Slocan City locked down over Thanksgiving weekend

by Jan McMurray

Slocan has come out the other side of quite an ordeal. The town was on lockdown over the Thanksgiving weekend while police searched for an escaped inmate, Peter DeGroot, who allegedly shot a local RCMP officer on September 29, and then took to the hills. On Thanksgiving Monday, October 3, two officers located him at a cabin in the woods in the Slocan area, and DeGroot was shot dead.

Slocan Mayor Madeleine Perriere said the ordeal "tested the resilience of the town," and Slocan did very well. "We all knew each other and cared about each other, and we try to help each other. It's a great community for that." Mayor Perriere spent most of the weekend at the Village office answering phone calls from residents and arranging help for them when necessary. She was keenly aware of the neighborhood happening both within the village and in the surrounding area. "People were checking on each other, and people from Wawlaw and other communities opened their homes to Slocan residents who couldn't get back in," she said.

Police did not allow people into the village from Thursday afternoon to Saturday morning. If Slocan residents who were locked out had an errand to run or needed medication, for example—they were escorted back in. According to an October 9 RCMP press release, while RCMP officers from the Slocan Lake detachment were responding to a dispute between two individuals on Slocan's back road (Slocan West Road) at 12:21 pm on Thursday, October 9, one of the individuals, Peter DeGroot, allegedly fired a rifle at police and then ran into the forest. The RCMP response was significant. An RCMP press release issued the next day (Friday, October 10) states: "Additional resources including air support, the Southeast District Emergency Response Team, crime negotiators, police dogs and Tactical Armoured Vehicles were deployed to the scene. Adequate resources have responded and will continue to do so until the situation is resolved."

"It was surreal," said Jessica Luan, a resident of Slocan and Village councillor. "Just did not feel like Slocan at all. There were armed police everywhere in the village, and there was a lot of fear in the air. It was like a movie set."

Mayor Perriere says she was on her way to the store on Thursday, and was surprised to see a police vehicles in town. A police officer stopped her, told her someone had been shooting at police and to go home. "Everything was shut down on Thursday," she says. "There was heavy police presence everywhere on the street—not just at the two entrances into the Village. You could not go three blocks without being stopped by police and told to go home and stay there. That's how people found out about it."

Perriere says that about 5:30 pm on Thursday, the RCMP set up at the Village office. "With no cell reception in Slocan, they needed a phone line and internet access," she said. She and a woman stationed at the Village exit RCMP office worked together to notify families that school would be closed the next day. There were a lot of details to work on," said Perriere.

Perriere spent Friday at the Village office until 10 pm. She said Public Works Supervisor Tim Hill was helping the RCMP with their questions about the area. Since he tried to talk about the area. "The phones were constantly ringing," she says. "Residents who were stock outside of the village were calling to find out what was happening. Some of them had their medication and pets at home in Slocan. And then she was told we had to ask the ministry for an extension to the deadline for election candidates, so that added another complication?"

On Friday, an RCMP press release was issued that stated: "Police were also able to seize the suspect's residence which resulted in the seizure of a number of firearms. We can confirm at this time that the suspect is known to police and has been identified as 45-year-old Peter DeGroot of Slocan. He is considered to be armed and dangerous and we ask the public not to approach him if seen, to call 9-1-1."

By Friday night at 9:30 pm, Perriere says police made the decision to allow people into the village starting Saturday morning. She notified the owners of the store and restaurant that they could open up again on Saturday.

On Saturday, Perriere says people were out and about, even though they were still told to stay in their houses. "People could come in and out of town, but residents were still told to stay in the house," said Perriere. "But they came out and the general feeling around town was not one of fear at all. People felt that Mr. DeGroot did not pose a threat to them. They were frustrated with the lack of information and it was hard on them, but it seemed that life was almost back to normal. The kids were going to the store; people were out walking their dogs. But there was still a heavy police presence, and the curtains and going of the SWAT team."

On Sunday, May 2014 at the Village office, Perriere said there weren't as many police officers. Their operation was different. They knew the map and they had their contacts, so we weren't needed as much," she said.

"On Monday, Mayor Perriere went to the Village office in the afternoon, "and I could feel there was a change," she said.

"I went in after 5:30 pm and I was told that the suspect had died."

At 5:15 pm on Thanksgiving Monday, the RCMP released a statement by C/Sgt. Frank Smart, Southeast District Commanding. "Earlier today, at approximately 1:20 pm, two members of the Emergency Response Team were in an area of Slocan near a gravel pit conducting a search of a cabin. Upon entering the cabin there was an interaction between the subject of the ongoing search and the two ERT members. We can confirm the suspect is now deceased. No police officers or members of the public were injured."

"We must respect that the specifics around what happened when the individual was located is now subject of an IBD BC independent investigation. This was a serious incident and we are providing ongoing support to the families of the deceased as well as the police officers involved."

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StewardChoice offers alternative to MMBC recycling program

by Ian McMurray

There’s a new player in the recycling game, and the RDCK board feels their odds might be better with them than with MMBC.

StewardChoice Producer Solutions has submitted a plan to the Ministry of Environment that offers an alternative to the MMBC (Multi-Material BC) recycling program.

Neil Hastie of StewardChoice Producer Solutions made a presentation about his company’s plan at the October 16 RDCK board meeting. He urged the board to send a letter to Minister of Environment Mary Polak, expressing support for “choice in the marketplace.”

The RDCK board, agreed, and will send the minister a letter “supporting the opportunity to have the StewardChoice program as an alternative option.”

“I feel we are at a crossroads in BC when it comes to the recycling of packaging and printed paper in that there will either be a continuation of the monopoly or there will be choice,” said Hastie.

The RDCK did not sign up with MMBC for a whole host of reasons, but it came down to the fact that MMBC was not offering a recycling service that’s as good as the one that RDCK had by MMBC.

“They didn’t offer a service that was even close to ours,” said Chair John Kettle at the meeting. “We have 25 or 27 stations [recycling depots], and we will push hard [to keep them].”

Because the RDCK did not sign up with MMBC, RDCK residents are still paying for the recycling service with their tax dollars. According to the new provincial Recycling Regulation, the cost of recycling was to shift from taxpayers to industry in May this year. Industry was supposed to pick up the cost by signing on with MMBC and paying the organization to manage the recycling program on their behalf.

“We are concerned because we are paying twice, through taxes and the levies on products at the store,” said Director Jackson.

Hastie told the board that once the ministry approves his company’s plan, StewardChoice intends to provide service to areas of the province like the RDCK that were left behind by MMBC.

He also said StewardChoice intends to maintain current recycling service levels, and to expand the list of collectable recyclables to include everything on MMBC’s list.

Kettle reminded Hastie that RDCK representatives made an effort to be the first to meet with him at the recent UBCM conference, and his anticipation is that “we’ll be number one on your list” once the company’s plan is approved. Hastie replied, “I very much enjoy your part of the world and you can rest assured I will be there.”

Some RDCK directors felt the StewardChoice program sounded “too good to be true,” and pressed Hastie to explain how he could offer a better service than MMBC could.

Hastie explained that the StewardChoice plan takes an open market approach, as compared to MMBC’s supply management approach.

He said StewardChoice will work with existing service providers. The companies that collect recyclables will retain ownership of the collected materials, so it will be their job to sell them at the best price they can.

StewardChoice will pay these companies a fee based on the weight of the collected materials. These fees and contracts with service providers will be customized, whereas MMBC’s fees and contracts are standardized, he said.

“We intend to bring producer funding to programs that are currently existing, and then work with the recycling provider [company that collects the recyclables] to increase rates [for the recyclables]. We are not asking local governments to spend money. We are bringing in producer money to help compensate for costs,” he said.

He added that StewardChoice will be more efficient than MMBC. “Our costs will be lower. We will not have the overhead of the other company.”

Chair Kettle asked Hastie if StewardChoice might end up with the same problem that MMBC has — a significant number of producers have not yet signed on, impacting MMBC.

Slocan locked down over Thanksgiving

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The BC Coroners Service issued a press release on Tuesday, October 14, announcing that it is also investigating the death of Peter DeGroot. Mr. DeGroot was shot following an encounter with two RCMP Emergency Response Team members, which occurred about 1:35 p.m. on Oct. 13, 2014, at a remote cabin in the Slocan area. He was deceased at the scene.

The BC Coroners Service investigates the circumstances of all sudden and unexpected deaths in the province to establish the facts for the public record, and to determine whether there are recommendations that may be made to prevent future deaths in similar circumstances.

The Independent Investigations Office (B.C), mandated to conduct investigations into officer-related incidents of death or serious harm in order to determine whether
Local election candidates announced
by Jan McMurray

It’s the year of elections by acclamation in our area.

By the deadline for nominations on October 10, we knew that the Village of New Denver council, Area H Director Walter Pogge, the School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) board of education, and School District 8 trustee for Kaslo, Dawn Lang, had been elected by acclamation.

Then over the next few days, some candidates withdrew, and there was another round of acclamations: Village of Silverton council, Area K Director Paul Peterson, and School District 8 trustee for Slocan Valley-Boundary, Sharon Nazaroff.

This leaves elections in Nakusp, Kaslo, Slocan, and RDCK Area D (North Kootenay Lake).

In Nakusp, there is a race for the office of mayor. Guy Duchaine is challenging incumbent Mayor Karen Hamling for the job. Duchaine is currently serving his first term as councillor. Hamling has been mayor for three terms, since 2005, and has served as councillor in the past.

The four Nakusp councillors have been elected by acclamation, and are incumbents Ulli Muusler and Tom Zoleznik, Bill Taoeby, and Las Huppner, who served on council for four terms from 1999 to 2013. Incumbent Joseph Hughes did not run, nor did he plan to go on an extended trip, and to run in the provincial elections.

In Kaslo, there are three mayoral candidates — incumbent Greg Lay, current councillor Susan Bowet, and former mayor Pat Mackie (1993-96), who has raised his hat in the ring for mayor of Kaslo in every election since.

Running for council in Kaslo are incumbents Jim Holland and Rob Lang, and seven others: John Addison, Lynda Belaboro, who ran unsuccessfully in the last election, Dave Collis, Louise DePape, Dustin East, Romella Glorioso, and Kellie Knoll.

Incumbent Molly Leatherwood, who has served on council for the past three terms (12 years), did not run this time for three reasons. First, she is furthering her education, taking a Masters degree online while working as vice principal of Jewett School. Second, she feels it’s time for some new faces at the council table. And finally, Leatherwood thinks the first new-year term is a big time commitment.

In Slocan, two incumbent councillors are running for mayor — Hillary Elliott and Jessica Lunn. People are voting for the four councillor seats, including current Councilmember Perrienne; incumbent Mayor McReynolds; Councilmember McGraw and John Trussell, Kevin Milliender, Jodi Pelletier and former mayor Byrdy Vasbyson.

Mayor Perrienne says she did not run for mayor again, as she was planning to retire after serving two terms as councillor and two as mayor. However, she decided to run for council because she’d like to continue working on the microhydro and seniors’ housing projects.

New Denver’s current council went unchallenged, so there’s no change there: Mayor Aall Aantra and Councillors Heather Fox, David Hodsall, Nadine Raynolds, and Haining von Krogh.

Silverton will have a new mayor, James pasta, who is currently finishing up his first term on council. Silverton councillors will be incumbents Leah Main and Arlene Yvonoff, Carol Bell, who has served on council before, and Bill Christian. Incumbent Ross Johnson had no papers in by the deadline of October 10, but subsequently withdrew his nomination.

