Crystal and Janet Spicer of the Arrow Lakes were honoured with Watershed Hero Awards at the annual ‘Winter Waters’ event at the Patsy Clark Mansion in Spokane on February 27.

“To be internationally recognized for something that comes straight from the heart is amazing,” said Janet in an interview after the event. “We’ve been so connected to the river...it was in our lives every waking moment. It was a living part of the farm. So it’s not that we’re heroes – how can we help but try and bring back this strangled life support system to its natural state again?”

The Winter Waters event, held annually to celebrate the waters of the Upper Columbia River, is hosted by the Sierra Club and the Centre for Environmental Law & Policy (CELP).

“It’s hard to find two people who have done more over a lifetime to advocate for the Columbia River,” said John Osborn, the Sierra Club’s director for the Columbia River Future Project and president of the board of CELP.

Janet and Crystal lived through the dam-building in the Columbia Basin and the flooding of the Arrow Lakes. They were among the 2300 people who were forced from their homes and farms. They saw the destruction of farmland and forest, and they saw animals drown or starve to death. Today, they witness the ongoing erosion, destruction of habitat, and decline of wildlife in the Arrow Lakes region.

So when the Columbia River Treaty Review process began in 2012-13, Janet and Crystal saw an opportunity to heighten awareness of the issues and to seek changes in the treaty to restore and revitalize the Upper Columbia River. Janet wrote letters to local papers, and sent one called “The Columbia River Treaty: ‘Silent Spring’ in British Columbia” to all newspapers in the four American states that draw water from the Arrow Lakes reservoir. Janet and Crystal formed the Columbia River Revitalization Coalition, which is still active and is a member of the transboundary Columbia River Roundtable. During the treaty review public consultation period, the coalition hosted a meeting in Fauquier with several speakers and invited Kathy Eichenberger, the government representative who led the review process. “I have to give Crystal full credit for catching the ear of government at the Fauquier meeting,” said Janet. “That meeting turned the tide. We’re so grateful to Kathy Eichenberger for really listening, and hearing the poignancy and yearning for change.”

The Watershed Hero Awards are presented by the Sierra Club’s Upper Columbia River Group, which formed in 1970 to protect and restore the rivers of the Upper Columbia. “These are important awards and bring recognition to really extraordinary work on behalf of the public interest,” said Osborn. “The story that Crystal and Janet have to tell is very powerful and calls attention to the tremendous injustice done by the treaty, not just to the people of the Arrow Lakes but also to the living things that have no voice in these decisions. It’s time we right those historic injustices and Crystal and Janet are part of that effort.”

Both Janet and Crystal spoke at the Winter Waters event, after each was presented with a framed photograph of the Snake River and a book called Paddling the Columbia by John Roskelley. Janet said she was amazed at how many people approached her after she spoke, some with tears in their eyes, to say they didn’t know about what had happened in the Arrow Lakes and were now inspired to do something about it.

This is the first time for Canadians to win the award. When asked how he learned about Crystal and Janet, Osborn replied, “There is a growing community in the Columbia Basin that is developing in recognition of the opportunity to bring about reforms through the Columbia River Treaty modernization process. We have shared concerns and see opportunities that know no boundaries.”

Dr. Allan Scholz, fisheries scientist and professor at Eastern Washington University also received a Watershed Hero Award at the Winter Waters event for his work to restore fisheries in the Upper Columbia.
Residents press officials over Kootenay Lake fisheries collapse

by Jan McMurray

The Balfour community hall was packed to standing room only on February 23, with some spilling onto the landing outside. The topic of urgent concern to business owners, anglers and residents was the collapse of kokanee stocks in Kootenay Lake. A recent upsurge in Gerrard rainbow trout, which are predators of kokanee, has brought kokanee populations to a record low. Consequently, the trout population is also now facing an insufficient food supply and many fishers report catching malnourished Gerrards.

Concerned residents – well over 200 of them – had driven from communities along both the West Arm and East Shore of Kootenay Lake, as far south as Nelson and north to Kaslo. Randy Zelonka, president of Balfour and District Business and Historic Association, said the West Kootenay has the highest number of non-resident fishing licences in the province, with an estimated economic spinoff value to the region of as much as a million dollars. Jeff Burrows, senior fish biologist with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), put the direct revenue from the fishing industry here at between $3-5 million annually.

“We’ve been discussing the downturn in fishing for some time but it really hit home when they had to cancel the Family Derby this spring,” said Zelonka.

Gordie Gruneral of the West Arm Outdoors Club said the West Arm of the lake is “in pretty good shape, so our concern is the main lake fishery.” The problem, he explained, is the imbalance between predator/prey relationship with the Gerrard and kokanee.

