Nakusp Mayor Hamling elected chair of the RDCK board

by Jan McMurray
Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling has made history as the first female chair of the RDCK board.

Hamling was elected chair at the board’s inaugural meeting December 11 in a race against Director Garry Jackman, Area A (east shore of Kootenay Lake).

“Thank you everyone for voting for me this morning and I do consider it an honour,” she said. “No matter who you chose to vote for, I would hope we can all work together well, and for the benefit of our communities and respective areas.”

Castlegar Mayor Lawrence Csizmiski returns for the second year as vice chair, after winning against Director Ramona Must, Area E (cumnal Nelson).

Nominations are made for the chair and vice chair positions by directors. Voting is done by secret ballot, and the number of votes for each candidate is also kept secret.

Chair Hamling reassured the board that there would not be a “mini shift” at the table, even though both the chair and vice chair represent municipalities. “We sit as Regional District representatives,” she said.

“if you feel you see that happening, let me know.”

The board consists of 20 directors: 11 representing rural areas and nine representing municipalities. This year, nine directors are women – the largest number of women directors in the organization’s 49-year history.

Hamling also promised that she would sit down with each director to discuss their concerns and to learn about the issues in each area.
Valley Voice 2014 Year in Review

by Art Joyce

What a difference a year makes — so much can happen in just 12 months. In many ways for the Slocan Valley, 2014 was a bit by fire, both literally with summer wildfires and emotionally in the wake of several tragedies. I considered titling this story Challenging Times for Rural Communities, as we grapple with the problems of physician shortages, the drain of our youth to northern BC and Alberta for work, eating of government services and other issues.

January. A group of physicians interested in providing 24/7 coverage for Kaslo’s emergency department comes forward. Interior Health had planned to reduce ER hours as of January 6 to Monday to Friday 9-5, but puts those changes on hold until April 1. The BC Utilities Commission sets FortisBC smart meter roll-out surcharge. • A Siskin Nation logging blockade goes on Mt. Sentinel near Pass Creek. • The demolition of the mill in Slocan begins with the felling of the beechie burner January 22. The mill closure leaves Slocan Village council scrambling to replace $160,000 from its annual budget.

February. The controversial MMBC (Multi Material BC) recycling program continues to leave smaller communities and regional districts out in the cold. • The Meadow Creek Cedar mill is in trouble again as Blue Ridge Timber, who managed the timber license for about a year, ends its commitment. • Councilor Tom Zecchin and Box Lake Lumber manager Dan Wiebe do a fact-finding tour of a biomass heating plant in Enderby with a view to establishing one in Nakusp. • Mayor Karen Hardling throws the switch to start operation of Nakusp’s microhydro power plant. • Kaslo announces a $5,000 improvement to its airport. • The deal with physicians to provide Kaslo with 24/7 ER coverage falls apart. Interior Health changes ahead with plans to have the ER move to ‘banker’s hours’ starting April 1.

March. Marilyn James and Dennis Zellers of the Siskin Nation are arrested at the Perry Ridge blockade on March 4, and face criminal contempt of court charges. They are released pending a court appearance in Nelson March 27. • Slocan Village council announce completion of the first stage of its microhydro project. • BC Hydro completes repairs to the Village of Nakusp hydro plant. • Farm Food Fulk hosts a two-day conference in Nelson to promote local food production. • The regional district announces bylaws to allow medical marijuana production facilities. • A virus is found to be infecting 80 percent of kokanee in Kootenay Lake during tests at the Meadow Creek spawning channel.

April. • Galena Environmental and the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society release a three-year water quality study of Slocan Lake, revealing concentration of metals and coliforms counts to be well below maximum. • On March 13 the BC government announces its intention to continue with the Columbia River Treaty. The decision is met with skepticism by the Arrow Lakes Roundtable, who claim BC’s position “perpetuates (the) treaty’s legacy of environmental decline.” April 1. The Arrow Lakes Historical Society holds a grand opening for its new archives on April 5; Area K Director Paul Peterson shows up with a surprise cheque for $9,000. • At a Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) update in Nakusp, fishers express alarm that kokanee is in serious decline and invasive species such as walleye andpike are on the increase. • Kootenay farmers Erin Harris and Oliver Edgar deliver a basket of Kootenay-grown produce to Minister Bennett at the BC Legislature April 7 as part of protests against changes to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). • Following controversy about regional district tax allocation to the Area H North TV Society, a majority at its AGM vote to continue receiving the subsidy. • Council of Kootenay Lake Village hosts another event regarding the Lemon Creek fuel spill of July 2013. Minister Polak agrees to accept baseline data collected by Slocan River Streamkeepers but warns, that if affected residents don’t report, they won’t have protection. • The Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (ARBLOG) passes a resolution calling for consultation with the public, local governments, Union of BC Municipalities, and other affected parties regarding the proposal amendment to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

May. The Slocan Lake community is united in grief over the loss of four young people in a car accident on Slocan Lake May 10 (See Gone Too Soon). “The people of New Denver and area have been supporting one another with hugs, shared tears, and loving words,” writes Jan McMurray. The bodies of the three young men are recovered on May 28. Gene and Sandy Ralston of Idaho, along with the RCMP dive team and New Denver Fire Rescue, recover the boys after locating them with their side scan sonar equipment on May 26. New Delhi Kootenay Lakes Mayor, the Citizen of the Year award between Kevin Murphy and the Fire Rescue services who responded to the canoe tragedy. • Senator spokesperson Marilyn Ames defends herself in Nelson Supreme Court May 26, claiming employment in the handling of the injunction. • The BC Utilities Commission (BCUC), after months of public consultation, releases its 179-page decision on BC Hydro’s rates and associated fees. • Burton residents report that ATV riders continue to treat the Burton flats with blatant disrespect. • The sale of Meadow Creek Cedar Ltd. to the Sin Group of Surrey is finalized May 5, with plans to resume operations by June 3. • Rotating garbage strikes begin across the province on May 26.

June. Local teachers open a pitcher line at Luscene School. • Slocan River Streamkeepers release its report on the Lemon Creek jet fuel spill, noting the continued presence of hydrocarbons over nine months after the spill. • Smith spokesperson Marilyn James is found guilty of criminal contempt and sentenced to 14 days house arrest at a Supreme Court hearing in Nelson June 24. • Boundary Local Governments (ALRG) following controversy about regional district tax allocation to the Area H North TV Society, a majority at its AGM vote to continue receiving the subsidy. • Council of Kootenay Lake Village hosts another event regarding the Lemon Creek fuel spill of July 2013. Minister Polak agrees to accept baseline data collected by Slocan River Streamkeepers but warns, that if affected residents don’t report, they won’t have protection. • The Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (ARBLOG) passes a resolution calling for consultation with the public, local governments, Union of BC Municipalities, and other affected parties regarding the proposal amendment to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

July. Two full-time physicians are hired to serve Kaslo’s Victorian Community Hospital. After seven years tied up in legal action, the Slocan Valley TV Society elects its first board since 2007. • Two years after the tragic fire that destroyed Kootenay Lakes’ Landing, residents learn in a meeting with RDCK representatives July 27 that little compensation is available for their lost homes and properties. “As far as I’m concerned, the provincial government has absolutely failed the people in Johnson’s Landing,” says Area D Director Andy Shadrack. • When grocery store manager Jerry Wilson’s home was swept away, completes a book of the experience. “Our community is now nearly a third smaller than it was. Even if (our) continued on page 3

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Slocan Valley Co-op Holiday Store Hours -

STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY
So our staff can attend their Christmas Dinner Party, we will be closing at 4:30 PM on Saturday, December 20th. The Staff, Management and Board of Directors would like to wish everyone a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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The Valley Voice December 27, 2014

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Valley Voice 2014 Year in Review

December 17, 2014 The Valley Voice

continued from page 2

houses were untouched, life just changed dramatically. But I keep coming back to how extraordinarily resilient human beings are,“ said Bath. “The Slocan Valley Co-op holds its grand re-opening July 19 after completing major renovations.

Meanwhile in the Slocan Valley keep firefighting crews busy. The Wildfire Management Branch reports 1,036 wildfires with 77 fires still burning in the Slocan Valley.

The failure of the evacuation alert — one step below an evacuation order — is issued for Slocan Park residents on August 5. Kootenay Country Craft Distillery, open less than a year, wins a gold medal at the Beverage Tasting Institute of Chicago for its Valhalla Vodka.

New Dever’s Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre celebrates 20 years with haiku readings, speeches, akido and calligraphy demonstrations, shakuhachi flute and a fashion show, concluding with the performance of Unuma Taiko drumming performance in the Kohan Garden.

Hills Garlic Festival founder Andrew Rhodes is celebrated on August 22 and 23. The event began in September 1993 with a potluck held at the Hills Community Dorothy Hall. Negotiations for the teachers strike continue to fall short of resolution. The Winlaw Whole School reaches its fundraising goal of $35,000 to purchase the school property.

October. Sufferfest 2014 grows from regional athletic contest to a competition with “uber-athletes” from across BC and Alberta. The Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) makes its first-ever distribution of grants from revenue earned through timber sales. A provincial parks plan to remove scaffolding in Summit Lake raises concern about the blue-listed western toad population in the area. The Slocan Community Library receives an amazing donation of 658 new books from former Jackie’s Book Garden owner Jennie Ash, who retired her business in 2010. Neuroscientist Dr. Nina Diersner receives the Kootenay Conservation Program’s Conservation Leadership Award at the organization’s annual gathering in Creston September 26.

October. The second legal action against Executive Flight Centre, in response to the Lemon Creek jet fuel spill last year, is launched by the Slocan Valley’s Marion Brygson. “If the government is not going to apply the laws of Canada, it is up to the people to do so,” says Brygson. The Augusta Post Office celebrates its 100th anniversary with a set of commemorative stamps based on a painting of the Augusta which the late Phyllis Marquino. The Slocan Valley is rocked by an RCMP manhunt for Peter DeGroot, the Village of Slocan resident who allegedly shot at a local officer on October 9 and then evaded capture. (See Gone Too Soon.)

At The Langham’s 40th anniversary gala event in Kaslo it’s recalled that when people banded together to save the clearing building in 1974, residents told them, “We don’t want any goddamned hippies in our town!” These same ‘hippies’ went on to restore the grand old hotel and intermittent site to the vital arts and cultural centre it has been ever since. • The Kaslo and Area Emergency Services Centre and Firehall officially opens October 11. • The Slocan branch of the Women’s Institute informs Village council that it will be disbanded. • New Denver City Clerk No. 10 agrees to support the bimonthly heating project at the Nakusp school “as long as there is no cost to the district.” • New Denver resident Peter Routlon is found dead on the bluff below the Silverton lookout. (See Gone Too Soon.)

November 5. Marilyn James resigns as Siskin spokesperson, severing her relationship with Robert Watt, appointed caretaker of Siskin National cultural sites in the Slocan Valley. The dispute arose over the handling of Siskin remains found near Slocan Pool; James objected to a rebalancing ceremony on September 15-16 for which Watt consulted with members of the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA). James released a statement to the media claiming that the Alliance “stood against the Siskin in their attempt to protect the water and the land” in the Supreme Court of BC during a 2011 Siskin lawsuit against Sunshine Logging and the Ministry of Forests. • The NDP choose Dusk Cannavale as candidate in the next federal election for the newly-created South Slocan-Kootenay riding, replacing MP Alex Atamanenko, who is retiring. • Community groups receive a boost with $8,000 in grants from the Slocan Valley Legacy Fund and nearly $24,000 from the Kootenay Savings Credit Union ‘Care for Water’ program. • The results of local municipal elections are in: Karen Hardin is once again mayor of Nakusp; Jessica Lums is mayor of Kaslo; Slocan Hewart is mayor of Kaslo; Jason Clarke is mayor of Silverton; returned by acclamation are New Denver Mayor Ara Benka, Area E Director Walter Popoff and Area K Director Paul Peterson. • The Meadow Creek Forest Products sawmill is destroyed by fire on November 13. An RCMP press release states the fire “is not believed to be suspicious.” “We had really pinned our hopes on this mill doing something for us up here,” said Pastor Len Tremblay of Meadow Creek. “Our population is dwindling — people are going to Alberta to find work.” Slocan Valley council votes to grant the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society a 40-year lease for the grounds behind the Wellness Centre as a site for affordable housing. • Nakusp School has New Denver’s John Deform as one of 10 BC schools to help design a new ‘innovative network of schools.’

December 2. Kaslo Infirmary Society (KIS) announces that, with the support of the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation and the Village of Kaslo, residents now have access to a 100 megabit Fibreoptic Internet service. • John Kettle renews as chair of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDKC) board. Kettle is well known and appreciated for his humour. • A popular late winter fish derby is cancelled due to low fish stocks in Kootenay Lake, caused in part by the IHN virus that infected kokanee stocks during the past year.

A second New Denver area resident (the Hills residents Lydia Dehoda and Marcy Mural), Craig Pettingill, has his power cut by BC Hydro for refusing to pay the ‘legacy meter’ opt-out fee, leaving him in the cold once again. • Nakusp’s Old Firehall Collective Society gets a federal Job Creation Partnership grant to renovate the old firehall for use as a Farmers’ market. • School District No. 8 calls for input on reconfiguration or closure of facilities, in part due to plunging enrolment figures, from 6,600 students in 1990 to 4,700 this year.

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lakes from South Slocan/Plum Cay Junction to Edgewood and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake.

Circulation is 7,600 papers, providing the most complete news and advertising coverage of any single newspaper serving this area.