RDCK Area H Director Walter Pogge has been elected by acclamation to his third term, and RDCK Area K Director Paul Peterson has been elected by acclamation to his fifth term. Deborah McGowan filed her papers to challenge Peterson, but withdrew her nomination.

Newly elected by acclamation

Rays Bull-Cutsha shown with son, Alastair, will be the new Silverton School representative on the School District 10 board of education. "I’ve always been involved in the school, as a coach on the Parent Advisory Council," he said. He has two children at Silverton, and is a Silverton grad himself. Rays says he went to a council meeting after he was encouraged to run, and, "I really enjoy it. It’s a way to utilize leisure time. That clinched my decision to run. I love Silverton and works for the Village.

Bill Taoeby, the only new face around the Nakusp council table in its upcoming term, hopes to bring his dedication and enthusiasm to helping Nakusp’s community and economy. "We have a strong sense of community and we are a great tourist destination. What I feel needs more emphasis is a plan to attract more industry," he says. The Nakusp Hayk glitch was a major part of Taoeby’s run but since moved to the community. He has always worked in private business, mainly in the construction and hospitality industries, "Mainly I look forward to working with Nakusp businesses and stores over the next four years to build our community and the ski area," he said.

Community Calendar

Thursday, October 23
Peter Routland Memorial
Bowen Hall, Rear Denrever
Small Business celebration
3 Lions Pub, Nakusp
8 pm - 6 pm
Friday, October 24

ALHS Slide Show - WWI Archives Office, Nakusp
Saturday, October 25
High School reunion, Nakusp, Seniors Hall
Sunday, October 26
Hills Nordic Ski Club
Hills Fire Hall, Nakusp
- 3 pm
Nakusp Hot Springs Coyote Nakusp Hot Springs
Sando Historic Soc. AGM Hidden Garden Gallery
- 1 pm
Torchlight and Harvest House Thunderbird
- 4 pm
Monday, October 27
Nakusp Council Council Chambers 6:30 pm
Tuesday, October 27
Social Dancing begins Fire Hall, Silverton 7 pm - 10 pm
Pumpkin Sculpting Workshop New Denver 4 - 6 pm
New Denver Council Council Chambers 7 pm
Kaslo Council Council Chambers 7 pm
Wednesday, October 29
All Candidates Forum Nakusp Arena Auditorium 7 pm
Nakusp Hot Springs Re-open Nakusp Hot Springs 7 pm
Thursday, October 30
All Candidates Forum Legion Hall, Slocan 7 pm - 9 pm
Friday, October 31
Halloween in Party Kaslo Hotel 9 pm - 1 am
Halloween in Dance
Saturday, November 1
Fall Clean up Day #1 Kohan Garage 9 - 11 am
Hunted Halloween in Party Slocan Legion Hall 9 pm
Sunday, November 2
Outdoor Gear Swap Bowen Hall, New Denver 1 pm - 4 pm
Monday, November 3
Fall Clean up Day #2 Kohan Garage 9 am - 11 am
Nakusp Rotary Club
Meets Wednesdays at 5:45 pm at Gabi’s Restaurant • 211 - 6th Ave NW
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NEWS
Open Letter to the Ministry of Environment re: Jumbo

This letter is to register my strong objection to the Ministry granting Glacier Resorts Ltd. a permanent EAO certificate to develop the Jumbo Mountain Resort Municipality.

Opposition to this proposal has been ongoing for a long time, and is widespread in East and West Kootenay communities. The recent favourable vote from the UBCM annual meeting to question the government’s support of a bogus Jumbo municipality points to a growing public distrust of why the Ministry is proceeding with this.

Another complication in approving this certificate is the pending judicial reviews on behalf of the Ktunaxa Nation and the Eco-Society; this is yet another reason to reject the granting of the permanent EAO certificate to Glacier Resorts Ltd. now.

Please keep me informed when the decision on the permanent EAO certificate is made. Thank you. Keep Jumbo Wild!

JC Bradford
Perry Siding

A very important election

This November, my wife and I will be casting our first votes as recently reunited Canadian citizens, after more than eight years of investment, work and living in Kaslo. We see these municipal and regional elections as very important since they will set the direction of our Village and its economy for the next four years.

We are encouraged that this election will bring fresh faces and innovative thinking from those who haven’t been involved in the council conflicts of the past three years. Expecting the same people who helped get Kaslo and the region into the difficulty it is in to get us out is not rational. New sets of eyes and ideas in Kaslo’s Village government and in the region can result in a better and more prosperous future for all of us. I want to thank all of the new candidates for coming forward to help our Village.

John Erickland
Kaslo

Unfortunate death of Peter DeGroot

Although the recent death of Peter DeGroot is nothing less than a tragedy, I must take offense to the few people interviewed by the media who felt that the presence of some of the RCMP equipment was “overkill.” I would challenge those who helped get Kaslo and the region into the difficulty it is in to get us out is not rational. New sets of eyes and ideas in Kaslo’s Village government and in the region can result in a better and more prosperous future for all of us. I want to thank all of the new candidates for coming forward to help our Village.

John Erickland
Kaslo

Government inaction on Lemon Creek fuel spill

The story in the Valley Voice by Jan McMurray is well done. It is a good summary of what the public must know versus what government would prefer not to be considered or discussed.

In order to allow these essential citizen actions to stay alive, one has to apply political pressure on the BC Attorney General (AG) Anton, Minister Polak and Premier Clark to allow this case to go to court. They are not to enter a stay of proceedings or just take over the case and let it die in the courts as is the common practice by the AG on such matters.

Since I promoted two private informant cases in 1980 (both successfully prosecuted by federal Department of Justice), the AG in cooperation with the federal DOJ has obstructed most citizen cases.

The BC Environment minister of the day called citizens that lay such private informant charges “vigilantes.” Such cases are most often obstructed by government because they most often make the government look bad because this would show the environment agencies again were not doing their job.

If the BC AG does not show the leadership to allow this case to proceed, the AG should look at the federal Public Prosecutor to prosecute the matter. This case is a clear and flagrant violation of the Fisheries Act, and DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) and Environment Canada (EC) have demonstrated a total lack of willingness or ability to enforce the federal Fisheries Act. Until Mr. Polley tailing dam rupture, the Lemon Creek spill was one of the most extreme pollution cases seen in BC in the past several years. Despite what government bureaucrats may say, there is abundant evidence to prosecute the case successfully. I have been involved as an expert witness in over 100 prosecutions of this type across Canada (many for the BC AG) in the past 40 years and this is one of the most clear cut cases I have seen.

What makes this flagrant spill so unacceptable is the massive impact on a BC river and community in the face of government denials of what their job is and then pretend they are doing a diligent job. Why would agencies like BC MOE, DFO and EC do everything to get the backs of polluters and literally let them get away with such criminal acts? The premier and prime minister should be embarrassed to not set a better standard of what is to be tolerated in our waters. If they have a single concern for our environment versus an unbalanced agenda of jobs and economic prosperity, they must address what happened to Lemon Creek and the Slocan River. There is no economic prosperity in destroying our rivers.

Finally, letters have to go to Federal Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Prime Minister Harper. As they nurture environmental legislation, they bragged about higher fines and better enforcement. How can that occur when no real enforcement is taking place across Canada? They have to firmly direct DFO and EC to simply do their job – especially after grand promises of doing a better job to protect the environment and key fish habitats that support commercial, aboriginal and recreational fisheries in Canada.

Ottie E. Langer
Fisheries Biologist and Aquatic Ecologist
Richmond, BC

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The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.
Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.
Dear Minister Polak re: Jumbo

I am outraged that the Environmental Assessment Office is not holding the developer of the Jumbo Glacier Resort to the letter and intent of the Environmental Certificate. This document is intended to protect British Columbia’s environment, but it does not appear to be enforced rigorously. I urge you to use your discretion under the Environmental Assessment Act to stop construction activities until the proponent complies with the letter and intent of each of the pre-construction commitments.

In particular, I was concerned that outdated data from 1992, 1993, and 1997 will be used as the baseline for assessing impacts to grizzly bears and water resources. The certificate, signed in 2004, requires pre-construction monitoring and data collection. If the intent were to use time-stamped data at the time of writing, there would be no reason to specify that pre-construction monitoring should take place.

In addition, the requirement for endangered and sensitive species monitoring has not been met. No rigorous methods have been used to monitor for presence of these species.

I urge you to act today to stop the construction activity at Jumbo Valley. If we don’t act fast, we may lose more than we realize. Please stop this project and destruction of true resources. I want my children to still have serene untouchable wilderness to explore. Exploiting Canada is part of being Canadian. I had the privilege to hike, climb, ski and adventure through our unique landscape. Keep our water alive for Canada’s future, not to be sold out to exploit and investors to squander, or Oberto Obert to leave his dying legacy to May. He left his ski trails somewhere already groomed.

Annam Azzaoddin Silverton

Community

Dear Energy Minister Bill Bennett

I am writing to you with a charge that the legacy fees as being applied by BC Hydro are discriminatory and in violation of your intent as stated to the public as well as in Directive 4, Meter Choice.

In numerous articles, you explained that the special opt out fees charged to customers and small smart meters were required to cover “extra costs and manual meter readings.”

The public and the BC Utilities Commission had to believe that all smart meters were being read remotely, and that only “legacy meters” required manual reading, which results in additional costs. This was not true, and continues to not be the case. Many smart meters are not fully functional, requiring manual reading, and many will require this additional service for some time to come. These customers are not being charged any additional fee for this additional service.

According to Section 25 of the Utilities Commission Act, BC Hydro cannot act in a manner that is unfair, unreasonable or discriminatory.

I charge that BC Hydro, by providing a service to some customers without an additional fee while charging other customers $32.40 per month for the very same service is unfair, unreasonable and discriminatory.

The BC Utilities Commission believes it has no authority to respond to this charge because it has no authority with regard to any aspect of the smart meter program except setting rates. I argue that the BCUC is abrogating its limited responsibility since this complaint is specific to BC Hydro and not to the BCUC is responding to pressure from your office.

Therefore I ask you, Mr. Bennett, to order BC Hydro to stop this discrimination against those until all smart meters are fully functional and are being read remotely. All monies collected to date should be refunded.

If you do not do this, I ask you please to justify and explain your decision to the citizens of British Columbia to allow a crown corporation to treat its customers in a manner which is illegal under the Utilities Commission Act and runs counter to your own directive.

Sharon Noble
North Vancouver

Slocan incident raises many societal questions (written while Peter DeGroot was still alive)

Five years ago, an armed suspet drove down the valley from Slocan, shooting at 12 different targets, including public landmarks, houses, and businesses. I witnessed the car as it went by that night. I shared this fact with police, but was never questioned or interviewed about this. There was basically absolute minimal police response. The incident left the whole valley with a sense of unease far greater than that which I feel from this recent shooting. As another resident put it comparing the older incident to that of the past week: "The shooters in 2010 caused way more damage and pain than the guy on the motorcycle." A few weeks ago, another young family was almost run over by a suspect very high on drugs. The police and fire department office were told that nothing could be done, as he was afraid of the suspect.

Contrast this to one or two shots fired at a police officer. 40 police are called in, and a 14-20 member SWAT team with assault weapons invades the property. People are deployed for three days, an infrared scanning aircraft is brought in. Police dogs are brought in. The media covers the story for three consecutive days.

I would like to simply ask why there is such a discrepancy in the response to these comparable crimes. Would the police and BC Hydro's new management conduct thorough quality assurance testing by both the manufacturer and BC Hydro to ensure they are safe, accurate and reliable?

