Kaslo infoNet Society announces fibre optic service

by Art Joyce

Kaslo residents now have access to true broadband, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Kaslo infoNet Society (KIN) board members and volunteers. Fibre optic internet access through KIN is available in two areas in Kaslo – the central business district and the Kaslo Heights/Area Avenue district adjacent to the new fire hall.

“We’ve already hooked up a few customers in Kaslo Heights,” says KIN board member Don Scarlett. “We expect that we’ll get more orders coming in within the week. The job was bigger than we anticipated, so rather than start and then have to stop, the board members have had to invest money and volunteer time so we can get the job done.”

Scarlett acknowledges both the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBBC) and the Village of Kaslo as essential partners in the non-profit society’s efforts. With CBBBC’s help, the society has acquired a 100-gigabit bandwidth, offering customers one gigabit per second symmetrical service, meaning equal speed for uploading or downloading. So no more annoying ‘buffering’ during film downloads, video games or live videoconferencing.

Scarlett emphasizes that KIN’s new network is a true David and Goliath story, with Telus doing all in its power to try to prevent the non-profit from succeeding. Despite allowing its local infrastructure to deteriorate, when it caught wind of the KIN project, Telus tried to negotiate a secret deal with Village council. The corporation promised a $500,000 upgrade to existing copper lines, offering ADSL 2. The Village opted instead for the KIN proposal, as fibre optic provides a superior service to ADSL. Former Mayor Greg Lay says he fought for KIN’s right to be the point-of-presence provider rather than having to open it up to bidding from contractors outside the community.

“I had to say, we support local people, I don’t care what Telus is offering,” says Lay. “Kaslo infoNet Society is doing groundbreaking work. This opens up a whole new world for people who want to live in this environment as a lifestyle choice but need to work in the wider world.”

Scarlett says KIN pays Telus $1,300 per month for the 100-gigabit line and soon realized more bandwidth would be needed. But when they went back to negotiate more bandwidth with Telus, the rate suddenly quadrupled. “So we just turned our back on that,” says Scarlett. Instead, KIN is negotiating for a further 300 gigabits through something known as ‘air fibre’ that can be transmitted from Pilot Peninsula radio towers on the East Shore. That would mean partnering with another non-profit, the East Shore Internet Society (ESIS), which gets broadband service from Shaw. The main fibre optic trunk line from Calgary veers through the East Shore on its way to Nelson and Vancouver.

“We’ll then beam with one set of antenna from Crawford Bay to Pilot Peninsula and from there to Kaslo Mountain,” Scarlett explains. “We’ve already put up the towers.”

A further innovation arose from complications with digging the trenches required to install the fibre optic lines in the village. Mayor Lay had not wanted to have one-metre deep trenches dug as is usually done for sewer or water lines. And once the main fibres were installed in the streets, KIN wanted to avoid damaging peoples’ lawns. A single-tooth attachment that attaches to a backhoe bucket was purchased; the turf cuts nearly so the fibre line can be installed and the grass laid back down.

“You need to make sure the fibre optic lines can be safely left in the ground for 25-30 years without having to be dug up,” says Scarlett. “That requires careful planning and negotiation with the Village.”

Already the initiative has resulted in creating local jobs. Network administrator Tyler Hamilton will find himself having to travel far less for his high-tech work. Another local has been hired and a position for a technical staff person will be added this winter. Two other local contractors have been hired for much of the trenching work, although Scarlett himself has put in many volunteer hours running the backhoe. And KIN board member and businessman Tim Ryan has donated many hours negotiating bandwidth agreements.

“As we grow, we’re providing high-tech employment for young people with families who want to live here,” says Scarlett. “They’d otherwise have to go elsewhere for a good part of the year in order to work.”

Conduit has been installed to reach every property in the downtown area north of A Avenue and west of 4th Street (including Centre Street) as far as the SS Moyie Visitor Centre; this also includes Duthie, Carol, Harkness, Balfour Crescent, J and Anna Avenues.

“Any community that doesn’t have broadband is going to be left behind,” says Lay. “We’re hopeful that KIN can share this information with other communities so they don’t have to go down the Telus, Bell and Shaw road.”

For more information visit kinkbc.ca.
Regional District of Central Kootenay board honours outgoing directors

by Jan McMurray

The last month for seven directors, including retiring chair, John Kettle, retiring Area D director, Andy Shadrack and Slocan director, Hilary Elliott, was to be a happy one.

John Kettle represented Area B (Creston area) on the RDCK board for 12 years. He was vice-chair of the board for three years and then was elected chair and served as our fearless leader for four years. Kettle was well known and appreciated for his humour, evident by the gifts presented to him at the meeting.

Corporate Secretary Anita Waje and CAO Smart Hone gave Kettle a stay dry chair. Valley Voice editor Jan McMurray gave him a card addressed “to the most quotable RDCK chair ever.” Waje also presented him with a book, Welcome to Resterville: American Dissidents in British Columbia. Kettle is originally from Texas, and immigrated to Canada in 1986. His bias on the RDCK website states: “In 1992, John officially became a proud Canadian Citizen and has been known to sing O Canada from centre seat.”

Gary Wright, who was RDCK chair for the six years immediately preceding Kettle’s tenure as chair, attended the meeting to say a public farewell to Kettle. He recalled the day 12 years before when Kettle rode in with his cowboy hat on and made it known that he thought anyone who served more than one term on the RDCK board was “part of the problem, not part of the solution.” Wright said he was glad Kettle didn’t take his own advice, and had done really well by the district for being there for four terms.

John Kettle was well respected as an elected official who worked very hard for his constituents, advocating tirelessly for the region. MLA Michelle Mungall recently stood up in the legislature to thank all outgoing local government officials, and when she mentioned John Kettle, the legislature broke out in applause.

When asked about his accomplishments as RDCK chair, Kettle said, “I am particularly proud of the fact that we were able to weather a tremendous amount of adversity as a board and as a local government entity,” pointing to the Johnson’s Landing landslide and the Lenton Creek flood spill. He said the high turnover of RDCK staff, mostly due to retirement, also presented challenges, and reported that the average age of RDCK staff members is now considerably younger at 36.

Kettle served as chair of the Kootenay Kwantlen Treaty Advisory Committee for the last five years, and as chair of the Kootenay East Regional Hospital District for the last six years. Over those six years, taxation for the hospital district has decreased by 39 percent and several capital projects were completed.

The first thing Kettle is going to do in his retirement is take three months in Alabama with his wife and “just relax.”

“IT’s been 12 years since we’ve taken a vacation and hopefully I’ll be recharged when I get back, so I can get back into the saddle and do something else,” he said. Kettle said he’d love to work with the Province on emergency management, and “try to make it more equitable for people who, through no fault of their own, suffer large losses, including the loss of life.”

“It really is a tough transition going from being in the fast lane to pulling over and smelling the roses, but for me and my family, it’s the best choice,” he concluded.

There will be a party in Kettle’s honour on January 20 at the Creston Recreation Centre.

Director Shadrack was Area D Director for nine years. He was chair of the RDCK’s Rural Affairs Committee for three years. He also served on the executive of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and on the executive of the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG), and was AKBLG president for two years. In his retirement, he says he will stay involved in Green Party politics.

Director Hilary Elliott represented Slocan on the board for six years, since December 2008. When Kettle became chair in 2010, she was elected vice-chair and held that position for three years. She is now mayor of Slocan in the November election this year and lost by a narrow margin to Jessica Lunn.

Other outgoing RDCK directors are John Dooley (Nelson), Ann Henderson (Salam), Ron Mickal (Area F rural Nelson), and Condon Zaittoff (Area J rural Castlegar).

The new RDCK board will be sworn in at the inaugural meeting on December 11 at 9 am in the boardroom in Nelson.
2015 Fish Derby cancelled due to low fish stocks

by Art Joyce

A popular late winter fishing derby has been cancelled due to concerns about low fish stocks in Kootenay Lake. "It is with a heavy heart," said a media release that "for the last few years fishing on Kootenay Lake has been progressively worse. We are at a critical point. Luckily, if you can catch a fish over three pounds that is not full of worms. After much discussion we, as Kootenay Lake Fishermen’s Association have had to make the very difficult decision to postpone the Kootenay Lake BC Family Day Fishing Derby 2015 until 2016." The derby would have provided a significant boost to tourism, they said. Di Pietro referred to the IHNV virus that has infected kokanee populations during the past year, but Fisheries Biologist Matt Neufeld told the Valley Voice that a more relevant issue for kokanee stocks has to do with Germain populations, which prey on kokanee. Germain stocks tend to cycle up and down, with peaks ranging from the low hundreds to peaks of 400 over the past 50 years of local fisheries management. The most recent peak in Germain stocks occurred in 2011 with about 1,000. Neufeld said that this peak seriously impacted kokanee. As a downstream consequence, the Germain population levels also began tapering off toward more sustainable levels. Last year Germain numbers were down to around 500. In 2010, 26,000 kokanee spawning escapements were listed; in 2012 there were 45,000, and last year was 12,000. Fishery staff are working on kokanee in 2013, said Neufeld. "We're not seeing big die-offs for kokanee in the lake. We saw what was expected for fry to fish survival. Not only were these fry leaving the channels not infected, there was about a 40 percent survival rate, which is typical," he said.

"One important thing to consider with kokanee is that they do compensate for numbers by increasing the size they produce per year," explains Neufeld. "The absolute numbers don't mean much as it is the condition of the fish that is critical, because when abundance goes down, size goes up." As to the future of the IHNV virus, Neufeld is confident things will gradually return to normal. He says many maritime fish populations experience IHNV but as yet it has not proven catastrophic. It's a common virus in the Columbia and Fraser Rivers, which means rainbow trout are somewhat adapted to it. Two years ago it showed up on the West Coast in farmed Atlantic salmon. Once introduced into farmed stocks, the disease can spread amongst the species of wild fish in the watershed.

Lights out for New Denver resident who refuses to pay legacy fee

by Jan McMurray

Another local resident is in the dark after refusing to pay legacy fees. BC Hydro cut off Craig Pettit’s power on November 20 while he was working on his computer in his New Denver home.

"Hydro didn't even have the decency to knock on the door," said Pettit. "I was working on the computer and suddenly the screen went blank. I heard a noise outside, and there they were, pulling the meter off." Pettit says he is struggling to get accustomed to life without power. He has a small generator to keep his freezer going, and is using a camping stove and barbecue for cooking. He has a solar-powered system that was installed in February, after he refused to pay the first legacy fee in December 2011. He said he never thought he would have to pay so much for power in the area.

Hydro cut off Pettit’s power just one day after he arrived back home from a few days of medical appointments in Kelowna. "Had they come and done this while I was in Kelowna, I would have come home to a free home of electricity. They are very unkind. And it's just BC Hydro. It goes right to Christy Clark and Bill Bennett. BC Hydro works very well under the Liberal government’s approval."

Pettit says he received one or two notices a month from BC Hydro. In October, he received a letter that he refused to pay the first legacy fee in December 2013. He was up to date on all the charges for his electricity usage plus tax. "So I only owed them their exorbitant fees for the legacy meter. If they had any decency, they should have sent a registered letter saying I would be cut off within the week." Pettit also points out that BC Hydro billing was has "haywire" for the past few months. He and many others have had numerous "estimates" bills" last winter due to the layoff of meter readers as part of the smart meter program, so adjustments to bills were necessary when the meters started being read again. Then the $35 per month "legacy fee" began to be applied to bills before the BCUC Commission had made a ruling on the fee. When BCUC approved $32.40 per month instead of $35 per month, more adjustments were necessary to pay back the $2.60 more per month. Legacy fees during the time the bills were estimated also had to be adjusted. "You have to be an accountant to figure that one out," Pettit said. "They never did a simple spreadsheet so you could figure out what was going on with your bill."

He says his September 3 notice said he owed $183.87, and then his October 7 notice said he owed only $19.17. Then 20 days later, on October 27, the amount more than doubled to $263.71, "and there's no explanation," he said. "No one should have that bill."

"This government gave Hydro approval to pre-charge for meter reading and then credit it back to you with no intention. That company has never pre-charged us for electricity. They've always read your meter and then they pay for it. They should only be able to charge for service rendered. It's entirely clear that government is allowing Hydro to do through BCUC," he concluded.

