Federal government urged to take on Lemon Creek case

by Art Joyce

What does it take to get government to enforce its own environmental laws? West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL) – the organization supporting Marilyn Burgoon’s citizen-initiated lawsuit against the Province of BC and Executive Flight Centre in the Lemon Creek spill – is asking for the public’s support in urging the federal government to take over prosecution of the case. Burgoon explained that WCEL is urging the federal Department of Justice to prosecute due to the prohibitive legal costs.

“Our suggestion is simply that this is a huge expense to ask any member of the public to take on but if Marilyn does go forward we’ll give whatever support we can,” says Andrew Gage, senior legal counsel for WCEL. “But really it is the government’s job to prosecute. Let’s invite the government to do its job.”

Gage declined to offer an estimate of what the potential costs could be. Burgoon has had long experience with environmental cases in her association with Perry Ridge Water Users Association and is no stranger to the burden of court costs. “You’re talking many days in court,” she says. “Every day that you litigate is a huge amount of money. I’d fundraise and do the best I could, of course, but this is what a public defender should be doing.”

The BC government concluded that, “the evidence obtained did not satisfy the necessary criteria to recommend charges.” Not necessarily. Lilina Lysenko, the Trail-based lawyer representing Burgoon, said the driver who had the accident was the second driver to follow the Province’s incorrect directions, yet no one corrected the problem even though the earlier driver had reported it. Gage added that Judge McKimm’s ruling made it clear that there are grounds for a case and further, that the Province of BC is implicated. By choosing not to proceed with prosecution so far, the provincial government has placed itself in a conflict of interest, leaving a private citizen like Burgoon to force the issue.

WCEL is asking the public to send messages to federal Attorney General Peter MacKay and provincial Attorney General Suzanne Anton, saying: “When thousands of litres of jet fuel are spilled into pristine fish-bearing waters, I expect the government to take action.”

Burgoon says other communities across the province are watching the Lemon Creek case hopefully, particularly in light of last year’s Mt. Polley mine tailings disaster. She points to the “positivity of the responses across the province and how people are encouraged that we did get the judge to see there was a contravention of the Fisheries Act.”

At the same time, events like Lemon Creek and Mt. Polley have fuelled a widespread distrust of government to do what’s right.

To send a message in support of the federal government taking over prosecution of the case, visit the link at WCEL: http://wcel.org/resources/environmental-law-alert/demand-justice-lemon-creek

Unplug & Play Week kicked off in New Denver with a Kitchen Party Sing Along at the Apple Tree on January 24. Musicians Noel and Rebecca Fudge, new to New Denver, took the lead and kept the crowd singing. Watch for posters with other fun activities this week, including a disco skate at the Silverton Curling Rink tonight and free night skiing and tubing at Summit Lake Ski Hill on Friday night. Unplug & Play Week is sponsored by several local organizations that want to encourage less screen time and more play time.
Government announces wolf cull to save mountain caribou

by Jan McMurray

The BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has announced that in order to save mountain caribou herds under threat from wolf predation in the South Selkirk Mountains and in the South Peace, up to 1,885 wolves will be shot from helicopters before the snow melts. In our area in the South Selkirks, the plan is to kill up to 24 wolves. In the South Peace, the goal is to kill 120-160 wolves.

The South Selkirks mountain caribou herd has dwindled to 18 animals, down from 46 in 2009. A government press release states that habitat recovery continues to be an important part of caribou recovery, but cannot address the critical needs of these herds in the short term.

The government announcement has brought on quite a response from environmental groups.

Wildsight and Conservation North, two of the environmental organizations that participated in the development of the BC government’s Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan, have issued a joint statement where they reluctantly endorse the wolf cull in the South Selkirks.

“We are very concerned and generally do not support predator control as a management tool except in rare and extreme cases involving endangered species. Predators are often scapegoated and pay the price for human caused habitat loss and when government policies result in reduction of ungulate species. We share the public sentiment against wolf kills. But we recognize that in some rare cases it may be necessary to keep a globally unique animal like mountain caribou on the landscape and, in so doing maintain its protected habitats. It’s a short term, desperate strategy to grow herds and help degraded habitat to the point where predation is less of an issue.”

A press release from Wolf Awareness Inc., a non-profit charitable foundation, states: “Caribou are in this situation because of us, not because of wolves. The Province has allowed energy and recreation industries to destroy critical caribou habitat, facilitating predation by wolves which would otherwise be less able to access remote caribou herds. Despite scientific consensus on the interaction between habitat destruction and predation, the government allowed destructive activities to continue for more than 50 years. As a consequence of our neglect, we are left in a conservation dilemma: is it appropriate to kill one species in the overall solution – critical habitat must be preserved in the first place.”

The local Valhalla Wilderness Watch also weighed in with a press release entitled, “BC’s mountain caribou recovery plan is failing disastrously.” The release states that there were an estimated 1,885 mountain caribou in BC when the recovery plan was announced in 2008, and now there are only 1,300. The goal of the plan was to increase caribou numbers to 2,500 within 20 years.

Valhalla Wilderness Watch is very critical of the recovery plan’s Snowmobile Management Agreements, which “allow snowmobile clubs to develop plans to voluntarily stay out of caribou habitat and monitor themselves.” The release states that government scientists have extensive documentation of snowmobile trespasses in the South Purcell and other areas, “yet the political level of government is turning a blind eye.”

The organization claims that extensive areas recommended by government scientists to be closed to snowmobiles have been left open. “The Recovery Plan took some laudable steps forward, but almost every aspect of it has been hollowed out by numerous concessions to vested interests. Mountain caribou are tragically disappearing, and the government is shamelessly using wolves as a scapegoat for what it hasn’t done to protect the caribou,” concludes Valhalla Wilderness Watch.

Introducing Donna Gibbons, nurse practitioner in New Denver and Slocan

by Jan McMurray

Donna Gibbons is the new nurse practitioner in New Denver. Anurse practitioner is an experienced nurse with advanced medical training who can provide primary medical care, much like a family doctor.

Donna has been working five days a week at the clinic in New Denver since December. In the spring, she will start working one or two days a week at the Wellness Centre in Slocan, and three to four days in New Denver.

She says she is looking forward to setting up the “beautiful space” at the Wellness Centre in Slocan. She also thinks highly of the clinic and staff in New Denver. “New Denver is well covered, with two fantastic doctors who have most of the population under their care,” she says. “I feel really lucky to be working with doctors as skilled as the ones in New Denver.”

However, the two New Denver doctors have full practices and are not accepting new patients. “So that’s part of the complaint area, that I’m not a nurse practitioner,” she said. “In a month and a half of practice, I’m really busy, so I’m delighted.”

Donna comes to us from Edmonton, where she lived for 30 years. She says she move to New Denver is a dream come true – she has been wanting to move to the community ever since she discovered it years ago.

Donna, her husband and five children found New Denver when they were looking for opportunities to hike, bike, and camp reasonably close to Edmonton. “The first time we drove in to New Denver about 20 years ago, I remember saying to Kevin, ‘I wonder if they need a midwife here.’ I knew I wanted to move here before the first time I saw it.”

Donna started her health care career as a midwife. While doing her undergraduate degree in linguistics and computer science in Toronto, she attended a home birth and found her calling. She apprenticed under two midwives in Edmonton, and completed a Masters degree in nursing (advanced practical obstetrics) at the University of Alberta. After many years as a midwife, Donna wanted to broaden her scope of practice, so she decided to take the nurse practitioner program. She worked as a nurse practitioner at the high risk Maternal Fetal Medicine Clinic at the Lois Hole Hospital for Women, and then in family practice.

A nurse practitioner can provide regular check-ups for adults and children, diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries; manage chronic conditions like diabetes; order and interpret lab tests, x-rays, ultrasounds, etc.; prescribe most medications; provide prenatal care and family planning; refer to medical and other specialists; and give advice on health issues.

Donna has a special interest in alternative and complementary medicine. To make an appointment, call the New Denver Medical Clinic at 250-358-7211.

Ontario MD working on health warning labels for cell phones and wireless devices

by Jan McMurray

A Private Member’s Bill requiring health warning labels on packaging for cell phones and other wireless devices is expected to be introduced in the House of Commons by Oakville (Ontario) MP Terence Young.

“This is not a partisan bill, it is one that affects every party,” said Young. “Members across the floor are hearing from our constituents that they don’t want our amazing 21st century communications to cause a 21st century health crisis. It’s time to label the packages with the same warnings the manufacturers already put in fine print.”

Young held a press conference January 19, where he said the bill was inspired by a grassroots group based in Oakville, C45T. He said the group has found many studies pointing to health risks such as testicular and brain cancer from using wireless devices. “The results of the studies are deeply troubling and require action,” he said.

Although warnings are currently issued with cell phones, Young says the vast majority of users haven’t seen them. “They are in the little booklet that comes in the package, but no one reads it,” he said. “This act will make people more aware of the health risks.”