Modernizing the electricity grid with smart meters plays a crucial role in BC Hydro’s plan to provide a secure and reliable power system for customers all over the province.

Once complete, a modernized grid will help BC Hydro improve its management of the electricity system, lower costs, reduce theft, encourage conservation and automatically detect outages.

I have written to Premier Christy Clark, and to B.C. Hydro’s Senior Vice President Executive Vice President of Transmission and Distribution, about Peter DeGroot’s death.

About Peter DeGroot from a friend

I knew Peter for about 15 years or so. I probably met him first in the days I would travel to Nelson for coffee at One Nero. In those days, there was a lot of conspiracy talk going around and I actively participated. Peter would speak about his take on society and the police state it was fast becoming. I was fairly used to walking around being filled with the worries that were done to him and the way he actively tried to avoid to continue with those episodes. I still remember the day that his father was beaten up severely by the police in Ontario and left with permanent brain injury. I never got to verify these stories but Peter sure was serious about it.

Over the years, I noticed that the trouble seemed to follow him. He built a log cabin up north somewhere. I think it was in Smithers or Terrace, and when I would meet him again in Nelson, new stories about the challenges he would encounter up there were told. He would also tell me clearly how he saw where I had to improve my life so that I would be more independent from the system. I once met him in Nelson in front of the co-op. He was driving a purple Chevy pick-up truck, massive and rather fancy compared to his overall humble stature, and he proceeded to show me where to get a free car and watch on his cellphone. He did not have much good to say about the city folk, who in his opinion were softies and totally unprepared for the coming global crisis he predicted. I think that the judgements he held were visible to those around him and folks did not appreciate it much. I did like his insights, even though they were far out sometimes, but I believe he had good points. If he could have adjusted his delivery of these points of view I think that he could have reached a larger audience.

One day he was writing a book. I am unsure as to what that project was. Maybe someone else can fill in the blanks.

Then he went to Sweden for a while, where he had a motorbike in Holland and I was well aware that when I would visit the homecountry, he had gone to visit South America. He asked me if I wanted to go with him. He seemed to think I could handle the hardships of the coming times. We would buy a rice donkey and roam in the Andes.

I had my own personal journey and at one point had a difficult time connecting with Peter. I guess I needed a break and also a different direction. I did not see him for a period of time – years, I can’t remember how many.

Then one day I saw an orange pick-up driving by in the Hollywood side to side in town. Then I see him pull up in my garage area and out comes Peter. He is going to look at my neighborhood’s place to see if he can hunt mammal and his canoe a place to stay and raise his animal(s). I live on a land co-op in the bush and I wondered about the wisdom of bringing in a cow into this type of setting. We met up in Nelson eventually, where he moved a few times between locations. I don’t think it was easy for him in this small town. I would sometimes stop by at the last location he lived in, and he would tell me about some of the interactions he had with some of the locals. Mostly he would talk about his digestive interactions. He would sometimes spend time trying to survive winter in a van and his cow in the shed. I never went inside, nor was I invited to do so.

For a long time, I had my apprehension about his way of talking about others and I tried to minimize my contact with him. The last half year I avoided him altogether. I would drive by his place and when I did not see him, I would keep going. Then one day I saw him. I stopped and opened my window for a chat. It was getting dark and he seemed distant and withdrawn. I asked him how he was. He said he was fine, but sorry he needed to tend to his chores. So I left. This was the day before the Slocan incident began.

Now in hindsight I feel sad that I took so long to reconnect with Peter. I felt that we never could laugh again about the folly of man. I know that what Peter predicted came true for him and I am unsure what role he played in his own demise. I can say that I will honour my friends more and let go of the small stuff quicker. I think if I had had the opportunity to have a meal with Peter, I wish him well on his continued journey in other realms.

I wish Peter and his family the best of condoleances to Peter’s family. If there is anything I can do for any of you, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Marcel Tisdel Slocan
Remembrance Day - election time

I and my partner, Judy, and our Husky dog, Sceena, came to the region for the first time five years ago. I had been through Nelson and Castlegar many times but never Kaslo. Walking into the Langham building and up the stairs, I was shocked into reality regarding the Japanese internment stories. I grew up in the Fraser Valley and Richmond and went to school with descendants of some of those people. From 1949 through 1958, that issue was never discussed.

I am a veteran of another different war; I spent ten years in the Canadian Forces in the Mediterranean and NATO Europe. Later as an Aerospace Professional, I spent time in Korea, South East Asia, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, China and Indonesia. I have seen many monuments and burial grounds, crosses by the thousands and the famous and the American, British, Canadian Battle of the Bulge Monument in Belgium. Through close business friends, Judy’s family, in famous Paschendaele, disconnected since WWII, they were reminded of a battle by_nine_tales, the famous battle line of Vimy Ridge in WWI that gave birth to our nation. We went to the Remembrance Day Parade in Castlegar and a year later in New Denver. I am proud to say 200 people attended there. Simply amazing! In Bragg Creek, Alberta, we supported Remembrance Day for 16 years, respecting 55 families recently honoured, bringing to light a hidden loss that was gone for many years. In Kaslo, on Remembrance Day, I amongst many others, the regular force and emergency response personnel marched to Stanley Park out of respect to those who do not come back.

Recently in Kaslo, a major event took place - the time-stopped upgrade of Water Street, facing one of the most beautiful places on earth, North Kootenay Lake. Water Street associated to the military monument regarding several people, the names enshrined on those who never came home. This Remembrance Day, Water Street will also be honoured as connected directly to the veterans’ beautiful emblem of memory. Green grass, blazing flowers, new sidewalk, new donated benches, beautiful art, and an incredible world-class view, a strong symbol of what physical indication of future ongoing progression.

Therefore I ask all of you reading this to consider what I am about to say: When Election Day comes, stop for a time, look and examine your council and then ask yourself: “What happened over the last 20 years in your area?” Did you receive

Peter DeGroot (written before he died)

I have been an individual being hunted in Slocan is a person whom I know. He is actually a very good friend of my partner’s. I have heard some harshest statements regarding this “psychopath” and the events over the past 24 hours; in fact I was one of the people speaking the harshest. I may not have made a huge deal out of it as I have read in some places, but I still posted that people should be aware that there had been “a shooting” based off of something I read in a newspaper local to the scene. Then today I heard that this “mentally unstable person was former special ops”… this coming from a newspaper. I think that is how things go bad REALLY quickly.

I was not at the scene of what went down, but I can clearly see how things could have been two different ways. Peter is not a violent person, but he’s not soft and flabby either. He feels very strongly that there is an essential part of the government is for too involved in our daily lives and even the person who believes that as a society need to learn to be self-sufficient, actually practices what he preaches by hunting and raising his own animals for food. He has had implications with the government because of not following hunting regulations. He said that this is why the involvement escalated the way it did.

What I gather from media (always the B.C. source for non-sensational information) is that a neighbour called him in after having an argument over how he does his lawns, raising questions about why police approached aggressively or with weapons drawn, he would have taken

off into the woods, as he would not want to confront police. He is very comfortable in the wild and that would have been second nature to him.

My concern is that I can see the other side to this. If this neighbour called in an “argument” and said that this man has guns in his residence being stored safely and properly, which sounds awfully sad, even though my father has more than one hunting rifle… for hunting, in a locked cabinet, and then there was a shot fired when police arrived. I can see how right now, a police department that certainly doesn’t have to deal with this type of thing very often, might be overreacting, or even just not understanding the entire scenario.

How could they? But unfortunately, this will probably end badly.

Peter is one of the most intelligent people I have ever met. I disagree with him in almost every conversation we have had, but those conversations are bad with honesty and substance. This is NOT a man who will go around randomly killing people, and I guess we want things to happen better. First, I hope that people in the area can try to understand that regardless of how the situation is handled, this is not a mentally unstable person who will just go on a shooting spree. But also, I hope somebody can talk to police the dudes a bit so that they don’t shoot him on sight and things can be resolved. We are all a little too tough on edge in this day and age and fear that this is the first time, but not the last that people will be misunderstood and hunted down because we no longer trust the authorities and they no longer trust us.

If it helps people to sleep better knowing that he’s not a horrific person or a psychopath on the loose, then all the better. And maybe it will mean he doesn’t end up shot.

Andrew Bell

In memory of Peter Roulston

Our family is shocked and deeply saddened by Peter’s unexplained death.

We’ve been coming to New Denver for the past 12 years. In the first of those 12 years, we purchased a home to serve as a rental property that is located one house away from Peter’s place. Peter was among the first few to befriend us in our home away from home neighborhood. In our seemingly short annual visits, we’ve spent many hours with Peter and came to consider him a good friend.

I, Mike and my wife, Lorraine, would love to talk to Peter’s place upon our arrival, letting him know we were in New Denver. They would take their takes that had been neglected and regulated. Review. There is no reason to believe that a police run was to do work deemed to be unsafe.

The right role to use lethal force has the police to a higher standard of conduct than others. The decision to use lethal force is left to the judgment of the police officer involved in the situation. In Peter’s death, it is a failure and a tragedy for all involved.

There is no straight line from Mayfair Khan to Fortis Alberta. What was the police response appropriate to the alleged threat? The decision to deploy 40 officers, some sharpshooters with flash kits, equipped with a helicopter and a tank like military vehicle, has been taken at the highest levels of the RCMP incident command in consultation with federal authorities.

What did the authorities know about Peter DeGroot that we who lived with him in our midst did not know?

The town was locked down. The Village Office became a command centre. No news cables were provided to those who had compelling reasons to leave and return. Everyone seemed to be considered by the RCMP to be a potential accomplice.

The Independent Investigations Office (IIO) will take at least nine months to deliver their report to the Minister of Justice. The IIO does most of its work in camera.

This has been a costly police intervention. We taxpayers will foot the bill. Small community confronts downloading of police costs by the provincial government.

Also need in public scrutiny is the matter of de-funding all local civil authority to the federal police when it appears on scene. What federal statute authorizes that to happen? Are mayor and council, local emergency measures authorities, fire chief, our elected MLAs and MP’s consulted and informed and accrued some legitimate in order to maintain. When the decision results in people simply disappear and lose their legitimacy.

All of the information divulged to residents, including the crucial order that they were not to leave in the event of death. No civil authority directly informed the residents about what was happening in the community. What if another emergency had arisen similarly, such as accident or fire or 911 call for ambulance services? Who was in charge?

The RCMP thanked the people of Slocan for their cooperation. Every reasonable person is grateful that the schoolchildren, the residents, the neighbours of Mr. DeGroat were kept safe.

That is to be expected. It is not the only issue. I am concerned about the trend to police intervention being orchestrated as to how that is done, and the overall impression of state power that in its practice, supports civil authority and that marginalizes and disengages citizens.

Once this is to happen we are well on the road to an entirely new form of governance that denies anyone who thinks otherwise is not a team player and is dangerous. What is needed is made void in its practice to defend a police operation, we are on the road to a police state.

Don Currie

Slocan
Johnson’s Landing tragedy inspires ‘Up and out of the mud’

by Louis Backner

On the evening of July 12, 2012, Lynn Migdal lost more in 63 seconds than most people did in a lifetime. As a mother she lost two daughters, as a wife she lost her husband, and as a firefighter she lost two houses, all burned in the massive fire that swept over the community of Johnson’s Landing. The prospect of healing may seem distant, at least, for the time being.