FLNRO biologists Jeff Burrows and Matt Neufeld confirmed Gruneral’s observation of an unprecedented drop in kokanee returning to spawning channels two years ago, falling below 500,000. This decline has continued since a peak of 1.5 million in 2011, with the return of only 150,000 spawners last year. This occurred at the same time as a recent spike in Gerrard rainbow populations. During its lifetime, a single trout can eat up to 1,000 kokanee.

“The rainbow and the bull trout are basically starving to death,” says Gruneral. “This is the one lake in BC that has more studies than any other, so the science is there and we have to base our decisions on the science.”

Gruneral suggested egg transplants at the spawning channels to get extra fry into the system. If that fails, he believes, “we won’t see a trophy-winning rainbow for the next decade or so.” Stressing the urgency of the situation, he says management decisions must be arrived at soon and implemented this summer.

“My hope is that tonight we can convince you that the ministry is taking the situation very seriously in Kootenay Lake,” said John Krebs, FLNRO Director of Resource Management for the Kootenays. “The turnout tonight tells us there’s a strong interest from the recreational, environmental and economic sectors. There’s a shared interest in recovering the Kootenay Lake fishery so that’s a good place to start from.”

In his slide presentation, biologist Jeff Burrows detailed the history of monitoring the fisheries in Kootenay Lake, with 30 years of kokanee data at the Meadow Creek spawning channel. 2014 was the lowest on record for kokanee spawners. However, the average size of kokanee is larger and females are at record levels of eggs so there is some capacity for recovery. The unprecedented increase in Gerrard rainbow trout occurred between 2008-2012, but with two consecutive years of decline in spawning numbers.

“Despite high numbers of anglers, the harvest is low even with 200,000 hours spent fishing per year so we don’t think over-harvesting is the issue,” said Burrows and Neufeld.

The BIV virus infecting kokanee and Gerrard was found first in 2013 and in 2014 but spawners were not found to be passing the virus to fry, so Burrows does not see this as a major contributor to the decline.

Burrows and Neufeld also answered questions regarding the fertilization program, operated since 2004 at a cost of $1.7 million annually. Kokanee biomass has increased 2.5 times since the start of the program. Daphnia – small freshwater shrimps – are the favoured kokanee food; their biomass has doubled in the south arm since the fertilization program began. Daphnia numbers have increased as kokanee numbers dropped, providing a potential recovery base for the food chain.

Neufeld said there will be an adjustment to the quotas, starting in April. The quota for Gerrard rainbow will likely be raised to two to four per day, with one over 50 centimetres allowed, on the main lake. For kokanee it will be temporarily lowered from 15 per day to zero.

“We have the building blocks for kokanee recovery in fry, some 15 million, which is about average,” said Neufeld. “We’re looking at options to time nutrient introduction to maximize impact.”

The best case for recovery could be two to three years, Neufeld added, while the worst-case scenario would be eight to ten years. Currently BC Hydro spends about $3 million annually and the FWCP between $18-20 million per year managing West Kootenay fisheries.

Meet the federal Liberal candidate for South Okanagan-West Kootenay

Her biography, posted on her website, states: “I am a seasoned leader with governance experience at the local, provincial and national levels and have a reputation as a fair minded and collaborative team builder who inspires trust and engagement.”

She served as chair of the Okanagan Shuswap school board for nine years, president of the BC School Trustees Association for three years and director of the Canadian School Board Association for three years.

Currently, she is vice chair of the board of Okanagan College, director on the Summerland and District Credit Union board, director on the Summerland Chamber of Commerce board, and chair of The Trail of the Okanagan society.

The South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding includes the Okanagan Valley, most of the Arrow Lakes Valley, Castlegar, Penticton, Oliver and Osoyoos.

Visit www.conniedenesiuk.ca for more information.
Meadow Creek Cedar in centre of controversy once again

by Ian McMurray

The news that the Argenta-Johnson's Landing Face has been added to Meadow Creek Cedar’s operating area has triggered another public outcry against this troubled forest licence.

“Anyone who has followed the debacle of MCC over the past 10 years knows that this is a big trouble coming out way,” said Garth Wiggill, local forest district manager, in a letter encouraging his neighbours to speak out against “letting Meadow Creek Cedar loose” on the Argenta Face.

“MCC has destroyed our habitat; failed to rehabilitate sites; failed to regenerate cutblocks; provided an inadequate fire suppression system; hired Mexican workers illegally; failed to fully compensate employees and contractors; violated WCB standards submitted.

NDP MP Alex Atamanenko introduced a motion in the House of Commons on February 23 urging the government to follow Australia and the UK’s lead and formally apologize to Canada’s British Home Children and Child Migrants as well as their families and descendants. It is estimated that over 11 percent of Canada’s current population are descended from British home children and child migrants.

According to the British Columbia government, between the years 1869 and 1948, the Canadian government was complicit in a huge injustice when it allowed an estimated 100,000 orphaned or impoverished British children to be imported into Canada, often without their parents’ consent or knowledge, to provide what amounted to indentured servitude for Canadian farms and households.