Existing warnings that come with cell phones are hardly visible anywhere from half an inch to an inch away from the body.

Young’s bill outlines penalties of up to $10,000 per day and/or imprisonment up to six months per day of the offence. Young called this “an effective deterrent.”

“Let’s change the way Canadians examine and think about technology,” he concluded.

Terence Young is known for championing a new law enacted in 2014 that requires pharmaceutical companies to better label serious side effects from their pills. The law, known as Vanessa’s Law, was passed after Young’s teenage daughter Vanessa died of a heart attack from a medication she was taking. On the heels of that improvement in safety warnings on pharmaceuticals, Young has now shifted his focus to warning cell phone users.

The World Health Organization has determined them to be a “possible carcinogen,” the same category as lead and DDT.
Conservation officers kill two cougar kittens in New Denver after mother harvested

by Jan McMurray

Conservation Officers had to come to New Denver on Thursday, January 22 to kill two cougar kittens that had been left without their mother.

“They were having significant difficulties feeding themselves, and they were wasting away,” said Conservation Officer Blair Thin. “It’s better to

engage them quickly and humanely, as opposed to letting them suffer. Starving is a horrible way to go.”

Thin reported that the mother and two kittens had been hanging around a private property just outside New Denver, and had slaughtered some of the property owner’s rabbits. Shortly after his rabbits were killed, the property owner discovered that the cougar kittens had taken up residence under a shipping container on his property, and the mother was no longer with them. He realized that the mother had been killed when he found out a 90 pound female cougar had recently been harvested by a local hunter on the property adjacent to his.

Thin said Conservation Officers investigated whether or not the mother had been harvested illegally. “Our investigation ruled out an illegal harvest – we were unable to prove it either way,” he said. “There were no witnesses or people willing to provide information about the hunt other than the person who harvested the cougar, and that hunter is saying the animal was not accompanied by any kill.”

It is illegal to harvest mother cougars that are accompanied by their young. Thin said that these kits were younger than six months old, and there was a good chance the mother would be out hunting without them.

“It’s next to impossible to determine if a cougar is a mother if her kits are not with her,” said Thin. He explained that cougar hunters usually use hounds to chase the cougar up a tree, so they can’t see if the cat is missing.

“Cougar hunters just have to do it as much as they can to determine that they are not harvesting a female with kits. It’s obvious if the kits are present, but if not, they have to look for other signs, like tracks in the area that would indicate offspring,” he said.

This report that the Conservation Officers’ did into this situation very often. He said most cougar hunting is trophy hunting, so hunters are going after big males. In this particular case, though, he said the hunter killed the 90 lb. female cougar for the meat.

To deal with the two kittens, Conservation Officers used a ‘predator call’ to draw them out from the shipping container and then shot them. A predator call is an electronic device that mimics a rabbit in distress or a cougar mother – something that would attract the animals. “We set it up a safe distance away,” explained Thin. “It’s a safe way to deal with animals.”

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Justice at the Junction to host Pete Seeger memorial concert as fundraiser

submitted

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Premier supports funding of the Forestry Service Providers Compensation Fund

submitted

Premier Christy Clark stepped up and championed the forest industry when she reaffirmed her support for funding the Forestry Service Providers Compensation Fund recognizing its significance to the forest industry and BC’s rural communities, says the Truck Loggers Association.

Forest contractors are small, locally owned businesses. When these companies are left in the lurch by a tenure holder that becomes insolvent, the whole community suffers. “We’ve seen this happen more than once,” said TLA president Ron Banasky. “And we know that the ripples are felt throughout our communities.”

The other step towards building real contractor sustainability…

Tresses – a new study on an estimated 30 million men, women and children are victims of slavery and oppression throughout the world, more than there has ever been in history?

A group of local individuals and some of our area’s most notable musicians will host a dinner and concert to raise awareness and financial support to free modern day slaves. The event is planned for January 31 at the Junction Church (240 Elen Rd off Mt. Sentinel School) from 5 to 11 pm.

The evening coincides with the passing of Pete Seeger one year ago this January. An inspiring artist and justice seeker himself, Seeger’s music will be the theme of the night. Musicians will cover his songs in their own unique style, and will play some of theirs.

All money raised from this event will be given directly to International Justice Mission, a global organization protecting the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems. The goal is to raise

The TLA represents more than 440 building real contractor sustainability…

The TLA represents more than 440

The TLA represents more than 440
Recommended reading: Deep Economy by Bill McKibben

Susan Eyre's recent letter re: climate change really resonated with me. Why? Because I've just read Deep Economy by Bill McKibben. I urge Susan and all concerned grandparents to read this book, which not only addresses the root cause of the crisis but illuminates and proposes workable solutions. Once you've read the book, why not pass it on to your children? Then, together, create a way to communicate its essence to your grandchildren.

As the book suggests, we must all act now (locally, as communities), seeing as those in power (the Corporatocracy) will, if we continue to allow them, lead us into the abyss.

In community,
Ty Klassen
Nakusp

Please help wolves

Members of these so-called governing institutions have gone completely insane. There is no euphemistic way to describe their savage, completely insane. There is no way to contain this grief. Please help wolves! These criminals in government will not stop until every wolf on this planet is killed. They will not stop until nature is dead.

Sylvia Drake Nelson

GOOD NEWS

The Ingrid Rice cartoon is a satirical look at current events in politics and is sponsored by the Kaslo Hotel. The Hotel does not necessarily share the political views of the artist.

UPDATE ON FORTISBC RADIO-OFF METERS

FortisBC will report the actual numbers of radio-off participants once the number is known for Slocan Valley. Once deployment to a region is complete, they are able to finalize the number of radio-off customers, and can report that number to the BC Utilities Commission (BUCC).

At this point, deployment is substantially complete in Region 1 - the Rossland/Trail/Salmo area and there are 163 radio-off customers in that region.

In fall 2016 Fortis will start with radio-off meters in the Slocan Valley. Some people think they can have radio-off meters without phoning Fortis.

People who wish to participate in the radio-off meter option should phone FortisBC 1-866-436-7473, press 3 for meter installation, tell them you want radio off. They'll take your account number and let you know more details closer to the time. Perhaps they'll ask you for the reason why radio off.

Some reasons are concerns about 24/7 radiation, direct harm to health, rights, privacy etc...

Ask for a name of the person putting your name on the list so you have proof of your application.

To clarify, FortisBC does not have an "opt out" option whereby a non-AMI meter (or "smart meter") can remain in service. The only option is for an AMI meter which has had the radio transmission turned off (known as the radio-off option). There is a one-time fee to configure and disable the meter to be a radio-off meter that would appear on the first billing after the meter is installed. The fee is $60 if you let Fortis know of this choice before deployment starts in full 2016, or $88 after deployment has started in your region.

An additional $18 fee will appear on your bill every two months for a meter reader to manually read your consumption information at the meter.

MP Alex Atamanenko stated in November last year: "If you have concerns and want to protect your family, friends and neighbourhood from RF radiation then I urge you to take part in the Fortis' opt-out program. The more that do so the better it will be for everyone."

Let's try to keep a clean neighbourhood as much as possible. If we work together – it will happen.

Karim Leja
Winlaw

TRIBUTE TO CHARLENE ALEXANDER

How wonderful it was to learn that our friend Charlene Alexander - or as we adoringly know her in the village, ‘Bean’ – has won a Prime Minister’s Award for Early Childhood Education. As generations of kids who have been in her preschool will attest, she easily deserves this honour – one she has worked very hard to merit.

Among her other accomplishments, Charlene has played an important role in the shaping of my book, Laying the Children’s Ghosts to Rest: Canada’s Home Children in the West. This story of the 100,000 poor children taken from the slums and orphanages of Britain to work as indentured labourers in Canada - some of them as young as five – is all the more poignant given what we now know about early childhood development.

I’d long suspected from my studies that trauma can be passed down inter-generationally, it was Charlene who put me onto the epigenetics research of Dr. Fraser Mustard. (Not, as in the Clue game, “in the library with the candlestick.”) From my research on the British Home Children I knew that generations of descendants had been deeply scarred by their ancestors’ experiences as devalued child slaves.

The late Dr. Mustard and his research partner Dr. Margaret Norrie McCaig published a pioneering study for the Ontario government that set out the vital importance of a positive early environment for children. “We know now that development of the brain in the early years of life, particularly the first three years, sets the base of competence and coping skills for the later stages of life,” Mustard and McCaig wrote. “Brain development in the period from conception to six years sets a base for learning, behaviour and health over the life cycle.”

To that end, Dr. Mustard was a strong advocate for the field of Early Childhood Education, calling for government funding of early childhood development centres that combine play-based preschool programs, parenting help, social service referrals as well as daycare.