But life is adaptive. Even in the direst circumstances, it finds ways to change for the better, says Suzanne Welsch, a social worker who helps people through the hard-packed earth of the mudslide—small islands of green in a barren, black sea. Inside a woman, the pain of tragedy evolves into a desire to teach—a desire to lift others out of the torment the barseft has felt.

Now, two years and three months later, Migdal came to the Kootenays from her home in Florida to share her story in a presentation called ‘Up and Out of the Mud.’ Drawing on her experience as a chiropractic doctor, her child-life coach, Reiki master and professional speaker, the talk aims to educate professionals working in intense, emergency situations, and to help people heal from chronic stress, sudden loss and depression as well as bad posture and attitude.

After getting little response or interest from the Regional District, the BC Coroner Service and the Veterans Unit, she decided to book her own talks in Kaslo and Agassiz on October 7 and 8.

For many of the authorities involved, the aftermath of the slide was a new experience. Few precedents had been set in regards to the process the community and region had to go through, leaving many Johnson’s Landing residents, Migdal included, feeling like guinea pigs.

“Just used some eyes to eye contact so that it was a little bit more human,” she says. “So that someone can go and teach others how to deal with these situations in the future.”

One point that Migdal especially deep was the way the remains of one of her daughters were processed. While she was dealing with the remains of her youngest daughter Rachel, the last body to be located in the slide, excavators burned the intact roof and timbers of her newest home without consulting her. When she returned to Johnson’s for the several days later, the house was gone. Despite claims that the house was unsalvageable, a local man was able to remove some of the timbers before burying the rest, a fact that helped soften the blow only slightly.

Migdal has now written a proposal asking the government for financial aid to help her return some sense of serenity to her property.

“That’s what I’m looking for up there,” she says. “Something a little more peaceful. I’d like to make a move that’s bigger from the timbers that [she] salvaged.”

In the year following the slide, she funneled her pain and energy into the Looking Up Foundation, a grassroots movement dedicated to educating children, teens, school administrators and doctors about the posttraumatic stress that modern technology causes. The movement gave her a purpose to help the next generation; be better for themselves and the world.

“We have a choice to look up at life or look down at life,” she says. “The Looking Up Foundation is about looking up at life and [technology].”

Despite the tragedy she has undergone, there is no self-pity in her voice as she speaks. Her desire to change the world is clear, and is a feat, she believes, that begins by helping people heal.

“I don’t think people are going to make good decisions in this world if they’re screwed up on the inside,” she says. “The environment outside is a reflection of the environment inside.

People are at war within and that gets expressed outward.”

Climate change and community solutions: forum November 8

Submitted

On September 10, long-time gardeners in the West Kootenay were warned to wake up to climate-change-related 1.3°C temperatures with their gardens blanketed in a peculiar white frost, while people in Calgary were being battered by winter weather for the third day. According to Scientist American news, expert West Kootenay Transit to improve on Saturdays by Jen McMurray

So-called early 2015, regional bus service on Saturdays is expected to improve. Plans are in the works for three Saturdays runs between Nelson and Castlegar, with connections in Castlegar to continue on to Trail. Currently, there is no service between Nelson, Castlegar and Trail on Saturdays.

These runs between Nelson and Castlegar would result in Saturday service between Castlegar Junction and Nelson increasing from three trips to five.

Also being considered is an increase from three trips to four on the Slocan Valley service between Slocan City and the junction on Saturdays. Trips would be better spaced out during the midday period. On two of these trips, there would still be direct service to Nelson. On the other two, passengers would transfer at the junction. BC Transit will determine if existing riders are in favour of these changes.

Scheduling has not yet been finalized for these changes in service.

Randy Mathewson of the RDCK reports that there will be no tax increases as a result of the transit improvements. Simplus and reserve funds will cover the extra costs.

An email from BC Transit states that, “Overall, the West Kootenay Transit System seems to be performing well and the system integration that took place in July 2013 has realized realignment gains.”

You are invited!!!

Meet your candidate for Council Romella Glorioso

Thursday, Oct 3, 5-7pm at Kaslo Senior’s Hall

The Committee to Elect Romella Glorioso is hosting an open house complete with refreshments. Come in and visit with Romella! Bring your concerns, ideas and hopes for the new Council to be elected next month.

Contact: electgorios@gmail.com

KASLO & DISTRICT

KASLO & DISTRICT

The loss of her daughters Rachel and Dana, and husband Val Webber, brought with it lessons of choice, growth and love. We have the power to decide where we want to be in our hands and hearts she says, a fact that we too often overlook, causing us to feel powerless.

“We always talk about what’s wrong in the world or what’s wrong with the weather. Catch yourself and see if you can turn it around to what you’re grateful for. I’m grateful for the love that I got to experience with the Webbers. I’m grateful for the landing that’s still there. I’m grateful for the family and friends that I still have here and grateful to be able to make a difference. If I could look up and move on, then I think anyone can.”

Contact Dr. Migdal and join the Looking Up Movement by visiting her website www.migdalphysical.com.

...and she needs our help

Mari is trying to raise $50,000 for treatments Kaslo Community Pharmacy is collecting donations for Mari and is donating $1 tree each new prescription filled during the month of October to this cause.

As of Oct 15, Kaslo Pharmacy has raised $600! Our fundraising is ongoing and we welcome your continued contributions to Mari’s fund.

KASLO COMMUNITY PHARMACY

Visit Kaslo Community Pharmacy on facebook Hours: 9:30 am - 5 pm 250-353-2224

All New Menu for the Fall – New Appetizers, New Entrees, New Desserts

Happy hour 2 pm to 5 pm Daily

Drink Specials and Appetizer Specials

Fall Getaway Room Rates – Call for Special Prices

Halloween Costume Party

Prizes, Dance to Sunshine Drive, 9 pm to 1 am

The Kaslo Hotel – your favorite place in Scenic Kaslo

430 Front Street, Kaslo 250-353-7714

KASLO HOTEL and Breyz Pub

Unauthorized by Campaign Financial Agent Linda Cole at electgorios@gmail.com

Lyne Migdal speaks about surviving trauma and loss.
Nakusp biomass energy project seeks school district support

by Art Ivey

The Nakusp biomass energy project is still simmering. According to project proponent Tom Zelenzik, the Nakusp and Ana Youth Society has agreed to take on the project, with the location to be near the old Green Door. Zelenzik is seeking a partnership with School District No.10 (Arrow Lakes) and presented the plan to the board the evening of October 14. The board passed a motion at its September 29 meeting that reads: That the board of education of School District No. 10 Arrow Lakes recommend that the board enter into an agreement with Nakusp and Ana Youth Society to consider biomass heating, as long as there is no cost to the district."

In addition to providing for lighting in buildings in the central core, the biomass heating plant could also be designed to include an all-seasons greenhouse capable of producing food. Yet another plane could include the production of biofuels to earn revenue. The immediate beneficiary would be the school, whose animal-heating costs are soaring into the tens of thousands. Zelenzik points out that the two biggest items imported locally are food and fuel, so the facility would reduce those imports and provide local jobs, with a special focus on area youth. In light of the current California drought, now in its record-breaking third year, a greenhouse could become far more than merely an educational operation.

Under this model, the facility would be built by youth workers under the guidance of certified carpenters, plumbers and electricians. Zelenzik will be talking to Selkirk College about offering youth credit toward trades tickets. It could also be a "youth incubator" for young entrepreneurs to set up stalls within the building that houses the plant. This would help them get experience in business without the high startup costs, while providing some extra income for the plant.

"We are trying to make sure it's self-sustainable," says Zelenzik. "Local youth would learn how to run the business."

Last spring, David Dobois of Wood Waste 2 Rural Energy and two technicians from Flex Machinery in Enderby attended a meeting at Selkirk College, along with engineer Steve Thompson of Nelson, who helped scout feasible locations in town. Zelenzik and Don Wiebe of Bon Lake Lumber coordinated the local tour. It was clear from these discussions that a facility of this size would be feasible.

Nakusp society presents historical slide shows

photo credit: Nakusp Historical Society

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society will present slide shows once a month in its new office on 6th Ave. Nakusp, in an addition behind the Centennial Building that houses the library and museum. There is an 80' TV and complete sound system for these shows, and the room can accommodate 50 people. Admission is by donation and coffee and goodies will be available.

The first show on October 24 at 7 pm will feature the 100th Anniversary of WWI. For its next slide show, the society plans to show many photos from that meeting that there's no lack of expertise to build the plant. The Enzley plant has attracted major news coverage for its innovative and cost-effective approach to providing district heating for that community.

"We are trying to make sure it's self-sustainable," says Zelenzik. "Local youth would learn how to run the business."

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Nakusp society presents historical slide shows

November need not be all blank and gray! There will be light and laughter on Saturday, November 8 when the Arrow Lakes Arts Council hosts its second annual Evening of Art at the Nakusp Legion Hall. Doors open at 6:30. Celebrate all the visual arts and support public art in your town.

Guitar virtuoso at the Bonnington

Guitar virtuoso at the Bonnington

public notice

Nakusp Hot Springs will be closed from October 26 to October 29th inclusive, for our fall maintenance.

Re-opening October 30th/14

WINTER HOURS

10:30 AM to 9:00 PM DAILY

Sorry for any inconvenience.
New Denver Council October 14/14
by Katrina Campbell

At a special meeting October 7, New Denver Village Council approved the Development Permit application from All One World Distributors, for the new Vally Fresh Pure building at Hwy 6 and 6th Ave, in compliance with their drawings received September 17. When a Development Permit application is received, the planning board is required to hold a public hearing; it will be referred to the Building Design Committee for review and recommendation.

A new co-ordinator, Barb Lillies and Conservation Officer Jason Hawkes appeared as a delegation to urge council to apply the Ministry of Environment for designation as a Boreal Smart Community. Lillies thanked councilors and staff for their support in successfully decreasing wildlife/ human conflict. Hawkes noted for a community of this size to be recognized is "big thing."

"You’ve done all the work – why not take the recognition?" he asked. Along with the recognition comes a Selkirk College representatives hand off final OCP plans for Scoênc

by Jan Murray

The hand off of the 17th OCP implementation plans for Scoênc completed by the Selkirk College Integrated Environmental Planning program. The meeting was held at the October 14 council meeting. Peter Holton, Selkirk College instructor and Rob Fox, former Selkirk student now working at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations, attended the meeting to make the presentation.

Fox explained that each of the 17 students in the class did quite a bit of research to develop a detailed plan on their chosen topic. Each plan has an inventory, goals and objectives, prioritize action steps for each of the regions, predict changes in ecology, communities, and recommendations on how the Village can proceed.

Holton shared some exciting news. Jay Holton’s Green Growth plan for Sco\n
Slocan Valley Rec presents: Hallowe’en en the Vatican Whale
submitted

A crew of world-class actors, professional storytellers and volunteers from Mr. Sentinel for a full day of Hallowe’en activities for the whole family.

On Sunday, October 26, from 10 am to 7 pm, sculptors David Duncan and Peter Vogelzang will be hosting a pumpkin carving, event to remember. Bring your own pumpkin or squash and learn tips and tricks to help you achieve great results. Explore the possibilities of creating mouth-watering works of art ranging from online face to good old fashioned jack-o’-lanterns. Some sculpting tools will be available, but please bring your own if you have them.

From 6 pm to 9 pm, a carnival will be blazing, and storytellers Mary Montimer and Harry Cunin will kick off a round of tall tales, scary stories and music. Everyone is welcome to share their favorite tales. Inside, we’ll screen a family friendly Hallowe’en classic and serve popcorn and hot chocolate. Choose your own adventure.