“Torn from family, friends and country, these children were met with severe discrimination and often placed with no further monitoring in harsh or abusive situations where they were used and exploited,” report the Valley Voice.

Stephen Harper: The Musical

Stephen Harper: The Musical, written and performed by hallway actor, playwright and comedian Jack’s Dream; James and join in the singing of the brilliant ‘Ontario Morning,’ and 20 years with the CBC radio shows ‘Basic Black’ and ‘National Radio’ has established the musical comedy as a nationwide outlet for his music about Canada’s heritage and identity.

As a special feature exclusive to the Canadian Ladies in the Dying Days of the Empire of Oil – this play examines the current Canadian political climate and in particular ‘Crime Minister’ Stephen Harper. With humour, political commentary, parodies, 20 original songs, 247 spoken words, hundreds of projected images and videos, audience participation, and an activist’s passion to show where we are and where we can go as a nation, this work has special relevance as we head into an election year.

Auscultation for the Kootenays submitted.

Anna Arnold, member of Canadian-Norwegian descendent,NDP’s federal deputy candidate, said that the motion put forward by the government to follow the Australians and the UK’s lead will open up the government to full scrutiny of their actions, and that it will result in a huge overpayment of old debts.

Arnold said the silviculture backlog that will satisfy the remediation order, if those requirements aren’t met by the end of the month, the ministry could decide to proceed towards cancellation of the licence.

The licence will be under suspension until at least July 2016, “unless a changes hands or we cancel the licence,” said Wiggill. “So MCC is not going to be logging anywhere, including the Argenta Face, at least until 2016.”

July 15, 2016 is the company’s deadline to meet silviculture obligations. The company also has an upcoming March 31, 2015 deadline to pay its debts to the Crown and get its reporting data up to date. If those requirements aren’t met by the end of the month, the ministry could decide to proceed towards cancellation of the licence. And if the licence were cancelled, the Crown would take on the obligations of the licence, and provincial government would pay the costs of remediation.

Arnold said MCC hopes the licence and mill will sell to a company with deep enough pockets to deal with the liabilities. She says there is interest from potential buyers, but MCC is still waiting to hear the verdict on the insurance claim for the mill, which was destroyed by fire in November.

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Response to Clarence denBok

In response to Clarence denBok’s letter in the Valley Voice February 25 issue, where he quoted Sondheim’s very nice rhyme, I’d like to offer this: “Everybody teaches – and teaches all the time.” (From ‘A Course in Miracles’)
Richard Eichenauer
Fauquier

Stop the war mongering

The Harper Conservative government is synonymous with the US/CIA Republican Party. The Fortress America War Economy is based on fossil fuel extraction and use. Try to wage a war without fossil fuel.

What we are witnessing is fundamentalist Christians battling fundamentalist Muslims—both focused on bringing about Armageddon through violence. “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” explains the so-called Christian Harper Conservatives fear-hype about terrorism. With all the war waged in the Middle East, the trauma suffered by countless families—who like you and me want peace—is it any wonder that terror should come to our lands?

Stop the war mongering, cease the excessive fossil fuel extraction. Life is and can be such a glorious nurture. Save lives, bring peace back to our lands.

Susan Eyre
Yahk

Farmers should own their own land

I recently received Corky’s analysis online, and now read the same figures in your recent paper.

By Corky’s financial analysis, a farm that cost $10,000 in 1972 could be paid for by a person earning $600 per month, and that land now being worth $400,000 would require a wage of 40 times or $24,000 per month to be equally accessible. Well…that is good simple math, a little too simple I think. If you add to the equation that the mortgage interest rate in 1972 was, if I recollect 13% or more, and the current rate is around 3% then, the affordability of that real estate is far less dire.

It seems to me that a young person who decides to pursue an agreement to farm someone else’s land because the owner can no longer do the work is resigning himself to a life as a poor tenant farmer, otherwise known as a peasant. If you have the energy to make it farming, you have the energy to find a way to get your own land, focus on paying it off, and hope the interest rates stay low. That is the only way to a happy successful conclusion.

Rod Retzlaff
Glade

Beware of irradiated food

I cherish independent media! This is one of the reasons I volunteer on Kootenay Co-op Radio. I do a little show called Storm’s Nostalgia on Thursday afternoon. It gives me a chance to sit down and share my old records but it has staying bright green for weeks now.

Call me a huffle, but I don’t eat microwaved food and this just puts my already simple diet into an even simpler one – local food only. How does one find out if even imported grains have been so treated? Small wonder that many are suffering from digestive problems these days. If irradiating food is such a good idea (for the seller not the buyer) why are they refusing to label it for the wary consumer? Food for thought, eh?

Gabriela Grabowsky
Kaslo

How bad can they be?