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Community Calendar

Wednesday, December 17
Carols by Candlelight • Burton United Church 7 pm
Celebrate at Loretto School • New Denver 6 - 7:30 pm

Thursday, December 18
MA-Watkins Coral Open House • Castlecrag Office 3-5 pm
Frands, December 19
Community Christmas Concert • Silverton Memorial Hall 7 pm

Saturday, December 20
Christmas Artisan Market • Kaslo Hotel 10 am - 3 pm

Sunday, December 21
Seasonal Sing Along • Valierian Whole 3 - 5 pm

Tuesday, December 23
Star Children Book Launch • Hidden Garden Gallery, ND 2 pm

Wednesday, December 24
Midnight Mass • St. Anthony’s Church, ND 5 pm
Midnight Mass • St. Mary’s Church, Slocan 7 pm
Condell/Kleinfelde Service • Robertson Memorial, Nakusp 7 pm

Friday, December 26
Boxing Day Skating Party • Outdoor Rink, Slocan 1 - 4 pm

Wednesday, December 31
New Year’s Eve Dinner & Dance • Slocan Legion Hall 7 pm - 1 am

Thursday, January 1
Langham Polar Bear Swim • Kaslo Bay Beach Noon

Nakusp Rotary Club
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Loon Lake Road caves in above Ainsworth Hot Springs

by Jan McMurray

Loon Lake Road at Bankers Bluff about two kilometres above Ainsworth has collapsed.

This has been a problem area since 2007, when a sinkhole appeared near the road. The hole became bigger in 2010, and now it has grown larger still and has destroyed the road.

On Friday, December 5, in the late afternoon, a local person out walking their dog came across the chain, which is about 100 metres long and very deep. YRBC has put up barricades.

“It’s all old mines under that road,” said Area D Director Aimee Waton, who did a site visit on Monday. “There are many, many shafts going vertically and horizontally through that whole mountain. The hole really exposes the honeycomb that that mountain is.”

Ainsworth resident Kevin Smith, member of the K asks Volunteer Fire Department, reported that he and two other local people met with government geotechnical and hydrogeological experts, along with RDCK Emergency Coordinator Noreen Clayton onsite on Tuesday morning. “My concerns have been alleviated,” he said. “I’m relieved that there’s no imminent threat to the community. The worst fear, next to the loss of life, is the seeming injustice that’s happened at Johnson’s Landing, where people are paying mortgages and property taxes on homes that are no longer there, and the inadequate government compensation.”

Smith said local hard rock expert Kirby Hayes explained to him that the road was sitting just 15 feet above a stop where had been extensively excavated for minerals. “The road was literally the mine roof,” he said. “It opened up into a great excavation – 100 to 200 feet of vertical drop.”

Smith points out that the rain, followed by quick freezes, would create an expanding of the water in the rock cracks and trigger this kind of event.

The area was used by local hikers and hunters, but the very rough road did not see a lot of traffic, says Smith. The road was the most direct route to Loon Lake, a popular fishing spot, but there are alternate routes to the lake.

Four private properties were affected, according to Smith. One family had just bought an 85-acre piece there and had hoped to homestead on the property. When asked if the government could do anything to help with access to their properties, a Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations spokesperson stated, “It depends on what caused the sinkholes and how it might be remediated. We are still gathering information.”

The spokesperson also said there were no plans at this time to more permanently close off the road and secure the area.

The problem area is in Meadow Creek Cedar tenure, but their licence is under suspension and they have no active cutting permits.

Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!

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Kaslo Jazz Fest looking for new directions

by Jan McMurray

The process of finding new directions for the Kaslo Jazz Fest was launched at the Kaslo Jazz Fest AGM on December 12.

With revenues declining since 2009, and most markedly in the last two years, Executive Director Jan Holland distributed a report along with the invitation to the AGM to get members thinking about whether they want to maintain status quo or to make changes to the festival format.

Holland reported that about 30 members attended the meeting and showed strong interest in providing their input into the renewal process. “There was strong, solid support in seeing the festival be successful for many more years,” he said.

Holland is now working on a survey to distribute to the membership. “Once we get a mandate from the membership, we’ll start designing the 2015 event.”

The festival’s financial situation is “tenuous,” Holland said. “With luck on the funding front, we won’t have to borrow money – but we will if we need to, and we already have community members who’ve expressed interest in this. There’s a 25 percent chance we might have to issue debentures.”

Holland said the festival is not in debt, so there’s no big panic. “We’re going to move forward in a way that exposes us to as little risk as possible,” he said, then with a laugh, “We’ll just hunker down and do what we all do in the Kootenays – just get by.”

The new board members are Jesse Bayens, Johnathon Carruthers, Randy Moore, Joe Holland, Bob Patience, Christa Sheelrick, and Chris Temple.

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Lessons learned from the Lemon Creek fuel spill: IH Health Protection

by Jan McMurray

The Health Protection Branch of Interior Health has recently released a two-page report outlining lessons learned from the Lemon Creek fuel spill in August. The report summarizes the findings of a Health Protection debris that occurred in fall 2013 involving Health Protection staff and the Medical Health Officer, along with medical health officers, communications officers and Health Emergency Management staff.

“The biggest learning experience for us was really two things together,” said Parsons in an interview. “It was that we didn’t have enough staff into the early response. Secondly, generally, we didn’t have a clearly defined agreement on what we would use for a response.”

The report states that the initial response was provided by a manager, communications officer, and the Medical Health Officer, and these were the right resources. “But there weren’t enough of them and we would have benefited from bringing in more people more quickly,” said Parsons. “This was a key lesson learned – to mobilize resources much more quickly.”

Parsons explained that there was already a standard response structure at the Interior Health level, but in Health Protection, staff needed to be more clear about how they fit into that structure and what their roles and responsibilities were. “Since this event, there has been additional training offered about the overall IH emergency response structure, so Health Protection is now clearer and has developed an interim guidelines about how we respond to an emergency like this,” he reported. He added that the review has allowed them to design a response that fits as well with the BC Emergency Response Management System, which all emergency response agencies use.

The importance of communications was also highlighted in the report. A key finding was that the “lack of coordination and incorrect/incomplete information for the public meeting affected the credibility of response agencies and likely contributed to additional public anger and mistrust.”

One of the report’s recommendations is to “plan to regularly attend a resiliency/recovery centre if it is established.”

The resiliency centre provided us with a key source of information about the needs and concerns in the community,” said Parsons. “From a perspective, we would have benefited if we had a better support to the community by being there more frequently.”

Parsons explained that there were already a standard response CBT’s Our Trust, Our Future calling for input submitted

You still have time to share your ideas with Columbia Basin Trust before the first phase of ‘Our Trust, Our Future’ wraps up. Whether you know a lot or a little about the Trust, this is your opportunity to share your ideas — from the comfort of your home and on your own schedule — through CBT’s interactive website.

“If you haven’t given us your thoughts yet, there’s still plenty of time and opportunity. We encourage you to contribute online — plus you can view the ideas already submitted by Basin residents,” said Neil Math, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. “Your input will help us determine how we can best support communities now and into the future, so spread the word about our online tool and inspire others to participate.”

By signing up and providing your input, you have the chance to win $1,000 to donate to a non-profit of your choice. The sign-up process is quick and easy. Share your ideas, complete surveys and comment on as many discussions as you wish. The more you engage, the more rewards you earn, which can be redeemed for prizes.

You can also give input in other ways. You can catch Trust staff at booths set up in public spaces, or send comments by mail. You can host your own conversations with friends or family, or ask the Trust to meet with a local group or organization.

Planning to have a toll-free number up and running in the spring that people can call with questions and concerns during an emergency.

Another key finding was that “the response was not as transparent until the issue was forced, and this likely fueled some of the vocal public distrust of Interior Health and the resulting complaints to the Ombudsperson.”

The report was completed in January 2014 but not released to the public until December 3. Parsons said that publicly releasing the report came out of discussions they had with the ombudsperson about their role and response. “We want to be transparent,” he said. “We don’t have anything to hide. We’re not afraid to say that although some aspects of our response went really well, there are things we needed to do a lot better. Putting this out publicly is our commitment to learning from what happened and improving our response should this happen again.”

These lessons learned have already been put to the test. This past summer, Interior Health was called on to respond to the Mt. Polley incident. Parsons led the response for a couple of weeks, and said the Lemon Creek experience was a huge help. “It was telling how often during the Mt. Polley response we commented on what we had learned from Lemon Creek,” he said.

The report can be found at www.interiorhealth.ca.
Time to take our valley back
It would appear our valley is being taken over by a group of people that have no idea what they are talking about and are becoming increasingly vocal. It is time we took our valley back. They keep quoting nut bars in other parts of the world with regard to smart meters and cell phones and completely ignore studies done by trusted, credible regulatory bodies that show these devices are completely safe such as BC Utilities Commission, the World Health Organization and Health Canada, etc.

We recently submitted a petition to the Valley Voice and Scope News asking for a reconsideration of the Smart Meters service in Slocan and the surrounding area. This view is supported by most of the people living in this area. It is just a very few nut bars trying to keep us from moving into the 21st century.

Ref. the letter in the Valley Voice Dec. 3 issue written by Chris Dawson of Kaslo. It is a very much appreciated. Also refer to the letter some issue from FortisBC.

It is time the silent majority is heard.

Peter and Linda Taylor
Slocan

Disabled man gets BC Hydro disconnection notice
I am one of those targeted by BC Hydro because I am opposed to smart meters. I am an almost senior citizen. I am physically disabled because of a massive dose of radiation I received years ago. In addition to the main physical issues related to a massive brain tumour caused by the radiation, I am also Electromagnetic Hypersensitive.

I have been very vocal about my opposition to smart meters and have worked hard to support the class action against them. In addition to the $12.40 cut out fee they are extracting from me, they also stuck another fee on me for telling a Cortix meter installer that he was not qualified to swap out my old legacy meter for another legacy meter I would not give him permission to change it. The old meter is not blocked and does not even have a sign on it. The Cortix installer left rather than assert or prove he was qualified.

A complaint with the Ombudsperson later and still in the process of dealing with it, BC Hydro has issued a disconnect order because I refused to pay them a fee because their installer apparently was not qualified. BC Hydro will do anything they can scheme up to extort money from the people. Providing service to the people is not a requirement.

Norm Ryder
Victoria

Toxic talk in the Valley Voice

Chris Dawson...there are probably a number of people who agree with you on the cell tower issue. I doubt that most of those folks, or anyone else, would congratulate you on the words that you chose in your sparsely-filled letter to the editor in the last VV, though. Holy crap, did you really think you mean, scornful, bullying words were helpful in any way in making your point about cell towers? Or did you really just need to show your disdain for those individuals and their considered opinions with the rest of us in the newspaper? Wow. That was really taking advantage. Have you ever seen an enraged person screaming wildly at another person in a public place? That's what your letter sounded like, except more menacing – more intent. You must be very upset that other people's beliefs count as much as yours. Chill out, dude. We'd love to have you talk this one through because that's what we are obliged to do in civil society. All cool?

Clarence deBlok
Silverton

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY
The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not 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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At the valley voice December 17, 2014

Who is the denier?
Mr. Dawson needs to take a good hard look in the mirror and ask himself: Who is the ‘denier’ here? Who, if not the one who not only ignores but consistently denies the scientific consensus? Who, if not the one who acts on his prejudices rather than on a sober examination of the facts? And if instead I have a ‘nanny’ band of deniers, then I’m in good company. Dr. Magda Havas, Dr. Martin Blank, Dr. Olle Johansson, Dr. Leif Salford, Dr. David Carpenter, Dr. Devra Davis, and retired Canadian Navy Captain Jerry Flynn, who served in the signals intelligence corps working with the very wireless technologies that are currently deployed in the consumer realm. To name only a handful – the list could go on.

When introduced to the issue seven years ago, I had no opinion one way or the other and no agenda. As any good journalist should do, I began doing my research. (Mr. Dawson may be too young in the journalism world to remember what research is, since corporate newspapers don’t allow their reporters the time to do this old fashioned legwork, for obvious reasons.) Just as a scientist would do, when the weight of evidence reached a certain critical mass, I realized a conclusion was imminent. My personal feelings or prejudices don’t matter. Just because I want cell phones to be safe doesn’t mean they will be. Just because I love my convenience doesn’t mean I should give it to children when I know they are clearly at risk from using them. Anytime Mr. Dawson likes, I’ll happily provide him with the dozens of scientific studies I’ve collected from around the world over the past seven years proving the risk factors.

And who is in Mr. Dawson the Denier’s camp? The corrupt band of quasi-scientists on the newly-dragged Royal Society of Canada panel that “reviewed” Safety Code 67? The regime at Health Canada, whom Dr. Shri Chopra – a research scientist who worked there for 30-plus years – calls “an act of the core”? The telecommunications industry-funded studies that have about as much street credibility as an arms dealer producing studies saying that bullets are good for you? Surely it’s not a difficult concept to grasp. If you want to know peoples’ motivations, follow the money.

As to the recent crisis Mr. Dawson refers to that may or may not have been allayed by cell phone service in the valley, he is suggesting that all devices replace our brains? The oil tanker driver that spilled the fuel into Lemon Creek had to pass a gate and at least two signs indicating that the road was closed. I was there on the scene the next morning and photographed them. And regarding the RCMPnantal for Peter DeGroote, have they already forgotten that their predecessors did quite well in remote areas of BC for decades prior to cell phones thanks to an old-fashioned but highly reliable technology known as the short wave radio? If they couldn’t communicate adequately with up to 150 officer plus helicopter support, then that’s their problem. Any elite paramilitary organization must be prepared for all terrains and conditions and must nearly have a triple fail-safe backup plan for communications. If not, then clearly an organizational review is in order.

