child she worked with and she loved them all dearly.

Deb leaves behind her husband Warner, daughter Haley (David), son Maxx (David), her parents Eric and Joan Williams, sister Kaye (Jack) Taylor, Gary Ponick, sister Colleen (Jerry) Warren, sister Laura (David) Denimier, Dori Vekash, sister Kathleen (David) Nixon, brother-in-law Dave (Carol) Jones, sister-in-law and good friend Denise (Glen) Marchitelli, aunts and nephews, Shannon, Doug, Karen, Lisa, Lorraine, Jerod, Bryan, Danette, Kim, Jan, Deanne, Matt, Nicole, Jody, Sean, and John, and great aunts and uncles.

COMMUNITY

Leslie Talbot Smith passed away July 11, 2014 at Kekwaks General Hospital. Leslie was born in Nakusp, BC on September 30, 1934. He spent his youth in Edgewood, attending school in Invermere Valley, Edgewood, Fauquier and Nevelaat.

He tried various jobs in mechanics and millwork in Nelson and the Cariboo but they did not appeal to him as he went north in 1958 and found work in Nakusp and on the Alaska Highway. While there, he found his preferred work in a Heavy Equipment Operator. In 1964 he returned to work in the Kootenay as a crane operator on the Duncan and Keenwater Dam construction. He worked on the construction of the Stokeomuch pulp mill, Kootenai Coal Mine, Funding River Coal Mine, Kootenay Canal Power Plant, and building of the power line from Mica Creek to Meritt. In 1976 he moved to Port McMurro, Alberta and worked on various construction sites there until his retirement in 1999. After retirement, Les and his wife Jane moved to Fauquier to be caregivers for Jane’s parents, Fred and Ida Stetli. Laterly, a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, first with Local 115 (BC) and then with Local 955 (Alberta). He received a Life Membership from Local 955 in 2005 when he received recognition for 50 years of membership. He served as Shop Steward for many years. Family was a very important part of Les’ life and he enjoyed helping with Boy Scouts and was always interested in attending school events with his children. Les was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #203, Edgewood for 37 years and served on the executive for several years.

Leslie is survived by his wife of nearly 49 years, Jane (Stetli), son Adam, and daughter Jennifer (Bruce) Johnson, granddaughter Amandah and grandson Christopher, sister Shirley Bobert of North Vancouver and brother Moot from Unionville, Ontario, brother-in-law Jim Stetli, two nieces and four nephews. He was predeceased by his father Harold in 1973, mother Oonie in 1976 and brother Richard in 2012.

Cremation was entrusted to Vernon Funeral Home. Interment will be arranged by family at a later date. A celebration of Leslie’s life will be held at the Edgewater Legion Hall on August 16th from 1–3 p.m.
Satire brews in a new novel by Jennifer Craig

Nelson author Jennifer Craig is no stranger to the alchemy of humour, irony, and good storytelling and the novel is Mary Lois Brew, a novel that takes a poke at academia in a decidedly witty way. Craig launches her satirical new novel on Tuesday, August 26 at 7 pm at the Nelson Public Library.

When Mary Lois starts up her brew, she spells trouble for the Dean of the Academy of Soothes – just one more problem when the future of the Academy is in jeopardy, faculty members vanish, an assistant causes a unique traffic jam, lab creatures escape, and a disenchanted junior professor tries to alter the Dean’s Gravity Quotient. Amusing academic and social commentary, Craig is clear that her novel – for adults of all ages – is not to be taken seriously.

Craig comes by her irreverence honestly – she holds a Bachelor’s degree in nursing, a Masters in education, and a PhD in medical education. She is the author of the bestselling memoir, Yo Sister, No Sister, My Life as a Trainee Nurse in the 1950s. Published by Ebury Press in 2010, it sold more than 100,000 copies and spent 17 weeks on the London Times bestseller list.

ANKORS hosts online auction

Auction helps raise money by visiting www.32auctions.com/ANKORS2014 and bid on the online silent auction. ANKORS (AIDS Network Kootenay Outreach and Support Society) was established in 1992 as a non-profit society to provide a multitude of services, provided in a non-judgmental setting without prejudice to anyone individuals right to anonymity and confidential access. The society serves those living with and at the greatest risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C, who have difficulty obtaining services elsewhere, especially due to substance use, mental illness, sexual orientation, gender identity, race and ethnicity, and other social barriers.

They are also looking for people to participate in the 33rd annual AIDS Walk for Life, scheduled for all and Baker Streets in Nelson. Teams can consist of groups, or lone individuals wanting to participate. ANKORS is still looking for donations to hit the $5,000 goal.

For more information, visit ANKORS at 101 Baker Street or www.ankors.bc.ca, or call 250-565-5506.

Jumbo Wild campaign hosts send-off rally

The Keep Jumbo Wild campaign is holding a Send-off Rally at 5 pm in front of Nelson City Hall on Tuesday, August 19. The celebration is to show support for the volunteers heading up the Jumbo Valley to help prevent construction of a ski resort. Campers are heading out on August 20. There will be music, fun and a special grizzly surprise.

For more information on the Jumbo Wild Campaign and Jumbo developments see the West Kootenay EcoSociety website at www.ecosociety.ca.