Pettit is the second local resident whose power has been cut off for failure to pay the legacy fees. The Drobnik family in Hills were disconnected on September 4.

Heavy, wet snow causes power outages throughout region

by Jan McMurray

During the last week of November, BC Hydro had to respond to power outages across the region due to heavy, wet snow. In the Nakusp-New Denver area, the power went out Monday, November 24 at about 6 pm. It came back on in Nakusp just over two hours later at 8:18 pm, but did not until seven hours later at 11:6 am in the New Denver-Silverton area.

This caused approximately 1,900 customers in the Nakusp area, and 1,018 customers in the New Denver- Silverton area. It was caused by trees, weighed down by heavy snow, falling onto the transmission line. Crews from both Nakusp and Vernon responded.

The following day, 428 BC Hydro customers were left without power in the New Denver-Nakusp areas from 10:49 am to 3:44 pm due to a fallen live conductor. The Nakusp crew had to cut power to prevent a fire in order to safely repair the lines. Residents in the Larche Valley lost their power on Wednesday, November 26 at 11:12 pm, and people in Augusta and Johnnes’s Landing didn’t have it back until 4:33 pm on Friday, November 28 at 4:16 pm. Power was restored to Meadow Creek, Cooper Creek and Hooper residents on Thursday evening. The outage affected 428 customers and was caused by trees weighed down by heavy snow and falling into the distribution lines. Crews from both Nakusp and Vernon responded to this outage.

Mary Anne Conley of BC Hydro explained that the full installation of the smart meter system is to be completed by the end of this year. This is when outages will be automatically detected.

"BC Hydro thanks our customers for their patience while their power was being restored," said Conley.

"During an outage, we ask that you stay offline without power in the system including computers and peripherals, especially those that generate heat. This helps prevent hazards or damage to your electronics.

For more information on what to do in an outage, visit the Be Winterwise section of the BC Hydro website at www.bchydro.com/ poweroutage/
In response to Mr. Eckland's cry for help
As a small business owner in Meadow Creek for the last 34 years, I just want to let you know that it is not necessary to keep reminding the rest of us that this area is a hard place to run a business in.
I will admit that you have built a very beautiful hotel and it is a great visual addition to the main street in Kaslo. And you hired many talented local craftsmen and women to build it, with high quality materials that were available in the area. Thanks for that.
We all would like lower taxes, less competition and more customers. Tough to find in this area. My advice to you would be to become a golf player, a hockey player and a curler. Then you would find out that these organizations are filled with great people with endless energy and extra money to spend. You may also then notice how much volunteer labour and materials are donated to make these groups work as well as they do.
Hack, you could even have a cheap beer if you felt like it.

George Brinkman
Meadow Creek

The dollars and cents of legacy meter fees
One phrase in BC Hydro's Greg Renner's response to Richard Canell got me uneasy. Renner states that "the decision to charge fees for customers who want to retain an old meter or choose a radio-off meter is a fair solution. It ensures that the vast majority of customers who have accepted a new meter are not subsidizing the choices of a very small number of customers."
Of course it seems reasonable that people who choose to get a new meter should not have to pay (what is implied to be a significant amount) to subsidize the wishes of a minority. My curiosity was about what the significant amount would be. So out came the pencil and paper and away with information from BC Hydro's report work.
According to BC Hydro's report, 99.2% of its 1.9 million customers accepted smart meters, leaving a maximum of 19,000 who haven't. Those 19,000 pay $12.50 extra per month for a total of about $265,000 per month.
I can understand BC Hydro's desire to add this sum to their bottom line, but I can't say that their reason is to avoid having customers subsidize the transitions. This would equate to a 33 cents per month subsidy from each of the majority of the 1.9 million customers. Given BC Hydro's past, it seems unlikely that they are actually concerned about saving their customers 33 cents per month.

A note of gratitude
Just a quick note that has to be said. It is not fancy, not profound, just a simple voice of gratitude from a voice in a cabin where a small candle burns. Congratulations to all those regardless of what concerns them: a hydro smart meter, a pipeline, a tallowing pond or another needless bill introduced into the house. To those who stand firm in not as good to give their consent without full knowledge and who are not complacent with the moment.
A small thank you to all those who have the courage to take a stand, do not want to live in ignorance and refuse to live in fear. Dedicated to those people who look around, at what's going on and question for themselves so as to seek the truth.
When you are all alone and darkness comes
You are on the verge of surrender
Your eyes are open wide
Your heart is weak
You cannot sleep
And midnight creeps
You discover your soul is not for sale
There is another bank on a corner lot
Gas stations line the highway
Churches flank your path home
Department stores do not treat you like your mother did
Man against woman and sister against brother
Humility is in decay; your voice has lost the right to say
Then you discover your soul is not for sale
A new day dawns
The light begins to shine
Then one by one we are not alone
When we discover our souls are not for sale
Dai Strougnaught
South Slocan Valley

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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.

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**LETTERS**

**Open letter to the citizens of Kaslo and area**

Regarding the recent announcement of the closure of the Kaslo area concession, you need to know that I didn’t close the door. It was closed on me to keep the job,” writes Marilyn James, who has been involved with the Kaslo area for many years. 

I couldn’t follow the Fire Marshall’s recommendations as I wasn’t given a copy of his report. There was no fire again last week. The fire was created by the fire department. It’s only started by mail and snow on the top of the hill. 

What this valley needs are more skills, seminars, or smoke and mirror town halls, but cell phone coverage, and the sooner the better.

**Time for cell phones in Slocan Valley**

While the distracted few toss over smart phones to read texts and emails, the rest of us are left waiting to use our phones while they are tight in their pockets. It’s a waste of time for them and a productivity booster for the rest of us. 

**FortsBC responds to smart meter concerns**

A recent article in the Valley Voice outlined the concerns about the advanced meters. We would like our customers to know that safety is a top priority in everything FortsBC does. We base the safety and security of our projects on the findings of experts recognized in their specific fields. In the case of advanced meters for electricity customers, we’ve relied on the conclusions of trusted authorities such as Health Canada, the World Health Organization and the BC Cancer Agency. 

The Valley Voice article mentioned the problems that have been experienced by SaskPower. It is important to note that FortsBC is using different meters than SaskPower, and it is taking this opportunity to review every customer meter base to ensure that it is in safe working order prior to completing the meter exchange. Our meter installers are well trained to identify any potential hazards.

Before moving ahead with the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project, FortsBC went through a public approval process through its regulator, the BC Utilities Commission. Health and safety were discussed extensively before the commission, including during an Oral Hearing at which experts from both sides of the debate were questioned. The BCUC approved the AMI project in 2013, concluding the AMI meters are ‘well within Health Canada’s radiofrequency guidelines – and well below levels from common devices like cellphones and baby monitors.

Similar to other utilities around the world, FortsBC has found that advanced meters open the door to benefits for customers and the environment. The meters also help us run a more efficient and reliable electricity service, an important factor in controlling the cost of supplying a safe and reliable electricity service to businesses and homes.

**Supporter of Marilyn James’ work speaks out**

Further to your article regarding the Saskatoon museum’s Marilyn James and her work in her territory, I would direct your readers to the Saskatoon website. 

I am a supporter of the Saskatoon Museum’s Marilyn James and have done and continues to do for her people and their territory, two-thirds of which is north of the Canadian US Border.

I appreciate and thank the work Marilyn is responsible for. 

Marilyn James’ activist in the Tsugawa, quoted in the Columbia newspaper regarding the logging on Perry Ridge: “We are the descendants of the first people to live on this land. We live in the land and are a part of it.”

In Canada and in the United States of America, our people are also known as the Lakes Tribe, Lakes Salish, Arrow Lakes Indians and or Arrow Lake(s) Band.

In relation to the Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan have an aboriginal title claim against the Federal and Provincial Crown. This action was commenced in 1992, and was settled in 1998, under BC Supreme Court file No. 14324, by Welt of Sumners. The Saskatchewan Treaty was named.

The practices, customs and traditions carried out by the Saskatchewan contemporary travel within our traditional territory (including that portion of our territory which lies in the province of British Columbia). As a result, the following purposes for that portion of the territory: a) performing ceremonies such as marriage, ceremonial services, births and deaths; b) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; c) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; d) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; e) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; f) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; g) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; h) providing cultural presentations about land uses; j) providing educational services; k) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; l) providing educational services; m) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; n) providing educational services; o) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; p) providing educational services; q) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; r) providing educational services; s) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; t) providing educational services; u) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; v) providing educational services; w) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; x) providing educational services; y) attending First Nations fishing ceremonies; z) providing educational services.

The work outlined above, although not complete list, has been primarily the focus of the Saskatchewan’s activities in the Saska- tan. While this work was done by the Okanagan Nation or the Colville Business Council in Saska-tan territory. I attended the court case in Vancouver and saw the government and I feel consulted with the Okanagan Nation (OKA) on Perry Ridge and the response from the OKA’s (Chief was in attendance) was simply that Perry Ridge was part of their claim area. The Saskatchewan on the other hand were not consulted and that was the reason why Marilyn James as spokesperson was before the court. Consultation with Saskatchewan would have included protection for the water, wildlife, safety and cultural use of Perry Ridge. This consultation never happened. It is clear that the government’s intentions to allow destruction to continue throughout the Saskatchewan territory through exhaustion of the Saskatoon. Extinction of Saka-tan and acknowledgement of Okanagan Nation’s rights in the case on Perry Ridge, serves this purpose. I know Marilyn’s first priority has always been the repatriation of her ancestors. An attempt to portray the Saskatchewan people as only political misunderstands and demonizes the spirituality of the land that I hold.

Marilyn Baurony Perry Ridge

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**’Spy bill’ strikes at heart of Canadian values**

While it’s understandable in the light of recent tragedies such as the one in Ottawa that our fear of terrorism might propel us into restricting civil liberties, we must resist the panic urge. As Canadians we are known as a nation of “sober, second thought,” to borrow the phrase used of the Senate itself. That means we cherish our Canadian values and do not seek to abandon them in times of crisis due to fear. Among those values are the right to due process and individual privacy, and not the least of which is the right to freedom of expression.

Minister McKay’s “spy bill” strikes at the very heart of many of these cherished values. It replaces sober second thought with a carte blanche to intelligence and security agencies. As evident in opinion polls, it does not reflect the views of more than 70 per cent of Canadians. Have we so soon forgotten the tragedy of Maher Arar? Are we prepared to risk nixing more Canadians from the aura of the innocent until proven guilty? It needs to be clearly distinguished what are “terrorists” acts vs. those that are the work of deeply disturbed individuals. Responses must therefore be tailored to fit.

By widening the net to allow such universal surveillance of Canadians without legal justification you risk violating rights upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada, rights that our veterans have fought and died for. That is not the country we prepared to risk the ultimate sacrifice for.

Art Joyce

**For the valleys**
LETTERS

Open letter to premier re: Safety Code 6

The evidence is overwhelming, compelling and irrefutable that radio frequency radiation (RFR), which includes microwaves and electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation, is harmful to humans and all living things.

Military-funded scientists have known for more than 50 years that there are two kinds of non-ionizing radiation: thermal and non-thermal. And Soviet/Russian and US military in particular have spent vast sums of money developing and perfecting electronic weapons of war capitalizing on the known properties and characteristics of non-thermal microwave radiation – especially pulsed non-thermal radiation.

Years ago their research found that frequencies within the 1-5 GHz band in particular can affect the neurological, immune and central nervous systems of humans. They have long known that the human brain is eminently sensitive and can detect non-thermal signals that are millions of times weaker than those emitted by all of today’s wireless devices.

Yet these are the very same frequencies that ignorant, gullible and greedy politicians permit an equally ignorant, greedy and exploitative wireless and telecom industry to utilize in baby monitors, smart meters, cell phones, smart meters, cordless phones, Wi-Fi routers, Wi-Fi and WiMAX networks, laptop and tablet computers, TV games, etc. Every one of these devices emit pulsed non-thermal microwave radiation! Some of them, such as smart meters, cell phones, cordless phones, Wi-Fi routers, Wi-Fi and WiMAX hotspots etc., not only emit but also transmit their harmful radiation constantly 24/7/365 in perpetuity.

Numerous world-class scientists from every corner of the globe have raised essentially the same issue: that the public’s increasing exposure to long-term, low-level, pulsed, non-thermal, radio frequency radiation poses the simple biggest threat to human health in our entire history. Yet British Columbia’s Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Kendall, refuses to divest himself from Health Canada in order to protect British Columbians!