Often you don’t know till later. Think tobacco, thalidomide, asbestos, leaded gas. All of which were government approved. And the companies who pushed them (and still push – think tobacco in third world countries today) all knew of their dangers but hid the results from both government and public. The global metering grid scheme for our electricity, gas and water (yes, including private home well water?) is huge, happening all at once, all over the planet and with great speed. It is the corporate business to make money and control resources. Governments cannot be relied on because they are typically these days under corporate control. Are we in the region where the people have rallied to a critical mass have had some success in refusing them, as have some countries like Germany and Italy. Governments once this grid is in effect will, however, make use of this grid in various ways, as in federally mandated power rationing (US).

But there’s something new and hopeful. In Kelowna (also FortisBC territory, and part of the second to last region of deployment – we’re last) there’s a movement to deny this new grid the electricity. I’ve heard that there’s something new and hopeful. In Kelowna (also FortisBC territory, and part of the second to last region of deployment – we’re last) there’s a movement to deny this new smart meter grid entirely, saying that “RF off” isn’t good enough. The maker of “Take Back your Power” with others have developed a method which has halted the installation for those 500 or so who have done it. (If you attended the Smart Meter Forum in Winlaw last November, the naturopathic doctor who gave a PowerPoint presentation there is one of them.) This method is based on making those in charge accountable. For example, coincidentally and with no previous reason or warning, the president and CEO of Corix (which installs the smart meters for both BC Hydro and Fortis) stepped down three days after personally receiving several hundred notices of liability and affidavits. See Kelownasafemeters.com for this process and check the Kelowna Capital News’ three and a half page article about this. It is a movement growing in leaps and bounds. They will streamline the process for us here, and we’ll bring someone to present it here soon.

In the meantime, we have Sam Milham, MD, epidemiologist and first scientist to alert the world to the danger of dirty electricity coming in May. He and his assistant (a local electrician who has been on this learning curve and travels all over the world with him now) will establish a pre smart meter data baseline and will help us host a series of workshops about the issue. It’s exciting and your participation is critical and appreciated.

This is a situation that has huge health implications of which there is no doubt and which we must not ignore. In our area, they’re starting in August of this year and we’ll need time to deflect it and protect ourselves. Is it worth the risk to let microwave radiation loose onto our homes and throughout our neighbourhoods 24/7 just to be “guinea pigs for corporate greed”? Our current meters are not hackable and can never become part of the global grid.

Daphne Fields
Slocan

SUBSCRIPTIONS: CANADA $54.60, USA $84.00, OVERSEAS $126.00. E-Mail Subscription $22.40 (Prices include GST)
Erasings History
In 1912, a miner’s cabin was built at Biglow Bay. The cabin is legally attached to an adjacent property that runs up the hillside. The cabin has been in private hands since it was built. The land under the cabin eventually became a highway reserve, now known as the name of the village, but it will never be an actual road. Because it is within the Village of New Denver, the cabin owner pays taxes to the Village on a nominal 75′ x 100′ lot under and on the cabin itself, like any other property owner.

Our family purchased the hillside lot and cabin in 2010. In June 2012, we requested permission from the Village of New Denver to formally buy title to the land under the cabin, for the assessed value of $295,000. Eight months later our application was denied based on the desire of mayor and council to retain green space according to the Official Community Plan. Fourteen months later, in April 2014, we were instructed by the Village to remove our cabin from the land. We outlined our legal position to the Village in October, and await their response. Almost three years have passed since our request to purchase.

Why should the taxpayers of New Denver be interested in this property issue? We, as mayor and council have turned down a cash payment for the land (now assessed at $225,000), plus annual tax revenue (now $40,000), without any public input or council input or decision of the issue. Not only do they intend to forfeit revenue from a lot that has never been available for public use, your municipal government is paying legal costs to litigate something we do want this matter resolved.

Sale of the land under the cabin is not about the gain or loss of green space. Sale of the land under the cabin is not about the loss of the cabin, a situation that has existed for 103 years.

Bill and Jill Roberts
New Denver

Open Letter to MLA Katrine Conroy
You are the MLA for my area. Should you vote for this in the next election? Some years ago I consulted your office in regard to a deficit in the Residential Tenancy Act, which makes no provision for the death of a tenant. A tenant who dies does not end the tenancy. This causes confusion and, for an unscopulous landlord, an opportunity for fraud. Your office advised me in an email that “the death of the resident is not the responsibility of the Legislative Assembly to draft, amend or abolish legislation,” which is strictly the responsibility of the ministry in question. The email continued: “The primary responsibility of the Legislature is to legislate, that is, to make laws.”

Forgive me if I am confused here. I only graduated to Canada 50-some years ago.

I next contacted your office in regard to abusive practices in some work places. A few decades ago, privatization and deregulation of government services eliminated unions and removed oversight and accountability. Today, workers who report a hazard in the workplace can be punished (in some cases a vicious assault), or are forced to apply for Workers Compensation due to injury, may suddenly discover themselves without work shortly after. This time, your office advised me that: “It is not the responsibility of an MLA to represent her constituents in the Legislature.”