Thanks to Charlene’s presence in the Lacerne Preschool, we already had this here. Sadly, Canada ranks last among developed nations in spending on Early Childhood Development. Perhaps with this award not only will Charlene be given her due for her loving and skilled care of our little ones, but maybe the government will realize it must do more for ECE. As Dr. Mustard made clear, to do so is an investment in ALL our futures: “If you want a highly competent population with limited behaviour problems and no violence, then you don’t have any choice but to invest in early childhood development,” he said.

Clearly this community made a wise and kind-hearted investment when it chose Charlene Alexander to tend our most tender citizens. Congratulations!

Art Joyce
New Denver
Wolves can kill in the right direction

In response to Cedar Brennan’s and Silvia Drake’s letters in the past editions of the Valley Voice. It again appears that this is a case of someone spouting verbiage about a subject they know nothing about, with hopes to find someone out there with the same lack of knowledge up to date.

For one: No wolf in Canada will ever languish away in a leghold trap, as they have been outlawed for 40 years.

Two: I do not know of a case of a wolf ever being caught in a comber trap; they’re too wily to go near one. If he did get caught in one, he would be dead immediately.

Three: A very few are caught in killing snares which dispatch them very quickly.

There is no paramilitary war on wolves. This is just another sensational catch word to garner attention.

At this time there are more wolves in southwestern Canada and the northern US than there have been in 150 or more years. There were no wolves in the Slocan Valley or West Kootenay as long as my family has been here, five generations, until the release of wolves in Yellowstone Park a decade or so ago.

The subsequent result will be the decimation of the ungulate population to zero with the exception of goats and sheep. The rest, all the pretty deer, elk, moose and their young will be dropped down one after another and eaten alive.

Wolves are not killers; as soon as they run an animal to exhaustion and drag it down they start eating, completely foregoing the killing part. The prey animals being bled out, gutted and their internals being yanked out through a tear in their stomach walls or when the anus is torn off behind and is gorged on with the time when the animal is still trying to escape.

Wolves, while not being much of a threat to people, are hell on the other animals of the forest.

Traps by law have to be checked every two or three days, and a trapper doesn’t leave valuable fur overnight in a trap to spoil or be damaged. Now after a short revisit by wolves to our area, the deer and elk populations are lower than they’ve been in several decades. The mule deer is nearly non-existent as their summer range coincides with the wolves’ range. And without some sort of intervention, the mule deer will be gone from our area in a decade. The white tail is a major population and the elk population has taken a nosedive.

The myth the wolves only call the sick and weak horse pucky. They kill Tape in two or three days.

Wolves will live on mice and lemmings in Farley Mowat’s north, but here they eat what’s at hand. A family of wolves can kill a cow in under an hour a day, so don’t get all warm and slippery on the mythical wolf stuff you’ve read that leaves you all warm and fuzzy. They have their place in the natural balance of things but with seven billion people on earth there has been no natural balance for a long, long time, and guess you see the entire human population going somewhere soon, there is not likely to be any balance at all, except the one the Eurocrats and politicians choose if they choose to choose one. Me? I will take the elk, moose and deer.

Since I initially wrote a letter I’ve heard about wolf culling in the Kootenays. This will be a expensive small step in the right direction to save our wildlife.

Gene Bird

Slocan

To friends of wolves and healthy ecosystems

Wolves in British Columbia are running out of places to hide. There are now plans to kill up to 184 wolves living in British Columbia during the snow melts. Wolves will be chased by helicopters, punished and blasted, and then shot under the guise of helping to recover dwindling caribou herds in the South Selkirk and South Peace areas.

There is no doubt that mountain caribou are in a dire situation. This conservation dilemma we are in is certainly difficult and problematic; yet it is a consequence of human actions.

A sad reality is that mountain caribou are on their way out because of what people have already done. Caribou are in this situation because of us, not because of wolves. We have allowed the province and industry to destroy the habitat that caribou require. We have been watching this discussion take place for the past 50 years and allowing activities to continue in critical habitat.

With the decision to kill wolves in the name of caribou recovery, there are several critical flaws that fly in the face of reason and scream to be heard.

In recent decades we have learned more about the true nature of wolves as emotional and intelligent beings, their highly evolved social nature and just how important they are in maintaining balance and biodiversity. So why has BC just announced a new death sentence for the wolves?

The public deserves to become informed on how their tax dollars are being spent, to what end, and for how long. The public deserves to know how BC’s iconic apex predators are treated and how our wildlife and wild places are being used.

The government has been engaging in sterilization experiments and government control (“kill”) for more than a decade and wants to continue to, although these programs have not resulted in any measurable benefits for caribou, despite nearly all of the wolves being killed in these caribou recovery areas. Small and isolated caribou herds in the southern portion of the province are on their way out because of what people have done. Killing predators will not work to save the caribou herds because the habitat they need has already been destroyed. As wildlife begins to migrate further north with climate change, these isolated herds are under even greater pressure.

This choice to kill more wolves is scientifically unwise. Killing wolves to improve an already unproductive situation has not resulted in any measurable benefits for caribou. Wolves will live on mice and lemmings in Farley Mowat’s north, but here they eat what’s at hand.

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COMMUNITY

BC HYDRO: OUR MODERN DAY SCROOGE

by Richard Caniell

There is growing indignation at the effrontery of the BC Government and BC Hydro, for compelling a program to force them on people who don’t want them. Recognizing a serious danger in this, many people have resigned. I am not just talking about the danger of cancer, fire, or invasion of privacy. I am referring to the danger of political correctness. BC Hydro has levied a government-approved, punitive fine for refusing to allow anyone who refuses the Smart Meter.

Refusal to pay the fee brings threats to disconnect one’s electricity, and there is a growing number of people in BC. Many people like myself recognize this is a dangerous assault on certain basic freedoms.

Hydro claims that it offers British Columbians an “option” of refusing the meters, but it’s a stacky deck. Many people cannot afford to have $32.40 ($389 a year) tacked onto their electricity bill every month. As one person said, “If you don’t have the time to pay and don’t have time to fix it, I refuse to do it.”

The definition of extortion is agreeing to pay in cash, or other word or action for the payment of money. With the Smart Meter, you pay a fine, or an option, or worse; with BC Hydro and the BC Liberal government, one pays to avoid illnesses that have been linked to the wireless radiation used in Smart Meters (including brain cancer), or the possibility of having one’s house burnt down.

Of course, Hydro and the government believe that their demand is not extortion, because the fee they are charging is a fine. Perhaps some meter readers continue to read your old analogue meter that is not powered by the government, but has openly admitted in the press that the opt-out fees were purposely set high to force people to accept the meters (“Bennett said he expects, once smart-meter opponents are forced to pay the extra fee, that many will drop their objections”, Vancouver Sun, March 21, 2014). And if there’s any doubt that BC’s opt-out fee is swollen with the coerced, punitive fine, ask the Liberal government, consider that Quebec operates on a similar basis. As a part of the Liberal government, consider that Quebec operates on a similar basis.

If the demand is not extortion, then the court order that the government carried out, later reduced that under criticism to $8, and then was ordered by the Quebec Commission and is currently at $5. In the US, several states allow residents to keep their old analogue meters for no fee, and other states allow residents to read their own meters.

Hydro and the government also claim that no harm is done by the meters — it’s only the belief that they are harmful that produces the problem. Even if that were so, we don’t excuse people for holding someone up with a fake gun. If the victor believes the gun is real, he/she has no choice but to hand over his or her money. It’s still extortion. And, in the case of Smart Meter radiation, people’s belief that the danger is real is supported by the growing number of medical doctors and researchers, and by media reports of Smart Meter fires in BC and other provinces and states.

Disconnection in winter: the gun to our heads

When it comes to disconnecting people’s electricity for failure to pay the opt-out penalty for refusing the meters, it is very harmful to people. These threats have an especially coercive force in winter. No one wants to spend the winter without a source of heat. People who don’t have an alternative source of heat have less incentive to pay the fine or pay up. And even if they do have an alternative, they still lose their lights in a season when the days are very short; they lose their hot water, as well as necessary space heating and cooking equipment; and they lose their refrigerators and freezers. A generator cannot replace what electricity does; fuel costs for a generator-run-up powered generator would be prohibitive.

Hydro’s notice of disconnection warning that those who are to be disconnected with frigid winter darkness to save their pipes from freezing. Ann Findik, in Kamloops, told the Valley Voice, “I will never accept a fine of over $32.40 penalty, for had her electricity turned off on November 19, 2014. There is no question in my mind of a consequent cold snap, her water pipes burst. In Kamloops, BC Hydro shut off the electricity of two families. In one case, the father was concerned with the meter impacts on health, with the fact that a power surge had blown seven meters as far as ten feet from the houses on which they were mounted, and with the numerous issues caused by Smart Meters. His own certification to work in electronics and electricity has led him to believe that even with the meter with the radio turned off, it is not fire safe. Nevertheless, this family tried to pay their have power recreation and Hydro refused, unless they would accept a Smart Meter.