Admission is $5 for ‘Sculpcing the Perfect Pumpkin’, and $5 for the Hallowe’en on Screen and Screens. Attend both activities for $8. Parental/ guardian supervision is required for children 12 and under. If this event is sold out, please contact Slocan Valley Recreation for arrangements. For information or to volunteer, please call 250-268-0058 or email slocanvalleyrec@rcbc.ca.

Visitors to the Vatican Whale Community Centre can be found at 9620 Hwy 6 between Slocan Park and Warlaw.

What to do with land-based Invasives?
Thorough dig roots; careful not to spread seeds. Double bag whole plant and take to a Transfer Station (if you can dispose of them free). RDCK is developing policies to encourage and manage land-based Invasives. Please call 250-358-2136 for more information.

Please be advised that routine maintenance of the municipal fire hydrants is scheduled for late October or early November 2014. During this time customers may notice a slight discoloration of the water as part of the flushing program.

The flushing program ensures that all fire hydrants work properly and helps to improve water quality. Flushing may cause customers to experience a slight discoloration of the water or some cloudiness, due to sediment build-up, but there are no associated health risks.

If you experience any cloudiness, colour or air bubbles, please flush water through your taps for 2 to 5 minutes. If your water does not clear up or you experience any other problems, please contact the Village Office at 250-358-2136.
Mayor’s Message: a statement from Slocan Mayor Perriere

I would like to thank the members of the community for their cooperation and understanding during this difficult time. I am relieved the situation is over but greatly saddened by the death of a community member.

The RCMP were in charge of the event, and have their own procedure and protocol for this type of situation.

Michelle Tim and I were there at the call of the RCMP to provide local knowledge as required, and help in the office with administrative technology.

The RCMP had closed meetings that did not involve local government or staff. In an emergency, one of the most problematic issues is communication. The RCMP will meet with me on Friday and they have a plan to have a meeting with the community in the near future. It may be short notice, but I will post the information on the website and post at our usual spots around the village.

I understand the frustration during the event regarding communications. I will try my best to gather input from the community regarding best practices in communicating with the members of the community for future events. After the appropriate debriefing with the RCMP, we will engage with the community on how to do things better next time.

Melisa Miles appointed CAO of Slocan

by Jan McMurray
Melisa Miles was appointed CAO of the Village of Slocan on October 8. “I am excited to embark on this journey with the Village of Slocan, and feel fortunate to have had such a dedicated and forward thinking council to work with over the past few years,” she said.

Miles was hired by the Village in June 2011, and was groomed for the CAO job under Bob Lavigne. Slocan’s current CAO from 2012 to 2014. “It has been terrific working with Mr. Lavigne over the past year or so,” said Miles. “He has played a vital role in my understanding of local government.”

Miles has been employed in administrative positions for the past 14 years. Her career began in the private sector in Calgary. She started out in Records Management at Hinky Energy.

Once again, I thank everyone for their cooperation, the RCMP for their concern for our community’s safety and all who rallied together to help friends, family and neighbours, as we always do in difficult times.

and then became Executive Assistant to the CEO and CFO of Bar Mac Resources Ltd.

“I was excited to take the plunge into working for the public sector in 2011, and though being part of a municipal environment is different for me, I am thrilled with the challenge and diversity that it brings,” she says.

Miles is working toward obtaining her Local Government Administration Certificate through Capilano University.

Miles has lived in the Slocan Valley since she was a young girl. In 1996, her family moved from Lemon Creek to New Denver, where she graduated from Lcenna Elementary Secondary School. She moved to Calgary to gain work experience in a larger centre, and now resides in New Denver with her partner and her two children.

“To have the opportunity to work and live in the place that I grew up in and can now call home again is invaluable.”

Rotary International World Polio Day October 24

World Polio Day was established by Rotary International over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. Use of this inactivated poliovirus vaccine and subsequent widespread use of the oral poliovirus developed by Albert Sabin, led to the establishment of the Global Polio Eradication initiative (GPEI) in 1988. Since then the GPEI has reduced polio worldwide by 99 percent.

Since 1985, Rotary International’s Polio Plus program has contributed greatly to the protection of more than two billion children from the dreaded disease of polio. Rotary International’s goal is the certification of polio eradication. Polio eradication means the interruption of the transmission of the wild poliovirus.

With its vast volunteer network of 1.2 million members in more than 165 countries, Rotary is the key private sector partner in the war against polio, complimenting nearly every polio-endemic and high risk country to immunize the world’s children. Rotary contributions support transporting the vaccine and health workers to immunization posts and initiating other comprehensive immunization and public education programs to motivate parents to vaccinate their children.

The Nakusp Rotary Club has donated over $3,392 to the Polio Plus program for the 2013-14 Rotary year and expects to match this amount again in 2015. The club’s contribution was matched by the Malinda and Bill Gates Foundation and the Government of Canada.

Since 1985 Rotary’s contributions to the global polio eradication effort has been US$1.3 billion.

FREE FLU CLINICS

Get your free flu shot at:
Nakusp Seniors Centre
210 – 8th Avenue, Nakusp
Monday Nov. 3, 9 am - 12:00 noon, 1 pm - 3:30 pm
Drop-in – No appointment necessary
Slocan Community Health Centre
401 Galena Avenue, New Denver
Friday Nov. 7, 9 am - 12:00 noon, 1 pm - 3:30 pm
Drop-in – No appointment necessary
Edgewood Health Centre
322 Monashee Avenue, Edgewood
Monday Nov. 10, 10 am - 12:00 noon
Drop-in – No appointment necessary
Burton Community Hall
120 Burton Main Road, Burton
Monday Nov. 10, 1 pm - 3 pm
Drop-in – No appointment necessary
Arrow Lakes Hospital
97 – 1st Avenue NE, Nakusp
Wednesday Nov. 12, 1 pm – 6 pm
Tuesday Nov 18, 9 am - 12:00 noon, 1 pm – 4 pm
By appointment only - call 250-285-3608
Slocan Comm Health Centre
401 Galena Avenue, New Denver
Friday, Nov. 14, 10 am - 12:00 noon, 1 pm - 6 pm
By appointment only - call 250-358-7911
Flu shots are safe, effective, and free for many groups including:
• People 65 years and older and their caregivers/household contacts
• All children age 6 to 59 months of age
• Household contacts and caregivers of infants and children 0-59 months of age
• Aboriginal people
• Children with chronic health conditions and their household contacts
• And more ...

To view a full list of those who can get their flu shot for free visit: healthinterior.ca/FluClinics

The flu (influenza) is highly contagious. Getting your flu shot protects you and those around you – at home, school and work.

For more information contact your local public health office, or visit www.interiorhealth.ca

VILLAGE OF SILVERTON

DECLARATION OF ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION

I, Melisa Miles, Chief Election Officer for the Village of Silveron, do hereby declare, pursuant to Section 76 of the Local Government Act, the following candidate(s) elected by acclamation:

Office of Mayor
Jason Clarke
Carol Bell
Bill Christian
Leah Main
Arlene Yofinoff
Melisa Miles
Chief Election Officer

Village of New Denver

NOTICE – ARBOUR DAY

The Village of New Denver is holding an Arbour Day on Friday, November 7th, 2014. We will pick it all up and planting of trees that is placed at the curb by 6 am. Please ensure that all branches are bunched and tied and all garden refuse (leaves, etc) is bagged. Absolutely no hazardous or construction material will be picked up. It is important that all bundles and bags are an acceptable weight. Remember, you only have to lift one bag in comparison to the number our crew will have to lift. Thank you for your cooperation.
Gratitude and celebration at the Langham’s 40th event

by Jan McMurray

The Langham’s 40th Anniversary Gala Showcase on Friday night of the Thanksgiving weekend drew people from near and far to salute the best decades of saving the Langham building in the 1970s.

As people arrived, they mingled and milled about in the gallery, displayed a featured dinner display, and photos from ‘back in the day’ of the building and the people involved in the restoration project.

Joey Dickens spoke with Maggie Tehr, Langham Executive Director, welcoming everyone to the event. Jim Van Horn took us back to 1974 (so some of the details are probably a bit fuzzy), to a meeting of the ‘left leaning’ council of the day where “concerned citizens” showed up with their picket and torches, chanting, “Get out, get out”. To get a sense of what’s in our town.” Van Horn led a toast to “the same gold-dand hoppies who made this building,” and named the original 100 people who signed the petition.

Michelle Mungall spoke about the crucial role arts and culture play in “making our part of the world so special.”

Mary Lay thanked “the community champions who took this project on and got it done.”

Janet Mayfield, a Langham Society board member for the past four years, said, “We’re celebrating the accomplishments of hundreds of individuals and families, and the fabulous funky place to enjoy art, music, theatre and spoken word. Many of you know this is nothing short of a minor miracle.” She honoured “those gold-dand hoppies” – the 10 people who entered into a booth at the Village Green Café who agreed with Michelle Mungall that they should save the Langham – as well as the hundreds of Langham staff and volunteers since then. She also thanked Maggie Tehr and Erika Faye for taking on the organizing of the 40th anniversary event.

Nicole Bowyer, daughter of the late Pat and Jaci Bowyer, owners of Kako’s Red and White Stone in 1974, read a story written by Pat about saving the Langham. “I think we were all a little mad, but we bought the place and restored it to her former glory,” he wrote.

The story ends by acknowledging the plaque on the Langham building stating that this was the country’s best heritage restoration project in 1978.

Jim Van Horn wrapped up the speeches with, “One more time ladies and gentlemen, let’s just keep it for the gold-dand hoppies!”

The crowd erupted in applause once again.

Now it was time to file into the theatre for an evening of top-calibre entertainment, showcasing local talent. Eunice Lucas Myers injected more than a little humour and had the audience in fits of giggles between each act.

Lynn van Denreeves read a one-act play she wrote many years ago about the history of the Langham building, and then Gary and Sonia joined her to sing the names of “the original 10” in The Name Game style (Ip banana ana fo, fo six rite). The audience loved it.

Noemi Kiu and David Hershenson performed some lovely open pieces in their infectious fun-loving style, accompanied by Nancy Ryde of Cooper Creek. David Stewart joined them for a piece with Karen Belin McConnell of Koko as accompanist. David then played guitar and sang, and Stephanie Judy accompanied him on violin for “Perhaps Love” by John Denver.

After the intermission, there was a video of Barbara Liskie doing a beautiful dance entitle ‘Here’s to You – A Tribute to the Langham.’ Liskie is a former Koko volunteer and an early Langham volunteer, who uphostored the seats in the theatre.

Swingtime – Trish Feeney, Ruth Thomsen and Tom Thomsen – played a variety of tunes. The most popular was a political song with commentary about the current prime minister, written by Ruth. Entitled, “He’s the Dofushe Decorator of Democracy,” the song was set to the tune of ‘He’s a Boogie Woogie Bule Boy of Company Beat.’

‘Randy from Creeslo’ (Lucas Myers) was the surprise guest. He told the story of his mother taking him and his brother to the Langham to see the movies when he was a boy of 11, and it changed him forever. The movie was ‘The Roody Horner Picture Show.’

Beezie Wigg moved the crowd with her accordion and voice, and she and Lucas (on ukulele) played Leonard Cohen’s ‘Hallelujah’ together to end the evening.