Premier Clark, surely you realize the gravity, urgency and moral as well as legal necessity for your government to immediately abandon Health Canada’s schizophrenia if not criminal Safety Code 6 radiation guidelines with respect to now widely accepted non-thermal microwave radiation (EMR) and electromagnetic fields (EMF) radiation. For the sake of all British Columbians – and your own family – you must insist that your government now heed the American Academy of Environmental Medicine and other honest scientists who know that continuous exposure to low-level, pulsed, non-thermal microwave radiation can cause and/or exacerbate a host of illnesses and diseases, such as many cancers, neurological conditions, ADD, sleep disorders, depression, Autism, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, cognitive problems, cardiovascular irregularities, hormone disruption, immune system disorders, metabolism changes, stress, fertility impairment, increased Mood Disorder and Mood Swings, brain inflammation, DNA damage, etc.

Jerry Flynn

Colonial thuggery and self-cannibalization plague the Similk

As a Similk person, I am dismayed by those who practice colonial thuggery (as Marilyn Janes calls it) through conquest and divide strategies that aim to control or destroy our sacred indigenous assets.

It can’t get more cruel than a colonial thug strategically setting out to destroy sacred assets of indigenous peoples and their ancestors. These sacred assets include such things as the burial ceremony at Skamo Pool. Each clan, each tribe or First Nations such as Similk, have their time-immortal rituals, songs, and other prayers commemorating all of that clan’s cultural historicity and life. These assets are sacred to us because, in part, we know they are owned by our ancestors.

Similk Nation’s carriers of sacred assets in our hearts and actions have been supported by small gathering waves of non-indigenous peoples. Non Similk peoples have entered our traditional territories and sand-bagged the editors of local papers illustrating how their lives are not diminished, but rather enriched by the acknowledging, valuing, and participating in activities sacred to indigenous people like us, the Similk carriers. It is humbling, as a Similk person, to witness this, and to be embraced by it. As the winter of my life approaches and this final winter season approaches, it is a warm welcomed embrace, especially considering the crimes and intended harms from exploitation by practicing colonial thugs.

Many of you have heard, in our language, these words spoken over and over again in the hereditary oral traditions of our life way, the teaching: “Lim limpt, Lim limpt, Lim limpt”1 in the four directions. Our mannerism, Marilyn Janes, is learned and taught as she was instructed and appointed by her now deceased but still respected elders. Marilyn Janes has received great humbling praise from many Similk people (not to mention non-indigenous humans). Recently two of your community members, Marilyn Burgman and K Linda Kivi, wrote letters which honoured both the sacred, and their friend and ally, Marilyn Janes.

While it can’t get more cruel than the finely tuned and honed colonial thuggery artfully seasoned going on five and a half centuries, in what the white privileged named the Americas, it can get more painful to Similk carriers and our Similk people can see it when delusional, self-proclaimed warriors turn ‘self-outs’ in the historical tradition of ‘Indian scum,’ who like a mind-controlled ‘Machiavellian candidate’ chooses, for reasons of his people’s sacred assets. Their own cultural assets become self-cannibalized as if those assets were fleshed itself and the cannibalization was a war-fighting means upon upon the self-out host.

It’s horribly sore to somewhat helplessly observe this self-cannibalization of our own cultural and spiritual usual and accustomed ways of these new “native” Indian scum,” colonial thug-grooved and enabled.

Facing obstacles after obstacle against our culture-based wellness intentions has seen two crevices merge: the self-cannibalization of some (many) individuals’ humanity as Similk peoples and the self-destructive, self-destabilizing Similk thug, and the colonial thuggery by those exercising white privilege with impunity.

Exploitation by means of weaponizing your victim with inciting, addictive substances, it be alcohol or payote and more, lets the predator colonial thug turn their way with such victims.

Probably every commentator of this letter to the editor has witnessed a friend or relative self-cannibalize, self-destruct, with addictive substances of one kind or another. This is something we can all agree at your own helpfulness to be able to reach out and turn that inhuman self-cannibalizing sw Irish.

In the meantime we look to rely on our ancestors’ teachings and wisdom, and learn from our healthy wise ones who are remaining, to help Similk indigenous peoples stay on course for wellness, for the ones to follow, really and truly, for the seventh generation.

Low Stone

An out of towner’s response to John Eckland’s open letter to Kaslo council elect

John! John!

I first would like to thank the old council for their efforts in improving tourism facilities in a short time: paving and beautifying Water St; restoration of the Village Hall, parking on the ball station site; new tourist docks and a launching ramp; the Kaslo River walk (a huge attraction); upgrading Mann St.; the Moyie site gets better and better; parks and sewage and water improvements (I am envious); picture perfect finalish, probably much more that I haven’t noticed because I don’t come to town that often.

Now advice for the new council.

First, the golf course. It was started by Kaslo volunteers almost 100 years ago and has been improved and cherished by generations of area families, not just ‘Kasco Proper’ folks.

In fact, last year’s president lives in Vernon, with a summer RV in Mirror Lake Campground. To ask for $250 golf fees for only the Kaslo Hotel, Motel and Kaslo B&B’s is ‘out there.’ I am sure more golf club members live out of Kaslo Proper than in it. In other words, if Kaslo accommodators get more in tourism, even area tourist accommodation should too.

As for beer and wine sold cheaper at the golf course, all licensees pay the same to the Liquor Distribution Board. Maybe if you lower your price you may sell more. (Check Rocket Science 101.)

Second, the arena. Advertise in wineries in Kaslo for unused ice time? Seems to me that the curling club and arena attract a lot of out-of-town tournaments and would have more if more accommodations were available. However, to get people to come hundreds of kilometers for practice time? Go to Rocket Science 102.

Third, Kaslo Bay Boat Club. My parents moved to Kaslo in 1951 owned a little business called Kaslo Marine Service and Moie. Also in the way they had the Kaslo Bay Club which consisted of a bunch of old bottomed boats and sitting docks. After a big snowfall, half of them would be on their sides and any other season, the fishing boats would be in to pull the snow off the roofs and saves them for the old timers who owned them. Nowadays, in the restaurants, the boat house, etc., there are the hundreds of people living on these expensive properties do come visit Kaslo and spend money. Lots of it.

John’s suggestion to lease fallow Village lands for affordable housing at $1,000 a year for a lot might work in Europe but not in Kaslo. The main reason is that financial institutions will not loan money for a mortgage on a leased lot. The purchaser would have to have cash for a dwelling plus $25,000 for a septic system and $5,000 for portable power before construction starts. The only business that would benefit from this program would be an energy supply store, selling used tents and portapotties.

Kaslo Hotel is a great asset to Kaslo and we applaud your and your family for your efforts to reach to small businesses. And Sue, you are great folks and an asset to the area, not just Kaslo. You have done what you have done, spent what you have spent. Now it is time for you to fold back your Kaslo bubble and think out of the box and get a good business success story going.

All the best to the new Kaslo council.

Terry Jones

Woodbury
COMMUNITY

THE NEXT STAGE OF SMART METER EXTORTION

by Richard Caniell

Immoral and dangerous contradictions plague BC Hydro and the BC government’s claims and actions. They are now, in winter, shutting off the electricity of anyone who refuses to pay an exorbitant fee charged to those who refuse a Smart Meter. Even the elderly, poor and sick are left to sit in the frigid dark while BC Hydro executives rake in a $89,000 a month profit.

On July 16 of this year, 50 Canadian doctors issued a letter urging Health Canada to revise its safety standards for wireless radiation. Citing Wi-Fi, Smart Meters and cell towers, they asked Health Canada to help them assess and treat the health problems caused by wireless radiation.

This was a stringent rebuke to Health Canada as the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) $100,000 to set up a panel to re-evaluate its safety standards for wireless radiation. Health Canada had recently defunded a media initiative in Canada (RSC) $100,000 to set up a panel to review its safety standards for wireless radiation. When the panel’s report was delayed, a scathing critique the experts said it was deeply flawed because of conflict of interest and a lack of expertise on the panel.

In service to this aim, the Liberal government levied on BC residents some of the highest opt-out fees in North America, $152.42 per month. BC Hydro claims this is required to recover the cost of paying workers to read the old analogue meters. But this was shrouded in mystery when the public learned that 46,000 unwilling ratepayers were hired only to have their meters manually read, but not charged: for it while those who didn’t accept the meters were being charged for this same service.

On November 7, 2014, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Energy and Mines, Les MacArend, wrote a reply to the letter, in which he said: “Customers with Smart Meters are not being charged for this service because they have chosen to have BC Hydro’s standard equipment.” (emphasis added)

MacArend’s statements reveal his and the government’s capacity to sit in moral contradictions. Consider the statement by Ted Olynyk, Hydro’s manager of community relations. When contacted by the Comox News after Hydro had shut off the power to a 71-year-old Mrs. Knopf, he said: “Our technicians told the reporter that “the rest of us are expected to pay our bill.” All the site’s customers are now on this program but not charged for metering. So he evidently never has heard about the inequity of Hydro charging owner’s of analog meters for metering and not charging owners of Smart Meters.

But none of these people owe on their electricity bill. Neither do I, though I’ve been threatened with hefty bills if the immunity cut off. All that is outstanding is the unpaid Legacy fees. They are accumulating, and if Hydro turns off your power, it not only charges $355.00 to turn it back on, it will not be rectrumed unless you accept a Smart Meter.

Insisting that the manual meter readings must be passed onto the consumers, BC Hydro threatens that if those living in old meters won’t pay the bill, the cost will be added to everyone’s electricity bills. Given the gross inequity of Hydro’s claims is apparent. If you do the math, Hydro would collect $3,540.54 per month for only one of the meter readers they employ to read the 19,820 meters of people who keep their old meters or choose to have Smart Meter with the radio transmission turned off. Such payment would deliver $109,150 per month, or $33,051.67 per year, for these meters would last only for about 9,000 month each. This preposterous result proves that Hydro’s opt-out strategy is grossly exorbitant, punitive and extortionary.

The Corporate Welfare Empire

Let’s see who is really drawing on the public purse. In 2012/13 BC Hydro’s President, Charles Reid, earned $531,000 yearly in compensation, including $12,345 in vacation pay and other benefits (approx. $4,444 thousand a decade). The Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, received $43,487 in vacation pay and other benefits. This was $34,483 more than the prime minister of the United Kingdom. Other BC Hydro Power ex- ecutives received similar salaries and other compensation.

To that must be added the even more shocking executive salaries of Pow- erex, a subsidiary of BC Hydro that sells our excess power to the U.S. As an example, Brian Boedeker, President of Powerex, received $1,019,000 in salary ($641,917 per month), including $82,423 in changes. The villains are attractive other Powerex executives received an average annual compensation of $387,566.

Many, other executives of government corporations receive six figure yearly compensation, all the while demanding the public won’t pay the opt-out fee to avoid health and fire hazard, shiver in the freezing winter darkness.

Further double talk, Hydro’s Olynyk stated that the company would not turn off individuals’ electricity between the 15th and 28th of November and December. Nevertheless, Hydro shut off Mrs. Knopf’s power on Nov 3, Pottet’s on Nov 4. 

People who have already had their electricity shut off before December will, nevertheless, have to bear it the winter or give in to Hydro’s merciless terms.

In the old days, the villains threw the pregnant mothers and babies out in the snow for non-payment of their bills. When they had the gull of the villagers, the black coats, the snarky, greedy visages. Times have changed, no longer the three men and women, in good clothing who live in luxury, ignoring their company’s vicious policy, paid like pawns, indif- ferent to the corporate arrogance, sneer, and heartlessness through which they de- stroy the anomalous salary. The government now has the powers of a corporation, but is an instrumentality through which the corporation derives its benefits, expecting to reap three billion dollars over the next three years.

Here’s more: The Liberal govern- ment has announced a 25% increase in hydro rates over five years, beginning with a 9% increase in April 2014 (Globe & Mail, Nov, 26, 2013). This will be a disaster to low income families. The Liberals knew of this, the Globe reports before the last election, but suppressed it until after the election returned them to power.