Several Slocan Valley residents living through the winter’s electricity disconnection, including Craig Pettitt, Kip Dobish and David Butt. Why do some people feel that strongly about this? Have refused to pay the penalty fee, and I live in the snow belt, up on Red Mountain, in a log house, alone, in my 83rd year, recovering from surgery. I have paid every electricity charge in full, but I cannot afford to pay the penalty fee. If my money makes no difference, given the telephone taped message I received three days before Christmas Eve: “Your electricity will be disconnected within 24 hours.” This was Hydro’s holiday gift. The threat was sure to generate worry, panic, and potentially unavailable under pressure to people, because few can stand no light or heat in winter. It appears that if Hydro could not make a profit on sales and customer services that from reaching those they mean to get, and make it more difficult to warn people to be careful not to starve.

What else can they do to collect their punitive fees, one might ask? They can go to court, either individually or over the accumulated unpaid fees to a collection agency, (but that would cost them the postage). Or they could sue for it in court (but that would allow the defen- dants to present the reasons why they re- fuse to pay). So, the only way Hydro sees to force the payment is to deprive persons of the essentials to live, even while they are using power derived from rivers and lakes that belong to the electorate, the very people they are oppressing.

Denials about health impacts of wireless radiation

In two very brief broadcasts on January 21, 2015, UVIC media radio station CFAX interviewed by Richard Caniell, and Craig Pettitt. A BC Hydro spokesperson that we represented a very small segment of the people in British Columbia — just a small disorderly group. This was the beginning of a very serious, if the Smart Meters had almost total acceptance. On the contrary, tens of thousands have been pushing resistance against their will by Hydro’s exorbitant fees and notices of disconnection of electricity.

When Smart Meters were first introduced in BC, some 85,000 people refused them, outraged that they were given no choice. The government had stated that homeowners could choose (up to the next election). After being re-elected, the Liberals emerged with a plan to force the homeowners to accept a high opt-out fee, $35.00 monthly, and an order that the BC Utilities Commission not consider any question but the amount of the fee.

Meter reading ruse

Hydro claimed that it had to have this sum to pay its meter readers, but the BCUIC, while acknowledging that it was ham- strung, reduced the fee to $32.40. As has been shown in an earlier articles, it is charged only to those who refuse a Smart Meter. To the 46,000 who had Smart Meters but still required a meter reader because of the location of the house, there was no charge. BC Hydro’s spokesperson explained the exemptions as existing “because these 46,000 have accepted Hydro’s standard (Smart Meter) equipment.”

Surely, this means those who choose to accept Smart Meters are to be punished under the false claim that it is needed for meter readers.

According to the CPCU Union, 70 of the nearly 400 meter readers in BC were retained — almost all the rest were fired. This means that remaining readers must now work 19,820 meters belonging to people who refused a Smart Meter. Of these, 19,000 of these households retained a smart meter, and pay the $389.00 per year penalty; the re- mainder have Smart Meters with the radio turned off and pay $20.00 per month ($240.00 a year). The total in approximate figures is $7,640,544. This means BC Hydro would be paying each of the 70 meter readers $109,240 per year in salary, thus approximately $50,000,000. Is anyone else aware of this outside of BC? How much is anyone really want to buy thisMeter?

More Smart Meters revolved for causing fires

In 2014 Saskatchewan, in response to fires caused by Smart Meters, ordered the removal of thousands of meters. And just recently, Ontario ordered some 5,400 meters removed. BC Hydro claims that it uses a unique brand of Smart Meter, one less, has had numerous Smart Meter fires and failures, the most recent of which occurred in Chilliwack in January of this year.

Meanwhile, in May 2012 some 39 municipalities in BC expressed concern over the installation of Smart Meters. Hydro insisted it will not abide by these motions or orders and has not withdrawn the Smart Meters.

In 2014, studies, both epidemiological and experimental in humans, showed that EMFs associated as a result of exposure to radio waves of low intensity... is false. In fact, over the last 30 years, two dozen case-control studies of mobile phone users and 100,000 humans, have reported no elevations of cancer, and most were found negative. In addition, these reassuring studies contained significant experimental design flaws, mainly those that the populations followed were too small and were followed for a too short period of time.

“Wise-smart meters typically produce attributable, relatively potent and very short pulse RF/microwaves whose biological effects have never been fully tested. They emit, on average, a magnetic field 600 times stronger than the Earth’s field.”

Power is measured in volts, but the field strength is measured in microvolts per meter. No one can reasonably be expected to be able to rate EMF exposure, but they should be able to grade of RF/microwave exposure than with a cell phone, not to mention the cumulative exposure received by people living near multiple cell towers or towers, both, pole-mounted routers or utility collector meters using a third party service — signal strength from 500 to 5,000 homes.

“People are exposed to cell phone microwaves primarily in the head and neck, and this when they use their device. With smart meters, the entire body is exposed to the micro- waves, which increases the risk of overexposure to many organs...”

Why, so many scientists and medical professionals have called for an end to their harmful use for this reason. This is the precautionary principle and the precautionary principle means that measurements showing the fact that the fact that measuring the health effects of EMFs. We wish to correct some of the gross mischaracterization found in the media regarding wireless “smart” meters that was published in French and in German Le Devoir on May 24... The statement that “Thousands
Slocan council, January 12 and 19: Seniors’ housing draft designs presented

by Barbara Curry Malacy

The Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society presented draft drawings of possible layouts for the affordable housing units they would like to construct on a lot purchased at a cost of $459,222.37. Council voted to refer the matter of public participation and to consult the public as part of “a mutual consulting” process after deciding on a final design. The group is aiming to have the units ready for occupancy by the end of 2017. Anyone interested in reserving a spot in the four-plex units, getting more information about them, or giving design suggestions is welcome to call 250-226-7136.

After reviewing information from the BC Safety Authority, FortisBC, the Township of Spallumcheen and the waterline runs through the RDCK. Councillor Perriere was concerned with the Village’s poor performance on setting up a petition in November. The petition asked council to prohibit the installation of any AC electrical device or component that does not have UL or an equivalent design in the Village. Mayor Lunn said that as council is governed by the Township of Spallumcheen and the building code, the Village has no authority to do this to RDCK property owners. RDCK residents are not taxed into the main line and water would have come directly off the main line at the Village. Mayor Lunn said, “Wouldn’t it be more ideal to put the amendment in the Village’s Building Bylaw as requested.”

Connections outside of the Village often serve large properties and non-profit organizations. The Slocan Valley businesses, and mentioned that the Business Directory on their website was a low cost way for Valley businesses and non-profits to have a web presence. The Village’s Building Bylaw as requested, council agreed that “we don’t want people to be up in arms.” Councillor Van Bynen pointed out that the amendment gave authority for discontinuing service only at “a to be determined future date.” She agreed that “we don’t want people to look for a place to settle.”

In public participation at the January 12 meeting, Connie Myers said that many RDCK residents who are connected to Village water do not understand why they are charged a higher water rate than Village residents. RDCK residents are not taxed for water services, so the RDCK has not provided any funding for the construction or maintenance of the water plant or waterline. To compensate for this, the Slocan Valley charges a double rate to RDCK property owners. Myers suggested that the Village include an explanation of rates with the next water bill. She said that these residents do not understand the Village’s situation and they would feel alarmed and threatened if they suddenly receive a notice to look for alternate water service. She also suggested the Village apply for a UBCM grant which allows applications for three capital projects per municipality. She suggested the Village apply for funding for the microhydror project, the seniors’ housing project, and the Historical Society’s project.

Slocan council discusses problems with providing water to RDCK residents

by Barbara Curry Malacy

It wasn’t until public time at the January 12 meeting that Slocan council members realized what they had done.

They had given three readings to a bylaw giving authority to notify Slocan West Road residents that they were “required to secure alternate water services as the Village will discontinue Westside water service at a to be determined future date.” The Westside service covers service to properties on Slocan West Road north of Gravel Pit Road.

Council members were taken aback when a member of the public pointed out this part of the bylaw. They admitted the bylaw was in error and stated the provision for a 2.7 percent increase in water rates that they hadn’t noticed.

Despite regretting the “strong language” used in the bylaw, council adopted the bylaw at a special meeting. Councillor Perriere declared that council’s intention was not to cut off water users. Council moved that the Village “begin a conversation” with Walter Popoff, the Regional District Councilor representing Area H, to resolve the water situation outside of the Village boundaries.

At the January 12 meeting, CAO Dehnel said this hazmat information required by Worksafe Regulations. CAO Dehnel said this hazmat information would help the Village estimate the cost of future projects on the building. Council discussed information about significant revisions to the Building Code which will increase construction costs by $2 to $5 per square foot. A memo from the RDCK’s Senior Building Official, John Southam, said, “We expect this to be a difficult transition period with significant amounts of inspection failures while the industry adjusts to the new requirements.”