The Langham’s 40th anniversary weekend carried on with a street feast Saturday afternoon, a dance Saturday night, and an open mic at the Langham on Sunday evening. This very special and memorable weekend will no doubt inspire many to make sure there will be the 40th anniversary of arts, culture and heritage at the Langham.

Locavores’ Feast at the Villanico Whole

submitted

It’s time to look over your harvest, haul out your best big serving dish, and join the Whole Community Centre for the Locavores’ Feast. On Saturday, November 8, doors open at 5 pm and dinner begins at 6 pm. This program, also known as the 100 Mile Potluck, has become a Slocan Valley tradition, an opportunity to have a great time with family and friends and also to celebrate our local abundance and our vibrant community.

The food at these events is always spectacular, and the energy is truly remarkable. To get a sense of what’s in our amazing community we live in, there is no better place to be than at this feast. (By the way, you don’t have to grow every ingredient in your dish, and if you need a little something from somewhere else to make it perfect, go for it.)

To help everyone barn off of some of the calories from the previous day, the evening will wrap up with lively music from the Mental Health Club, the Slocan Valley’s favourite five-piece dance band.

Right after dinner, Cody Evans will say a few words about our community and the role the Whole has played in it over the years. This event is the kickoff to the ‘Raise the Red Roof’ fundraising campaign. With some long-needed upgrades, the building will be here to house many more years of celebrations, meetings, conferences, rehearsals and gatherings of all kinds as succeeding generations make the Whole their own. Cody has been here since the beginning, and he said at the 40th anniversary, ‘This is a dream that will outlive the people who dreamed it.’

The Whole will be going through major energy-saving upgrades over the next year, and most of the funding is already in place. The building will sport new doors (don’t worry, the beautiful front doors will still be there!), better windows, new heating system, and more – including a new red roof. The Rural Alternative Research and Training Society (RARTS), which oversees the Whole, will raise around $20,000 as its contribution to this renewal. Everyone will get a chance to buy a tile for the bright new roof.

Enough about money. While RARTS always has to hold fundraising events, its purpose has always been to build community, and to be at the heart of all we do here. Local food and self-reliance are so important to our well-being. The Locavores’ Feast is a celebration of all that and a community event that helps to define what community means.

This is a licensed, all ages event. Admission is by donation and a potluck item. For more information go to www.VillanicoWhee.com. The Villanico Whole is at 3762 Little Slocan River Road. Follow the signs.

Happy Retirement, Fran!

Dr Don DesSanti and staff, Kim, Laureen and Laura Lee would like to thank hygienist Frances Ure for 18 years of great service and wish her a happy retirement.

Please join us in welcoming our new hygienist, Ashley, October 21, 2014.

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86 Broadway, Nakusp, B.C.
250-265-9993
Grand opening of the Kaslo and Area Emergency Services Centre

by Jan McMurray

"Today marks a new beginning for Kaslo emergency services." This is how Assistant Fire Chief Larry Badry began his speech at the grand opening of the Kaslo and Area Emergency Services Centre on Saturday, October 11.

A large crowd turned out for the speeches, ribbon cutting, tours of the facility, refreshments, and, last but certainly not least, the cake from the Old World Bakery.

Regional Fire Chief Terry Swan presented the architect’s rendering of the building, beautifully framed, to Kaslo Fire Chief Douglas Yee and Assistant Chief Larry Badry. He also presented a framed copy of the RDCK Fire Service mission statement to Chief Yee. Tarry’s Chief Greg Patterson, representing the Central Kootenay Regional Fire Chiefs Association, presented Badry with a plaque in honour of his retirement and in recognition of his many years of service as Kaslo fire chief.

Several dignitaries said a few words, with Chief Yee as emcee. Area D Director Andy Sharadz said he’d been waiting 10 years for this day. Kaslo Mayor Greg Lay was happy that “we got ‘er done.” Lawrence Chornoff, vice chair of the RDCK, said the project was “a success story.” MP Alex Atamanenko held the project up as an example of co-operation. MLA Michelle Mungall could not attend, a letter from her was read aloud. Chief Simon Gyngys of the Fire Chiefs Association of BC, Paddy Flanagan of Kaslo Search and Rescue, and Monica Davie, who is a paramedic in Kaslo, all spoke as well.

Assistant Chief Larry Badry, Kaslo’s fire chief from 2008 to 2014, thanked many people for their part in making the new building a reality: the RDCK, Regional Fire Chief Terry Swan, past and present council members, Mayor Lay, former CAO Rae Sawyer, current CAO Neil Smith, Village clerical staff Stephanie Patience and Carol Hughes, Public Works, and especially the Kaslo volunteer emergency workers.

Badry said that in 2009, the fire department had an operational audit done by FireWise Consulting. The audit stated: “The greatest danger to the fire fighters in Kaslo is the fire hall itself.”

After the audit, a committee formed and worked for many months to lay the groundwork for the long-term goal of a new hall. The committee consisted of Badry, Charles De Pape, Graham Gilbert, John Matthews and Ron Molina.

Once the decision was made to go ahead with the new building, an advisory committee was put in place. Badry said the committee made several recommendations to improve the facility and to ultimately provide cost savings. Members of this committee included Badry, Doug Yee, Chris Temple, Don Scarlett, Ron Molina, Charles De Pape and Rob Lang.

On behalf of the fire department, I sincerely thank each member of the community for building this facility,” said Badry.

The ribbon was cut by Badry and Regional Chief Swan.

The two-storey facility is very impressive. The first floor includes the Search and Rescue office, the training office and training room, two washrooms with showers, the mechanical room and a workshop. The second floor has the fire chief’s office, the Emergency Social Services office, the kitchen and lounge, a weight room (which will become the BC Ambulance Service office if they decide to move in) and washrooms.

The six bays were full, with the fire department’s two fire engines, tender, first response vehicle and structure protection unit trailer, and Search and Rescue’s vehicle and command trailer.
Our valley, our river, ourselves

submitted

Who are the Slocan River Streamkeepers, and what do they do?

When the fuel spill happened last year, they were the group that most of the community trusted to know what it would all mean, and what we needed to do. The truth is, you would be amazed at all they have on their hands in – and their whole bodies, too, at times. On November 3 at Crescent Valley Hall and on November 10 at Winlaw Hall, both at 7 pm, you will have a chance to find out about their wide range of activities. You may even find yourself wanting to be part of the exciting work of this avid group of mostly volunteers.

The event is entitled ‘Our Valley, Our River, Ourselves: An evening with the Slocan River Streamkeepers’. A fascinating slideshow will be accompanied by stories and explanations about everything to do with the river and the care that goes into keeping it the wonderful waterway it is. Several speakers will tell you what they have learned and what they have been doing for the last while – in fact, for the last 10 years.

Some of the most enjoyable work the Streamkeepers do is teaching, taking the information they have and (the bugs) into the schools, and telling the next generation the complete story of water. With these two evenings, they are doing the same thing for adults, only even more so.

Swim down the river and count the fish, learn about riparian restoration and marvel at the creativity and hard work that goes into helping the river maintain its course. See the colourful maps being developed to show how the whole ecosystem interconnects and where are the critical areas.

Winlaw’s beautiful statement

submitted

The face of Winlaw changed in October, when five Slocan Valley artists painted a mural on the Mini-Mart. Stephanie Kellett got the idea while painting the sign for Kay’s Cafe. The valley is full of really colourful people, and yet our downtown was so drab. It didn’t make sense. I saw the mural as an opportunity to bring colour and vibrancy to the town,“ Stephanie said.

With approval from the Mini-Mart’s owner, Peter Kim, and a materials grant from Columbia Basin Trust, Stephanie assembled a team of artists to work on the project. Kellett, Vanessa Bate, M traded Squalor, Pixie Johnson, and Bubee. The group represents a strong creative force in the valley and beyond. Their individual work has been shown in Australia, Europe, Mexico, the United States, and across Canada.

“These women live and breathe art,” says Stephanie. “Collaborating with them has been a dream of mine for years. With all of us living here, the mural seemed like the perfect context for us to work together and offer something beautiful to the community.”

Before painting began, the five met regularly to develop an art piece that reflects the wild spirit of the Slocan Valley. After many discussions, sketches, and several field trips to look at the Mini-Mart’s walls, they settled on a design inspired by the Spruce story of the coyote who fell in love with the rain. The theme evolved from there, weaving in other threads from the valley’s cultural blanket.

When the time came to paint, the artists merged old techniques with new, using pantograph and rollers, as well as stencils and spray paint. The work was mostly done by consensus, while at the same time being sensitive to each other’s need for spontaneity and freedom. Valley residents expressed their support as the mural developed. Many visited the site regularly, gathering together to watch as the blank walls were brought to life. Some even made donations to the mural fund, which was greatly appreciated by the artists who worked mostly for free over a two and a half week period, often late into the night as the weather turned cold.

Environmental assessment of Slocan mill site underway

by Jan McMurray

The demolition at the Springer Creek mill site is finished, and the environmental assessment of the Slocan property is underway.

Ralph Tomlin, Springer Creek’s general manager, explained that phase one of the environmental assessment process involves a very thorough look at the history of the site.

He said the company that does the audit goes through the environmental history of the property with the provincial and federal ministries and looks for any violations, such as reported spills. They interview suppliers and anyone who had anything to do with the site.

“They’ve looked all the way back to the 1930s, or it’s been a pretty exhaustive search,” he said. “It hasn’t uncovered anything alarming, and we don’t expect it to.”

Tomlin said the phase one investigations have identified 14 areas of potential concern, so soil testing was done in these areas.

“All the lab results are back and there were nothing there – a lot of surface staining here and there, but nothing that indicated anything of any depth,” said Tomlin.

He said the only oil spill on the site happened in 2000 and was cleaned up to the satisfaction of the ministry. The oil spill in 2000 was thermal oil from the CNSL’s energy system, used to burn wood shavings and then in turn provide heat for the dry kilns.

Tomlin says he expects the environmental assessment to wrap up within the coming weeks.

He reported that an environmental assessment will be done eventually on the Rosbery property, but no firm plans or timelines have been established yet.
What's working for small businesses in the Arrow Lakes?

Kootenay, which profiles our community and gives area businesses a chance to showcase investment opportunities to over 1000 registered potential investors. (www.investkootenay.com)

Ten free 'Lunch and Learn' sessions were offered in the spring, covering everything from accounting practices to free services, such as the Basin Business Advisor program run through Community Futures.

Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Directory, with 500 listings of businesses and organizations, promotes local services and amenities. The website, www.nakuspdirectory.com, gets 1500 hits a month.

A business planning workshop is planned for November 13. It will focus on more business planning practices, including succession planning tips, and it will be subsidized so that it is affordable.

The Chamber of Commerce will host a special business appreciation event on October 23 at 6 pm at Three Lions. This is a networking event for all business people; you don’t have to be a Chamber of Commerce member to attend!

Survey information about business training needs has been provided to Selkirk College, and local coordinator Uli Mueller has been busy planning some great courses. Businesses are always invited to talk to Selkirk College about their ongoing needs. Some examples: a Regional Logistics Training Centre is being developed to meet the current demand for workers in our local forestry industry; an Applied Leadership fully-accredited course has already begun; and a fully funded 'Safety in Resource Industry: Forestry' training program will start November 12.

In addition to the Business Retention and Expansion Action Plan, local organizations are working in a number of other ways to support local businesses. The Chamber of Commerce just received the updated Nakusp Visitor's Guide. The West Kootenay Tourism Alliance is promoting the West Kootenay brand; signage and marketing is moving forward. There is new updated signage at the ferry landings and highway lookouts, and new updated brochure racks on the ferries. NakuspWorkBC has a continually updated job board – find them on Facebook!