The NDP’s Deafening Silence

How long will this in-your-face injusti- tice go on without strong media concern about the facts? Where is the public face of these facts? The NDP may be pow- erless in the Legislature, but they are not powerless when it comes to their media connections. Where are the press re- leases, the press conferences, the public hearings, the resistance to this injustice and manipulated public process should engender? Will these politicians, with their regrets over the disclo- sing nothing publicly, not remember all their media contacts when it comes to the NDP campaign?

Let me say it clearly and loudly: in the face of the plain fact that these fees were purposefully made high, in an extortionate intent to force an unwanted and dangerous technology on people throughout the province, to force an unwanted and dangerous technology on those who resist is cruel, dangerous to them, unconscionable and an att- tack on democratic principles and our san- ity. The Minister tells us why the fees are purposely set so high — no one in power, none in power, the people who tried to protect their health from Smart Meter radia- tion will be sitting in the dark and cold, and the public health is under threat.

I understand that the NDP is trying to interest provincial media in this issue. But perhaps the problem is not lack of interest in the NDP. Perhaps the problem is to denounce the outrageous violation of due process and democratic rights this repre- sent. What the NDP has not publicly explained the tactics that the Liberals used to get the B.C. Utilities Commission to accept the $186,000 for the contract.

“B.C’s independent power regulator won’t be allowed to reject smart meter opt-out fees, nor can it go back and examine the credibility of the controversial program, accord- ing to a special order from the provincial government minister.”

Into this web of poisonous, deceitful intent and practices the government en- tangles the B.C. Utilities Commission, ren- dering it impotent to do its job. To consider the health hazards of the Smart Meters or to question their acceptability on any independent panel would have become the Liberal Party’s stooge tribu- nal. It went along with this credibility poll, accepted the credibility of the poll figures and, by some hocus-pocus, took on the force of law.

Recognizing the government intent to force the media to yield to the government and the way it hamstrung the BCUC, while ignoring substantial scientific evidence of Smart Meter health hazards, we see that the law can be contrived to command and further injustice. Everyone knows that there can be bad laws; look at the legisla- tive enactments against the blacks in the U.S. Deep South, or against the Jews in Nazi Germany — all of it was law and legally enforced. But it was wrong, unjust and immoral.

The public’s ability to believe in fair, representative government is under- mined, and the major parties share the dishonor and disrepute. What is de- manded is a free-out of the government who want to keep their old analogue meters, and an immediate moratorium on the instal- lation of Smart Meters until their health and fire hazard problems are deci- sively determined and corrected. This means an immediate turning off anyone’s electricity for failure to pay Legacy fees and the restoration of power to those who were wrongfully cut off. For legal fee for failure to pay, without charge for reconnection. In the face of this de- monstrable, proven, and genuine moral authority can do nothing else.
Old Firehall Society gets job creation grant to renovate firehall

by Art Joyce

Nakusp’s Old Firehall Collective Society has scored a coup by obtaining a Job Creation Partnership (JCP) grant from the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation to rejuvenate the old firehall. The grant provides funding to create three local jobs and covers the cost of materials to bring the decaying building up to code. Workers hired must qualify for EI and will have tools and training provided.

The society’s plan is to operate the old firehall as a full-time year-round farmer’s market as well as leasing space to other non-profit groups. They hope to install a commercial kitchen that can be used for community canning and other uses. A ‘library’ of tools is also planned.

“I believe this is the first JCP that has been done for Nakusp,” says the society’s Linda Kendall. “We want to respect history by restoring that building that was built by volunteers in 1949. We’d like to give consumers a choice to buy local year-round and to increase small-scale farmers and suppliers in the area. It’s a small step toward local sustainability.”

The exterior of the building will be completely redone from the roof to the walls to the windows and cleaning up the foundation footings. The interior will be exposed to bring everything up to code with a new heating system, wiring and plumbing. New insulation and vapor barrier will also be added to meet code.

The Village had previously entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the society for a lease agreement while council and staff worked out the details. Among the items is the need to provide insurance for a building not up to code; the society will be covered by the Village’s policy and may seek additional insurance through the Farmers Market Association. The Village reserves the right to approve the work and ensure it’s done to code. Part of the building permit requirement included having a registered architect and engineer inspect the building and draw up plans.

The lease will grant the society the use of the building rent-free in exchange for the upgrades. In addition, the society will be exempt from property taxes once the Village finalizes its permissive tax exemption bylaw, but will pay water and sewer taxes. Meanwhile council has authorized Village CAO Linda Tyas to sign the lease agreement.

The society has been developing proposals for the old firehall since 2009 but the JCP represents a significant step toward the realization of their goals. Kendall said it began with the goal of increasing local food sustainability, starting with a survey sent out to Arrow Lakes residents. Tyas credits society president Rosemary Hughes as the “main driver” for the project and her volunteers for their support.

WineFest 2015 coming to Nakusp this spring

submitted

On April 18 the Rotary Club of Nakusp, with support from the Arrow Lakes Grape Growers Society, will host the second annual Wine Festival at the K2 Rotor Lodge. Doors will open at 6:30 pm with a 7 pm start. The first event was a huge success, raising nearly $5,000 for Rotary, which used the profit on local initiatives such as $500 to increase the Nakusp Secondary School scholarship to $1,000, $500 to create a Luxeme School (New Denver) scholarship; $1,395 to support the Nakusp Waterfront Lighting Project.

In addition, Rotary contributed $2,395 towards Felsio Plus, the world-wide initiative to eradicate polio. The support from the public for this event was outstanding and contributed to making it a success. Whether it was ticket sales, monetary donations to help offset vendor costs (hotel, meals) or items donated to the silent auction/Autor grills, it was all very much appreciated. The club hopes it can count on you to help out again in making this event a success. As a result of the high demand from last year, the club is hoping to attract more wineries and increase ticket sales this year. In addition to the fabulous appetizers prepared by the K2 kitchen, great wine, silent auction, door prize and 50/50 draws, there will be a blind tasting contest, where patrons can try to guess the type of wine they taste with a chance to win a prize – start practicing now! Ticket prices remain the same ($50) and can be purchased through Koos van der Pol (250-265-0002) or Linda Harrop (250-265-3402). Ticket sales are limited to 150 tickets, and would make an excellent gift for the holiday season.

ALAC hosts Christmas Celebration concert

submitted

On Sunday, December 14, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council will hold the first of two community artists’ concerts, Christmas Celebration, at the Bonnington Arts Centre. The doors open at 1:30 pm and a donation jar will be at the door to raise money for the regular concert series season.

There will be open seating – first come, first served – so if you want your favourite seat, please come early, as it will be a full house. The celebration concert offers a mixture of entertainment, including music students who study voice, piano and strings, scholastic, readers, and ensembles from Arrow Lakes communities, who will share their talents to celebrate the Christmas Season.

Come out and enjoy an afternoon of the Christmas spirit at the Bonnington Arts Centre.
Nakusp to hold candlelight vigil for Montreal Massacre victims, December 6

submitted

Do you remember where you were on December 6, 1989? It was a galvanizing moment in Canadian history, a dark day that shook the very foundations of Canada and the world. On December 6, 1989, 14 young women lost their lives, brutally murdered in a crime of grotesque proportions. This has since come to be known as the Montreal Massacre.

All are welcome to join a candlelight vigil on December 6 at 4 pm at the Nakusp gazebo in the park to honour the memories of the 14 women who were killed 25 years ago. The Arrow Lakes drumming group will be performing from 4:30 to 5:00, and hot chocolate and goodies will be served. The event is hosted by Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS).

Edgewater fuel management project to be completed this spring

by Ian McMuray

A fuel management project in Edgewater, aiming to reduce the threat of wildfire to the community, will see 20 hectares treated by spring 2015. Located along the Worthington Forest Service Road immediately west of the community, the project got started in November. The crew has now stopped for the winter and will likely resume work in March. The work is being carried out by Debri Renoufves out of Nelson, a company that has completed similar projects throughout the Kootenays. Debri has 7-10 employees working on the project, which is anticipated to run about six weeks.

Approximately 36 hectares along Worthington Forest Service Road has been identified as high risk for wildfire due to forest conditions and fuel loading. About six hectares were treated by Loki Tree Services in 2011.

Tyson Ehlers, biologist and forest ecologist from Winlaw who is managing and supervising the Edgewater project, explained that the treatment will create a more open stand by removing dead and suppressed understory trees. Stem density will be lowered from about 1500 to 500 stems per hectare, favouring healthy species and trees most suited to the site. All deciduous trees and western yew are preserved. Any dead standing trees with high wildlife value are also maintained.

Ehlers said the only large trees that are cut down are danger trees that present a board to chewers working under them.

Most of the smaller material is burned in small hand-fed piles. Larger material is retained in coarse woody debris, an important element of a healthy forest ecosystem. Where there is an excess of larger logs, they are bucked and piled for firewood and made available to local residents.

“It is highly labour intensive work and the result is a much more looking forest that is healthier and benefits both humans and wildlife, and much more resilient to catastrophic wildfire,” said Ehlers.

The project cost is approximately $300,000, with 90 percent being covered by the Province, five percent by the Columbia Basin Trust and five percent by the KDC's sustainability fund.

RMP reports weekend thefts from rural Nakusp properties

submitted

There has been a series of weekend thefts from rural properties and sites outside Nakusp, and the RMP reminds rural property owners to take extra precautions when securing premises and locking up valuables on your property. They ask you to “please record and report any suspicious vehicles or activity to the police.”

On November 3, the detachment received a report of a theft from a rural community south of Edgewater. A Warnath HT60 log processing head was removed from a carrier machine and stolen. The property owner reported that the theft occurred sometime between November 1 and 3.

A week later, November 10, came a report of a theft from a rural property north of Nakusp on Highway 23. The property owner reported that the perpetrators came onto the property sometime between November 7 and 10. Among the items stolen were a red Polaris 500 Ranger side-by-side, a red Honda generator, a Husqvarna chainsaw, and two solar panels.

On November 17 the detachment received a report of a theft of a blue Kubota generator valued at $10,000 which occurred at a rural work site along Highway 23 north of Nakusp. Based on the information currently available, police believe the offence occurred sometime between November 14 and November 17.

Police are continuing to investigate the thefts and are seeking assistance from the public. They request that anyone with information regarding these incidents please contact the Nakusp RMP Detachment at 250-265-5777 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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Thank you to all the vendors and everyone that supported our fair!

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Village of Nakusp

Director of Operations
Public Works & Parks/Arena

NAKUSP

The Village of Nakusp is located on the shores of the Upper Arrow Lakes, and is surrounded by spectacular mountains, clear lakes and rivers, and breathtaking scenery. Nakusp is a community of 1000 offering amenities of a larger center and has recently completed a number of large infrastructure projects such as a Wastewater Treatment Plant, Microhyd Energy plant and a Water Treatment Plant. In addition, there are more projects underway such as our acclaimed water and sludge management projects.

The Village is looking for a dynamic leader to join their management team as Director of Operations. Reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Director of Operations will play a key role in the management, maintenance and operation of the Village’s infrastructure. The Director will provide support to the management team in strategic planning, departmental budgeting, and monitoring, risk management, and will advise the Chief Administrative Officer on all matters pertaining to the department. The successful candidate will have proven leadership and organizational skills, and will maintain effective working relationships with staff, businesses, other local governments, contractors, consultants, and the public.

The Director of Operations exercises a high degree of initiative and judgment and is responsible for the Public Works department (including the water and sewer utility) and the Parks/Arena department. The primary responsibilities and experience requirements are the safe and efficient management and operation of the department and its employees, water, sewer, mobile equipment buildings and grounds, roads system, parks, capital and operating budgeting, capital projects and safety programs.

The preferred candidate will have post-secondary education in an Engineering related discipline, thorough knowledge of Public Works, Utilities and Park facilities and experience at a management level; individuals possessing a combination of training and experience will also be considered. Certification in water and/or wastewater operations through the Environmental Operators Certification program would be an asset. Proficiency in Microsoft programs such as Word and Excel is required.

Nakusp offers a competitive salary, excellent benefits package, a supportive work environment and supports continued career and professional development. Applicants are invited to submit their resume and cover letter to: Linda Tyner, CAM Village of Nakusp, email ltyner@nakusp.ca, fax 205-565-2789, or mail to PO Box 280, Nakusp BC VOE 1BO. For more information, please contact the Village office at 205-365-3689. This posting will be open until the position is filled.