Bylaw 2074.

Mayor Lunn, CAO Dehnel, and Michelle Gordon will attend a Municipal Land Development Readiness and Marketing Workshop on January 19 in Invermere. Slocan submitted the mill site and the Village land northwest of the site as a “case example” to be used in the workshop.

Denise Dufault wrote to council requesting “the return of Slocan Lake foreshore… and the restoration of the floodplain and riparian zone.” Her letter also provided information on the new BC Water Act. Council directed staff to reply, expressing appreciation for the letter and noting that council is aware the Village needs a waterfront plan.

Council members discussed their dissatisfaction with the RDCK’s request that the Village adopt a no-enforcement policy for the Village of Slocan Building Bylaw. Nonetheless, council voted to do so. Council also authorized the CAO to sign the MOU for RDCK Building Inspection Service Bylaw No. 2074.

During public participation Joyce Johnson told council that workers renovating the Legion had uncovered “signatures of the Japanese people who worked on rebuilding” the Legion – “such a neat discovery,” she said. She also suggested the Village apply for a UBCM grant which allows applications for three capital projects per municipality. She suggested the Village apply for funding for the microhydror project, the seniors’ housing project, and the Historical Society’s project.

• The Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society presented draft drawings of possible layouts for the affordable housing units they would like to construct on a lot purchased at a cost of $459,222.37. Council voted to refer the matter of public participation and to consult the public as part of “a mutual consulting” process after deciding on a final design. The group is aiming to have the units ready for occupancy by the end of 2017. Anyone interested in reserving a spot in the four-plex units, getting more information about them, or giving design suggestions is welcome to call 250-226-7136.

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• Connections outside of the Village often serve large properties and non-profit organizations. The Slocan Valley businesses, and mentioned that the Business Directory on their website was a low cost way for Valley businesses and non-profits to have a web presence. The Villages of New Denver and Silverton both provide the Chamber with annual grants-in-aid equivalent to $24 per business license issued. Council asked staff for a report on how the Village spends its business license fees.

• The Village will pay $435 plus taxes for a Hazardous Materials Report on the “existing materials” in the area of the Legion being renovated. According to the Building Inspector, the report is required by Worksafe Regulations. CAO Dehnel said this hazmat information would help the Village estimate the cost of future projects on the building.

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By Barbara Curry Malacy

January 28, 2015 The Valley Voice

SLOCAN VALLEY MEDICAL CLINIC is closing Feb 1 after 18 years. Kevin McKenzie, chiropractor, can be contacted at 352-1322 or through Alignments Physio at 359-2227. Contact Zdena Price, massage therapist, at 365-6812. Thank you to all of you who supported the clinic over the years. I have so many good memories.

Bonnie Nygren.

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Bonnie Nygren.
New Denver council, January 13: Councillor Fox reports on initial investigation into biomass heating

by Katrine Campbell

- Councillor Fox reported on a conversation she had with a representative from ‘Wood Waste 2 Rural Heat’ regarding the possibility of a project in New Denver. Nakusp is looking at building a biomass heating plant that would consume about 500 tons of wood waste per year. Nakusp industries produce upwards of 10,000 tons a year. New Denver, then, could use wood waste from Nakusp for its own biomass heating plant, which could then heat buildings such as the Village office and fire hall. Bosun and Knox Halls, the Nikkei Centre, post office, liquor store, museum and hospital. The conversion would require the retrofitting of each building’s heating system, as well as installation of pipes from the central facility. Fox said it would be beneficial to do an energy assessment and identify the easy fixes, such as better windows and insulation, before instituting a biomass program, and that she was “willing to be the ‘go-to’ person when it comes to energy management in New Denver.” Fox’s report, looking long-term, noted the Village could create an energy company to sell heat, as Tslaxl’wa has done.
- Council discussed changes to the BC Building Code and what they would mean for the community. The changes include requirements for energy efficiency, ventilation and radon mitigation (passive systems must now be installed in new construction). CAO Bruce Woodward pointed out the memo from the RDCK said that with careful planning, many of the costs could be “designed out...but given the limited knowledge and experience of most project proponents, building inspection staff expect construction costs to increase by $2 to $5 per square foot.” The memo warned that “We expect this to be a difficult transition period with significant amounts of inspection failures while the industry adapts to the new requirements.”
- Councillor Heather Fox suggested giving information hand-outs to people applying for building permits.
- The Village accepted an offer from BC Transit to make a presentation regarding its role in delivering public local transportation.
- Council authorized the New Denver and Area Volunteer Fire Department to formally register with Emergency Management BC to provide road rescue extrication services, if requested by the RCMP or BC Ambulance.
- Council authorized the renewal of the Fire Services Contract between the Village and the RDCK so the Volunteer Fire Department can continue to cover the defined portion of Area H.
- Council approved hiring Interior Corporate Officer Catherine Allaway were approved to attend a Land Development Readiness and Marketing workshop in Silvertown January 19. The event will provide information on the availability of provincial assistance for developing municipal lands, and will include discussion of the brownfield remediation process. They agreed to use the Village property at the old dump site as a sample for brownfield remediation.
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by Jan McMurray

• Council passed a resolution to go back to weekly garbage pick-up immediately. Councillor Bell made the motion, saying that the biweekly schedule was very inconvenient for her and others she has spoken to. “If you miss a day, you have your garbage in your house for a month,” she said, adding that there were other scenarios going on it when it was stored outside. Council had tried a biweekly schedule to free up some time for the Public Works crew.

• A grant application to CBT’s Social Grants program for Silverton’s seniors’ drop-in program was unsuccessful. CBT received $3 million in funding requests and there was $1 million available. Councillor Main suggested that BC Healthy Communities might be a possible funder of the program in future.

Veron Hartman wrote to council asking if the Village would provide a grant-in-aid for the rental of the Silverton Memorial Hall for the program to continue through April. With he and Silverton council, January 20: Weekly garbage pick-up resumes

by Jan McMurray

Public input received so far on the Crescent Valley Beach Park management plan project has been detailed in a report, available on the RDCK website. Reports are also available for the Pass Creek, Waterloop Eddy and Balfour Beach parks.

“We had great attendance at the open houses we held in November and received useful information that will inform the development of draft management plans for the four parks,” said Sangita Sudan, the RDCK’s general manager of development services.

The resulting plans will guide the operations, development and stewardship of the parks over the next ten years.

The report on Crescent Valley Beach Park identifies five key themes from the public input period in the fall.

The first key theme is improving parking. Although there was favourable response to the parking concepts presented at the open house, some people feel even more parking spaces are needed. People also commented that measures are needed to prevent overnight RV parking.

The second key theme is keeping the park clean. People would like to see washroom facilities, garbage receptacles, regular garbage pick-up, and efforts made to ensure dog owners are cleaning up after their pets.

The third theme, dog walking, elicited views ranging from disallowing dogs in the park altogether, to having an off-leash area, to allowing off-leash dogs at all times except during the busy summer months.

Supporting river sports is the fourth key theme. People want a good launching site for their kayaks, canoes, rafts and tubes, and unobstructed access to the river. Some would like to see a modified whitewater feature for a slalom course and a freestyle training area.

The final theme is environmental stewardship. Many people said they want to see the park remain as natural as possible. There were comments specifically about preserving the black cottonwoods, which provide important habitat. There was also concern about some species being displaced during their breeding season because the park is so busy.

People are encouraged to continue providing input by emailing their comments to Juliet@justwirelessconsulting.ca. The RDCK is also scheduling another round of open houses for the summer.

The park reports can be viewed at www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/parks/park-management-plan.html

COMMUNITY

20: Weekly garbage pick-up resumes

January 28, 2015

by Jan McMurray

Mayor Clarke and Councillor Main had with them at UBCM last year. Mayor Clarke and Councillor Main asked BC Hydro to keep council informed of infrastructure improvements and power outages. The letter outlines the pole inspection and maintenance programs that BC Hydro conducts regularly in the Silverton to Nakusp area.

Mayor Clarke reported that during the last power outage, BC Hydro contacted him by phone. The letter from BC Hydro will be forwarded to the Village of New Denver and Area H Director Walter Popoff.

• A report about Building Code amendments written by John Southam, Senior Building Official at the RDCK, was received. Council asked staff to set up a meeting with him, as the changes to the Building Code may affect the Village’s zoning bylaw.

• Council agreed to the North Slocan Trails Society’s request for an extension to May for the New Denver/Silverton Recreational Trail Enhancement Program. This project received $6,000 in CBT Community Initiatives funding last year – $2,000 from Silverton and $4,000 from New Denver. The project is to map the K&S and Wakefield trails and install directional as well as historical signage, and produce a brochure and website.

• A letter from the Silverton Community Club requested $500 towards the fireworks and expenses related to the July 1st celebration, and the use of the backyard to dig the trenches for the fireworks. Council informed the club members in attendance at the meeting that this grant-in-aide from the Village has been approved as an annual grant on an ongoing basis, so no formal request is necessary.