Nona Klein in her new book This Changes Everything addresses just such deniers as Mr. Dawson but in the field of global climate change. As Klein makes abundantly clear – again thanks to that supposedly antiquated skill known as research – fully 98 percent of climate scientists accept that climate change is being accelerated by human inputs. If Mr. Dawson wants to align himself with that two percent of scientists who are still deniers, just as is proving the case with the science regarding microwaves, then he is welcome to do so.

Art Joyce
New Denver

KASLO HOTEL
430 Front Street, Kaslo, BC
250-358-7714
Open letter to BC Hydro board of directors

Why can I, the payer of your, in any opinion, obscene compensation of $1,000 plus per day, not reach you by phone, fax or email? What are you afraid of, the truth? Why is electricity not an essential service? Are you like a child who says ‘My eyes are closed so you can’t see me’? You paper pushers are hurting people. Now you know – what are you willing to do about it? What will you do when you see a defenseless victim being abused? Nothing? Help abuse the victim? Cheer on the abuse? Come to the aid of the victim? I have a civil responsibility as a human living in a democratic country, to instill those in my employ when they are harming others. BC Hydro board of directors, you are harming the most defenseless in our society. Please stop it.

I cite the following example of brutality being done by you, BC Hydro board of directors, in the middle of a snowstorm and below 0 weather. BC Hydro (BCH) agent enters victim’s property and disconnects electricity. Note: that the balance is less than $500 and payment was made within last billing cycle. Advocate is waiting for callback from BCH and BCH – either on purpose or by accident or by the their own incorrect account number and then says sorry, need another $131 before can reconnect.

Losing with the poor BCH agent and all he could say is “I’m just doing my job.” When I asked if all that mattered was that his family was warm and fed, he responded, “Guys, do without it” and scurried away without showing me a copy of the order. I forgive him and sometimes wonder if he sleeps well knowing he has contributed to the abuse of the defenseless.

This act of brutality – it has been any 10°F and no electricity – under the guise of it being within the law is comparable to Hitler raging in the streets of Berlin and doing his job. What will you do about it? Do you feel the law and doing their job? What you have done is terrible and wrong but it is not as important as what you are willing to do to fix it.

The acts of extortion and cruel treatment of the poorest in our society is being done by each of you, all in the name of profits. This is not OK with me. I am a mother and my SOP is people before profits. If the law is wrong then change the law. Please stop this egregious behavior. I beg you.

I am a volunteer and domestic violence/ghosts/housewife that believes there is good in everyone and that includes the board of directors at BC Hydro. I am giving you a figurative ‘kick in the pants’ because I expect the best you have to offer. Believe you are worthy to serve on a board of a crown corporation. I hope you didn’t think to serve me. Remember that you grow what you plant and right now you are planting seeds of hurt and despair. If you saw someone you love doing something that would hurt them, what would you do? Ask them to stop the behavior? Help them hurt themselves? Nothing? Please! Please help yourself now. Deborah McAnulty-Blakney

Fanquier

One last smart meter letter for the year!

Hello we are all saying. But here’s a short action request and action is good. And you don’t have to do it until later, just keep it in mind for now, and re-read in the New Year.

If you have not opted out and have concerns about having a smart meter installed in the fall of 2015 in the Slocan Valley, Castlegar or Cranbrook areas when they plan to replace all existing meters with smart meters, then phone in your request for a wired meter – you can do it online or by phone. Please be the easiest, with only a short wait. But if you’re already done that, and that is a good thing in terms of what we can do to protect ourselves against unnecessary ERS radiation, then here’s a next step. Naturally enough, FortisBC won’t present us with a list of those who have already opted out so action is required that we work on. Reading in to an email address stating the fact that you’ve done so will help us identify areas where the electrification from the wired meter is minimal as well as where our hot spots still are. Send to: AnnGunderson@columbianwinds.ca. We are handlining Slocan to Crescent Valley and Crescent Valley to Castlegar (with parallel and with discretion, with the focus on the public), you will need to put in your name, road or community names (i.e. Waid, Appaloosa, Thomlin, Castlegar). In the New Year also, watch for a series of short wireless radiation and dirty electricity awareness courses explaining the issue more concretely and teaching us how to reduce exposure and prevent unnecessary increases. A huge personal thank you for the great turnout and all the conversations and creative work that went into the Save Our Slocan meeting in Kincaid and elsewhere. And in the meantime, just for the record, it’s hard not to take exception to Mr. Dyck of FortisBC’s contention in the last Valley Voice that they’ve done everything to ensure safety in the smart meter roll out. I see at those community hearings and the lawyers they hired (Epstein – also hired to defend the tobacco industry) did everything they could to try and use the easiest, most profitable deal with no apparent interest in health or safety at all initially, they didn’t even want to allow an opt out of ANY sort but we had to fight, all the way and then issue, for reduced costs! At least in BC off, our own Fortis electricians will do the install.

MCP asks seniors to call about pension cheque problems

My constituency office in Castlegar has recently heard from many concerned seniors who did not receive their pension cheques as usual in October and November. When my assistant followed up with Services Canada, she was told that the SC regional offices had received thousands of complaints from seniors who found themselves in the same situation. Services Canada explained that they had suspended the pension payments of individuals who have not taken their filing address, whose T-4 pension slips had been returned to Services Canada as ‘undeliverable’, and who Service Canada had been unable to contact them in any other way. Unfortunately, this heavy-handed approach has meant hardship for many seniors who rely on their pension cheques for the basic necessities of life. It can take Services Canada upward of seven business days to release a cheque once they are able to make contact with a pensioner. In the meantime, rent cheques have not been issued and many seniors are plunged because of monetary shortages.

When my assistant questioned the need for such a heavy-handed approach, she was told that this ‘T-4 return policy’ was implemented for "security reasons," so that cheques did not continue to be sent to an individual who was deceased, or had moved away. This may sound reasonable, but the reality is that none of the seniors my office has spoken to have had no such changes. They are being punished because of an administrative situation that could have been handled much more simply.

One constituent wrote to me about her experience when she contacted Service Canada: “I spoke with a very polite man but the only reason he could give me was for the ‘glitch’ was that they had an address on file that was no longer valid. I gave the phone number of her bankereal, or I have been receiving my pension cheques uninterrupted. The last time I moved I was 1981.”

I would encourage any pensioner who has not received their cheque to contact your Castlegar office for assistance, 295-305-2792, 1-800-667-2933, alex.annamalone@canada.ca.

Alex Annamalone

MP Southern Interior

Smart meters – expanding the issue

Connected to every full page article The Next Stage of Meter Extortion, is a very important question: what effect will all that exposure have, considering the Valley Voice is a local newspaper? Who, out them, will it affect? This is what has ensued since publication: I had read reproduced full-page on study paper and sent it with individual cover letters, to the Editorial Board of the Vancouver Sun; Senator Editor of The Toronto Globe d. Mail; to the BC Edex for that newspaper; to the CEO of the BC Utilities Commission; to the new President of BC Hydro; to the Public Advocacy Board; to the Auditors-General of BC; to investigative reporters Pete McMartin, Chad Naulbo, Virginia Felix and Stephen House. Packages also went to John Horgan and Katrina Conroy, NDP; Andrew Weaver, Green Party MLA; and Alan Ahart, Green Party MLA.

I have not sent any of this material to Adrian Dix, the NDP representative concerning Smart Meters, because his party is 100% supportive of the privatization manifest between inadequate and useless, not to mention reports of irreponsiveness and an otherwise-occupied mind. This is doing the NDP a lot of harm.

I should not count Greg Reiner, Vice President in charge of Smart Meters for Hydro. In any letter to him I said: “Certain well-placed individuals have taken notice of the moral, social and environmental contributions outlined in this and any previous full-page articles forwarded to you and others at Hydro, so that our small-town resistance is gathering ever-wider notice. In the end, BC Hydro’s policy, disguised as for the better by Mr. Bennet’s manipulative conduct, now exposed, will rebound against you and the present government in unforeseen ways. You really should have a meeting to consider whether you can put aside any indifference to the circumstances, especially given the most recent medical and scientific reports, corroborating the widespread concerns connected with Smart Meter electromagnetic emissions and legitimate concerns about fire hazards. The monopoly of BC Hydro holds over the citizens of this Province is leading it into an arrogance that will erode widespread and even national focus. Not a pretty or acceptable portrait and one the leaders executive should consider.”

‘Granted my response, articles and material are small-town stuff, but it is slow and normally, making its way to senior officials, yet the list of number of similarly situated citizens all over the nation. In some provinces stringent measures have been taken by the respective governments to address the health and fire hazard aspects, something you and your colleagues would do will to consider.

And while you give this thought, consider the consequence of the disconnection of my electricity that I received on December 2. It states that: Preparation may be necessary to reduce the potential for weather-related damage including frozen or burnt pipes’.

Imagine, you are shutting off the power of senior citizens who are trying to protect themselves from forest and fire hazards, fully aware that you are not only thrusting them into the cold and dark, but also potentially cutting off their water supply and burning their things and animals that they’ve worked their whole lives to get. Maybe so, but in the end you are responsible for the policy, the tactics and the consequence you are allowing to fall on underinformed citizens.

I wrote to you, not simply as the Vice President in charge of the Smart Meter program, but as a man and fellow human being. Are you satisfied with what Hydro’s policies are doing to the poor, the aged and infirm while you go your well fed and warm home, amply paid in most that we are somewhere to blame? When you step out of your corporate apparel, what does the man of you say? And if these extortive policies reach national awareness, will you proudly defend it?

Hopefully, some of what I send out will ignite the response much wanted by so many of us and much needed by those whose lives have been turned upside down by this matter. If there’s any hope for the survival of moral principles and basic equities, something substantive should emerge.

Richard Connell

New Denver
New Denver council, December 9: Improvements at Silvery Slocan Museum

by Karine Campbell

- Public Works is proceeding with work on the museum floor, replacing areas affected by damp and dry rot. Council received for information a request from the Silvery Slocan Historical Society for further improvements.

Village staff is exploring options for building a small roof over the side door. The society has asked for a new toilet but staff can’t find anything wrong with the old one. Two letters from Eleanor Quirk were received for information. The first letter was about the Centennial Park campground, which she called “a village recreational treasure used year round by citizens and visitors...[which] has become a six month per year trailer park that whose transient occupants enjoy privileges [sic] and freedom from restrictions not shared by other citizens.” She also decried use of the park for special events such as Garlic Fest and Sufferfest. Corporate Officer Catherine Alloway said no other complaints had been received.

Quirk’s second letter complained about the Village’s waste management (garbage and recycling) system, which she said needs redesigning from scratch. Regarding her complaint about the cost of garbage pickup, Councillor David Hodsoll noted wryly that, without revenue from the campground, property taxes would be higher.

- Councillor Henning von Krogh reported on the Columbia Basin Trust public meeting. CBT is looking for ideas for projects from residents of the Basin. Public Works and Water: the crew is prepped for winter and ready for snow. Three yellow sand bins have been placed for the public to use; one is outside the village office, the other two at the bottom of the stairs leading from the highway onto the north and south dykes of Carpenter Creek. There are also shovels there so people will be able to clean snow from steps.

- Mayor Ann Bunka reported she attended an Economic Development Commission meeting discussing a Capital Projects and Expansion Program. A work plan has been developed along with a follow-up committee. There was a discussion on community directed funds, and options for broadband service. Lynda Lafleur from CBT will be invited to talk about food security.

The RDCK is forming a Recreation Master Plan for New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and Area H.

- The Corporate Officer was authorized to enter into a collection site agreement with the Product Care Association, which would allow the Village to participate in a lightbulb recycling plan.

- As per the budget, the following amounts will be contributed to various groups and funds:
  - Capital works, machinery and equipment: $3,000 for fire department tanker repayment and $5,000 for improvements to the sewers system; fire fighting equipment and machinery; $25,000; heritage preservation, maintenance and restoration, $6,000. In addition, CAO Bruce Woodward advised council that the Village was in good enough financial shape that an additional $34,000 could be contributed to the capital works, machinery and equipment reserve.
  - Grants-in-aid were approved for the Silvery Slocan Historical Society ($570); LACE (977); the Reading Centre ($960); and the Chamber of Commerce ($1,680), which is 80 per cent of 2014 business licence revenue.
  - Council approved an application to upgrade the roof of the RFC Insurance/laundry building on the main street.
  - Council received for information an invitation to participate in a Community Energy and Emissions Plan workshop. Councillor Heather Fox, who had attended a program in Silverton, said it had been interesting, and a good program, “but not worth our time or money.”
  - Japan’s national broadcaster, NHK, was scheduled to be in New Denver December 11 and 12 to film around the Ndken Intermunt Memorial Centre.

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION OF LAND

Nakusp

Leased Area Nakusp Airport

Pursuant to Section 26 of the Community Charter notice is hereby given that the Village of Nakusp intends to Lease a portion of land legally described as Lot 1, Plan

NEP 11706, District Lot 979, Kootenay Land District, Leased Portion for the Purpose of Operating an Airport Hangar (315 Hot Springs Road) to Mr. Rocky Whitney for a term of 5 years.

Mr. Rocky Whitney shall pay $340 for the first year of the Lease and the rent for each succeeding year of the Lease shall be the previous years rent increased by the State Canada Consumer Price Index.

The leased area is shown in heavy black on the map:

For more information, please contact:

Linda Tynan, Chief Administrative Officer
Village of Nakusp
91-1st Street NW
Nakusp BC, VO1 1R0
Phone: 250-26-3689
Email: l.tynan@nakusp.com

 kommunikation

Gewinn!
Silvertown council, December 12: Council appointments made
by Jan McMurray

* Appointments were made as follows. RDCK Representative: Councillor Leah Main, alternate Mayor Clarke. Slocan District Chamber of Commerce Liaison: Mayor Clarke, alternate Councillor Youssef. Municipal Emergency: Mayor Clarke, alternate Councillor Main. Auditor: Berg Lehmman. West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital Board: Mayor Clarke, alternate Councillor Main. Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission: Councillor Main. Carol Bell. Recreation Commission: No. 6: Mayor Clarke, Chad Stubb. Rosebery Parkland and Trails Commission: Councillor Main. Windermere Regional Park Commission: Councillor Main.