We thank all who apply however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
New Denver council, November 25: Changes to campground reservation policy requested

by Katrine Campbell

- Sylvia McDonagh appeared as a delegation, after submitting a letter asking council to make changes to the Centennial Park campground policy. She pointed out there were only a few basic sites available for reservation, which left families members short of spaces. There is a five-day minimum for reservations, but most events happen over a three-day weekend. She also advocated creating more sites because people who couldn’t find a site might leave and not come back. Mayor Ann Burkus said all letters regarding the campground will be reviewed with the attendant.

- Vancouver’s West Side volunteers at the Recreation Centre have asked council to consider changing its status to ‘library’. Their reasoning was that libraries are more resourceful and can access more resources and provide greater services to the community. The volunteers are also trying to bring in more members to the centre, the Women’s Institute and the Village as to the responsibilities and duties of each party. Council directed staff to investigate the status change, and will likely deal with the issue in February.

- Burkus reported on meetings she attended, including the RDCK Emergency Executive Policy Committee and the regular RDCK board meeting.

- Recreation Commission #6 grant allocations were approved, as were its sponsorship requests. Council also approved the Rosebery Parklands recommendation to allow Wandering Wheels’ proposal to use the Galena Trail for bike tours, subject to a maximum group size, speed and providing reports.

- The Province is preparing a small water systems work plan at the Slocan Valley TV

by Art Joyce

It seems the Slocan Valley TV Society is back on track. About 30 society members attended a public meeting November 17 at Pannorom Hall to get the update from the new board. The new board was elected at a July 8 meeting by the previous board members. Council then appointed the new board and let it get its books in order. The society had been without a legally recognized board since 2007, when the board split into two groups and the question of which group was the legitimate board of directors was tied up in court for over six years.

Among the new board’s activities has been a complete audit of the society’s books, which were not finalized until August and September. The power amplifiers used to transmit the Global TV and Knowledge Network channels are damaged and in need of repair, but at 25 years old are no longer supported by the manufacturer.

“Of all this update,” Stapirken told the Valley Times. “We have received one unit back from repair and will be reinstalling the power amplifier, with fingers crossed to bring the Knowledge Network back on track.”

An overview of the society’s finances was also presented, including current cash reserves and the amount spent for operation and maintenance during the last several years. Due to lack of cooperation from the previous manager, said Stapirken, they have had to rely on “audit statements and a limited amount of financial information that has been passed down to complete a financial summary.” Efforts to obtain a clear picture of the finances have been hampered by hazy bookkeeping in years past. The society has also been working with Area H Director Popoff to negotiate the release of financial aid that has been collected and held by the RDCK since the 2000s.

“Is all legal proceedings have been sufficiently addressed.”

“Director Popoff feels satisfied with the information our society has submitted, including a meeting that was held earlier to discuss any further issues or concerns, and will pursue the release of the funds successfully in December,” explains Stapirken. “These funds are needed to help cover the ongoing maintenance issues that have plagued the towers since October.”

The board has set as priorities for the new year a forum for a forum of short- and long-term strategies, including a community survey seeking input on long-term goals. Also in the works is a week-by-week forecast.

The Slocan Valley TV Society meetings are open to the public but Stapirken asks that the board be notified in advance of any visitors. The society is open to suggestions on the agenda. The society also releases information via its Facebook page.

Hanukkah at Silverton Hall

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday celebrated around the time of the Winter Solstice. A nine branch candelabrum is used to light candles for eight nights. The origin of Hanukkah date back over 2,000 years, to the year 160 BCE, when the Maccabees revolted against the Hellenistic Greeks of the Seleucid Empire. The ancient story relates how the temple lamps miraculously stayed lit for eight days and nights when the only oil was oil enough to light them for one. Today we celebrate the holiday with songs, dancing, feasting and games.

Hanukkah performance at the Silverton Gallery in 2011, the Slocan Lake Gallery Society has continued to offer an annual Hanukkah event for the community. The society is not able to stop and Halley, Haya Maor, a folk dance professional and member of all things Hanukkah, will lead circle dances and songs and sing along.

Yemen also has it that we will be treated to performances on clarinetist Jordan Smith, who will be performing on the “Vanity Fair” Vanishing Flame” by Larry Zaleski, a reading by author Judy Wapp, children’s stories, and games. There will be a non-denominational candle lighting.
Nakusp Celebration of Light
rings in the season Friday, December 5
by Jan McMurray

Join the fun in downtown Nakusp on Friday, December 5 for the Celebration of Light.

Moonlight Madness happens all day long, with the shops open from 9:30 am to 8 pm. The Nakusp Farmers Market Crafters will be set up at the old Napa building between the courthouse and Three Lions from 1 to 7 pm.

Nakusp Minor Hockey hosts a free skate with Santa at the arena from 3 to 5 pm.

Food Bank donations are being accepted at Overwinos again this year with the ‘stuff the bus’ challenge.

Starting at 4 pm at the courthouse, there will be food vendors, hot adult beverages, music by DJ Matt McKee, Christmas carollers and Santa’s Redneck Chili Cookoff. To enter the cookoff, call Bud at 265-7315.

The parade will start at 6 pm at the arena and flow down Broadway to The Hut. Everyone is invited to participate in the parade. First, second and third prizes will be awarded in each category: best float, best youth float, best pet. Judging of floats starts at 5:30 pm.

After the parade, about 6:30 pm, watch for street performances by Dance on the Kusp and the Mythmaker Fire Dancers. This will be happening on Broadway between 4th and 5th.

Santa will be handing out chocolates after the parade in front of the courthouse. Kids can catch Santa and Mrs. Claus at Home Hardware the next day (Saturday, December 6) for Santa’s Workshop. Children can sit on Santa’s knee 10 am-noon and 1-3 pm.

and pets can see him from 3 to 4 pm.
Cap it all off at the Leland, where 23 North will be playing.

Everyone is invited to enter the house decorating contest, and downtown businesses are invited to dress up their windows for the business decorating contest. Businesses and homes will be judged on Wednesday, December 3.

The event is sponsored by Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia Power, the Village of Nakusp, Arrow Lakes Arts Council, Keootenay Park and Development, Dance on the Kusp, Napa and Home Hardware.

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Dinner Tickets:
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Suzanne Storer 265-3510
Linda Goudreault 265-4117
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For Dinner
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Tickets are on sale until Dec 10th

$1000 of dollars in Silent Auction Items

Plates, Dishes

Food Vendors, Hot Adult Beverages, music by DJ Matt McKee, Carollers and much more!
Santa’s Redneck Chili Cookoff (To enter call Bud @ 265-7315)
11 am - 1 pm Food Bank donation at Overwinos
11 am - 7 pm Nakusp Farmers Market Crafters
3 pm - 5 pm Free Skate with Santa at Arena (hosted by Nakusp Minor Hockey)
4 pm At the Courthouse

Performances by Dance on the Kusp & Mythmaker Fire Dancers
Info: Nakusp Visitor Centre: 250 265 4234
Thanks to our Sponsors:

Columbia Basin Trust
Columbia Power
Keootenay Park & Development
Arrow Lakes Arts Council
NAPA

30% off Ladies Wear & Fabric
20% off Yarn
10% off Undergarments
Additional 10% off if wearing your PJ’s
Open Late Dec. 5
Bugs Moroe
DOLLAR & DOLLAR
415 Broadway • Nakusp • 265-3644

Santa Claus makes his arrival at last year’s Celebration of Light in Nakusp.
New Denver Merchants’ Night – Friday, December 12

SANTA CLAUS arranges to be at New Denver Merchants’ Night. Santa will be in his chair under the KSCU awning and hear all about what the kids want for Christmas.

New Denver’s Christmas celebration is sponsored by Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Power Corporation.

Welcome to all from 5-8 pm to enjoy Hot Cocoa and Cookies!

New Market Foods
6th Avenue • New Denver, BC
250-358-2270

MERCHANTS’ NIGHT DEC 12
OPEN TILL 8:00 PM
10% OFF EVERYTHING IN THE STORE 5-8 pm
SAMPLING OF APPLES, CHEESES
Please give to the Christmas food hamper box located at the front of the store

New Denver Merchants’ Night Christmas Cookie Decorating
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Submitted
New Denver’s main street merchants are open late and are offering all kinds of specials and fun activities on New Denver Merchants’ Night, Friday, December 12. Check out the ads on this page for details.

From 5 to 8 pm on Merchants’ Night, New Denver’s royalty will be serving free hot dogs, hot chocolate, and goodies baked by Robin McNabb at a table outside KSCU.

Santa arrives in the fire truck at 6 pm, and will sit in his chair under the KSCU awning and hear all about what the kids want for Christmas.

The Community Choir will be out carolling, and there are rumours of a surprise street performance as well.

Warm up by the bonfires at either end of the street, or inside at Rory’s, Nuru, or your favourite store. Anita’s Pottery will set up at New Market Foods, and the Hidden Garden Gallery will also be open.

Don’t forget to pick up your merchants’ card and get it initialised at all the shops listed. Bring your completed card to the Valley Voice office, where the draw for a basket of items donated by local businesses happens at 8 pm.

“New Denver Merchants’ Night has been very well attended the past few years, and we’re hoping for another great turnout this year,” says Nikita Boroumand, chair of the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, which organizes the event. “Please come out and join us in supporting our local businesses!”

New Denver Merchants’ Night
Sloanc Lake Hardware
Main Street
New Denver
250-358-2422

RORY’S ON MAIN
Open Dec. 12 for Merchants’ Night
5 pm to 8 pm
We will be serving our ever tender braised beef, our Asian style rice bowl, plus two new rice bowls, a lamb curry and a Mediterranean inspired bowl.

Please call 250-358-2449 for reservations

The Valley Voice • December 3, 2014
Kaslo celebrates Light-Up all day and evening, Saturday, December 6

by Jan McMurray

Downtown Kaslo will be bustling with all kinds of activities happening all day and evening on Saturday, December 6 for the Kaslo Light-Up celebration.

During the day, check out the craft fair at the Legion from 10 am to 4 pm. The kids’ scavenger hunt is happening from 1 to 3 pm at participating stores – watch for posters on the entrances of participating stores. Pick up your cards at Kootenay Lake Computers and redeem them for your prizes until 5:15 pm at Kaslo Florists.

At 5 pm, the Langham presents singer/songwriter Lowry Olafson – a big hit with children. Tickets ($10) for the show are being sold at Sunnyside, Willow and at the door. In the evening, the bonfire across from the hotel will be lit at 4 pm. The stores are open late and most are offering something special. Kaslo Minor Hockey will be selling hot dogs and treats outside of Front Street Market. There will be carolers, and live music at Buddy’s Front Street Pizza.

Be ready to line up along the main street for the parade, which starts at 6 pm. Participants are asked to line up at the Meyzie at 5 pm. Last-minute participants are always welcome.

Immediately following the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be holding Santa’s Workshop at the hotel.

The Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce organizes the Light-Up celebration every year. This year, the event is sponsored by Columbia Power Corporation and the Village of Kaslo.

Come Celebrate Light-Up in Kaslo!

Featured items
- Heritage Mills stone ground 100% whole wheat all-purpose flour
- Crown and milled in Rock Creek, BC
- Canadian Best Seller: Uncooking with RawFood
- Your guide to raw foods
- In stores today all day Saturday Dec 6
- Stop by for a coffee

Kaslo Community Pharmacy

DID YOU KNOW?
Your doctor can fax your prescription from their office and we can have it ready for pick-up.

CELEBRATING KASLO LIGHT UP GIFT BASKET DRAW
Visit Kaslo Community Pharmacy on Facebook
250-353-2224 (ph)
240-353-2336 (fax)

Kaslo Clothes Hanger
Affordable Choices for Gift Ideas & Stocking Stuffers
400 Front St., Kaslo • 353-9688

ATV & SNOW PLOW SPECIAL
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With Fuel Injection, Power Steering, 2500 lb WARN Winch & 60” Plow.
$10,399.00
COSTCO MEMBERS GET AN ADDITIONAL $300.00 DISCOUNT
(Freight, PDI & Plow Installation included)
Jones Boys
4080 Hwy 31, Ainsworth • www.jonesboysboats.com • Phone: 250-353-2550 Toll-free 877-552-6287
Kaslo man wins award for restorative justice work

submitted

Larry Moore of Kaslo was presented the prestigious national Ron Wiiba Restorative Justice Award from the Correctional Service of Canada at a symposium held in Baieville. This award recognizes Canadians who have demonstrated, through their work or lifestyle, ways of transforming human relationships, by enabling and promoting communication and healing between people in conflict, be they victims, offenders, colleagues, families or neighbours.