WorkBC also assists employers in many other ways to recruit and train employees. Employers are encouraged to check out what’s new. A healthy business sector is a key component for a vibrant community. Remember to SHOP LOCAL and support your local businesses!

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Slocan District Chamber of Commerce supports Slocan Valley businesses

The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce has many projects and initiatives on the go to fulfill its mission statement: to strive for a vibrant, diverse and healthy economy that respects the environment and community values of the Slocan district.

Visitor Centre

The Chamber has been operating the Visitor Centre in New Denver, and publishing tourism publications (Slocan Valley map and brochure) for many years. Visitor Centre staff are trained to promote tourism in the Slocan Valley and surrounding areas.

Slocan Valley Tourism Plan

The Chamber signed on to a provincial government program to have a tourism plan done for the Slocan Valley. In partnership with Kootenay Rockies Tourism, a plan was completed in spring 2013, approved by the public in fall 2013, and is now being implemented. Kootenay Rockies Tourism provides matching funding for all projects the Chamber does to implement the plan.

Slocan Valley branding project

Our first project coming out of the tourism plan is to brand the Slocan Valley. We have obtained the grant funding, put out the Request for Proposals and have chosen ReInfluence, a marketing company out of Victoria, with roots in Nelson. The branding project will result in a logo, taglines, rack card and Visitor Guide for the Slocan Valley. The project will be completed by March 31, 2015. The Visitor Guide will replace the Slocan Valley map and brochure. There will be opportunities to advertise in the Guide.

West Kootenay Tourism Alliance

The Chamber has partnered with the Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce and the Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce to work on co-operatively promoting the three valleys. Last year, the Alliance received funding to have a regional branding project done for the three valleys. This project resulted in the West Koot Route logo, a website (westkootroute.ca) and a brochure. The West Kootenay Tourism Alliance has obtained funding to take the West Koot Route brand to the next level, and has issued a Request for Proposals for a marketing company to help with this.

Ferry signage

As a result of a closer working relationship with the Nakusp Chamber, there was an opportunity to install signage promoting the Slocan Valley at the Shelter Bay and Needles ferry landings. Slocan District Chamber President Níltta Boroumand, a talented graphic designer, designed a beautiful sign for the valley. Check it out next time you’re waiting for the ferry.

Business Retention and Expansion Project

The B&RE project is being done in partnership with the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission and with support from the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Selkirk College. Seventy-nine businesses in the valley were surveyed to find out what they need to be more successful. Results of the survey were compiled by the RDI. Currently, the B&RE committee is planning a program to address business needs, including: training in business management and accounting, marketing, sales, and first aid/safety; workforce recruitment and retention; succession planning; business expansion; financial planning and financing.

The Chamber re-developed its website in 2012. Visit www.slocanlake.com for more information, and to sign up as a member. Memberships are very reasonable ($60 for businesses and $35 for non-profits). Your membership fees help support all the Chamber initiatives to support small businesses in the Slocan Valley.
Columbia Basin Broadband update

by Jan McMurray

Aimee Ambroseone of the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC) attended the October 10 ROCK meeting to update the board on the project to “provide connectivity to a world class open access broadband network across the Columbia Basin.”

CBBC is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Columbia Basin Trust, which approved CBBC’s five-year business plan and aggregate funding of $6.5 million over five years in September 2013. Prior to this, CBT had provided approximately $1.4 million in funding to CBBC.

Ambroseone said CBBC’s goal is to finish lighting up its 724-kilometre fibre backbone, from Trail to Sparwood, by March 2015. This involves opening up a “point of presence” every 70 kilometres, in a community facility.

Ambroseone explained that CBBC owns the “first and middle mile,” which is the transmission. CBBC will support communities and rural areas to develop the “last mile,” which is the distribution. CBBC plays the role of internet service provider (ISP) to local governments, and works with ISPs in the region on a wholesale basis.

Trail, Nelson, Kaslo and Castlegar have all worked with CBBC on broadband projects.

Ambroseone reported that the organization has hired a second technical person, Wes Eisses, to work with Richard Wake, and is in the process of hiring a business analyst. “We have to be really good at what we’re doing,” she said. “We have to be reliable, responsible to our customers’ needs and have the right technology in place. We’re very mindful that taking on a last mile project in a community is very big.” She said CBBC tries to make consultants available to internet service providers and communities to help go through the complicated process of a last mile project.

The federal government has just announced a three-year, $305 million matching funding program that aims to bring broadband internet at speeds of five megabits per second to rural and remote areas. The deadline to apply for the matching funds is January 12, 2015. CBBC has called for Expressions of Interest from ISPs in the region that are interested in working with CBBC to pursue this funding. The deadline for EOI is November 10.

“Over 20 ISPs have expressed an interest in working with CBBC on this,” said Ambroseone. “There is a fair bit they have to do to show they have a business case and show they are sustainable.”

To make up the matching funding, Ambroseone reported that the CBT is willing to contribute if Regional Districts are also willing to contribute. She added that gas tax funding can now be used for broadband projects. “CBBC could potentially take the gas tax money from the Regional Districts and hold the funds and give them to the ISPs so the Regional Districts don’t have to enter into agreements with all the different ISPs,” she said. “This would streamline the process.”

Director Popoff asked for clarification on how CBBC is serving Kaslo when the backbone does not reach Kaslo. Ambroseone explained that CBBC leases a circuit from Shaw and makes it available to the community. “There is a potential opportunity to do this in the Slocan Valley and up to Nakusp,” she said. “The backbone goes through the junction. Could they take a feed up there?”

Mayor Hamling asked about the possibility of expanding the backbone up to Nakusp. Ambroseone said it was possible, but “it costs $40,000 per kilometre for aerial fibre to expand the backbone,” she said. She said this should be discussed during the community engagement meetings that CBT is currently hosting. “If the community priority is broadband and expanding the fibre, CBT would need to invest a significant amount, so that should come out of the community conversations.”

Nelson Mayor Dooley had a word of caution for communities eager to jump onto the broadband bandwagon. He said Nelson had put a lot of effort into educating businesses about it. “We had to go and work with the businesses one on one to teach them,” he said. “There may be situations where there is a better project for your community — you may be better off giving that money to Nakusp for something completely different. Find out what the demand is for broadband before you do it, because it’s not cheap.”

Dooley suggested that CBBC could host a session for elected officials to give them a “good understanding of what broadband is about.”

Director Binks asked if the technology was line of sight and if repeaters would be necessary to reach customers. Ambroseone replied that there would probably be pockets that simply could not be reached.
Nakusp Chamber uses social media to encourage voting

submitted

The Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce has rolled out a social media plan to encourage everyone to get out and vote in the upcoming municipal elections. In the last Nakusp municipal election in 2011, only 43 percent of eligible voters went to the polls. In Area K, a mere 21 percent turned out.

"In the last election, a very high proportion of eligible voters did not give themselves the chance to have a voice," says chamber president Peter Welkenhuizen. "That is significant."

The chamber’s messages in this campaign will focus on getting more people out to vote. The plan invites everyone to participate and involves all areas of social media.

Facebook: Every citizen is invited to change their profile picture to the chamber’s "VOTE" icon, downloadable from http://nakusparealates.com/meet-the-candidates-in-the-local-
elections or request from nakusp@ telus.net. The icon is to be displayed from October 20 to November 15. Choices of messaging include, "Your vote DOES make a difference," Make your government work for you and "Don’t be a silent taxpayer!"

Email: Use the chamber’s VOTE icon in your email signature between October 20 and November 15. Send emails to your contact list to encourage them to use their voice and vote.

Website: Add the chamber’s VOTE icon to your home page and invite everyone to get out and vote. Link the icon to www.elections.bc.ca.

Print: You can print the icon from http://nakusparealates.com/meet-
the-candidates-in-the-local-elections.
Slocan council, October 14: Women’s Institute to disband

by Ian McMichael

• Before calling the meeting to order, Mayor Perreiro made a statement regarding the Peter DeCroot incident. See her statement on page 3.

• The Women’s Institute wrote to inform council that the Slocan branch will be disbursing, and asked if they could place a bench in the cemetery to commemorate their work there. The bench would have a plaque to celebrate all the trees the organization has planted at the cemetery over the years. Council granted the request. Councillor Lunn said her “hearth broke a bit” when she read that the WI would be disbursing, and made a motion, which passed, that the Village thank them for all their work.

• Council granted permission for the Women’s Institute to operate the concession at the Halloween Hunt.

• Kerr Wall from Interior Health’s ‘Healthy Community Initiative’ attended to talk about the program. Funding from this initiative was successful for the community garden and cob oven in Slocan. Wall explained that her mandate is to work with local governments on “anything communities do to impact health” – transportation plans, poverty reduction plans, community gardens, etc. Wall said the three biggest preventative health issues identified in studies are physical inactivity, poor eating and smoking. She invited Slocan to contact her to discuss any projects of interest.

• Councillor McGreal made a motion to rescind the August 11 decision to enter into an asset transfer agreement with the library society. The motion failed for lack of a second.

• Councillor Lunn reported that the Slocan Owl Committee has almost completed the two main panels for the kiosks, funded by the CBT Environmental Initiatives program. The committee will re-submit a Job Creation Partnership grant application and will look at clearing trails in March. She said the workers hired would be used for other projects around the village, as well.

• Mayor Perreiro reported on the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Presentation in Slocan. The organization is planning to have four-plexes built behind the Wellness Centre. Eric Clough has done design drawings valued at about $50,000 on a pro bono basis. Mayor Perreiro said there was a questionnaire for people to provide input on the plans.

• A request from the Slocan Curling Club for funding assistance to keep the rink operating was referred to 2015 budget discussions.

• Bernadette Robichaud wrote and thanked council for adopting an unbudgetary premises bylaw and asked if something could be done about the unattended vehicles on property. Councillor Elliott said the process to enforce the bylaw was complaint driven, and asked staff to explain the process in the Village’s reply to Robichaud. Councillor McGreal asked that staff advise Robichaud that she should fill in a complaint form at the Village office.

• The Public Works supervisor reported that the crew has found about eight leaks in the water distribution system since purchasing an acoustic leak detector. Repairs to the water plant have also taken place – the plant was shut down for one day to accommodate this. The crew has removed stumps from roadsides, as the roots were entangled in buried water lines. They have also cut down some of the built up road shoulders to help drainage. Staff will be attending courses on water systems in Nelson and Castlegar in October.

• Council agreed to participate in the Woodstove Exchange Program. Slocan residents who would like to replace their old woodstoves for more efficient ones can receive a rebate of $350. The Village provides $100 of this rebate, and the Province and the BC Lung Association provide $250 via the RDCK. Council agreed to budget $300, for up to three rebates, in 2014-15. Last year, there was one rebate applied for and provided in Slocan.

• The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society wrote to ask for a letter of support for their society’s ‘Culture of Stewardship’, a grant request to the Columbia Basin Trust’s Environmental Initiatives program. The society wants to use the campground as a place to conduct camp and storytelling events. Council agreed to the requests, and will advise the society to make arrangements with Village staff if the program is able to go ahead.

• Council adopted the Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw, exempting the churches, WE Graham Community Service Society, the Legion Hall, the library, the curling club, the community garden and the historical society archives from taxation.

• Councillor Elliott acknowledged that it is Foster Parent Month and thanked all local families who provide foster services.