• A letter from the Legion asks the Village to make an annual donation of $30 to participate in the Remembrance Day service. Council decided to add this to the list of annual grants-in-aide.

• During public time, Linda Lukin asked if the Village was responsible for maintaining memorial benches. She said some are in need of painting, and a plaque needs to be re-mounted on the Bayford bench. Mayor Clarke said he would look into this.

Silverton council, January 20

by Jan McMurray

• Council received a letter from BC Hydro, following up on the meeting the previous month to see if a modified whitewater feature for a slalom course and a freestyle training area would be worthwhile. This was referred to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

• Council received a letter from BC Hydro, to allow for the Pass Creek, Waterloop Eddy and Balfour Beach parks.

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The final theme is environmental stewardship. Many people said they want to see the park remain as natural as possible. There were comments specifically about preserving the black cottonwoods, which provide important habitat. There was also concern about some species being displaced during their breeding season because the park is so busy.

People are encouraged to continue providing input by emailing their comments to Juliet@justwirelessconsulting.ca. The RDCK is also scheduling another round of open houses for the summer.

The park reports can be viewed at www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/parks/park-management-plan.html

VILLAGE OF SILVERTON

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SILVERTON RESIDENTS

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY GARBAGE PICK UP WILL RESUME ON A WEEKLY BASIS

• PLEASE ENSURE HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE IS OUT ON TUESDAY MORNINGS BY 8 AM FOR PICK UP

• THE VILLAGE ENCOURAGES ALL RESIDENTS TO USE GARBAGE BINS FOR CURBSIDE PICK UP

• IF A HEAVY SNOWFALL OCCURS ON A TUESDAY AND YOUR GARBAGE DOES NOT GET PICKED UP, PLEASE HAVE IT OUT BY 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION, THE VILLAGE OF SILVERTON

School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) is accepting applications for Casual On-Call Bus Drivers throughout the district.

You must have a valid Class 2 BC Driver’s License including a valid air endorsement; minimum of Grade 12 or its equivalent; and complete a medical examination and Driver’s Abstract if hired.

Successful candidates will have their names placed on the CUPE casual Call-Out List and are needed to replace part-time employees on an as required basis. A resume outlining qualifications, and experience should be attached to your application. Only successful candidates will be notified.

Please Note: Prior to being placed on the casual call-out list, applicants must submit to a criminal record search.

Applications forms are found on our website: www.sd10.bc.ca or at the Board Office, 98 6th Avenue NW, Nakusp.

Please submit applications by February 13, 2015 to: Ms. Terry Taylor Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) 98 6th Avenue NW, PO Box 340, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0
Nakusp council, January 12: Terry Warren and Richard Cann receive 10-year service pins

by Katrine Campbell

Warren has certifications in Firefighting, Officer, Incident Command, Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner, Canadian Fire Investigation, Vehicle Extraction, Fire Life Safety Inspections, Emergency Management Certification, and many others. He has been awarded the Governor General of Canada Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal and 20-year BC Long Service Award from the BC Fire Commissioner, and was the driving force to introduce and develop the vehicle extraction training and equipment for the well-trained crew of volunteers now known as Nakusp Road Rescue.

Cann started as a casual with the Public Works department then moved to the Hot Springs where he became a permanent employee. He became an operator in the Arena/Parks department and has also served the community as a volunteer member of the fire department and ambulance service.

- The Biomass Business Case report was received for information, and a proposal has started and will run to March 2. Applications are available online at the RDCK website and at the Village office.

- The lake water level is at 1,400 feet, and will drop to 1,400. The wharf will be extended, the access is not being snowplowed as boats can’t launch because of the exposed rocks.

- There will be ongoing development readiness and marketing workshop in Silverton January 19. The event will provide information on the availability of provincial assistance for developing municipal lands, and will include discussion of the brownfield remediation process.

BC Hydro to resume Arrow Lakes boat launch projects

by Jam McMurray

BC Hydro recently sent out an update on boat launch projects on the Arrow Lakes, stating that construction would resume very soon at Nakusp. Burton, Fauquier, Edgewood and Anderson Point.

At Nakusp, the ramp will be closed to the public starting in early February so that the ramp can be extended as far as possible. Work will resume in 2016 for the in-water portion of the ramp using a company specializing in underwater marine construction.

The Burton ramp has been closed since January 19 so that work to extend the ramp can proceed. If water levels don’t allow for the project to be completed this season, BC Hydro says a safety curb will be installed at the bottom of the ramp and an underwater marine construction company will be hired in 2016 to finish off the project. The ramp will be extended to 425.5 metres.

At the Fauquier ramp, BC Hydro has arranged for adjustments to be made to the breakwater chains to prevent the pontoons from overlapping near the shore. This will be done in February. Directional signs will be installed on the highway.

Although dialogue is ongoing with Edgewood residents on a solution for the southern floating log breakwater, Columbia Power will be installing rip rap around the ramp and a transition panel at the toe of the ramp to allow users to drive off the end of the ramp during low water. This work is scheduled to begin in early February, and there will be no public access to the site during the project.
Seniors' housing project being investigated for Burton

by Jan McMurray

The RDCK is investigating the possibility of a seniors' housing project in Burton on RDCK-owned land.

“It would be helpful for the folks in the Arrow Lakes to have a seniors' housing facility, but it will probably take years – and it may not go anywhere if we can’t get the subdivision approval from the Agricultural Land Commission,” said Area K Director Paul Peterson.

The RDCK owns a 14.3-hectare (35.28-acre) piece of property at the end of Burton Main Road. The land is in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). It was gifted to the Regional District by BC Hydro in the 1980s for waste disposal facilities, but is not needed for that purpose. Just one hectare of the land would be needed for the seniors' housing project.

In 2012, the RDCK applied for non-farm use for a portion of the land to facilitate the project, and the application was approved. So Director Peterson approached Arrow & Slocan Lakes last year to gauge the organization’s interest in building and operating a seniors’ housing facility in Burton.

“The next hurdle is to get permission from the Agricultural Land Commission to subdivide the land,” explained Peterson. “If the Agricultural Land Commission says no, the project is dead in the water. If they say yes, Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services will make a PowerPoint presentation at the January RDCK board meeting, the board directed staff to initiate the process for the zoning changes, as well as to make application to the Agricultural Land Commission for the subdivision approval and to initiate the transfer of the land. The staff report estimates a total cost of $4650-$7650 to get the property re-zoned, subdivided and transferred.

Presentation made on Nakusp’s water and sewer projects

by Katrine Campbell

CAO Linda Tynan and Warren Leigh, acting director of operations, made a PowerPoint presentation at the January 12 council meeting on the Village’s water and sewer systems.

They summarized the capital projects and finances, did an operational review and proposed budget for the two projects, including sludge management, a pressure-reducing valve for Sleepy Hollow, and water main replacement.

For 2015, sewer system capital expenses and utility rates for services, and went over the proposed budget for the two projects, at a cost to the Village of $1.445 million.

For 2015, sewer system capital projects include sludge management, sewer main replacement, and completion of the reclaimed water project, at a cost to the Village of $165,000.

Water system capital projects are a 75hp motor for Well #2, a generator for the water treatment plant, new hydrants, a pressure-reducing valve for Sleepy Hollow, and water main replacement. The budget for this is $320,000.

In 2015, the Village had one well and a gravity-fed, creek-based water source, and it was experiencing a very dry summer. People had to start conserving water, because “in the Kootenays we’re the worst water abusers in the province.” He added that the planning would have to decide whether they want to start the planning for the facility.” He added that the planning would involve several steps, starting with a needs assessment that would include a community input process.

“ASLCS is not really involved right now. The first thing is to show ASLCS that they don’t have to pay for the land. So first, the RDCK has to get the land subdivided and get it zoned for the seniors’ housing project,” said Peterson.

He added that the zoning amendment would involve a public hearing. “There will be opportunities for community feedback on this project,” he said.

An RDCK staff report explains that at the time of the application for which could include a decision on water metering, an expansion to the North Road, and upgrades on Alexander and Shakespeare roads.

Councillor Tom Zeleznik asked how many new homes the new systems could accommodate. Leigh and Tynan said they wouldn’t be sure until the new pumps and liner were installed, and it was determined how much water was being lost from the system.

Mayor Karen Hamling added that people had to start conserving water, because “in the Kootenays we’re the worst water abusers in the province.”


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The West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op is growing change in 2015

submitted

The West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op has announced several initiatives for 2015, aiming to strengthen the local food economy and increase food security in our area.