In presenting the award, Scott Harris, a Correctional Service Assistant Commissioner, said, “Larry is truly a person who seeks justice... he is perpetually looking for a better experience of justice in whatever he does. He is not afraid to speak what needs to be spoken...it is his tenacity, his persistence and his true sense of right and wrong and respect for humanity that leads him into what he does. And it is a reflection of that spirit that brought him here today."

Moore first became involved in restorative justice in 1996 after he himself became a victim of crime. He recognized the need to get involved within Canada’s criminal justice system and founded the Kaslo Restorative Justice Committee.

In 2001, Moore and his wife Cathie Douglas created Heartsparks Productions, a video production company that has produced more than 80 documentaries and videos that are used around the world as educational and training materials on peace making and justice principles.

Using educational video media and making it accessible online to Canadians and internationally has tremendously impacted the field. These resources continue to shape restorative justice as a whole in prison, community and academic settings.

Moore’s tireless and voluntary work in advancing restorative justice for nearly 20 years has been a shining example of the collaboration and empowerment in this field. His passion and dedication has, and will continue, to impact the lives of many across Canada for years to come.

“I am very honored and humbled to be acknowledged by my peers and the Correctional Service of Canada,” said Moore. “I didn’t do any of it by myself. It takes a network of compassionate beings to create a ripple effect. Thank you all. All My Relations.”

KASLO & DISTRICT

This Holiday Season in Kaslo & Area...

Holiday Gift Giveaway!

$500 value Grand Prize
2 x $500 Prizes
6 x $100 prizes

Try us first and WIN BIG!
$1800 value in prizes!

Shop at participating local businesses and enter draw with each purchase!

Support your friends and neighbours by Choosing Local this holiday season.

From NOW till Dec. 19th

Thank you to our local sponsors!

Artisan Markets at the Kaslo Hotel

The Kaslo Christmas Artisan Market is happening again this year on two Saturdays, December 13 and 20, from 10 am to 3 pm, in the warm, relaxing Kaslo Hotel.

Skilled local artisans will be offering a variety of high-quality, locally made, organic and fair trade handcrafted gifts and holiday treats.

Donna Hicks will offer her beautiful watercolour paintings and elegant jewelry. Karen Sennneff will bring a huge variety of colourful handknitted accessories. Bob Canterbury will be there with his finely crafted leatherwork (December 13 only).

Lindsay will bring her suprings wrapped for loved ones and friends. Nancy of Croissant Moon will offer delicious freshly baked empanadas of many flavours. Donna of Glaciere Soups will be there with her natural handmade soups, chocolate treats, and marmalade.

Sada Nana and Guru Giar of Spirit Bear Body Care will be there with their high quality all natural aromatherapy body care products and essential oil blends.

And more...

Come and get your fresh homemade holiday treats, stocking stuffers and special one-of-a-kind lovingly handcrafted gifts from local artisans.

Admission is free.
School District 8 calls for input on reconfiguration or closure of facilities

by Jan McMurray
Kootenay Lake School District No. 8 is doing some long range planning around its schools and other facilities, and is asking for feedback from the public by January 5.

A series of seven meetings around the district was launched November 17 and will wrap up December 8.

At the Winlaw session on November 19, secretary treasurer Kim Morris, superintendent Jeff Jones and teacher Suzanne Magnum made presentations.

Morris explained that the board is taking a comprehensive look at all the facilities in the district, including schools, bus garages, maintenance shops and board offices. All of these facilities add up to 91,300 square metres of space, and enrolment has dropped from 6,600 students in 1996 to 4,709 this year. “That’s a lot of property when we have declining enrollment,” she said. “Is there an opportunity to dispose of some of those facilities?”

The board wants the public to come up with ‘scenarios’ for reconfiguration or closure of some of these facilities, or for status quo. The scenarios will be evaluated using a scorecard of 16 criteria, which include economic, educational, operational and strategic considerations. In early 2015, the board plans to do another round of public meetings to present the scenario.

Morris said the board does not have a preconceived outcome in mind, and wants to involve the public in the planning process.

“We want you to understand the challenges the board is facing, and some of the goals,” she said. “The main goal of the facility plan is to add value to learning.”

The facility plan can add value to learning in various ways. It will help to provide the best learning environment for students, to make the case to the Ministry for new buildings if necessary; and to transfer funds from operations and capital budgets to the classroom.

Morris presented data about SD8’s facilities, including the year they were built, their condition, and the utilization of the schools.

The ‘utilization’ of schools looks at the number of students the school was built for vs. the number of students actually attending the school. Morris said the ministry likes to see 75 percent utilization.

Overall, the district’s schools are 71 percent utilized this year. They were 75 percent utilized in 2011/12 and are projected to be 75 percent utilized in 2023/24.

Winlaw and Bletwell Schools are the most utilized schools in the district. This year, Winlaw is 105 percent utilized, with 100 students and a capacity of 99 students. Bletwell is 101 percent utilized in 2023/24; it is 21 percent utilized this year. Brent Kenneth is expected to be 92 percent utilized in 2023/24; it is 90 percent utilized this year. Morris said that Brent Kenneth’s enrollment is declining, as many children are attending Bletwell. Mt. Sentinel is expected to be 81 percent utilized in 2023/24; this year, it is 80 percent utilized.

The most underutilized facility of schools is Kasko/Crawford Bay (45 percent utilized in 2023/24 and 49 percent utilized today). Then comes Salmo at 71 percent utilized in 2023/24, Creston at 74 percent, Slocan at 75 percent and Nelson at 84 percent.

The condition of the facilities is measured by the Ministry of Education in a variety of ways, including each facility’s ‘facility condition index’ (FCI). The lower the FCI, the better the condition of the building. Crawford Bay and Salmo Secondary have the best FCI in the district.

Fundraiser for Perry River - Slocan River

The Perry Ridge Water Users Association and the Sxinnt Nation will host a pancake breakfast on Saturday, December 6 from 9 am to noon at Passmore Hall in the Slocan Valley. To celebrate the season, there will be a sale of gifts, and a craft corner for children. The event is offered by donation, with the funds going to help fund Dr. Lee Benda’s work on Perry River.

“We are privileged to begin work with Dr. Lee Benda,” said Marilyn Burgon, president of the Perry Ridge Water Users Association. Benda holds a PhD from the Department of Geological Sciences from the University of Washington (Seattle) and was appointed to a panel of the US Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board for the review of a report entitled, ‘Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters.’ He also co-founded ‘TerrainWorks,’ to increase access to science and technology to larger stakeholder groups (agencies, NGOs, and private sector) in order to strengthen resource management and conservation.

Dr. Benda has agreed to do an independent assessment of the government studies of the BC Timber Sales areas of interest on Perry River, particularly the two areas of interest at the north end on the ridge above Jerome, Nelly and Arco. The BC Timber Sales hydrology study and terrain studies should be finished shortly and will be forwarded to Perry Ridge Water Users Association.

Donations made at the fundraiser will help secure needed additional funding for Dr. Benda to come to the valley and do field work on the areas of interest and assess the safety issue.

Dr. Benda has volunteered to do a public presentation when in the valley this coming spring. His presentation will be on the tragic and predicted Oso Mudslide in Washington State. Dr. Benda has stated that harvesting can increase soil water “on the order of 20 to 35 percent.”

The association and the Sxinnt Nation look forward to seeing the community and sharing updates on their work to protect the gift of water – both in the creeks and the river system – in addition to sharing an early morning breakfast with folks on their way to do their gift shopping, and providing an opportunity to purchase gifts that were donated to the fundraiser.

Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Front Counter BC Cranbrook has accepted an application made by Ice Creek Lodge, r1, s8, c13, Winlaw, BC represented by Russell Hubbert on behalf of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO), Kootenay Region, to amend the Disposition of Crown land and enter the land on the Dispersed Crown Land and existing tenure area on Provincial Crown land and containing 2,500 hectares or more.

The MFLNRO File Numbers that have been established for this application are 4463893. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to Front Counter BC, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook BC, V1C 7G1 or email to: AuthorisingAgency.Cranbrook@to.gov.bc.ca Comments will be received by Front Counter BC until Dec 19, 2014. Front Counter BC may not consider comments received after this date. Please see our website http://www.arfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp -> Search -> Search by File Number: Insert Land File Number for more information. This application will be available for viewing at: Front Counter BC in Cranbrook, BC.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the FOI Advisor at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations regional office in Cranbrook.
COMMUNITY

RDCK board, November 20: Bike tours approved on Galena Trail

by Ian MacMurray

• The board honoured outgoing directors: Chair John Kettle, Directors Hilary Elliott (Sloan), Andy Shadrock (Ares D), Ann Henderson (Salmo), Ron Mickel (Ares F), Gordon Zutoff (Ares J), John Dooley (Nelson).

• The board approved the Wandering Wheels proposal to use the Galena Trail on the conditions that travel be conducted in groups of no more than five people, users stay within the regulated speed limit, and that the group provide a report on its usage of Galena Trail, including how many people used the trail. Wandering Wheels is a mountain bike tour company out of Revelstoke.

• Recommendations regarding waste facilities in the Central subdivision, which include Katslo and Ares D, were passed. Staff will investigate options for an optimal recycling depot program for the subdivision, operating hours for waste facilities in the subdivision will be restricted to between 7 am and 7 pm except for emergency repairs or maintenance. Visual impact of the facilities will be minimized to every extent feasible, including the use of natural colours on all structures, vehicles and containers. Also wherever feasible, barriers will be provided to prevent vehicle lights from impacting nearby residential properties. Staff will also look into suitable ways to encourage composting.

• Nelson’s Alternate Director Deb Kozak reported on a recent seminar in Spokane on the Columbia River Treaty. “It was an opportunity to share the message from the Basin about what happened here when the dams went in and educate people from the US on how that worked,” she said. Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Province’s recommendations regarding the Columbia River Treaty, but there was no one from the US to present. The message was that water was going to be the big issue moving forward.

• Director Main of Silverton reported that after the November election, 55 percent of the elected officials in the RDCK are women. The provincial average is 37 percent.

• Area D Director Shadrock reported that Deb Kozak is the new president of the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments. Shadrock also asked directors to be vigilant on the issue of small water systems, an issue he has worked having a permanent tenure on the RDCK board.

• Staff was asked to investigate the development of a childcare compensation policy for directors. This was put forward by Director Shadrock.

• Community Development grants were approved for the WE Graham Community Service Society ($4,000), the North Kootenay Lake Community Service Society ($1,000), Arrow Slocan Lakes Community Services ($2,000), Nakusp Legion ($350), Edgewater Fire Department ($2,000).

VILLAGE OF SILVERTON

Commission Representatives needed!

The Village of Silverton is looking for Silverton residents to sit on several commissions, including:

• Recreation Commission No. 6
• Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission
• Rosebery Parklands and Trails Commission

If interested, please contact the Village Office at 250-358-2472 or email mmiles@silverton.ca

Harper government destroys farmers’ control over seed

submitted

The National Farmers Union (NFU) is sounding the alarm with the passing of Bill C-18, the Agriculture Growth Act amends bill November 24 in the House of Commons. “Farmers have to work with public institutions, the largest of which is the NFU, who are interested in the survival of the 21st century," said NFU president Ann Slater. "The NFU is the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants.)

Bill C-18 gives seed breeders — including large multinational companies — massive new rights over seed along with the power to extract vast amounts of money from farmers," adds vice-president Ann Slater. "The NFU is the largest organization of farmers in Canada, representing over 13,000 farmers and a collective voice for the NFU in the House of Commons. It is the NFU’s job to ensure that the NFU is considered in the legislative process and that the NFU’s voice is heard."

Get money back on your new wood stove

submitted

The RDCK is collaborating with local municipalities to help residents burn better through the Wood Stove Exchange Rebate Program. "The RDCK has received feedback from the province and the BC Lung Association to administer its exchange program. All RDCK electoral areas and municipalities have also committed to "top up" funding, bringing the total value of each rebate to $350. Seventy rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis."