Christmas should be good...

Everyone will try to make Christmas enjoyable, and much of this will be through decorations, food, presents or alike. All these are meant to say “I love you,” but this can so easily get lost. Come and listen to the story that started the whole thing, the story of unconditional love and let yourself hear again of God’s love for you.

Whether you are Catholic or not, whether you go to church or not, you are welcome to join us on...

Christmas Eve for “Midnight” Mass:
New Denver—5pm
Slocan—7pm

Come half-hour early and join us for some Carols, but the singing is only as good as you make it!

(Warols will last 30 minutes and Mass about an hour.)

The other Christian Churches in the area will also be telling the Christmas story and they’ll make you equally welcome.

Waste Facilities
All RDCK Resource Recovery facilities will be closed:
December 25, 26 and January 1.

Regularly open facilities close at 2pm: December 24 and 31

REDUCE & REUSE
- Take your own shopping bag and don’t buy gifts that are over-packaged.
- Buy only what you need and only quality items.
- Make your own gifts or give experience gifts.
- Choose organic, local and sustainable gifts.
- Avoid wrapping paper-use flyers, material or newspaper and reuse ribbons, and bows.
- Give generously to local charities and volunteer your time.
- Conserve energy, use timers for your LED outdoor and tree lights.

RECYCLE & COMPOST
- During December and January at any RDCK transfer station or landfill:
  - Recycle residential outdoor and tree lights for FREE
  - Compost residential Christmas trees for $2.50 each

For more information visit our website at www.rdcc.bc.ca or call the RDCC hotline: 1-800-667-4321 or call the RDCC office: 1-800-667-4321
Kaslo council makes appointments

by Jan McMurray
Kaslo’s newly elected council members took their oaths of office at the inaugural meeting December 1, except for Councillor Romella Glorioso, who was sworn in on November 25. Appointments were made at the December 1 and December 9 meetings.

Appointments
Acting Mayor: Councillor Lang (Dec.-Feb.), Councillor Holland (March-May), Councillor Knoll (June-August), Councillor Glorioso (Sept.-Nov.).

Regional District
Director: Mayor Hewat, alternate Councillor Lang. Hospital District: Mayor Hewat, alternate Councillor Lang. Standing Committee for City Hall and Keno Hill Building Management: Mayor Hewat and Councillor Lang. Public Art Select Committee: Councillors Holland and Knoll, Alice Wadley; Brent Bukowski; Ekta Fry; Mike Young; Pamela Griffin. Kaslo and Area D Health Select Committee: Councillors Glorioso and Knoll; Maggie Winters; Maggie Crowe; Director Watson; Andy Shadack; Tyler Dobie; Glen Stewart; Robert Nellis (ex officio IHA Victoria Health Centre Kaslo); Dr. Foutaine (ex officio); Dr. Allen (ex officio); Larry Badry, BCAS (ex officio); Deb Borros, LINKS (ex officio). Utilities Coordination Committee: Councillor Lang, Kaslo Recreation Select Committee: Mayor Hewat and Councillor Knoll; Joy Luksac, Ken Butt. Liquid Waste Management Plan Steering Committee: Councillors Lang and Glorioso. Hiring and Bargaining Committee: Mayor Hewat and Councillor Lang. Sustainable Economic Development Select Committee: Councillors Holland, Glorioso, and Lang; David Stewart; Denna Cermies; Louise De Pape; Randy Morse; Dawn Lang; Director Watson; RDCK Kaslo and Area D Emergency Preparedness Committee: Mayor Hewat and alt. Councillor Glorioso. RDCK Kaslo & Area Regional Facilities Recreation & Parks Service Committee: Councillor Knoll, Doug Yee, Ken Butt. Kaslo Golf Club Liaison: Councillor Lang. Regional Treaty Advisory Committee Liaison: Mayor Hewat.


Kaslo & District Area Association Liaison: Molly Leathwood.

Kaslo Council Committee of the Whole, December 2

by Jan McMurray
• By the December 2 Committee of the Whole meeting, it was decided to make the following recommendations to council:
  - Submit an application for Build Canada funding for the Kaslo River Alternate Intake project and engage R&D Engineering to assist.

Kaslo RCMP investigating thefts and break and enters

by Jan McMurray
In the wake of thefts and break and enters reported to Kaslo RCMP on Monday morning, police are reminding residents to lock and secure their vehicles and homes.

Two vehicles were stolen from Rainbow Drive – a 1979 red Mercedes diesel station wagon and a 1992 red Dodge Dakota pickup.

Corporal Shaun Begg reports that both vehicles were stored for the winter, so they would have required a battery or boost.

A third vehicle, a 2003 red Ford F350, was stolen from Hamill Creek Timber Homes in Meadow Creek.

Also during the weekend, two vehicles were rummaged through and power and hand tools were taken.

Last but not least, there were two reports of break and enters.

Happy Holidays!

Kaslo Mohawk is open through the holidays!
250-353-2205 404-4th St.
Kaslo

Kaslo Clothes Hanger

Happy Holidays
Open till 4 PM Christmas Eve
Closed Christmas Day & New Year’s Day
Open for Boxing Week Sale Fri, Dec 26
Kaslo • 353-9688

The Best in Canadian Crafts
Warm wishes to you and yours this holiday season
-Ruth, Tom, Tamara & Jackie

Festive Canadian Crafts

Front St. Kaslo
250-353-2566 Since 1986

Creekside Forest Products reports that investigators spent almost a week at the site. Although the company has not released any final reports, he said the fire “wasn’t suspicious in any way to the best of our knowledge.”

Bortolin said some people had reported hearing an explosion early on, which could have signaled the cause of the fire. However, he said, investigators have determined that people probably heard the collapse of the roof or floor, not an explosion.

He said the plan is for the mill to be rebuilt on the existing mill site, but the company is waiting for firm numbers from the insurance company before committing to a timeframe for re-construction.

Bortolin reports that approximately $2 million was invested in the mill in the seven months prior to the fire.

No cause determined for Meadow Creek mill fire in initial investigation

by Jan McMurray
The initial investigation into the Meadow Creek Fire Products mill fire has been completed, and no cause has been determined as yet. The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) reports that the OFC and other investigators are working cooperatively to try to determine a cause, and the fire remains under investigation.

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Slocan council, December 8: Weather events cause problems at reservoir and boat dock

by Barbara Curry Mcalchy

• Tim Hill, Public Works Supervisor, reported on problems at the water reservoir and the boat dock. A slope behind the reservoir had pulled down the chain link guard rail covering the hillside and part of the fence. Debris spilled over the concrete barrier protecting the water tank but fortunately did not hit the tank. Large boulders on the hillside “were threatening to come down” and “could have caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages,” he said. Public Works, with the help of a hired excavator, placed another row of large concrete blocks on top of the barrier protecting the tank and did other repairs, though the final touches will be left until weather permits.

On November 29, a day of high winds and freezing temperatures, the boat dock broke loose and drifted to the rocky shore where it was pounded by waves. “Trying to get a strap on the end of the dock was a bit difficult, as 15 feet of the shore was solid ice, and the dock had waves coming over the top,” said Hill. With some ingenuity and

the excavator, Hill got the dock off the rocks and up on shore. He said three floats on the dock will need to be re-attached, and one will likely need to be replaced. Also, the Village will have to hire a diver to access the anchor, which is in 87 feet of water, 150 feet offshore. A new anchor line will have to be purchased and set. He made suggestions on ways to improve the anchoring setup to prevent future problems. Councillor Van Byen suggested that the Village look into acquiring some of the left over cable from when the cable at the ferries was changed.

• A petition in support of cell phone service in Slocan and surrounding areas, with more than 135 signatures, was submitted to council. Council agreed to forward the petition to Telus and to invite Telus to come to a meeting in Slocan early next year.

• Council considered the Slocan Curling Club’s written request for support with their leady roof, dehumidifier, interior painting, and lighting over the ice sheets. Tim Hill reported that Public Works had already fixed the roof. Council decided to ask the club for quotes for its projects and agreed to review the request at its 2015 budget discussions.

• Mayor Lunn read from former Councillor and RDCK Director Hillary Elliott’s last RDCK report. Elliott and Michelle Gordon had spoken with the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Community Sport and Cultural Development about Slocan’s request to withdraw from services. The Deputy Minister said a decision on the recreation service might be made this month but the park service decision might take longer. WE Graham Community Service Society has been awarded a $40,000 Community Development Grant. At the annual meeting with YRB held in Slocan, it was noted that YRB are “the trained flagging professionals” for traffic accidents. People are asked to call them at 1 888 352 0356 if they are needed for flagging or to remove road debris.

• The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce (SDCC) will be invited to make a presentation to council in January about their grant-in-aid request. A letter from the SDCC will be included in the renewal licence reminders sent to local businesses.

A donation of $100 will be made to the Global Perspectives class at Mt Sentinel School for their international community service project in excavation.

• Staff was directed to contact Bo Bjerg to find out which one of the camp trailers he had offered to buy for $50. (Mayor Lunn reminded herself from the meeting for the discussion of this last item due to a potential conflict of interest.)

As requested by the mayor of Hudson’s Hope, council directed staff to write a letter to BCUC requesting a one year moratorium on the proposed Site C Dam Project.

• The Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society will hold a one-day retreat in Slocan on January 31 in Slocan council chambers.

• During public time, Keith Taves said that he wanted to clarify that at the November council meeting, “I did not present an anti-smart meter petition as has been reported [in the Valley Voice], I presented an anti-fire hazard petition.” At the November council meeting, after considering Taves’ petition, council had voted to have staff research amending the Building Bylaw to prohibit the installation of any electrical devices without UL or CSA certification, before council took a series of actions. Staff is still researching. A letter from Patsy Taylor cautioning council not to amend the bylaw, which he called “obviously an attempt to stop the installation of smart meters,” will be put in the Building Bylaw file until staff finishes their research and the matter can be considered once more.

• Thomas Littley encouraged Council to install solar panels on the curling rink and the Village’s shop roof to cover the costs of electricity at the curling rink and to develop a small-scale solar farm. He suggested the Village contact WE Graham Service Society, which, he said, has hired a grant writer. He also said that there is “a substantial amount of money in grants available” from CBT.

Slocan Valley makes appointments at inaugural meeting

by Barbara Curry Mcalchy

Slocan’s new council, Mayor Jessica Lunn and Councillors Madeleine Perriere, Jean Patterson, and Hairy Van Byen took their oaths of office on December 8. Councillor Joel Pelletier had taken his oath in November and he attended the December 8 council meeting by Skype.

Mayor Lunn, in her inaugural address, said it was an “absolute honour” to serve. She noted the “incredible slate of candidates” in Slocan’s election and that Slocan had the second highest turnout in the West Kootenay. She praised the calibre of the new council, noting that its two former mayors, Perriere and Van Byen, and a long-serving councillor, Patterson, had a wealth of experience, and that Pelletier would contribute “fresh new energy.”

Michelle Gordon, Chief Elections Officer, reported that 165 of the 242 people registered in Slocan voted in the November election.

• Council appointed Mayor Lunn as Slocan’s RDCK director and Councillor Perriere as the alternate. Mayor Lunn was also appointed to the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce and to the Kootenay Kinkaboot Treaty Advisory Committee. Perriere was appointed to the Fitness Centre and the Spirit of Christmas committees; Van Byen to the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission and the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society; Pelletier to the Western Scrunch Owl Committee and as liaison to the Unity Music Fest. Patterson and Pelletier will be liaisons to the Seniors’ Housing Society.

Council agreed to a new protocol on confidentiality. Council members who are not re-elected must return all in camera and confidential documents, and delete all confidential emails. Council members will now be required to return in camera agenda packages after in camera meetings.

Season’s Greetings and Happy New Year to one and all, from Walter Popoff, Director, Area “H,” RDCK

Season’s Greetings and Happy New Year to one and all, from Walter Popoff, Director, Area “H,” RDCK

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

January 5, 2015

- Executive Meeting

- Regular Meeting

- Regular Meeting

For information: 1.877.649.5643
www.slocanvalleylegacy.com donations@slocanvalleylegacy.com

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  - Dec. 24 - 9am - 6pm
  - Dec. 25 - 11am - 5pm
  - Open Jan. 1 - Noon - 6pm

Slocan, BC  ph: 355-2211  fax: 355-2216
Nakusp council, December 8: New water pump will improve water supply

by Jan McMurray

* Village staff will purchase a 75 horsepower pump to replace the 50 horsepower pump in Well #2. The 50 hp pump is still in good repair and will be kept as backup. The 75 hp pump will allow for 30 percent more total village water capacity output. The purchase was recommended by staff because last summer, the 50 hp pump in Well #1 failed. This put Well #1 out of commission for six weeks while a new pump was ordered and installed. A water ban had to be imposed.

The purchase of the new pump will help to avoid water bans. In the case of a pump failure, the backup pump would be installed within the week, and the water treatment plant fails, the two wells will be sufficient to supply water to residents. The 75 hp pump will cost approximately $20,000, including installation.

* Mayor Hamilton reported that the Nakusp and Area Development Board held a community engagement session on December 6 and would hold another on January 10 from 9 am to noon. She also announced that there would be an arena fund launch (Andrew Allen) at the arena auditorium on Saturday, December 13.

* Councillor Mueller reported that the library board and historical society are working on a landscaping plan for the south side of the Centennial building; and that the president of the NADD is Marilyn Rivers and the vice president is Laurie Page.