Land Linking Workshop & Community Land Trust

Want land? Got land? The WKPC is collaborating with Young Agrarians for a workshop on the nuts and bolts of land linking. Find out about organizational models, leases and licenses and succession planning. If lucky, you may meet your future farmer, or find the right owner with a great piece of land to farm on! The workshop is taking place on February 12 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre from 1 to 6 pm, followed by a potluck and social from 6 to 8 pm. An intimate morning session will be hosted on the topic of Community Land Trust development. For more information, email info@kootenayfood.com

Communications Coordinator job opening

The WKPC is seeking a part-time communications coordinator to connect stakeholders within the local foodshed, create and edit content for the Kootenayfood.com website, manage website communication, and participate in Kootenay Food events. Applicants should have a positive reputation within the Kootenay agricultural/food community and be currently engaged in their local foodshed. This is a one-year contract, approximately 11 hours per week.

Farm Food Fork (F3): Raising the steaks

After the success of the 2014 conference, F3 returns in 2015 for a day-long event focused purely on the issue of local meat. The STEAKshells’ local food and the Nevada Open Farm invites anyone involved in food or the local economy to attend, including farmers, economists, planners, funders, chefs, butchers and activists. The day will feature several expert speakers from the local region and further afield, facilitated panel discussions, solutions-based discussion groups, and the opportunity to meet and network with other engaged people in the area.

Top five reasons to include fermented foods in the diet

1) Preserves foods with the nutrients intact

As the healthy bacteria reproduce, they produce enzymes whose function is to “pre-digest” food prior to our ingesting it. Fermentation organisms allow the body to reap the full benefits from food without any disruptive nutrient blocking or gas production.

2) Increases the bioavailability of nutrients

As the healthy bacteria reproduce, they produce enzymes whose function is to “pre-digest” food prior to our ingesting it. Fermentation organisms allow the body to reap the full benefits from food without any disruptive nutrient blocking or gas production.

Fostering future farmers

Our focus has shifted over the last couple of years toward “incubator farming” at the Kootenay West MLA Katrine Konrad. And Pig Butchery 201, where participants can purchase and cut their own meat, added information on all of the above projects visit www.kootenayfood.com, and sign up for our monthly newsletter to stay in the loop on all things food in the Kootenays.

Colleen Emery, along with Shauna Teane, will be teaching the now sold out Fermenting 201 class on January 27 at the Kootenay West MLA Katrine Konrad. And Pig Butchery 201, where participants can purchase and cut their own meat, added information on all of the above projects visit www.kootenayfood.com, and sign up for our monthly newsletter to stay in the loop on all things food in the Kootenays.

Colleen Emery, Master Herbalist and owner of Emery Herbs in Winlaw, is passionate about offering access to information that enables individuals and families to be self-sufficient and take charge of their personal wellness.

The Valley Voice January 28, 2015
Kaslo Minor Hockey 2014/15 season report

Kaslo Minor Hockey participants are having a fun year! The novice team has players ranging from 4 to 7 years old. They played a game in Nakusp… the parents might have been more excited than the kids!

Nakusp Minor Hockey 2014/15 season report

submitted

The Nakusp Arena has been full of fun and excitement so far this season! We have a Junior Novice team, Atom House team and Pee Wee House team. There is also the North Kootenay Bantam House team out of Kaslo with players from both Nakusp and Kaslo.

Junior Novice is all about having fun, and learning the game! They have had a few intermission scrimmages and a fun game with Kaslo.

The Atom team has finished its regular season with a 6-6 record and have playoffs in Kaslo February 20-22.

The Pee Wee team has one more game till their regular season is done. Their home tournament is coming up February 13-15. Come down and cheer on the team! There will be a raffle table, 50/50 draws and full concession. Come have a rink burger! The Pee Wees have playoffs in Grand Forks February 27-March 1.

Nakusp Minor Hockey would like to thank everyone who made this season possible, and everyone who comes out to the games and fundraisers that support Minor Hockey.
Hockey helps kids learn teamwork

Minor Hockey Week Celebrates our young players!
Paul Peterson, RDCK director, Arrow Lakes

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New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

MINOR HOCKEY


Play safe, have fun!

Glacier View Service Hwy 6, New Denver

We're proud of all our players! Happy Hockey Week!

Hockey builds character!

Nakusp - Celebrating the young athletes in our community!
Minor Hockey Week, 2015

Overwaitea Foods
510 Broadway, Nakusp, BC
250-265-3662
MINOR HOCKEY

January 28, 2015   The Valley Voice

The Village of Kaslo celebrates our young hockey players during Minor Hockey Week.
Play hard, play fair, have fun!

Congratulations to all the players, and especially to the coaches and parents who support Minor Hockey. You always win with teamwork!

Thank You! to all the parents, coaches and kids for keeping Minor Hockey alive in our community!

Celebrating Minor Hockey Week, 2014!


Kaslo Mohawk
250-353-2205
405-4th St. • Kaslo

Thank You!

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email: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca

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Front Street Market
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(250) 353-2331

Play hard, play fair, have fun!

Kaslo Automotive
400 4th St. • Kaslo • 353-2645


Kaslo Novice – Back row: Shawn Begg (coach), Mackena Austin, Evan Steimann, Zach Cathro, Shad Wilson (coach). Front row: Avery Wilson, Reid Cathro, Ryder Begg, Lavina Toprowski, Fynn Wilson, Trystan Kirklik, Ryder Austin. Missing: John Cathro (coach), Tracy Remple (manager).

Kaslo Novice – Back row: Shawn Begg (coach), Mackena Austin, Evan Steimann, Zach Cathro, Shad Wilson (coach), Avery Wilson, Reid Cathro, Ryder Begg, Lavina Toprowski, Fynn Wilson, Trystan Kirklik, Ryder Austin. Missing: John Cathro (coach), Tracy Remple (manager).
by Jan McMurray

• Lorna Louise and Holley Rubinsky attended as a delegation to speak about the light pollution from streetlights in Kaslo. “With the exception of the new streetlights on Water Street, the Village suffers from light pollution,” they write in their letter to council. They provided council with information explaining that light pollution occurs when artificial light illuminates the night sky as well as the ground, and that this detracts from the enjoyment of the nighttime setting, has negative effects on biological systems, and is a waste of energy. They asked council to move toward LED street lighting in the long term, and in the short term to identify lights that are offensive to residents and place hoods or shields on them, or move them lower on the pole.

Council passed several resolutions to address the problem. They agreed that the village would implement a policy where failing or broken streetlights are automatically replaced with modern LED light fixtures that project exclusively onto the street below. Also, any future revision of the Subdivision Servicing Bylaw will include a standard change to require LED street lighting fixtures. Staff will document complaints about streetlights and the Public Works Crew will assist with modifications to those lights, such as installing hoods, as time, resources and capabilities permit. FortisBC will be invited to a meeting to discuss possible streetlight upgrade strategies. Staff will create a Front Street lighting plan, including potential funding sources, and the Kaslo and District Chamber of Commerce will be consulted on the possibility of replacing Front Street light fixtures with fixtures similar to those installed on Water Street.

• An updated snow removal policy was adopted, and is posted on the municipal website. First priority routes for ploughing include school bus routes adjacent to highways, Arena Avenue, Front Street, Water Street and ‘A’ Avenue.

• The Village will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a design contract for the old firehall site. The contract will be for up to $1,000 for a design that would include a garden, public art and outdoor reading area in an approach that does not conflict with local heritage form and character. A poll on the Village website on uses for the former firehall site had 158 respondents. The most popular choice was a garden (51%), followed by an outdoor reading area (22%) and a piece of art, e.g. sculpture (10%).

• Community Works reserve funds will be budgeted for the purchase of blue boxes for the residential curbside recycling program, but the purchase will not proceed unless council is satisfied that the program will be viable beyond 2016. The Village has signed a three-year agreement with MMBC for the curbside program. Residents have been slow to take advantage of the service; the RDCK recycling depot is still in place.

Big heart and big ideas meet small rural theatre

Join us February 6 at 7:30 pm for what’s sure to be an amazing show of up-close and personal impersonation and skilled interpretation of musical whimmy and wit.

Tickets are $15 and available at Willow Home Boutiques and Sunnyside Naturals, two wonderful (and, in keeping with the theme, small) stores in Kaslo.

More info at www.smallworldproject.ca.

Kaslo concert: love songs for Valentine’s Day

Jack McDowell, the founder of the Kaslo Concert Society, encouraged Kootenay musicians to make music together, and this annual event in his honour carries on that tradition by presenting artists with a strong connection to the Kootenays. Noemi Kiss lives in Argentina, teaches in Nelson, and is a frequent flyer to Europe for concert engagements. Rita Dean lives in Nelson where she teaches classical guitar and piano as well as collaborating with other Kootenay musicians. She is also on the faculty of the Kaslo GuitarFest.

Tickets for this pre-Valentine’s Day concert are $22 and available at the door. School age children are admitted free when accompanied by an adult patron. Further information is available from David Stewart, sdjks@kaslo.org or 250-333-7600.