Recently, I had a problem with ICBC, a Crown Corporation, which refused to renew my driver’s licence on the grounds that I have an identity in two different towns/cities. I live in Faquier but get my mail in Burton. I am not the only one. Well, golly gee, did I miss something? When did Faquier, pop. less than 300, and Burton (ditto) become towns or cities? With the help of Paul Peterson, Director of the Regional District in which both hamlets are situated, I again appealed to your office. This time you replied that there was nothing you could do because your party is the Opposition.

Pardon your ignorance, but if you have nothing to do with legislation, do not represent your constituents, and can’t do anything anyway because you are a member of the Opposition, what exactly DO you do? Twiddle your thumbs and twit your constituents.

Should you vote for your next term? I don’t think so. What’s the point?

Elje de Boer
Faquier

Slokan microhydro – make it smaller or forget it
I have watched in amazement as the Slokan Village council and its expert advisers have taken my little low-impact hydro design, which I sold them about 610 years ago, and gambled it into an oncoming environmental disaster. Some places you should not go even if it is technically possible.

My plan had 220 metres of penstock and a 66-metre drop, which peripherally impacted three pools in the canyon by water volume only.

The civil engineer, water system contractor-forestry technician, and Dependable Turbines of Port Moody who helped me design the system have 30-40 years experience and are experts in their field. The civil engineer said it was the simplest most efficient system he had ever seen.

The projected revenue was $150,000 per year at three cents per kWh; construction costs were estimated at $850,000. I designed it to offset the costs of an area’s local non-profit was attempting to build, but hasn’t yet gained the necessary funds to complete.

The Shuswap’s 50-50 financing would be used to force the process from the beginning. The Shuswap is anxiously awaiting promised jobs. The Kiwanka (Kiwanka) and BC Hydro have been promising consultation for many years regarding wildlands and wildlife, especially grizzly bears. In the end the Kiwanka did not agree with the government’s mitigation experts. EBC Hydro then procured an own Quat’Mak Declaration to government, and launched their judicial review, to which expert judgement declared: JGR would not “impose upon” the Home of the Spirit of the Grizzly Bear.

With this letter, I am to urge you to support the JGR’s grizzly bears. His count was approximately half what the government’s numbers claimed.

Government experts quickly negated his numbers. Presently, Jumbo’s wildlands and wildlife are expertly mitigated by a wildlife Management Area where resource extraction and the public will be allowed; keeping the speed on the Jumbo Valley road down to 65 KPH, not allowing holding stands along the way.

Jumbo’s government experts origins to avalanches
Experts are the last word on any subject, their expertise? Well, maybe, if…

When the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort (JGR) was being launched, government announced that the mega industrial resort development would nestle inconspicuously into the Central Purcell backcountry, and not conflict with the BC grizzly bear status as a species of special concern.

Government’s own wildlife biologists and bear experts were mobilized. Reports reached the public that those bears and their habitat would be very negatively impacted to various extremes. Even faster came reports that those experts were now taking early retirement or being transferred. Simultaneously some individual bear biologists issued warnings of desecration possibilities to the entire Jumbo Valley area ecosystem. None of the new expert findings ever became part of officialdom.

Soon, government announced that there were far fewer consequences of having a city nearly 100 times the size of Nelson with an enormous land base plopped into that very remote location than had previously been announced, and no problems with wildlife and habitat would be mitigated.

Government’s mitigation experts made several proposals. My favourite was the simplest most efficient one.

The 2008 GAR order allowed for 15,000 acres of the Controlled Forest land to be removed from their AAC entirely and made economically inoperable.

As a result the cut volumes attributed to MCC from the Duncan River should be removed from their AAC entirely and should not be compensated with volumes of the BC Forest Practices Board. The拿着 the cutting rights ended up high grading the valley taking all the easily accessible valley bottom old growth spruce and some tamarack hemlock stands and still possibly lost money and abandoned the remainder of the license leaving it abandoned.

If this was the case for a bona fide company certainly MCC with the way it has operated over the last ten years could not afford to access this timber if it was available, thus making it economically inoperable.

As a result the cut volumes attributed to MCC from the Duncan River should be removed from their AAC entirely and should not be compensated with volumes of the BC Forest Practices Board. The Landing Face. MCC has demonstrated that it is unworthy of the public trust and cannot be trusted to log in a safe and sound manner. And has been unable to provide adequate employment to Lake County residents.

We urge that this decision be reversed immediately.

Craig Pettit, Director
Valhalla Wilderness Society

March 11, 2015 The Valley Voice

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As a result the cut volumes attributed to MCC from the Duncan River should be removed from their AAC entirely and should not be compensated with volumes of the BC Forest Practices Board. The holding on the Cutting Rights in the ESRD on the Jumbo Valley contributed to the AAC has resulted in an inflated cut in the rest of the license area that cannot use any of that.