• Councillor Elliott provided an update regarding Slocan’s request to withdraw from some RDCK services. The ministry has asked the RDCK to answer four questions, some of which Elliot felt had already been answered. “It’s disappointing that the ministry is second guessing the RDCK decision,” she said. “This has already been approved.”

• Councillor Elliott said that at the UBCM conference, she visited a Canada Post booth. She reports that the best way to keep the Slocan Post Office open is to use it as often as possible. There has been a huge decline in letters, but an increase in packages. “Our post office should remain open,” she said.

All Candidates Forum for the Village of Slocan
Silvery Slocan Legion Hall
Thursday, October 30
7 – 9 pm

Come with your questions for the candidates!

Moderator: Gary Wright

Mayor candidates
Hilary Elliott • Jessica Lunn

Councillor candidates
Ezra Buller • Thomas Littley • Patricia McGreal
Kevin Millership • Jean Patterson • Joel Pelletier
Madeleine Perriere • Burly Van Byen

VOTING DAY: November 15

Co-sponsored by the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce and the Valley Voice
Columbia Basin Trust engagement meeting in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Columbia Basin Trust staff came to Nakusp on October 15 to ask the community what they think the Trust should be doing with its money.

“It is time to renew our strategic priorities, and the amount of unused CBT’s investments earn is going to increase,” said Laurie Page, Nakusp resident and CBT vice-chair.

Soon to be in its 20th year, the CBT expects an increase from the current $22 million for the Delivery of Benefits program to $55 million in three to five years. The organization has embarked on a year-long community consultation process, and the Nakusp meeting was part of that.

About 60 people attended the evening session, and gave their input about what they wish would happen in Nakusp, what they need to make it happen, and how CBT can help.

There was no shortage of ideas for projects for Nakusp: a large scale, community-owned greenhouse, a biomass heating project, a fossil fuel to replace the ferry crossing at Galena Bay, a skate trail, youth retention projects, jobs, a larger population, and improving community collaboration.

In discussion about how CBT could support these projects, Neil Muth, CEO and Kandy Gould, Special Initiatives Director answered people’s questions.

Muth explained that CBT will not single-handedly fund all projects like a community greenhouse at this time, and he is interested to see if there is support throughout the Basin for a new CBT program that would accommodate such projects. “This would be a fundamental shift for us,” he said.

He explained that the Trust has two main funding programs: an investment program (loans) and a Delivery of Benefits program (grants). To be eligible for the investment program, the project must be at least $10,000 and have a reasonable expectation of a return on investment. So a community greenhouse project would probably not be eligible.

And the grants programs don’t usually provide enough funding for a large project like a community greenhouse.

“With increased income, I think we can go into areas with more risk,” said Muth. “We wouldn’t have to have the same financial return as the investment program because there would be other benefits, such as jobs.”

Gould told residents that if they come together as a community, identify a priority project and come to the CBT with it, the Trust would be “willing to entertain the conversation and then do our due diligence. You have to have a business plan, and we can help you with that process, also.”

Someone asked how Nakusp could receive more CBT funding. Muth had three suggestions. The Affected Areas program funding could be increased; the Affected Areas program could be separated; or the community could come to the CBT “and work with us on an ongoing basis.” Muth said the community of Kokaneez came to the CBT with five to eight issues, and they are slowly working through them.

Nakusp Youth Centre celebrates first anniversary

October 21 – November 1

15% off

Book your appointment now!

250-265-3424

Fall Perm & Colour Special

November 25

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL GEAR SWAP

BOSUN HALL, NEW DENVER, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Whatever you pole, paddle, push, or stride;

However you mode to self-propel;

Bring desirable, unused items to trade or sell.

NOTICE OF A MAINTENANCE POWER OUTAGE SOUTH OF NAKUSP TO FAUQUIER

We will be making electrical system improvements in your area. To ensure the safety of our work crews, it will be necessary to interrupt electrical service for approximately 3 hours.

Where: All lines south of Nakusp to Faquier

When: October 28, 2014

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

To prepare for this interruption and protect your equipment from damage, please turn off all lights, electrical heaters and major appliances and unplug all electronics.

We are sorry for the inconvenience. We will restore power as soon as we can.

Visit bchydro.com/outages or call 1 888 POWERON (1 888 769 3764) for more information.
More signs of life at Red Mountain mines
by Katrine Campbell

More mining activity is taking place up Red Mountain Road. The LH Mine, owned by International Bethlehem, received a Mines Act permit on October 2 to conduct some road rehabilitation and a drill program for exploration, according to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas.

Rick Walker, a mining consultant who is president of Dynamic Exploration Ltd, headed up the drilling operation at LH Mines for Magnan Goldcorp Inc. The first permit, issued in June, was for a geophysical survey and initial rehabilitation of the road. The survey was done by induced polarization - introducing an electrical current into the ground and “analyzing what comes back” and by looking for magnetic anomalies.

The permit issued in the fall was for the helicopter-supported drilling program. He explained that four holes, totalling about 700 metres, were drilled and core samples were taken.

The samples are still being analyzed, but the visual results were promising, Walker said. Once the lab has finished the analysis, the company will decide if and when to follow up.

The Red Mountain Residents’ Association has been following the exploration operations “with great concern” but a spokesman says the RMRA doesn’t want to make any official comment at this time.

The other mine in the area that is showing signs of life is the Willa. Discovery Ventures Inc. has applied for a permit to do extensive exploratory work there. Discovery also owns the Roca/MAX mill at Trout Lake and its plan is to develop the Willa site and truck the ore to the MAX mill.

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

NOTICE OF ELECTION BY VOTING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY given to the electors of the Village of Nakusp that an election by voting is necessary to elect a Mayor:

MAYOR – One (1) to be elected

Surname     | Usual Names | Residential Address or Jurisdiction
-------------|-------------|-------------------------------
DUCHAINE     | Gay         | Nakusp BC
HAMBLING     | Karen       | Nakusp BC

VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS

GENERAL VOTING will be open to qualified electors of the Village of Nakusp on:
Saturday, November 15, 2014
between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:00 pm
at the following location:
NAKUSP AND DISTRICT SPORTS COMPLEX (AUDITORIUM)
200 - 8TH AVE NW.

ADVANCE VOTING will be available to qualified electors of the Village of Nakusp as follows:
Wednesday, November 5, 2014
between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:00 pm
at the following location:
NAKUSP AND DISTRICT SPORTS COMPLEX (AUDITORIUM)
200 - 8TH AVE NW.

A SPECIAL VOTING OPPORTUNITY will be available to qualified electors who are residents, patients or staff of the following locations at the time of voting as follows:
Saturday, November 15, 2014
Halcyon House Assisted Living
83 - 8th Ave NW, Nakusp, BC
11:30 am to 12:30 pm
Arrow Lakes Hospital
97 - 1st Ave NE, Nakusp, BC
10:00 am to 11:00 am

ELECTOR REGISTRATION

If you are not on the list of electors, you may register at the time of voting by completing the required application form available at the voting location. To register you must meet the following qualifications:
* 18 years of age or older on general voting day
* Canadian citizen
* resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately preceding the day of registration
* resident of OR registered owner of real property in the Village of Anyarise for at least 30 days immediately preceding the day of registration, and
* not disqualified by the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in an election or otherwise disqualified by law.

To register, resident electors must produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature). Picture identification is not necessary. Identification must prove both residency and identity.

To register, non-resident property electors must produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature) to prove identity, proof that they are entitled to register in relation to the property, and, if there is more than one owner of the property, written consent from the other property owners.

MAIL BALLOT VOTING

Qualified electors may vote by mail if they:
* have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity, OR
* expect to be absent from the Village of Nakusp on general voting day and at the times of all advance voting opportunities.

REQUESTING A MAIL BALLOT PACKAGE:

Before 6 pm on Thursday, November 13, 2014 you must submit the following information to the Village of Nakusp Office or by mail (Box 286, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0), telephone (250-295-3699), fax (250-295-3788).

(1) Full name,
(2) Residential address,
(3) Address of the property in relation to which you are voting (for non-resident property electors),
(4) Method of delivery of your mail ballot package:
(a) pick up at Village office, OR
(b) regular letter mail through Canada Post to residential address, OR
(c) regular letter mail through Canada Post to an alternate address that you provide when requesting the ballot package,
(5) If you are not on the list of electors, to ensure you receive the correct registration application form in your package, you must indicate whether you are going to be registering as a resident or non-resident property elector. The Village will send out mail ballot packages commencing on or about October 27, 2014. Mail ballots must be received by the Chief Election Officer no later than 8 pm on Saturday, November 15, 2014.

Anna Marie Hogg
Chief Election Officer
Police confirm Peter Roulston died at Silverton Lookout

by Katrine Campbell
RCMP have confirmed that the man found dead below the Silverton lookout October 7 was Peter Roulston of New Denver.

Rumours had flown around the village after the body was recovered, but police say they were unable to reach family members in Ontario until October 16. Until the family is notified, names are not released.

“There was nothing suspicious” about the death, says Sgt. Darryl Little of Nelson. There was no suicide note, and it is undetermined how he went off the edge of the cliff. It’s possible he slipped.

“The coroner is now investigating and it’s up to the coroner to determine how to rule it.”

A friend of Roulston’s said he and others checked his house after one person noticed his truck parked at the lookout for two days. They first tried to find him at the lookout, but heavy fog hampered them. On entering his house they found the heat was on, there was food on the counter and other indications he intended to return.

They called for help, and the police and Search and Rescue volunteers from Nelson, Nakusp and Castlegar attended the scene. Searchers had to call in a helicopter to recover Roulston’s body.

Peter Roulston was well known around the New Denver Silverton area. For many years, he wrote ‘Get Outta Town,’ a popular outdoors column for The Valley Voice, sharing his old favourite and newly-discovered hiking, biking and kayaking routes.

Before moving to New Denver, he lived in Nakusp where he was a volunteer firefighter and ambulance attendant as well as running the Bicycle Hospital.

In New Denver, Roulston was an active member of the Marina Society and the Dark Water Dragons dragon boat society. He pitched in wherever he saw the need: he maintained the barn in front of his home, cutting the grass, weed-whacking and watering, and clearing the snow in the winter; groomed the trail up Carpenter Creek and tidied up the Meri Trail; prepared the cenotaph for Remembrance Day ceremonies, and helped set up and use the speed-reader board, among other things.

Roulston received a letter of thanks from the mayor and council after the huge avalanche at Nature Boys corner on Hwy 31A, when he cleared down the avalanche chute to guide Natural Resources ministry section head Dwaine Boyer to inspect the damages.

His views, especially in his letters to the editor of this paper, were often contentious, but Roulston was well liked.

“We agreed to disagree on just about everything, but we could still be friends,” one woman said. He once said, “I love this village and I love you people.”

Roulston is survived by his father and two sisters in Ontario.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, October 30 at the Buss Hall in New Denver from 5 to 8 pm.

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**Pre-construction pricing ending soon!**

We’ve met our pre-sale requirement. With 34 of 54 units already sold, many people are excited about making the move to downtown Nelson. And we’re excited too!

If you’d like to take advantage of pre-construction pricing, visit our showroom and sales office at 621 Vernon Street. We’re open 12:00 – 5:00, Wednesday to Saturday or call 250 352 5847 to make an appointment.

- Right in the heart of downtown Nelson
- 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units still available
- Only 5 top floor view units remaining
- Only 5 spacious terrace level units remaining

**Nelson Commons**

life in the heart

A project of the Kootenay Co-op

Kootenay Co-op

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