TRAIL TO KELLOMA flights start at 1:40. It leaves the Trail Regional Airport at 2:15 pm, arriving back in Kaslo at 2:55. One-way fares from Kaslo to Trail start at $25.06, all in. Residents of the Kootenay and Okanagan regions have been calling for a scheduled flight between the communities for a number of years.

LANDFILL ATTENDANT AREA 1–NAKUSP

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is inviting applications for a Non-Benefitted Landfill Attendant to work shifts in Area 1 - Nakusp. Reporting to the Resource Recovery Operations Supervisor, the successful candidate will be responsible for directing public activity and collecting user fees from customers of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Resource Recovery site located in Area 1 - Nakusp. This is a part-time on-call position working less than 25 hours per week.

Required Qualifications Include:
• Demonstrated ability to deal courteously and effectively with the public.
• Proven ability to count cash and balance cash out and float.
• Demonstrated ability to understand and adhere to RDCK policies, bylaws and cash and bookkeeping procedures.
• Demonstrated ability to work independently and outdoors
• Must maintain a valid BC drivers license and possess reliable transportation
• Satisfactory Criminal Records Check

This posting, along with a detailed job description, can be found on our website at www.rdck.ca under Administration, Jobs. Please submit all to RDCK Human Resources by noon on February Friday 6th, 2015.
January 28, 2015   The Valley Voice

who sat with Alice as her time to die grew closer, including many volunteers with the New Denver Hospice Society, we thank you all. May the road rise to meet you.

- Laura Visser & Wayne McCrorey,

The Family of Alice Visser

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The Valley Voice
January 28, 2015

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CLASSIFIED/COMMUNITY

over the years, and a team of volunteers is required to ensure that the season is successful, safe and fun. In addition to the traditional volunteer roles, positions you have to register in the program or not: coaching, assistant coaching, communications, equipment and field maintenance, risk management.

Volunteers can have one child play for free, and coaches and assistant coaches will be offered training in the weeks leading up to the season start date. A criminal record check will be required for most positions. If you are interested in getting involved but aren’t sure where you might fit, staff at Slocan Valley Recreation will happily discuss options with you.

For those registering for soccer, the early bird deadline is March 1. The final registration date is March 15. Late registrations will only be accepted if space allows. If financial assistance is required, please call to discuss possible funding options. All calls are confidential. For more information, or to register for the Slocan Valley Mixed Soccer League, contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008.

The Winlaw Fire Department will host its third annual snow-pitch tournament at the Appledale Hall on February 15 starting at noon.

For more information or a registration form, please call the Winlaw Fire Department at 250-226-7353.

The Winlaw Fire Department will host its third annual snow-pitch tournament at the Appledale Hall on February 15 starting at noon.

Looking for a rewarding and fun way to get involved in your community? Preparations are underway for the 2015 Slocan Valley Mixed Soccer League, and Slocan Valley Recreation is asking the community for assistance with a variety of volunteer roles.

The season typically runs from mid-April to mid-June and has three divisions (U8, U10 and U14). Additionally, Micro Soccer introduces and prepares little ones (ages 4-6) for entry into the league.

This program has been growing

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The Valley Voice
January 28, 2015

PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE 2015 SLOCAN VALLEY MIXED SOCCER LEAGUE, AND SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION IS ASKING THE COMMUNITY FOR ASSISTANCE WITH A VARIETY OF VOLUNTEER ROLES.

THE SEASON TYPICALLY RUNS FROM MID-APRIL TO MID-JUNE AND HAS THREE DIVISIONS (U8, U10 AND U14). ADDITIONALLY, MICRO SOCCER INTRODUCES AND PREPARES LITTLE ONES (AGES 4-6) FOR ENTRY INTO THE LEAGUE.

THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN GROWING
Apply now for Slocan Valley Legacy Fund grants

submitted

As we in the Slocan Valley greet the new year, many of our resolutions may include being more creative, working smoothly with others, appreciating diversity, translating problems into solutions, enriching interconnectedness, and protecting our natural environment.

Last year, the fund awarded $8,000 to six deserving organizations. In 2015 it will award up to $15,000. 2014 recipients included the New Denver Hospice for the ‘Save the Memorial Gardens’ project; Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy for an adult computer and literacy program; Village of New Denver/Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre for a community celebration of the 20th anniversary of the centre; Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society/ West Kootenay Permaculture Co-op for the development of the website kootenayfood.com; WE Graham Community Service Society/Slocan Valley Early Childhood Community Advisory Council for a celebration of six years of Networks for New Parents; Slocan Lake Early Learning Society/New Denver Nursery School for playground maintenance. The fund is available to help people in the Slocan Valley develop a resilient and vital community. The society holds a broad definition of resiliency, and supports projects that develop resiliency in a variety of ways – agricultural, artistic, environmental, economic – using ideas that spring from our rich and creative community. The fund has received donations from Kootenay Savings Credit Union and the Columbia Basin Trust; however, the main support comes from individuals in the community. A gift given from the valley stays in the valley.

Applications are available on the society’s webpage www.slocanvalleylegacy.com. Deadline for applications is March 13.

New Denver offers light bulb recycling

Got lightbulbs? Get them safely recycled! The Village of New Denver is now operating a collection site for the LightRecycle Program. New Denver and area residents can take their lights to the Village office between 8 am and 4 pm Monday to Friday. LightRecycle is a non-profit recycling program for lighting products, ranging from light bulbs to flashlights, table lamps and chandeliers. Consumers can drop off their old and broken residential-use lighting products at collection sites across the province for recycling without charge. Please put them in boxes, not bags, for everyone’s safety. The Village of New Denver is providing this service to help keep dangerous chemicals out of landfills and to support Canada’s first comprehensive lighting products recycling program. The LightRecycle program ensures that recyclable materials from lighting products, such as metal, plastic and glass, are recycled into new products and do not end up in landfills. Some lighting products contain hazardous materials like mercury. LightRecycle helps keep these harmful materials out of the environment by safely recycling them at approved facilities. For more information on what products are accepted, go to the website www.lightrecycle.ca.
SD10 Arrow Lakes looks at bringing in more international students

by Jan McMurray

Is it feasible to expand the international program at School District 10 Arrow Lakes? Ryoko Kobayashi, Nakusp Secondary School Vice-Principal, has been exploring this question since November and made a presentation at the school district’s Committee of the Whole meeting on January 13.

She said she is prepared to try to fulfill the vision of having 10 international students in the district for September 2015, but there is a lot of work ahead to build the program over the long term.

The most important thing is “knowing whether there is an appetite here in the Arrow Lakes area to receive international students,” she said.

To that end, she will be hosting meetings in Nakusp and New Denver for people who are interested in providing accommodation for international students. The New Denver meeting takes place February 11 at 7 pm at the Luceerne School library, and the Nakusp meeting takes place February 12 at 7 pm at the schools.

Kobayashi said she has met with Kobayashi also reported that a website dedicated to the international program would go live in mid-February. However, she said the district would not be able to rely on the website only, and very little engagement with parents will be needed.

A number of scenarios address the capacity challenges at Winlaw Elementary, which is projected to be at 114 percent capacity in 2015-16.

The most popular solution, presented in five submissions, is to build a portable at Winlaw and carry on offering K-6 classes.

The next popular solution, suggested in four submissions, is that Winlaw be a K-5 school, with students moving to WE Graham for the remaining elementary grades.

Two people supported Winlaw becoming a K-5 school, with the Grade 6 students moving down to Brent Kennedy or Mount Sentinel.

One person proposed eliminating another classroom.

We suggest that the district consider academies, and give the Committee of the Whole meeting and had very positive reports about their experience so far.

The scenario summary can be found at 222.sd10.bc.ca/?p=3507 or by going to the ‘Facilities Planning’ link under ‘News and Highlights’ at www.sd10.bc.ca.

Next steps include: scenario input, formalizing final two solutions for the Slocan Valley were suggested by one proponent each. One of these is that the Slocan Valley family of schools could be part of a K-5, Mount Sentinel as a middle school (grades 6-8), with grades 9-12 students attending LV Rogers in Nelson. The other scenario was for Winlaw School to be a K-3, WE Graham 4-7, Brent Kennedy K-7, and Mount Sentinel K-12 with a wilderness program.

On the district website, the 42 scenarios are categorized either under the appropriate family of schools, or under the category that pertains to the entire district. Under the district category, there were eight submissions suggesting that the school district sell all unused property within its boundaries.

She suggested that the district consider academies, and gave the example of an aviation academy. English is the only language in aviation, and Selkirk College runs an aviation program, so there may be some resources at the college that the district could use. “Some of these academy ideas are way too big,” she said.

Currently, there are three international students in the district. Oliver and Andrew Kang are attending Nakusp Secondary, and Bill Gao is attending Luceerne School in New Denver. The Kang brothers attended the Committee of the Whole meeting and had very positive reports about their experience so far.

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