The 2008 GAR order allowed for logging to be completed in the Westfall River valley, approximately half way up the Duncan. The company had claimed the cutting rights ended up high grading the valley taking all the easily accessible valley bottom old growth spruce and some tamarack hemlock stands and still possibly lost money and abandoned the remainder of the license leaving it abandoned.

If this was the case for a bona fide company certainly MCC with the way it has operated over the last ten years could not afford to access this timber if it was available, thus making it economically inoperable.

As a result the cut volumes attributed to MCC from the Duncan River should be removed from their AAC entirely and should not be compensated with volumes of the BC Forest Practices Board. The Landing Face. MCC has demonstrated that it is unworthy of the public trust and cannot be trusted to log in a safe and sound manner. And has been unable to provide adequate employment to Lake County residents.

We urge that this decision be reversed immediately.

Craig Pettit, Director
Valhalla Wilderness Society
Welcome to Resisterville book launch a success

by Art Joyce

It had more the feeling of a family reunion than a book launch. Author Kathleen Rodgers, associate professor of sociology at the University of Ottawa, released the paperback edition of her new book, Welcome to Resisterville: American Dissidents in British Columbia, at Knox Hall the evening of March 5. Many of the people interviewed for the book were present and comparing notes about their arrival in the Slocan Valley some four decades ago. These included both former Americans as well as Canadians who moved to the valley seeking a more wholesome, natural way of life.

Rodgers was raised in Winlaw and attended Mt. Sentinel School. Although her parents were not immigrants or back-to-the-landers, many of her school friends were part of this local counterculture. Rodgers left the valley to pursue her studies at McGill University and eventually obtain her PhD in sociology. She said it wasn’t until she began travelling to other parts of the world that it dawned on her what a unique and special culture existed here.

“I was unaware that the mountains and the river that were so clean were really an oasis in the world. I think I annoyed people because everywhere I went I told people how wonderful a place it was and how it was the best place I’d ever been.”

Welcome to Resisterville was inspired by this realization, which fuelled her desire to apply her sociological skills to the development of the book. Rodgers says she used the title ironically. The term ‘resisterville’ was coined of Nelson by the New York Times during the controversy over the war resisters monument 10 years ago.

“The debate about the war resisters statue re-ignited the early prejudices and attitudes, including the anti-Americanism,” said Rodgers. “When I started the project the statue debate had just erupted so it was a hard moment to try to get people to open up. It was a huge leap of trust for them to share their stories.”

Although the book does detail ways in which the newcomers to the region resisted mainstream culture – particularly on environmental issues – it’s more about the lasting cultural impact they’ve had. That legacy has resulted in many institutions that remain to this day, such as the Kootenay Co-op, the Whole School, the Vallican Whole, Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society (RARTS), Nalhalla Wilderness Society and many others.

Rodgers’ research shows a gradual shift in political consciousness in the region that began in the late 1960s with the arrival of the first migrants from south of the border. By the mid-70s, for example, support for the BC Social Credit party had declined from a majority to a minority. The West Kootenay has been mostly an NDP stronghold ever since.

Rodgers said what really surprised her when she started doing the interviews for the book was that she’d assumed most of these immigrants knew one another’s stories. That didn’t turn out to be the case. In part this had to do with a sense of anti-Americanism that was prevalent in Canadian culture at the time they arrived. And it had to do with the angry opposition counter-culturalists faced, resulting in boycotts and sometimes threats. Nancy Guise, who emigrated here 37 years ago, said she is one of those who never shared her story. During her research Rodgers found many others who had yet to do so.

This opposition was mitigated by the support they received from groups such as the Quakers in Argenta and the Doukhobors. The Quakers were part of an ‘underground railroad’ network for draft resisters and helped them with safe houses and other immigration support. Doukhobor support was more individual but no less critical to the survival of these newcomers, many of whom were well educated but lacked country living skills. American immigrant Audrey Work tells of staying in a cabin owned by Doukhobors in Gladie and finding a fresh pot of borsch on the front step when she came home from teaching at the local school. It was acts of kindness like this that helped build bridges across cultures in the region. Shared values such as their dedication to pacifism linked these American immigrants with the very different cultures of the Quakers and Doukhobors. And in the decades since, a ‘live and let live’ attitude seems to have eased those early tensions. To this day the region is known as a haven for those seeking a more holistic way of life, one that respects nature and fosters creativity.

Mt. Polley and Lemon Creek disasters: seeking accountability

by Jan McMurray

Two women who have had some success in getting government and corporations ‘to do the right thing’ after major environmental disasters spoke at the Nelson United Church on February 25.

Jacinda Mack, mining response coordinator of the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, and Marilyn Burgoon of the Perry Ridge Water Users Association shared their experiences of the Mt. Polley tailings pond breach and the Lemon Creek jet fuel spill.