In order to qualify for the rebate, residents must replace an old (pre-1994), uncertified wood stove with a new, locally purchased, CSA-certified wood stove, gas stove, pellet stove, or insert. The stove must be in active use for home heating. Old stoves must be destroyed and taken to a local landfill or transfer station for disposal. "Governments across North America have implemented wood stove exchange programs with the goal of improving air quality. In the RDCK, air quality conditions are often the poorest during winter months when wood stove use is at its peak. Wood smoke contains particulate matter, which is associated with respiratory problems and heart disease. New emissions-certified wood stoves save money by burning one-third less wood, and reduce smoke and particulates entering the atmosphere by up to 90 per cent."

To ensure safe and efficient wood burning: use a high efficiency wood stove; build small, hot fires; ensure the wood is properly seasoned, with a water content of 15 percent or less; split wood into pieces 4” x 4” in diameter, store wood outside, off the ground, and covered, never burn garbage or treated wood; ensure your stove is installed or inspected by a certified technician. For more information on the program, or for a copy of the rebate application, visit www.rdck.ca.

Happy Holidays from Nakusp Hot Springs

Have you considered a Gift Certificate to the Cedar Chalets as a Christmas Gift? Call us for more information.

Happy Holidays from Nakusp Hot Springs

Nakusp Hot Springs

Chalets & Campground

Nakusp Hot Springs

PASSES

Available in packs of 5 • Mix & Match
Adults $8.50 each Youth/Students $8.00 each (example: 4 adult passes and 1 Youth Pass = $42.00)

PASSES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE UNTIL...

Dec 31, 2014 at the Village Office and the Nakusp Hot Springs.

Holiday gift passes available for purchase as stocking stuffers!
Fosthall Creek power project to benefit Splatsin First Nation

by Jan McMurray

After 14 years in the development stage, the Fosthall Creek independent power project is one step closer to becoming a reality. On November 13, the Impact Benefit Agreement was signed with the Splatsin First Nation.

“When I started this project in 2001, I was packing my daughter onto my back. Now she’s 18 years old,” said Darcy Fear of Crescent Valley. “If I’d known how long it would take, I would have been even more frustrated. But I would be, I would have never started. But we’re very close now, and I believe in this project — it will produce good, clean energy.”

The Impact Benefit Agreement, the first of its kind in the area, outlines the economic and social benefits the Splatsin will enjoy from the project. Located about 10 kilometers north of Nakusp and across the lake, the project site is in Splatsin territory.

The two signatories to the agreement were Fosthall Creek Power Ltd. and Sorgente e Hydro Canada Corporation. Fosthall Creek Power Ltd. is the company Fear and his friend Harold Kalke of Vancouver started to develop the project. Sorgente e Hydro is an international engineering company with expertise and experience in renewable energy. Almost two years ago, in 2013, Fosthall engaged a partnership with Sorgente to co-develop the project. Sorgente will be the final owner of the power plant.

Fears reported that the project will create about 200 jobs during the construction phase, and two to three jobs once it is up and running. He said the Splatsin will have the option to bid on parts of the construction work in the competitive bid process.

The conference, co-sponsored by the Columbia Basin Trust and the US Northwest Power and Conservation Council, brought together 300 delegates including passionate voices from both Canadian First Nations and US Tribes.

The conversation over the three days included many of the issues that were never part of the original discussion when the treaty was first enacted. In 1964, the only purposes agreed on were flood control and power generation. There wasn’t an appropriate consideration to the substantial loss of people’s homes, the destruction of the ecosystem, an environment that was forever altered, the agricultural land lost, and the many opportunities that were taken away from the people of the Basin.

There were some positives, as the permanent flood control ensured there has never been another flood in the Basin, and the downstream benefits are a financial boon to the Government of BC. However, for many people who were significantly affected, the entire process will never be seen as a positive one.

There were a number of themes throughout the three days, including that we should learn from the mistakes of our past governments, pay attention to the effects of climate change and embrace energy conservation, or as one Native Elder said, “we should learn to just turn out the lights.”

One of the most overarching messages from the conference was support for the return of salmon to the Upper Columbia. The salmon were not kept from the river by the treaty but due to the building of the Grand Coulee dam back in the 1930s. The US government at the time asked our federal government if it would be an issue that the salmon would no longer be able to get to the upper Columbia.

One of the conferences’ goals was that the disappearance of the salmon was not a problem. We all now agree that to this day it has been a problem.

Geothermal a good alternative to Site C, association says

submitted

The Canadian Geothermal Energy Association (CanGEA) says its report shows geothermal energy is a low-cost clean alternative to the proposed $8 billion Site C dam project in northeastern BC.

“Geothermal has the potential to provide firm energy at a lower cost than Site C in a manner that benefits ratepayers, taxpayers, the economy and the environment, not to mention having a carbon footprint that is lower than Site C,” says CanGEA chair Alison Thompson.

“As the Joint Review Panel noted, new sources of energy are not required immediately, and likely not within 2029, and to so there is time to complete proper due diligence, build geothermal plants and catch up to the rest of the world after 30 years of downplaying geothermal.”

The BC Cabinet is expected to decide whether or not to proceed with Site C before Christmas.

CanGEA says its report shows “There is a sufficient geothermal potential to meet all of the province’s future power needs, including the 1.100 MW of capacity and 5,100 gigawatt hours per year (GWh/yr) of energy that would come from Site C.”

For more information, there is a full background on the CanGAEA Geothermal Report available at http://www.cangea.ca.

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription

Only $10-$30

Send Cheque or Money Order to: The Valley Voice Box 70 New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

CONTACT OF A MAINTENANCE POWER OUTAGE AT SILVERTON

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 2 hours.

Where: Silverton, on Red Mountain Road and Highway 6 south of Silverton

When: Thursday December 4, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To prepare for this interruption and protect your equipment from damage, please turn of 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 3760) for more information.

BCHydro

FOR GENERATIONS

We are 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 2 hours.

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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 3760) for more information.
New Denver’s Lila Strand publishes first children’s book

You may have heard about Lila Strand’s new children’s book about star children coming to visit the earth. The Star Children is about to be printed, and with luck will arrive in New Denver in time for Christmas with a launch at the Hidden Garden Gallery.

This lovely full-colour book for young children offers an invitation into nature and also into subjective possibilities. The star children want to come and play with earth children, but need the help of the Mother-Of-Us-All to find the way here. They share some delightful experiences in nature with the earth children, until they are helped back up to the sky world by the sun.

“I wrote this book because I feel sadness the way most of today’s children are growing up disconnected from the natural world in an urban landscape. Even here, where we have nature everywhere around us, technology has such an unfortunate effect on the growing child. Parents and teachers, and children, are easily lured to inhabit a cyber world that dulls the child’s senses and the connection to their inner self and the world around them. To be in nature offers a greater sense of wonder and inner life, and spontaneous self-generated activity.”

After retiring from many years of teaching Kindergarten at Larchview School, Lila started to write and illustrate books for children. This is the first one to be ready for publication.

She grew up in Norway where she spent her childhood deeply connected to nature. “I think I am writing the kind of book I wanted to hear read to me when I was a little girl. And the kind of book I wanted to read to my own children when they were small.”

It took her three or four years to finish the illustrations in the book. “Of course, I am not painting all the time. All summer I am in my gardens, and I am not really fully painted, as I love to be engaged in different programs in both hard-cover and soft-cover. It will be available on Amazon, or Google the book’s title for other sale locations. But for now, because of community requests and with Christmas pending, Lila will make the books available at the book launch, and possibly other locations.

Please email Lila at lilastrand@icloud.com if you would like to be notified of the book launch time (which cannot be nailed down until the books have arrived in New Denver). Also, please watch for an ad in the next edition of the Valley Voice.

Whole School Students raise funds for Jack Colbert

Every year the Whole School students pick one or two issues to support and raise money for in their yearly Generosity Project. This year the project involves a special family that has joined the Whole School — the Colberts. Jack, their 20-month-old son, struggles with multiple health problems after being born with Down Syndrome. Medical costs have piled up for the family and the students decided they wanted to help.

On Thursday, December 4 at 1:30 pm, the students will hold a hot chocolate, baked goods and art sale to raise funds to support the family with travel and medical expenses.

“The children at the school have taken this family into their hearts and decided to support them in Jack’s journey towards health,” says principal Anniah Lang. “They felt it was integral to have a personal connection and a local context for their support.”

Jack’s last surgery went well, but we have to wait and see if his condition continues to improve,” says her daughter, Ilana. “If not, we will use at looking at a future of more travel back and forth to BC Children’s Hospital, possibly more surgery and intervention.”

Ilana is happy that the students at the school are interested and aware of how stressful Jack’s health issues have been for them as a family. This is an opportunity for them to learn about Down Syndrome and see what a fabulous little guy Jack is.”

Last year the Whole School students raised funds and collected food for the first time for the Slocan Valley Food Cupboard. This year’s sale will take place at the Winlaw Park & Ride during celebrations such as ‘harvest tide’ as well as Christmas.”

This melodious event takes place at the Valley’s Whole Community Centre at 3762 Little Slocan River Road. Any tasty little offerings you might like to share will be gratefully received, the choir will provide.

BC day celebrates national hero Terry Fox

He’s one of Canada’s most iconic and inspirational citizens, a symbol of hope, courage and determination in the face of cancer, and the BC government has legislated a day in his name. The second Sunday after Labour Day will now be officially recognized as Terry Fox Day.

This is also the date of the hundreds of annual cross-Canada run commemorating Fox’s Marathon of Hope.

The legislation recognizes Fox as a symbol of hope for British Columbians.

New Nakusp shop offers Kootenay made art and crafts

Betty Edie Create something!

Betty Edie is a beautiful and interesting Artisans boutique, showcasing many talented artists/ crafts persons from all over the Kootenays and more! She is nestled into one of the most beautiful little towns in the central kootenays/world, Nakusp BC. 102 4th Ave Nakusp B.C.

by Jan McMurray

If you’re looking for local, handmade, unique gifts, Betty’s Edie in Nakusp is well worth checking out.

The store has been open since the summer, and is located in the old daycare building on Fourth Ave., one block up from the CBCC on Broadway and Fourth.

Store owner Autumn Groschantz, artist herself, saw the opportunity to open an artisans boutique in Nakusp. “There are so many talented artists in the Kootenays!” she says. “Everything in my shop is unique and interesting. That’s what I look for – things that jump out at me, that I’m not going to find everywhere.”

Betty’s Edie has clothing, bath and beauty products, jewellery, hula hoops, incense, candles, pottery, home décor, art, books, cards, hats, scarves, hand blown glass, purses, wallets, arm bands, belt buckles and much more – and almost all of it is handmade in the Kootenays.

One of the reasons Autumn opened the store was so she can spend more time doing her crafts. You’ll find her jewellery, hula hoops, clothing, arm bands, and flower hair clips at the store. “I’m a crafter and I’m always trying new things,” she said.

Autumn’s mother made jewellery, and taught Autumn to help her when she was a young girl. “At 12 years old, I was selling jewellery alongside my mother and I was making money! That’s how I got started,” she says.

Autumn was born in Nakusp, raised in Galena Bay, and travelled around BC with the carnivore before moving back to Nakusp. She bought her home three years ago, and is operating Betty’s Edie out of the same building. With a 7-year-old daughter, Autumn is happy to be working out of her home.

Betty’s Edie is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am-4:45 pm. Over Christmas, she will be open Christmas Eve 2-7 pm and Boxing Day noon-5 pm.
Fall is the time to evict unwanted bats from buildings

Submitted

Summer is the season when property owners notice bats in their buildings. They may find guano on the deck, hear bats in the walls, or smell a build-up of guano. The Kootenay Community Bat Project (KCBP), funded by the Columbia Basin Trust and the Columbia Valley Land Conservation Fund, has received hundreds of calls about the years with these issues. In many cases, human residents are happy to leave bats where they are. However, for those who would like to have bats move out of their buildings, now is the time to do something about it.

"With the decline of natural roost structures in the wild, such as large trees or undisturbed rock crevices, some bat species have adapted to use buildings for their roost sites," says Juliet Craig, co-coordinating biologist for the KCBP. "Groups of related females can form large colonies called maternity roots where they get together to have their one pup. These colonies may use attics, walls, chimneys, siding, barns, sheds and other structures."