* Council appointed Mayor Hamilton and Councillor Mueller to the AKBLO Conference Planning Committee. The AKBLO Conference takes place April 22-24 in Nakusp. Veronica Sargenti is conference coordinator.

* As recommended by NACFOR, council appointed Kathy Smith, Lee-Anne Marshall, Cam Leitch, Paul Peterson, Frank Polier, John Cann and Tom Zeleznik to the NACFOR board of directors. Councillor Tobey was appointed as the representative on NACFOR at council’s inaugural meeting. The board is appointed by council resolution as per NACFOR’s Articles of Incorporation. The Village is NACFOR’s sole shareholder.

* Council appointed Berg Lehmann as the auditors for the Village for 2014, at a cost of approximately $27,000. Berg Lehmann has been the Village auditors since 2010.

* At the inaugural meeting of the new council on December 1, the following appointments were made: Acting Mayor – Councillor Mueller (Dec. 6th); Councillor Zeleznik (March-May), Councillor Hepper (June-Aug.), Councillor Tobey (Sept.-Nov.); RDC Director – Mayor Hamilton, Alternate – Councillor Mueller.

Appointments to Village committees were made, as follows: Mayor Hamilton – Community Health/Community Consultant, Labour Relations; Councillor Hepper – Emergency Management, BC, Nakusp & Area Youth Society; Councillor Mueller – Nakusp and Area Development Board, Nakusp Public Library; Councillor Tobey – Nakusp and Area Community Forest, Recreation Commission #4; Councillor Zeleznik – Chamber of Commerce, Nakusp and Area Development Board.

The Nakusp Hospice Memorial Tree 2013

The Nakusp Hospice Memorial Tree 2013 is now up at the International Friendship Inn on Broadway in Nakusp from 5:00 pm Monday, Friday and 2-5 Saturday until Dec. 31. This year, we have been blessed with unusually warm weather along with the “hand-blown” Angels and crystal Snowflakes. The sturdy stands will compliment the angels and snowflakes handsomely.

The ornaments come gift boxed and ready for exception, which can be done for you.

Come in and purchase your loved one’s name on a Christmas ball for our tree. Any donation will be gratefully accepted and income Tax receipts will be provided so we can carry on the important work of providing care for the dying in our area.

Season's Greetings

From the mayor, council, and staff
Nakusp chosen for pilot project to benefit seniors

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp has been chosen as one of five communities to help Better at Home understand how best to deliver services to seniors living in rural and geographically isolated communities in BC. The Better at Home program provides non-medical support services to seniors, helping them to live longer in their own homes and to remain connected to their communities. It is funded by the Province and managed by the United Way.

“The pilot in five communities

Edgewood Fire Department saves home in Angel Falls

by Jan McMurray

The Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department saved a home in Angel Falls on Tuesday, December 2.

Department member Lynda McNutt reports that 15 Edgewood firefighters were on scene within 23 minutes of getting the call at 6 p.m. The fire started in the chimney and had spread to the walls and roof surrounding the chimney by the time the Edgewood department arrived.

Independent Power Project proposed for Gardner Creek

by Jan McMurray

An independent power project has been proposed for Gardner Creek along the Nakusp Hot Springs Road. George Bergemin of Bergemin Electrical Contracting began investigations into the development of the run of river project on the creek in 2002, and applied to FrontCounter BC for a provisional water licence for the investigative phase of the project in August 2014. No decision has been made by government on the application yet.

Nakusp council reviewed Bergemin’s application at the October 8 council meeting, and sent some comments about the application to FrontCounter BC. They pointed out that the development is in a key tourism area, and asked that if the project is approved, it not be visible from the road and it not take away from the natural beauty and flow of the falls.

Regarding the proposal, the powerhouse would be located approximately 300 metres upstream from the confluence of Gardner and Kinkaxan Creeks. The water would travel 2,800 metres through the penstock to the powerhouse. A 150-metre transmission line would be built from the powerhouse to the existing BC Hydro lines along the hot springs road.

About 150 metres of new road would have to be constructed from the hot springs road to the powerhouse. To access the intake, the Gardner Creek Forest Service Road would have to be reconstructed and two creek crossings re-established.

The project would be able to generate 1,000 kilowatts and would be sold to BC Hydro under the Standing Offer Program.

Wishing you a magical Christmas...

Paul Pettersen, Director, "Nakusp Lakes Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Wishing everyone a Joy Filled Holiday Season

Christmas hours: Nakusp Glass will close December 24 at 3:30 pm. Reopening with regular hours on Jan 2

For Emergency please call 250-265-1072

Nakusp Glass
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The clear choice for all your glass needs!
Westside Small Engines
will be closed from Dec 24th through 28th and Jan 1st through 4th.
Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
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Winlaw Mini-Mart
Season’s Greetings from Peter & the staff
10 - 4 December 25
Closed January 1
5722 Hwy 6 • Winlaw 250-226-7282
Wishing you and your family a warm and festive holiday season!
RHC Insurance Brokers Ltd.

The Whole School visits the RDCK board office
by Hillary Elliott
The Whole School students from Winlaw experienced how learning outside the classroom can make even local government fun! Whole School teacher, Nushira Birch, commented on the experience of visiting the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) office in Nelson at the end of November. “Anitra Winiie and her colleagues went above and beyond... They must have put hours into organizing it.” Birch appreciated the students seeing firsthand how they could have a voice for issues that they care about. Reflecting on the experience, Robb, age 9, commented, “I learned about how the RDCK helps people.”

It all started with Area H Director Walter Popoff being invited to speak on November 13 to the Whole School students during a unit of study in government. Birch stated, “I was floored by how passionate the students were about the topic. Director Popoff’s visit put a face to government for them and he helped them to understand the role of local government.”

Popoff spoke about the RDCK staff and the work they do with elected officials, like him, that affects the students’ lives every day. “I thoroughly enjoy being able to speak with the students of the area, the young students of today are the activists and leaders of tomorrow,” Popoff said.

The students were so excited by Popoff’s presentation that Birch contacted the RDCK office. RDCK Corporate Officer Anitra Winiie created a memorable experience for the students, explaining local government and the roles of RDCK staff. “RDCK staff were delighted to welcome the Whole School students to our office and answer their questions about regional government,” commented Winiie.

Students experienced a real business meeting with an agenda, chair (Anitra Winiie), vice chair (Maggie), CAO (Aydlen), staff presentations, colouring books, pins, pens and a large map of Area H for the school. To celebrate the 40th birthday of RDCK, the staff and Whole School students also enjoyed some celebratory cake. Caith, age 10, thought sharing cake was one of the highlights of the event.

RDCK staff presented information on water, garbage, GIS mapping and local government elections. Osian, age 7, “...learned about how they filter our water,” and River, age 9, learned “...that 30,000 tonnes of garbage goes into the landfill every year.”

As chair of the business meeting, Anitra Winiie led the discussion on RDCK process, such as taking minutes of a meeting for legal and historical records, and how services are provided by many other employees that do not work at the RDCK office in Nelson. Winiie stated, “These young people will one day be voters, and perhaps even directors or staff, so it’s important to engage them in dialogue about local government. I’m hoping the RDCK will explore the possibility of initiating an outreach program... to increase awareness about the RDCK.”

Overall, visiting the RDCK office was a memorable and valuable learning experience for everyone. As Ayden, age 11, said, “We have to go back next year for their 50th birthday!”

The Corporation of the Village of Slocan
503 Slocan Street, PO Box 50
Slocan, BC VOG 2C0
250-355-2277 or info@villageofslocan.ca

NOTICE:
2015 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
Council Meetings will be held on the second MONDAY of each month.
Listed below is the new 2015 schedule:

January 12
February 10 (Tues)
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8
July 13
August 10
September 14
October 13 (Tues)
November 9
December 14
Slocan celebrates at Spirit of Christmas Festival

Submitted

The Slocan Spirit of Christmas Festival was held on November 30 with about 100 people attending. Outgoing Mayor Madeleine Perrier invited incoming Mayor Jessica Lunn to assist in the tree lighting. There was carolling led by Diane South. Santa arrived on the fire truck, and then invited the many children there to visit with him on the antique 1906 sleigh, brought to him by Barbara and Rory Lindsay.

Anyone wishing to sign up for the Yard Home Decorating Event can do so until December 20. Contact for registration is Karen Davis at 250-355-2812.

On Sunday, December 21, the carolring wagon from the Legion will tour the town and visit all registered sites for the yard decoration event.

The committee is very happy with this first year of Slocan’s Christmas Light-Up and plans are already taking form for next year’s event.

Merry Christmas
to all!!

Nakusp Legion, No. 60

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Wishes you & yours the Best of the Holiday Season!

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“Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year from our home to yours. Thank you to all our valued customers for your continued support this year.”

Call us for your entertaining needs: Meat and cheese trays, veggie trays, fruit trays, apple and/or sweets trays.
Gift certificates and gift baskets available.
Freezer packs still available.

Our holiday hours are:
December 24 8:00 am - 4:00 pm • December 25 & 26 Closed • January 1 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Every other day we will be open our regular hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

New Market Foods
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Merry Christmas
Thank you to all our valued customers for your continued support.
Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Holiday Hours:
Dec 24th 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Dec 25th Closed
Dec 26th Closed
Dec 31st 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Jan 1st Closed
Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!

Alex Atamanenko, MP
BC Southern Interior

337 Columbia Avenue
Castlegar
250-365-2792
1-800-667-2393
alex.atamanenko.cl@parl.gc.ca
alexatamanenko.ndp.ca

Sending you all warm
wishes of health and
happiness through the
holidays and into the
New Year!

Thanks for all your support.
Closed December 25 & 26
Closed January 1

Rutabaga’s
Whole Foods
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May the Blessings and Joy of
the Christmas season be with
you throughout the coming year.
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Gride thinks about what he wants for Christmas at New Denver Merchants Night December 12.

Carollers from the community choir stopped in at Garden Graces to sing with CJ on Merchants’ Night in New Denver.

People’s Pharmacy in Nakusp chose the Food Bank, run by Arrow & Stavits Lakes Community Services, as the recipient of the 2014 Healthy Communities Fund grant. The Healthy Communities Fund is funded by the owner operators of each People’s outlet and from the proceeds of People’s Drug Mart corporate fundraising. Ann Matukin accepts the cheque from Jodi and Madison Clark, and Colleen Ruttenberg of People’s.

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Wishes you the Best of the Holiday Season
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Slocan Valley Branch:
3014 Hwy 6, Slocan Park
West Boundary Branch:
256 S Copper, Greenwood

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday and a very Happy New Year!

Tracy Romplo serves Corporal Bogg a hotdog at Kooto’s Light Up Celebration on December 5.

Andy and Gill came out for Kooto’s Light Up. Andy donning the funky new glasses he bought at the craft fair earlier that day.

Eva Shandrin won the draw for the box of goodies at New Denver Merchants’ Night.
Regional district advises caution due to high rainfall
submitted

The RDCK is urging residents to be aware that recent rainfall throughout the Kootenays may cause creeks and river levels to rise, which can lead to debris flows. Debris flows are fast-moving mixtures of water, sediment, boulders and logs that flow down steep mountain creeks. Creeks in the Kootenays often flow dirty after a major rainstorm. Dirty or turbid water doesn’t necessarily indicate that a debris flow hazard exists. However, abnormally dirty water may signal that a landside or bank failure has occurred upstream. Pulses of sediment in a creek channel may also indicate that something unusual has occurred upstream. Also, a large volume of debris (logs, sediment etc.) accumulating in a creek channel or at the mouth of the creek may indicate that a natural hazard event has occurred in the watershed. Use caution while spending time in a confined creek channel or gulch that is prone to debris flows and exercise caution around all fast moving water.

Residents are responsible for having an emergency plan as well as the tools and items necessary to protect their homes and properties. Empty sandbags may be available at local fire departments. Call the fire department non-emergency number to arrange for pick up.

If you observe abnormally dirty water, pulses of sediment, or a large volume of debris, call the provincial emergency number at 1-800-663-3456 to report your observations. For more information on debris flows please refer to the brochure located on the RDCK website or contact Regional Fire Chief Terry Swan at 250-352-1507.

Season’s greetings from all of us at Overwaitea foods.

This holiday season, shop Overwaitea foods for all your holiday entertaining needs.

Serving the community in Nakusp
Open 7 days a week 8 am - 7 pm
Christmas Eve, Dec 24 8 am to 6 pm
Christmas Day, Dec 25 CLOSED
Boxing Day, Dec 26 10 am to 6 pm
New Year’s Eve, Dec 31 8 am to 6 pm
New Year’s Day, Jan 1 10 am to 6 pm

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Happy Holidays to all of our valuable customers!

From Colin and Janice Slocan Yard and House Care

SLOCAN YARD & HOUSE CARE
Ph (250) 358 2561
Cell (250) 354 3425

The Valley Voice December 17, 2014

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes for the holidays to all our patients, friends and neighbours from all the staff.
We look forward to seeing you again in 2015.

Holiday Hours
Early Closing Dec. 24
Closed Dec. 25 & 26
Closed Jan. 1

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Packrat Annie’s

Claire Yamanouchi, Pete Martin and Koos van der Plo gate the tree at Rotary Carol Sing, December 3.
Season’s Greetings!

To all our business contacts, friends and neighbours:
Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Crossley, Shawn and Dean
Scot Norsemen Enterprises
Nakusp, BC

The Crescent Valley Fire Dept. would like to thank the businesses and individuals who graciously funded our 2014 Halloween fireworks show and haunted house!