On August 4, 2014, the people, animals and vegetation in Jacinda Mack’s territory were greatly affected when 25 million cubic metres of mining waste emptied into Polley Lake, Hazelton Creek and Queenell Lake.

However, out of the disaster has come an opportunity for the Northern Shuswap people. “We are talking with government now about mining reform,” said Mack. “We have been working closely with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, and with mining companies. This has never happened before in our territory with our people. We achieved more immediately after the crisis than we have in the last 20 years.”

In response to the disaster, the Northern Shuswap people worked with the University of Victoria and developed a mining policy based on legislated best practices from around the world. It was finalized and posted on the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council website on December 1, 2014 and has been downloaded 1200 times. Mack reported that Montana is changing its regulations to follow the policy, and Montana is not the only jurisdiction doing that.

“We are now at the table influencing what is happening in our territory,” she said. “The work we are doing is exhausting, but we are doing it for our children and grandchildren.”

Marilyn Burgoon spoke of the public health and environmental impacts of the Lemon Creek fuel spill on July 26, 2013, and of her efforts to get accountability from the Province and the fuel company, Executive Flight Centre. “We were expecting the federal fisheries department to come in and do its job, but a year went by and there was no move by the government to lay charges,” she said.

So, Burgoon decided to lay charges herself. The idea to prosecute privately came from Alexandra Morton, who did the same thing in a case against a fish farm company on the coast.

“If you know that a criminal act was done by a corporation or government, you have the right under the Constitution to take them to court and to press charges,” said Burgoon.

In Morton’s case, the federal government stepped in and proceeded with the prosecution. Burgoon would like that to happen in her case as well, as court costs are prohibitive and she believes this is the federal government’s responsibility. "Someone is liable when they break the law, so I think..."
Mt. Polley and Lemon Creek disasters: seeking accountability

Former Cranbrook Mayor, Wayne Stetski intends to run for Member of Parliament for the NDP in the federal riding of Kootenay Columbia, which now includes Kaslo and Nelson. Members of the NDP riding association will affirm Stetski as their candidate to run against the current Conservative MP, David Wilks, at their nominating convention on Sunday, March 15 in Cranbrook.

Stetski says he is “committed to doing his part to ensure that the Conservative government comes to an end at the next election. Stephen Harper has inflicted serious damage on our country, making it more and more difficult to even recognize the Canada we know and love.”

“Whether it is our reputation on the international stage or our record on protecting the lakes and rivers we love, Stephen Harper’s record is embarrassing for Canadians. I’m not just running against Stephen Harper’s record, I’m running because I believe that the people of this area deserve to be represented by someone who is willing to stand up and fight for their interests.”

“Since his election in 2011, David Wilks has been heard to saying he is not allowed to vote the way his constituents want him to in parliament. He can only vote the way Stephen Harper tells him to, even when his constituents tell him that they strongly disagree.

“Democracy is poorly served by silencing a whole region in this way. If you live in Nelson, Kaslo or Salmo, you’ve had the benefit of an MP in Alex Atamanenko who constantly speaks up for his communities. I want to continue that work for the people of this region. I’m going to be that strong voice in Ottawa.”

Stetski was Kootenay Regional Manager for the Ministry of Environment where he oversaw offices in Nelson, Cranbrook, Invermere and Revelstoke. He began his career as a seasonal Park Naturalist with Parks Canada in university, then spent many years with the Ministry of Environment.

Members of the public are welcome to join Stetski and the rest of the Kootenay Columbia membership at the Manual Training Centre in Cranbrook at 1 pm on Sunday, March 15 as he officially kicks off his campaign. He will travel throughout this area meeting with people across the riding right through until Election Day.

submitted

Lucerne and Nakusp Elementary to get solar systems
submitted

New solar energy systems will be installed at Lucerne School and Nakusp Elementary, thanks to funding from the Ministry of Education’s Carbon Neutral Capital Program. School District 10 Arrow Lakes has received $49,827 for the two solar systems.

Students will be involved in the installation and monitoring of the system to enhance their education experience.

“Bringing a new solar energy system or an electric vehicle to a school district can not only save energy, but can also spark opportunities for students to learn about new technology,” said Minister of Education Peter Fassbender.

A total of $5 million was distributed to 24 school districts for energy projects under this program. Proposals were evaluated on greenhouse gas emission reductions and operational cost savings, along with the level of contributions available for the project from the district and energy service partners.

The ministry launched this program in 2012 to compensate school districts for the amount they paid each year to purchase carbon offsets, which funded projects that reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and saved money.

BC Hydro and Columbia Power are pleased to provide an update on the Nakusp boat ramp replacement project. In late February the project contractor extended the ramp as far down as water levels at that time allowed, resulting in construction of an additional 30 metres of new ramp down to an elevation of 426.3 metres (1398.6 feet).