Under the BC Wildlife Act it is illegal to extirpate or harm bats. In order to get rid of them, the best strategy is to wait until they have left the building and seal up all the entry and exit points. However, in summer months, bats can become trapped inside.

In general, bats in the Kootenays leave buildings in the late summer or early fall. They use fall roost sites where they mate and then go into mines or caves to hibernate. Although there is a possibility that bats can use buildings over the winter, it is unusual.

For those who want a bat-free building, this is the time of year they have checked and then work on sealing up all entry and exit points. One of the most important strategies in excluding bats is to install a bat-house nearby to provide the bats with an alternative habitat. They are less likely to be persistent in entering their old roost site in a building if they have somewhere else to roost.

To find out more about bat evictions, bat-house plans, or bat biology, visit www.kootenaysbats.com and download the FAQ booklet or call 1 855 98C BAT EXT 14.

Liquor licensing updates support tourism and businesses, Province says

Submitted

The provincial government says it is cutting red tape around licensing, making it easier and more cost-effective for golf courses and ski hills to expand their liquor licence areas.

Ski hills and golf courses can apply starting on December 9, for a single licence endorsement costing $330 that covers up to 26 events in a calendar year, rather than having application and pay separately for each extension.

Previously, businesses had to make one-off, temporary changes, at a cost of $330 each time, with a maximum of six per year, whenever they wanted to expand their licensed area for an event. The licence endorsement will encourage ski hills and golf courses to offer more events, weddings, and other tourism opportunities throughout BC.

Another change in the works is that liquor-primary establishments will be able to offer more all-ages events, such as concerts and dances. The licence amendment fees will be eliminated and the approval process will be streamlined for applicants.

For both of these changes, it’s hoped to ensure public safety is maintained, all events will continue to be flagged, using a simple online notification application, for the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch, which may levy penalties for non-compliance.

‘Not Quite Plagiarism’ at the Nelson Public Library

Submitted

In a show he calls ‘Not Quite Plagiarism,’ mixed media artist Jason Assell offers a different take on retro images and art from the children’s books of decades past. Assell’s exhibition, comprised of altered covers and pages from a 1950s children’s illustrated dictionary, is now showing at the Nelson Public Library.

"I use a process of creating the pieces completely internal to the medium so as to present something complete and recognizable, but not," explains Assell.

He points to a page that defines the words ‘concrete’ and ‘conference.’ The page is framed within an opening in the cover of the original book, but closer scrutiny reveals that Assell has marginalized the two words in a single illustration so that now the pouring concrete is creating the baseman at the head of the conference table in a quirky play of words and images.

"I wanted this dictionary to go beyond clear and decisive definitions and into the fantastic," he says. The process differs from traditional

COMMUNITY

healthcare visitors should be vaccinated

Submitted

All visitors to provincial healthcare facilities, including long-term care homes, are asked to be vaccinated against influenza, or to wear a mask while visiting, to help protect those most vulnerable from influenza.

This policy first took effect last year, to help protect patients and seniors who are most at risk of complications from the flu. Anyone who enters a hospital, long-term care facility or any other healthcare facility will be expected to wear a mask if they have not been vaccinated against influenza. Masks will be available, free of charge.

Visitors join healthcare workers, volunteers and contractors in their efforts to protect patient safety through this comprehensive influenza prevention strategy. The best way for visitors to help protect their loved ones in hospitals, long-term care facilities and other healthcare facilities is to get vaccinated.

If you do plan on visiting someone in one of these facilities, or if you take family members to outpatient appointments, you are eligible for a free flu shot. Flu shots are available at pharmacies, doctors’ offices, and public health clinics. Visitors will be asked to comply with this policy on the honour system.

Flu shots are also offered for free in BC to a number of individuals, including children, seniors, pregnant women, Aboriginal people, individuals with chronic health conditions, and those who work or come in close contact with higher-risk groups.

The influenza vaccine is safe and effective at preventing illness when used in conjunction with other infection control practices, such as hand washing and remaining home when sick.

For more information about influenza and vaccination clinics, visit www.immunizebc.ca.

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We currently have an opportunity to hire a part-time Administrative Assistant I to provide administrative and marketing support to our Financial Advisor in Nakusp.

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For full details about this position including qualifications and information about how to apply prior to December 12, 2014 please see the Careers Section of our website at www.kscu.com.
The Valley Voice December 3, 2014
I’D LIKE TO THANK all the shoppers who voted on November 19. Thanks to those who voted for me. I think we’ll have a great group who will work hard to better our town.
Sincerely,
Jean Patterson
COMING EVENTS
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT - St. Andrew’s United Church in Burst. December 17 at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.
GOAT MOUNTAIN SCHOOL AGM on Thursday, December 11 at 3:30 pm at Lucretia School Library.
APPRECIATE THE MAJESTIC grandness of WOLVES! Powerful film “Lord of Nature” showing at Slocan Park Hall, Sunday December 14, 1 p.m. By donation.
CHRISTMAS ARTS MARKET December 13-15, 10am-5pm, Kootenay Inn. Croissants, soups, chocolates, preserves, artists, snacks, paintings, jewelry, laminate, leatherwork. Free admission.
Personal Classifieds start at $8.00 250-358-2128 for details
**COMMUNITY**

Roseberry, From 1856 to 1965, he worked on the fans. C. He joined the mill crew in November and was a boom boat operator for 32 years. John worked on boats all his life but couldn’t swing a sash.

You often see John on the bait out fishing.

He married Ann in 1957 and they raised three sons in Slocan - Neil, Bill and Rick. Family was always very dear to him and he visited as often as he could. We spent many holidays in BC and Alberta.

John will be forever remembered by his wife Jean, son Neil (Century of Fort St. John, was Rock Christmas of Vernon, name grandchildren less (Cheri), Steve (and) (Grandchildren), three great grandchildren Kylie, Cody and Allison (Kendall as well as by his sister Marion and brother Bob plus several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son Bill, his parents and sister brothers and sisters.

A gathering of family and friends was held on October 30, 2014.

John, you are forever remembered, loved and missed by your family. Rest in peace.

**Buy Local Week is December 1-7 in BC**

The third annual Buy Local Week in BC kicked off on December 1, celebrating the big impact buying locally has on the local economy and on communities across BC. “Local businesses create more than twice the economic impact of their chain competitors,” says Amy Robinson, founder and co-executive director of LOCO BC which coordinates Buy Local Week in the province. “We are encouraging consumers to shift some of their spending to local owned businesses, and to look for local grown and local made products wherever they shop. When you spend your dollars with local businesses, that money circulates in your community 2.6 times, creating a bigger economic impact for your region.”

“Canadian consumers spend about $1,500 on average on food, alcohol, gifts and travel during the holiday season. When people shift just one percent — a $15 dollar purchase — of that spending to local business, it multiplies local wealth and supports more jobs and stronger communities,” adds Robinson. Research by LOCO and Civic Economics last year showed that a one percent increase in BC consumer spending creates 3,100 jobs and $64 million in annual wages to BC workers.

Local Made is defined as private companies (single owner or partnership, employee owned, co-operative or social enterprise-profit), headquartered in BC where more than half of the owners reside in BC. Local Grown is defined as an agricultural product grown in BC (such as food, plants, fibre, wood), and local made products with more than half ingredients or materials grown in BC.

Local Made is defined as a product that is wholly or largely manufactured or processed in BC.

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**OBITUARY**

JOHN PATTERSON
November 28, 1934-October 25, 2014

The family of John Patterson is very sad to announce his passing one month before his 80th birthday.

John was born in Fort St. John, BC.

The family moved to Edgewater and later to Nakusp in the 1940s. John’s first job was as a ferryman on the Main (he always said it was the best job he ever had). He came to Slocan in 1954 to be foreman on the

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Destination BC reveals new strategy and revitalized brand
by Jan McMurray

Tourism stakeholders in the area were introduced to Destination BC’s new three-year strategy and revitalized ‘Super Natural BC’ brand at a session in Nelson on November 26.

Destination BC representatives from the coast attended by conference call, having had the all-too-familiar difficulties with flights into the region. Representatives from Destination BC’s Kootenay Rockies Tourism were present in person.

Grant McKay, vice-president of Industry and Destination Development, explained that the theme of the new strategy is “competing to win together.”

In an increasingly competitive marketplace, McKay said Destination BC will strive to make BC the most highly recommended destination in North America.

To reach this goal, the crown corporation is building “a powerful marketing network, remarkable experiences, and a magnetic brand,” he said.

The marketing network will be built on the foundation of Destination BC’s existing network of Visitor Centres, Destination Marketing Organizations and communities. “If we can enable this network with strong marketing concepts, new technology, our new brand, and new skills, our marketing network can become our strongest competitive advantage,” said McKay.

By working together, we can break through the clutter of messages bombarding travellers across the world.”

Fostering remarkable experiences will be done through Destination Development Plans, which will help set the long-term tourism visions for every region of the province, and by providing training and tools in digital and social media marketing to tourism stakeholders.

Kathleen Lorenzen, Director of Marketing and Communications, unveiled the revitalized brand. “This is the heart and soul of how we can compete to win together,” she said. The brand highlights BC’s natural environment and powerful wilderness. It continues to use the ‘Super Natural BC’ tagline, but in a new typeface called Text Forest,” which was developed exclusively for the revitalized brand.

Another tagline displayed during the presentation was Wild at Heart.”

Destination BC wants the new logo on all tourism-oriented websites in the province. “By working together and aligning around who we are, we can strengthen the magnetic pull of the brand,” she said.

A three-minute video telling the brand story, The Wild Within: British Columbia, Canada was shown, and is posted on YouTube.

The co-op marketing (matching funding) program will also be changing as of April 1, 2015. Destination BC has not yet confirmed funding amounts, but they hope to have substantially more funds available for individual proposals under the new program than they do under the existing programs.

There will be two pools of funds: reserved and open. The reserved funds will be set aside for those priorities – touring and exploring, skiing, and aboriginal tourism. The open pool funds will be accessible to consortia (three or more communities or Destination Marketing Organizations) and sectors (i.e., golf, fishing, mountain biking). Groups will make their proposals for the funding through an application process.

The corporation believes the new funding program will result in marketing programs with a higher impact and greater alignment among communities and sectors.

Arrow Lakes Hospital Light Up campaign kicks off with People’s Pharmacy donation
by Jan McMurray

The goal of the Arrow Lakes Hospital’s Light Up campaign this year is to raise $15,000 to buy a fetal heart monitor.

The campaign got off to a good start with People’s Pharmacy’s donation of $300. People’s Pharmacy has been contributing to the Arrow Lakes Hospital’s Light Up campaign every year for the last 10 years.

The hospital’s current fetal heart monitor is 12 years old and has been well used over its lifetime. “Here at Arrow Lakes Hospital, we use our fetal heart monitor frequently, sometimes daily, to ensure the continued health of mom and baby,” states the information sheet distributed by the hospital foundation.

A pledge day will be held Friday, December 5 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Broadway Deli Bistro. Donations are accepted any day at Arrow Lakes Hospital and Kootenay Savings Credit Union. Cheques can be mailed to Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation, Box 284, Nakusp, BC V0G 1M0.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT
– Friday, December 19, 7:30 pm, Memorial Hall – Silverton doors open at 7 pm – admission by donation. 65-voice choir + string quartet, recorder, flute, marimba, classical guitar.

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Slocan Valley Christmas Tea for Seniors

Submitted
Kick off the holiday season at Slocan Valley Recreation’s annual Christmas Tea for Seniors on Saturday, December 6. This relaxing, fun-filled afternoon event runs from 1 to 3 pm at Slocan Park Hall and, as always, is free. Enjoy refreshments, draw prizes, the company of friends, and entertainment from ‘Two for Tripping’ and Alf, John & Katie. Seniors throughout the region are welcome to attend this popular event, which is made possible with the sponsorship of many local businesses and a great crew of volunteers.

Students from Mt. Sentinel will be serving, announcing winners and possibly telling a joke or two.

Call 250-226-0008 to reserve one of the limited seats available on the free bus from Castlegar, thanks to generous support by the RDCK.

Nakusp’s seventh annual ‘Candlelight and Carol’ celebration was once again a huge success as women enjoyed chocolates, mulled wine and Christmas goodies while they shopped. Debra, Mickey, Jennifer, Heather and Autumn thank everyone who came out for the fun of shopping locally.

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