- God Island
- All Around Septic
- Durand Ecological
- Intercube Construction
- Drop Designs
- RN Trucking
- Babes Automotive
- Heritage Credit Union
- Mowatt Family
- Kootenay Savings
- Columbia Power Corp
- Maple Leaf Store
- West Kootenay Self Storage
- Frog Peak Cafe
- Bill’s Heavy Duty
- Kootrac
- Playmor Power
- Shaheen Machine

https://www.facebook.com/CrescentValleyFireDepartment
Merry Christmas
from all of us at
Kaslo Community Pharmacy
Holiday Hours: Christmas Eve 9:30 am - 3 pm
Christmas and Boxing Day closed
Open Saturday, Dec. 27 9:30 am - 5:30 pm
with RX pharmacy service 11 am - 3 pm
New Year’s Eve 9:30 am - 3 pm
New Year’s Day closed
20-335-3224
https://kaslo pharmacy.myveril.png

Seasons Greetings from
Manon Van Tuyll

The Kaslo & District Arena Association has sponsored and assisted two young JV Humphries students who face challenges learning in noisy, active environments. These challenges make learning this skill during the regular public skating times almost impossible.

KASLO & DISTRICT
Christmas at JVH – a theme of giving

submitted
JV Humphries Schools is always looking for ways to reach out to others during the Christmas season as a way of focusing on ways we can give rather than what we get at Christmas.

Most classes are involved in a wide range of giving activities. There will be visits to the seniors at the hospital, baking for the Food Hampers, helping pack the food hampers, doing random acts of kindness around the town, doing surprise lunches around the school.

‘Tis the season to be thankful, to share with others and to reach out to our neighbours. On behalf of the students and staff at JVH we wish all of you a happy holiday season based on what is important: family, friendship, and giving to others.

Jim Yount signs off
by Jan McMurray

Many people in Kaslo and beyond were saddened when Jim Yount passed away sometime overnight November 30 – December 1. He was 64 years old.

A broadcast journalist, Jim worked at many radio stations in BC and in Calgary over the course of his career, and was head of the BC Institute of Technology’s Broadcast Journalism program for five years.

After moving to Kaslo seven years ago, Jim did some writing for the Valley Voice and published his own Sidewalk Superintendent for a while. Most recently, he was managing the laundromat. You could usually catch up with him there or at Terena’s, his favourite cafe in Kaslo.

Jim was born in Vancouver and spent his early years in Arrowhead on the Upper Arrow. He was happy to be back in the West Kootenay for his retirement.

A tribute to Jim by Brian Antoncic of Puglet Sound Radio ends this way: “If there is an afterlife, no doubt he’d pour himself a scotch already, and is musing about writing a short story about his recent experiences for all to share. Rest well, Yount. And as he would often sign off, ‘Red Network, over and out.’”
Pascal ass of hot (cool) menu changes at the Valhalla Inn

restaurant

New Denver’s Valhalla Inn is making some remarkable changes in their menu. I was there last week to chat with Sean Patrick, who, along with Vikki, is making big-time changes in their menu. Vikki is part owner of the Valhalla Inn, and Sean Patrick (SP) is the Food, Beverage and Pub Manager of same. Thirty-four years ago, SP’s cooking career began in Sudbury, Ontario where he worked with his Gramma at the Royal Canadian Legion helping the Ladies Auxiliary put together huge amounts of food for hungry people. SP excelled at making copious amounts of mashed potatoes. His secret, he says, was “lots and lots of butter and cream.” Sounds like a good start!

After that he held many “odd kitchen jobs” until he found himself owning an Italian deli at age 33. He learned to make Tonia’s Amatriciana: arborio rice made into balls stuffed with two (not one or three), but TWO green peppers. Drop the balls into the deep fryer and sprinkle with Asagi or parmesan, add red sauce and wrap with prosciutto. Listen carefully! That’s just one of the many new items that are beginning to appear on the Valhalla Inn’s menu.

How did Sean Patrick land at the Valhalla Inn? Well, he was living in Vancouver where he worked in and managed several nightclub-type food places including Bukowski’s on Commercial Drive. He also was attending a counselor training college where he met our very own Andrea Wright, who, he says, talked about Stocan Lake every single day until he decided he had to see this Stocan Lake. He arrived in Rosebery and walked straight into a full-time job at the Wild Rose. Since then he’s worked at half a dozen places in and around New Denver, and this past November he began his full-time gig at the Valhalla Inn. SP is a cool guy, very imaginative with food and drink and is perfect for the job.

What to expect from Vikki and Sean Patrick? Authentic Chinese cuisine, curries, seafood, authentic Mexican food plus traditional and community experience, and expressing their personal vision for supporting rural economies.

The council will include 10 to 18 members, representing a diversity of backgrounds, perspectives and regions. Members will be appointed as individuals, not as representatives of an organization, business, or municipality. Donna Hamet, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, will chair the council. Deadline for applications is January 9, 2015. Council membership will be announced early in 2015.

For more information, or for further details, visit www.gov.bc.ca/RuralAdvisoryCouncil.

Happy Holidays! Our Holiday Sale continues through Christmas Eve!

• All Clothing – 10% off
• Candles & Superwash Wool Yarn – 25% off
• Everything Else – 5% off

Open Every Day thru New Year’s Eve (except Christmas Day & Boxing Day). See our Business Directory Ad for Hours.

250-358-2178
Klondike Silver to fortify Carpenter Creek bank, tailings ponds

by Jan McMurray

Klondike Silver plans to complete some upgrades to the creek bank armouring, tailings ponds, and underground support structures at the Sandon mine site by summer 2015, in response to an engineer’s report.

Golder Associates Ltd. out of Burnaby inspected the underground mining structures and tailings ponds, and conducted a hydrogeological inspection of Carpenter Creek earlier this year.

The report concluded that the creek needs more rip-rap armouring to prevent erosion of the creek bank. This work will be done in summer 2015 under the guidance of Golder, according to a press release issued by Klondike on the results of the report.

All three tailings ponds “are very secure with minimal work recommended to increase long-term stability,” states the release.

Because New Denver is located 15 kilometres downstream of the tailings ponds, their ‘consequence classification’ is high. In response to the breach of the tailings ponds at Mount Polley, the Chief Inspector of Mines has ordered that any facilities with high, very high or extreme consequence classifications will be required to submit Dam Break Inundation Studies and Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans that have been reviewed by a qualified professional engineer. The Klondike press release states that Golder has updated the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.

Finally, minor upgrades to the underground support structure will be required prior to returning to exploration and production.

According to the Klondike press release, this work has been scheduled for this winter and spring.

All annual dam safety inspections, which are routinely required for all permitted mines, must now have the inspections reviewed by an independent qualified third-party professional engineer from a firm not associated with their tailings facilities. This new requirement is a result of the Mount Polley disaster. The Ministry of Energy and Mines has selected Hatch Ltd. to assist with the oversight of the process for independent third-party reviews of dam safety inspections for every permitted mine tailings storage facility in British Columbia.

Underground exploration underway at the Willa Mine

by Jan McMurray

Discovery Ventures Inc. has received a permit from the Ministry of Energy and Mines to conduct underground sampling and mapping activities at the Willa Project, near Red Mountain Road.

A press release issued by the company on November 25 states that the company will conduct an "underground percussion drilling campaign to collect new samples from the Willa resource.”

A composite of the samples will be processed, and a final tailings product will be sent to the lab. “The results of the tailings characterization studies will be presented in future studies and applications for the proposed WillaMAX project and will form an important part of future planning,” states a press release.

Re-entering the underground workings of the mine provides an opportunity for a geological review. This will be done as part of the program.

The WillaMAX project would combine the Willa copper-gold resource with processing facilities at the MAX Mine in Trout Lake. Due diligence is underway for project financing.

FortisBC electric rates to rise January 1

submitted

FortisBC has received regulatory approval for a 3.5 percent interim rate increase for electricity customers to take effect January 1, 2015. The rate increase is interim and is subject to change based on further regulatory review with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). The rate increase for 2015 will be finalized in the New Year. The interim rate increase works out to approximately $4.12 per month for the average residential electricity customer.

Earlier this year, FortisBC announced along with BC Hydro and the provincial government changes designed to help customers reduce their electricity consumption, particularly those on low incomes. The new Home Energy Rebate Program provides homeowners with up to $6,000 and rebates for energy-efficient upgrades. Customers can find more information about this program by visiting www.fortisbc.com/rebates. Here, they can also use an energy calculator to compare the costs of different home-heating energy sources as well as individual appliance energy costs.

For more information visit www.fortisbc.com/electricityrates. If customers are concerned about their bill or are looking for ways to save energy, call 1-866-800-7847.

Wishing our friends, neighbours and colleagues an exhilarating holiday season!

Georama has been growing poinsettias right here in Nelson since 1970! They are long lasting and fresh – right from our greenhouses to your home! Come for a visit today and see Christmas in the making at Georama.

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Experience the magical, old fashion joy of Christmas

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AWARD WINNING Flower Shop!
Let our floral designers create something special for you and your family with the finest fresh flowers from around the world.
Remember Georama delivers around the corner or around the world!
Letters to the Editor – a Valley Voice favourite

by Art Joyce

Witty, wacky, weird, obsessed with wilderness and often well informed, The Valley Voice Letters to the Editor page seems to obey a slightly different rule. Section 5 of Lincoln’s five ‘March’ letters writer is almost invariably entertaining. And it remains one of the newspaper’s runaway favourites. In an age when most newspapers only allow letters well under 300 words, our pages allow writers to stretch out and fully develop an argument or even just a rant. Other letters give evidence of the unusually emotive population we serve here along with the merely odd. In doing my Valley Voice Year in Review I chose a few of the best – including not only those with good points to make but the decidedly eccentric.

In one of my most prized and tattered old books, The World’s Great Letters (1940), author M. Lincoln Schulte wrote, “man’s character (is) best revealed in his letters.” It’s because somewhat of a lost art since the advent of e-mail, with its hurry-up-and-get-it-out imperative and its tendency to truncate the language. Thankfully the art of letter writing is still alive and well in the region the Valley Voice serves. Probably my favourite quote about letters comes from the 12th century, from the love letters of Heloise to the philosopher Abelard: “When am I to be turned in the September issue? They have souls; they can speak; they have in them all that force that expresses the transports of the heart; they have all the fire of our passions.”

In his inimitable fashion, New Denver’s Peter Roulston threw gasoline on the fire in the February 26 issue with another of his characteristically provocative letters, “If the last registered Sinut person died in 1956, and neither federal nor provincial courts recognize the name, and if other hands don’t respect you, then perhaps the extinct status is indeed valid.” Peculiarly, this met with a flurry of angry letters in the March 12 issue. Eloise Charet of New Denver said, “We’re very lucky to have the Sinut people, who are not extinct but distinct to our area.” Dale Johnson of Paskwioo agreed: “Our valley is richer with their presence.” Chris Dawson countered, “If there’s anything more pitiable than a white protestor in a headress, I’m not aware of it.” Peter Roulston for Sherff.

In contrast to Dawson’s incisive tone, in the December 3 issue Dal Stronquist wrote a note of gratitude “to all those who have the courage to take a stand, do not want to live in ignorance and refuse to live in fear,” whether it’s about “a hydro smart meter, a pipeline, a tailings pond breach or another useless bill introduced into this House.”

The March 26 issue saw vitriolic letters about Intec’s Heath’s slashing of Kaslo’s ER ward to 9-5 hours. “Crazy folks. I can’t guarantee that accidents or heart attacks will only happen during business hours,” griped David Stewart of Argenta.

Then Sicamous councillor, Patricia Corcoran

CORRECTION

We neglected to credit the Winefest photo in our last issue. The photographer was the amazing and talented Lee Otte of Nakusp (www.laro.co).
by Art Joye

Contrary to popular belief, British Columbia does not end at Hope. By far the majority of the province is made up of small communities, most of them rural and few of them exceeding a population of 20,000. In the Kootenays, only one community – Cranbrook – is that large. Municipalities that hope to thrive will have to adapt to the pressures of the 21st century economy; some will manage this well, others not so well. One community that has managed to meet these challenges in Nakusp thanks in large part to its forward-thinking mayor Karen Hamling. She was recently elected for her fourth consecutive term. The Valley Voice took a few minutes to ask her the secrets of her success.

Looking back over your previous three terms as mayor of Nakusp, what were some of the challenges you faced, especially in the early part of your tenure?

First of all, I have to state clearly that a mayor does not get things done on her own. You need council and staff support. Without those, you are toast. I have been fortunate to have councils who have been very supportive and who have cared as deeply as I do about our community. One of the most important jobs a mayor has is to lobby for the community and I have been fortunate to have had councils who have allowed me to do this and not stand in the way.

Some of the challenges that we faced in my first term was that council had to make the decision to close the Nakusp Hot Springs and do a complete upgrade. Initially it was thought that it would cost around $400,000 but ended up costing close to $700,000. That was our very first council meeting. The second big issue two months later, the Youth Centre burnt to the ground and then four months later, the hot springs bridge was condemned and then two months later, there was an announcement that the CBT office, in Nakusp was slated for closure and the fight was on. Then the arenas had big issues with the ice plant etc.

We managed to get through all those issues and then the next big issue was in 2008 with the bankruptcy of Pope and Talbot and the area contractors being left with around $4 million dollars in money owed to them.

I was fortunate enough to be able to work with the minister of forests Pat Bell who did a phenomenal job of getting close to 100% payment back to our contractors. It would have been devastating had we not had Minister Bell on side. Jesper Niersten and I flew to Vancouver on the Friday of the August long weekend to meet with him personally and discuss the problem. Minister Bell kept in phone contact with me on a regular basis. We also dealt with the downturn in the forestry sector where 150 jobs were lost that year.

With the decline of primarily resource-based economies to a more diversified 21st century economy, many BC rural communities are experiencing a difficult transition. How has Nakusp managed this, and how much of that is related to community attitude?

Again, hard work on the part of council and lobbying and meeting with government officials to get the grants that would provide jobs and an economy to their community. Although the jobs were not long term, they have helped us get through. We still have a long way to go and the community has been working hard to find something that will turn us around, thanks to the Nakusp and Area Development Board and the Chamber of Commerce and a lot of good people who are committing their futures to the community.

What are the accomplishments you're most proud of from your past terms as mayor? We know some of them already, such as the microhydro plant, but please don't be modest and list them all.

I am proud of maintaining the CBT office in Nakusp and keeping a good relationship with the CBT staff and board; getting the $4 million back to our contractors; working to keep the arena open; the building of the Emergency Services Building and the hot springs footbridge; upgrading the sewer and water treatment plants, the sewage plant, upgrading the hot springs and purchasing the Cedar Chalets. Working with the ministry to get the MV Columbia built in Nakusp. The Nakusp and Area Community Forest has done a wonderful job and declared dividends. Halcyon House and additions to the Moro are also high on my list. Those are the big wins, there are many small ones but that's enough to list.

What are the challenges you anticipate for Nakusp council over the next four years? Has some of this been anticipated and is it already in the works?

Challenges facing Nakusp is that we will have to tighten our reserves as we had to use them up on all the major projects and we are working on our financial picture. We need to boost our economy and have more diversification and that is being worked on, again, with the help of a lot of good people. We have made some changes to our Official Community Plan and our zoning but more work needs to be done and that has been started as well.

What do you hope to accomplish for the community during your new term as mayor?

Upgrading our hot springs and village websites; an increase in our reserves; continuing to do upgrades and adding to the hot springs and making it a vacation destination; bringing a brighter economic future to Nakusp.

Certainly you’ve been a model for advocating on behalf of your community and obtaining record levels of grant funding. If you were to advise other mayors, why do you think you were so successful at this?

First and foremost you need a plan and you and council and your staff need to work together toward implementing it. Don’t take no for an answer and keep going after what you need. Don’t bash your funding bodies in the media. Remember to think those who have given you the funding and always remember who you are representing and working for.

**Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!**

**Best Wishes for 2015!**

From Kelly, Gord, Brian, Janice, Tammy, Linda and Lee-Anne

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**NOTICE**

**Village of Silverton**

2015 Regular Council Meeting Schedule

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<td>Tuesday, June 16, 2015</td>
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Council Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Village of Silverton Council Chambers at 421 Lake Avenue, Silverton BC.

Melissa Miles
Chief Administrative Officer

The Corporation of the Village of Silverton
P.O. Box 14, 421 Lake Avenue
Silverton, British Columbia V0H 2B9
Phone: 250508-2472 Fax: 250508-2221
Email: caco@silverton.ca

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday and a happy New Year from Silverton Village Council and Staff!

Please check your local bulletin board for business hours during the 2014 Holiday season.

Katrine Campbell and Karen Stevens are delighted to announce their marriage December 13, 2014 at the Kohan Garden. Thanks to all our friends for making our celebration so joyful!
Argenta Friends Press becomes part of history

by Art Jouy
A stalwart of the Argenta community has passed into history. The Argenta Friends Press printed the last issue of The Smallholder—its 115th edition—in December 2011, and since then has lain dormant. The press had served the community since the late 1960s in various capacities, starting off as a means of providing technical training to students at the Argenta Friends School. The Smallholder was a magazine devoted to the promotion of quilting and other needlework activities among those living close to the land. In that sense it thoroughly represented the community’s values.

The Argenta Friends are a local association of Quakers loosely affiliated with others of like faith in Canada, and are themselves an integral part of Argenta’s history. The 1965 Multihed 60/60 photo offset press is the second only in the 45-year history of the press. It has become impossible to find parts for it except through obscure sources in countries such as India, according to press operator Van Munster. Already during the past decade it had been necessary to fabricate replacement parts in a Nelson machine shop. With the dominance of cheaper digital printing, the press had been losing money in recent years.

“I think it’s outlived its allotted span,” says Betty Tillotton, who worked on The Smallholder since the mid-70s. “It was a good thing to do. I miss it. But it is time to come along and get rid of it.”

Tillotton says the original idea for The Smallholder came from publisher Dick Marks, who had been operating Brookhurst Press on Mayne Island. Marks had established the magazine as a means of promoting the experience of rural residents living off the land, publishing the first issue in March 1974. Both Tillotton and Davidson Burnet have been involved in its production since that era. The Smallholder Co-operative was formed in Argenta in 1979 to publish the magazine, using other printers. The first issue rolled off the Argenta Friends Press in 1983. All the work for The Smallholder besides the printing itself—folding, collating and stapling—was done by local volunteers.

The first Argenta Press was known as the Root Cellar Press because it literally lived in John Hopkins’ root cellar. Hopkins was on the teaching staff at the Argenta Friends School and conceived the idea of using a press to teach students printing skills. When the school was coming to an end, there was a question about whether to continue the press. A decision was made by the Friends to take on commercial work, but the business was limited by the press size and its remoteness from urban centres.

“It was very fragile and very small but it pushed way above its weight,” says Tom Zepp, who worked on the press for about 10 years. “But the jobs were so small, in my opinion it just didn’t work. I’m sure if the total wages for everybody for an entire year were $12,140.”

Scarcely the money was found to construct a building to house the press and slowly accumulate used equipment. Zepp recalls: “The basement was heated by wood. Gradually it became the Friends’ in-house press, printing annual reports and pamphlets in addition to producing the Smallholder. Eventually it was also used by the national association of Quakers in Ottawa for this purpose.

“Without the Friends, the press would not have existed,” says Zepp. “They loaned us money to improve the press with an important part that would allow us to print 11”x17” paper and in exchange we gave them a break on printing. That was essential to keeping The Smallholder manning as long as it did.”

The Friends Press became as much a way of life as a printing press. Both Zepp and Munster lived close enough to walk to work and having a job as press operator meant they could stay in Argenta. They have fond memories of working there, although the machine’s idiosyncrasies could be intensely frustrating at times.

“It’s a cloning process trying to run a press in the middle of nowhere,” Zepp recalls. “When it worked it was wonderful, when it didn’t it was maddening. We were all mutans so we were self-taught and taught by the last people who were there. We just had to make it work, so whenever I quit I couldn’t leave until I trained the person coming in.”

Printers left the building raging and bald from tearing all their hair out because when things went wrong you’d have staff lying out all over the place,” Munster laughs. “I don’t think you’d call what I was doing an art but it was a throwback. Argenta’s pretty good at that kind of lifestyle. It felt good.”

COMMUNITY

The Smallholder has been archived in the Argenta Library and the Kootenay Lake Historical Society archives in Kaslo but so far no history has been written on the press.

Member Service Representative
Kaslo, BC

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FROGS IN WINTER

Although frogs usually hibernate in their large埋 roots during cold weather, hibernation they partially burrow into mud at the bottom of a pond end, through their skin, absorb oxygen from the water and eliminate carbon dioxide. Their breathing slows and they often exist on at plus carbohydrates.

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Winlaw School wins Great Outdoor Champion prize

by Jan McMurrary

Winlaw School has won $5,000 to support its outdoor education program.

The funding comes from the Inspired Minds Learning Project of the Canadian Scholarship Trust Fund, which holds an online contest twice a year. Parent and volunteer Shanna Robertson entered Winlaw School’s “Growing Nature’s Stewards” project in the contest, and it won the ‘Category Champion’ in the Great Outdoors category.

“As a child I went to an outdoor school program which had a profound impact on my learning, connection and appreciation for nature,” writes Robertson as part of the online entry. “I was so influenced by my experience that I later went on to facilitate in Outdoor School Programs. I have seen numerous times that creating experiential learning in the outdoors goes beyond field-based scientific learning, and fosters outdoor learning, leadership skills, self-esteem, respect, responsibility and a sense of stewardship and citizenship of our natural environments. I would be so grateful to volunteer in extending these learning experiences to our community, to help grow nature’s stewards.”

The $5,000 will be used to purchase items for field study kits—nets filled with nets, microscopes, petri dishes, laminated reference sheets, collection tools, clipboards, indexable markers, binoculars, plaster mold kits, plant pressing specimens, ring-bound fieldbooks and field bags—everything the students will need for outdoor learning adventures.

The bigger picture is to build a gazebo for an outdoor classroom, to be located beside the gardens at the school. Robertson says the Inspired Minds funding may pay for the gazebo design and permitting, and hopes to find more funding for the construction.

Robertson explained that the Winlaw School community is very supportive of building on the outdoor education that is already part of the programming at the school. She says she has been working closely with the two teachers, Linda Out and Cole Amtinger, and the principal, Joe Francis, and that there is “huge support” among the parents.

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Slocan Valley musician performs in The Written Years

by Art Joyce

In the ongoing spirit of celebrating local talent, I recently interviewed Slocan Valley resident Wade Ouellet about his new band, The Written Years. The band is scheduled to perform at the Dam Inn pub on January 3. Their self-titled debut album was released in January this year.

When was the band formed and where? Who are the current members and what do they play?

The Written Years, as we know it, came about in Vancouver in 2012.

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Western Screech Owl signage now on display in Slocan

Submitted

Four colourful and informative signage panels were recently mounted on a kiosk along the Slocan Valley Rail Trail at Main Street and Fletcher Avenue in the Village of Slocan. Funded under the CBT’s Environmental Initiatives program, the signages is designed to educate the public about the endangered Western Screech Owl and its habitat needs.

The Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society and the Village of Slocan are working together to create an attractive self-guided ‘owl walk’ that will direct participants on an educational walking tour through identified owl habitat. Interpretive signage along the way will highlight different natural characteristics that are critical requirements for Western Screech Owl habitat. As well as attracting adults and families to visit Slocan, the signage and owl walk are being designed with school kids in mind and it is expected that regional schools will use it for field-trips to further understanding of the natural environment. An outdoor classroom is a component of the project.

The Western Screech Owl is red listed as endangered in the Kootenays. In 2011 and 2012, biologists followed a breeding pair of the rare owls in their habitat along the Slocan River. Using recorded mating calls as bait, the biologists captured the pair in nets, fitted them with small radio transmitters and then released them. The precise locations of the owls were recorded over time to provide the information needed to aid in conservation efforts. A parcel of Village-owned property between the rail trail and the river just south of the Village (the former Valhall Unit site) was identified as a key part of the owls’ habitat. The owl walk will lead out through this land parcel after a site clean-up to take place in the spring. It is expected that the owl walk will be completed by September of next year.

The Western Screech Owl, a redlisted species, gets some assistance thanks to Slocan Valley volunteers and now a new walk interpretation signage.

The Written Years will play the Dam Inn on January 3.
Goone too: Those who left us in 2014

by Art Joyce

“As we advance in life, we acquire a keener sense of the value of time.” So said 19th century English aristocrat and politician William Gladstone (15). Hayden Kyle (21) and Jule Wiltshire-Palfield (15) this May, a year ago this December we lost the same man with heart attacks. Matt Lekopy (22) of Appledale, Lyla Mortensen (18) of Slocan, and Joel Drew Frankin (19) of Castlegar had lung cancer. A car on December 4 at about 8 pm in Appledale. Lyla and Joel, a young couple, were killed almost instantly in a motorcycle crash on a highway near Cranbrook in icy conditions December 5, 2013. Lyla and Joel, both Mt. Sentinel grads, were passionate about the outdoors and believed in living life to the fullest and to the fullest, still young and just beginning their working lives. In the wake of their deaths, Lyla’s tragic death, Curtis Mortensen wrote: “It’s every parent’s worst nightmare to be informed of the tragic sudden death of their child. To be instantly tossed into the depths of despair, grief and sorrow is like being pushed from an airplane without a parachute. To feel so helpless and powerless is unbearable. People want to know what they can offer assistance, but what could anyone do?” Mortensen had high praise for the Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Society of New Denver, which helped Lyla through what was an extremely difficult time. The Slocan Lake community was suddenly plunged into shared grief on May 10 when a canoe carrying Lyla, Jule, Sky and Hayden capsized. Although Lyla was found unconscious with the canoes, she later died in hospital. It took RCMP dive teams and the specialized side-scan sonar equipment of Gene and Sandy Ralston of Idaho to finally locate the bodies of the three boys 18 days later. It’s almost unimaginable what the parents must have been going through during those two and a half weeks. But the supportive response of the New Denver community was instant and beyond generous. A memorial service was held, baptizings on the beach at Bigelow Bay throughout the weekend following the tragedy. “It takes a village and heaven haunts it’s a village,” said Terry Taylor, superintendent of School District 10 at the community meeting held at the Invercargill School. The Ralstons were similarly impressed. “People were very touched with the incredibly outpouring of appreciation from the whole community,” said Gene. “People came to the campground to thank us and bring us gifts. People were constantly expressing their appreciation.”

Then in the early part of October, the Slocan Valley was rocked by an RCMPianshut for 45-year-old Peter DeGroot, the Village of Slocan resident who allegedly shot a local officer on October 9 and then evaded capture. The RCMP emergency response brought in 150 officers, helicopter support, police dogs, an armoured vehicle, the Southeast District Emergency Response Team and a crisis negotiator. “Our Thanksgiving Monday, October 13, two officers located him at a cabin in the woods in the Slocan area, and DeGroot was shot dead,” wrote Jim Murray. The village was locked down by police from Thursday afternoon to Saturday morning. At a public meeting held by RCMP senior commanders November 3, Village of Slocan residents voiced their concerns with how the incident was handled. New Denver’s Jamie Barber is first to say that meeting that the RCMP had “inflated a fairly confrontational” situation, coming as “cowboys with guns drawn,” rather than seeking a negotiated resolution. Residents said they felt “more threatened by the large force of armed police than by DeGroot himself.” They also reported that children were traumatized by the lockdown and evacuation of the Vale Community School and the Valhalla Children’s Centre daycare.

The Letters to the Editor page was flooded with letters from those in the community who knew DeGroot. A concerned citizen, voiced by Andrea Bell of Nelson, who wrote while he was still alive to say that rumors of him being a “psychopath” were unfounded. Longtime resident Don Currie pointed out that while it’s understandable police may have been on edge due to the recent shooting deaths of officers in Mayneport, Alberta and Moncton, New Brunswick, “the right to use lethal force holds the police to a higher standard of conduct than other Source: DeGroot had known Marcel Tindal, a known DeGroot for 15 years. Tindal described him as someone who respected government instruction. He was trying to live a life of self-sufficiency. “I felt sad that we could never laugh again about the folly of man.”

Then on October 7 longtime Nakusp and New Denver resident Peter Roustol was found dead on the cliffs below the Silverton lookout. Police said his death was not suspicious. There was no suicide note and his home was left as if he intended to return. Yet it seemed odd for someone as wilderness savvy as Roustol to have gone out of bounds. He had recently been hospitalized for depression and was on medication. He had phoned numerous people in the community from hospital, including this reporter, but otherwise seemed in good spirits. “For many years, he and his wife, Otto Towner, a popular outdoors column of the Valley Voice, sharing his old favourite and newly discovered hiking, biking and kayaking routes.” wrote reporter Katrina Campbell, “Before moving to New Denver, he lived in Nakusp where he was a volunteer firefighter and ambulance attendant as well as running the Bicycle Hotel. In New Denver, Roustol was an active member of the Marais Society and the Dark Water Dragon dragon boat society. He’s in wherever he saw the need, he maintained the berm in front of his home, cutting the grass, weed-whacking and weeding, and clearing the snow in winter, groomed the trail up Carpenter Creek and tied up the Mer Trail, prepared the cenotaph for Remembrance Day ceremonies, and helped set up and use the speed-reader board, among other things.” The Battaglia family of Taylorville, California, wrote the letters page to say how much they appreciated Peter as a neighbour. “During our annual stays, we could always count on Peter taking us on adventures. From backpacking bonfires, to boat rides, hikes, swims, full moon beach bonanzas, or work projects out and about. Peter would share a great assortment of fun places with us... Knowing he will not be there to greet us upon our return... weighs heavily in our hearts.”

Scanning the pages of the Valley Voice through 2014 one sees many more people who left us this year. It’s too easy to commemorate the prominent among us who die.

But while we can’t name every one of those we’ve lost during the past year, their families and friends mark their passing for all of us. No less important is the one who quietly worked at his trade for a lifetime than those among us who live out loud.” They are gone but always with us. As Scottish poet Robbie Burns once wrote: “The voice of Nature loudly cries, / And many a message from the skies, / That something in us never dies.”
The Valley Voice, December 17, 2014

COMMUNITY

by Jim McMurray

The board approved the release of $26,543 to the Lower Slocan Valley TV Society. The RDCK collects taxation for the society, but has not released the funds in recent years because the society has not had a legally recognized board. Last year, a court-ordered AGM was held and a legitimate board was elected. The new board would like to do some repair and maintenance work on the society’s towers, which are broadcasting two radio stations and two out of four TV channels. The board hopes to get the two missing TV channels back online before winter sets in.

Because of the issues with the Slocan Valley TV Society, Area H Director Walter Popoff put forward a motion requesting a staff report on the annual grants policy. He explained that he wants staff to review the policy and perhaps make recommendations on how it can be improved, for better accountability of how tax dollars are being spent. The motion passed.

A Community Works Fund grant of $76,000 was approved for the Burton Community Hall Association to replace the dock at the Burton Historic Park & Campground. The current dock is beyond repair and has been closed for safety reasons.

Community Development Grants were approved for the Langham Cultural Society ($4,000), the Nakusp Secondary School Outdoor Ed Class ($2,000) and the Old Fire Hall Collective ($1,500).

The board adopted the Local Conservation Fund Service Establishment Bylaw and the Local Conservation Fund Service Area Parcel Tax Bylaw. Areas A, D and E (Kootenay Lake) voted in favour of the service in a referendum during the recent local government elections. Residents of the three electoral areas will be taxed $1.5 per parcel per year for 10 years. The funds will be used for a grant program, administered by a conservation organization. Examples of kinds of projects that will be funded include habitat restoration projects and fuel management projects.

Director Davidoff gave an update on the work he is doing to try to reduce fire insurance rates for people who live in unprotected areas. A conference call has been scheduled with insurance companies interested in addressing the issue. “What we have started here [at the RDCK] is moving along well,” he said. “Two other Regional Districts are interested and UBCM is interested.” He reported that a briefing note was sent to Minister Todd Stone, who forwarded it to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, and this resulted in the scheduling of the conference call.

Appointments were made as follows: Municipal Insurance Association – Director Davidson; Southern Interior Mountain Pine Beetle Steering Committee (SIMBC) – Director Faust; Selkirk College Regional Innovation Chair for Rural Economic Development – Director Jachman; Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee – Director Wall (alt. Director Main); Kinnikinnick Treaty Advisory Committee – Director Binks (alt. Director Faust); West Kootenay Transit Committee – Directors Cunningham and Main (alt. Director Binks); Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee – Chair Hamling and Director Cunningham; Municipal Finance Authority – Director Toyoda (alt. Director Bunka); Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust – Director Watson; SDID Regional Advisory Committee – Directors Faust and Kozak.

Four directors’ names were put forward for the one RDCK seat on the Columbia Basin Trust board: Directors Binks, Toyoda, Watson and Jachman. The CBT will choose one director, based on how they will submit about themselves.

Area K Director Paul Peterson reported that he attended his last CBT board meeting in November. He said he was supportive of limiting Regional District directors’ terms on the CBT board to six years, and he was the first director to have to leave because of it. “It’s a wonderful organization and I hope we continue to work closely with them,” he said. “Thank you for letting me be the RDCK representative on the CBT board.”

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Season's
Greetings

From
Wolfgang
& the Staff

Wolfgang's Plumbing Services

Many Thanks for all
your support in the
election!

Have a safe, healthy and
Happy Holidays Kaslo
and Area D

I look forward to working
for you.

Aimee Watson,
Director Area D, RDCK
And Fynn
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Be energy savvy this winter

Knowing how you use electricity can help reduce your energy use and bills this winter.

Helpful energy saving tips to prepare your home for winter.

Try these low or no cost tips:
- Install a programmable thermostat
- Replace your furnace filter
- Close heating vents in rooms not used

83% of energy used for heating is consumed between October to March.

Monthly electricity use:²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water heater for two occupants</td>
<td>$25.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water heater for four occupants</td>
<td>$39.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric furnace</td>
<td>$178.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCD TV &amp; DVD player</td>
<td>$5.92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Energy use in your home:¹

- Space heating & cooling: 43%
- Appliances & electronics: 19%
- Water heating: 19%
- Lighting: 12%
- Other: 7%

Did you know?

As of Jan. 1, 2015, your electricity rate will go up by approximately 3.5%.³

It’s going up to help address the rising cost of electricity and to support the necessary investments into the electrical system that serves you safely and reliably.

Have questions about your bill?

Call us at 1-866-436-7847. For more tips to help you save electricity this winter, visit fortisbc.com/wintertips.

¹ Based on 2,200 kWh of electricity use over a 2-month period. Customers with low consumption may see an increase less than 3.5% while bills with high consumption may see an increase of more than 3.5%. ² These are the approximate costs for typical households in FortisBC’s Southern Interior service area, calculated based on 2014 rates. ³ Source: 2013 FortisBC Residential End-Use Survey: Energy Consumption for Electric Only Single Family Dwellings, Electrically Heated House, 20,000 kWh per year average use. FortisBC uses the FortisBC name and logo under licence from Fortis Inc. (C.A. 2001.1)
Christmas Bird Count寻求参与者

continued from page 34

So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to Chapman’s inspiration and the enthusiasm of 27 dedicated birders, 25 Christmas Bird Counts were held that
day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Canada, to San Diego, California, with

OBITUARIES

MORI NANCY C.

On Sunday, November 24, 2013, our

mother, Nancy C. Mori passed away

peacefully at the Pas Grove Care Center

in Kamloops, BC. Predeceased by her

husband Shigeru Mori in January 1993,

She is survived by daughters Natasha

Mori MacGregor, Sharon Mori, and Mike

(Chelsea) Mori; nine grandchildren, one
great grandson, and brother Ralph Honma.

Born in Vancouver, BC on January 22,
1920, relocated to New Denver in the spring
of 1942, where she resided until spring
2008, when she moved to Kamloops, BC. There will be a Celebration of Life, summer
2013.

Donations in memory of Nancy may be
made to the New Denver Koyukukai Society, Box 273, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0.

HELEN GRACE MAJA

- Born March 12, 1929 in North Carolina, USA
- Passed away on November 29, 2014 in the Arrow Lakes Hospital.
- Died peacefully in her sleep at 85 years of age.
- Survived by her loving husband of 66 years, Oliver M. Maja, and their children, Lisa (Lynne), Betty (Riday), Julia (Evard), Emily (Clynt), Matt (Barb), and Steve (Jean), and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.
- Helen was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.
- She is survived by her loving husband, Oliver M. Maja, and their children, Lisa (Lynne), Betty (Riday), Julia (Evard), Emily (Clynt), Matt (Barb), and Steve (Jean), and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.
- She will be missed by all who knew her.

Helen’s garden was a special place. She loved it and all of us, as it was a place to gather and enjoy with friends.

Happy Holidays from our Family

Rom’s Bakery Ph.
COMMUNITY
Kootenay Lake School District 8 elects Lenora Trenaman as chair
by Jen McMurray

Lenora Trenaman and Heather Suttie are the new chair and vice-chair of the Kootenay Lake School District No. 8 board of education.

A veteran trustee, Trenaman has represented Crawford Bay, east and north shores on the board since 2003. She served as vice-chair of the board three times, in 2006/07 and 2009/10 when Bill Mandelchak was chair, and in 2011/12 with Mel Joy as chair. Trenaman is newly elected and represents Creston.

Kaslo trustee Dawn Lang, who was vice-chair of the board last year, was nominated for both the chair and vice-chair positions. Although unsuccessful in this bid, she was elected chair of the budget committee.

Rebecca Hunsruck, chair of the board last year, was elected chair of the Finance and Operations Committee.

The BC Public Service Employees’ Association representative is new trustee Cody Beebe, with Curtis Bendig, also new, as alternate.

Pattie Adam re-elected chair of School district 10 board
by Jen McMurray

At the School District 10 Arrow Lakes board of education meeting on December 9, Pattie Adam was re-elected chair for the ninth year in a row, and Lora Lee Buek was re-elected vice-chair for a second consecutive year.

For the first time in many years, Adam was challenged in the election for chair. Buek went up against her, nominated by Quinn Diercken.

Superintendent Terry Taylor reported on an Operations Review, completed by consultant Doug Templeton. The district intends to act on the number one recommendation in the report — to hire a Manager of Transportation and Operations. The position will be advertised in January and filled by April 2015, and will replace the two current CPE lead hand/foreman positions. Templeton pointed out in his report that most districts spend 2 percent of their operating budget on energy costs, but School District 10 currently spends 3.2 percent. Taylor reported that energy savings will be made by turning down heat and air conditioning after 3 pm each day, reducing heat and cooling during school holiday periods, installing occupancy sensors, investigating more efficient lighting and energy systems. Savings will be used to fund the new manager position.

Warm holiday wishes from
Nakusp Veterinary Clinic

Holiday Hours
December 23: 8:30 – 5
December 24 – December 28: closed
December 29: 31: 8:30 – 5
January 1: closed
January 2 and 3: 8:30 – 5

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Tuition-free Adult Basic Education continues at Selkirk College

Compiled by Jan McMurray

Following a provincial government announcement on upcoming changes to Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs, Selkirk College President Angus Gruneau is reassuring current and prospective students that academic upgrading courses will continue to be free of charge for the next semester.

“Selkirk College has no plans to change tuition for ABE in January,” Gruneau says. “Our board approved our tuition fees for the 2014-15 academic year this past February through to July 2015.”

Since 2008, the Province has been providing funding to post-secondary institutions and school districts to deliver tuition-free upgrading courses to adults. Now, starting January 1, 2015, public post-secondary institutions in BC will be allowed to charge tuition fees for all adult upgrading courses, including ESL programs.

Government’s decision to lift the tuition-free policy for ABE programming in BC will not change our plans for providing tuition-free ABE opportunities for learners at this time,” said Gruneau. “Until we receive a clear commitment that no reductions to our operating grants are planned by the Province for ABE programming, we will also not be contemplating any changes to our programming or tuition charges.”

The provincial government announcement also included a commitment of more funding for the Adult Upgrading Grant program, available to low-income students to take adult upgrading courses at post-secondary institutions. Starting April 1, 2015, the annual budget for the grant program will increase 33 percent to $7.6 million. The grants will cover all, or a portion, of the costs of tuition, textbooks, supplies, transportation and child care depending on the adult student’s income.

Previously, students above the income threshold were not eligible for the grant. Now, students who are 10 percent above the income threshold are eligible for a grant to cover half of their tuition.

Selkirk College offers ABE programming out of its Castlegar, Nelson, Trail, Kaslo, Nakusp and Grand Forks locations, and registered 457 students in ABE courses in fall 2014. In the K-12 sector, adults pursuing a high school diploma will still be able to do so tuition-free. However, adults who already hold a high school diploma will be expected to pay for any upgrading courses they take at a high school.
The City of Christmas

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