The project team is closely monitoring water levels to plan the next phase of the ramp construction. Based on current conditions, BC Hydro forecasts the Arrow Lakes Reservoir water level to continue to drop and reach its lowest level toward the end of March 2015. Based on this forecast, the project contractor is currently scheduled to return to site the week of March 16, 2015 to resume ramp construction. The boat ramp will be closed for public access until this year’s work is completed.

BC Hydro and Columbia Power are committed to complete the boat ramp to the lowest water levels allow for this year. We will continue to provide updates as the project progresses. For more information, please contact:

Jen Walker-Larsen
Community Relations, BC Hydro
Phone: 250 814 6645
Email: Jennifer.walker-larsen@bchydro.com

Wayne Stetski intends to run for Member of Parliament for the NDP in the federal riding of Kootenay Columbia.
**LUNCH & LEARN SESSIONS for SLOCAN VALLEY BUSINESSES**

Come out for a complimentary lunch and presentation, followed by a Q&A.

**How Community Futures can Help Your Business with Andrea Wilkey, Community Futures**
- Friday March 27: Threads Guild, 11-12
- Friday, March 27: Crescent Valley Hall, 1-2
- Thursday, April 2: Knox Hall, 12-1

**Workplace Training** with Greg Neelin, Selkirk College
- Thursday, April 30: Knox Hall 12-1
- Friday May 1: Threads Guild, 11-12
- Friday May 1: Crescent Valley Hall, 1-2

**Wage Subsidy Programs** with Bob Wright, WorkBC
- Thursday June 4: Knox Hall, 12-1
- Friday, June 5: Threads Guild, 11-12
- Friday, June 5: Crescent Valley Hall, 1-2

**Contact:** www.slocanvalley.com or slocanvalleyedc@gmail.com

**Sponsored by the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission and the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce as part of the Business Retention & Expansion Project**

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**New Denver council, February 24:**

Council agrees to support fixed link on Arrow Lakes

by Katrine Campbell

* Councillor Henning von Krogh asked council, at the request of the Beaver Ann Crossing Association, to send a letter to Transportation Minister Todd Stone supporting BACA’s efforts to have a fixed link built to replace the Shelter Bay/Galenara ferry. The motion was carried.

* Von Krogh reported on the Public Works and Water activities: repairs on the museum store room floor are almost completed (“you can jump up and down and not fall through”); CAO Bruce Woodbery has the manual and the field experience to help the crew do an assessment of the pavement; Pool is working on a five-year plan for preventive maintenance.

* Vern Gustafson was authorized to attend a dike management and inspection training at the Baker Island dike.

* Council authorized in-kind support for the Slocan Lake Garden Society (SLUGS) in their work on the Klahan Garden. This includes labour and equipment, and printing posters for the 25th anniversary event July 26. The SLUGS plan to extend the automated irrigation system, install interpretive signage, and replace the dying birch tree at the entrance. SLUGS was authorized to engage Paulson Mechanical Systems to extend the irrigation system to serve the newly developed service area.

* The Village will provide a letter of support for the SLUGS’ applications for grant funding to offset costs of the anniversary celebration.

* Von Krogh reported on the Regional Hospital District. The board wants to reserve up to $2 million, which would be used to pay for equipment and staff. The motion was carried.

* The motion was carried.

* Von Krogh reported on the Public Works and Water activities: repairs on the museum store room floor are almost completed (“you can jump up and down and not fall through”); CAO Bruce Woodbery has the manual and the field experience to help the crew do an assessment of the pavement; Pool is working on a five-year plan for preventive maintenance.

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**Shaylynn Huss born with heart defect**

by Jan McMurray

Cam Huss and Madaline Walters, a young couple from New Denver, had a baby on February 22. Three days later, Baby Shaylynn had to have open heart surgery.

Shaylynn was born with a serious heart defect. BC Children’s Hospital, where she was born, will be her home away from home for her early years.

“The hope is that this surgery will enable her to grow and develop until her next heart surgery, which is expected to occur within the first few months of life,” says her cardiac nurse, Anna Murray. “She will require at least one additional surgery before she starts kindergarten. Shaylynn will need close medical followup from the BC Children’s Cardiology Team throughout her childhood.”

Maddy and her mother, Ruby, have been staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Vancouver since January 14. They hope to bring Shaylynn home to Castlegar for a little while soon. The first trip home will probably be three weeks long, and then Shaylynn will be due back at the hospital for a check-up.

An account has been set up at Kootenay Savings Credit Union, South Slocan branch, number 1517887, for those who wish to help the family with their travel costs.

Keep updated by visiting the Facebook page, ‘I heart Baby Shaylynn.’

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**Village of New Denver**

**CAMP SITE ATTENDANT**

The Corporation of the Village of New Denver requires a Campsite Attendant for the 2015 season. An information package about the position will be available at the Village Office any time after noon on Friday, March 13.

Please submit applications to the Village of New Denver, in person at 115 Slocan Avenue, by mail at PO Box 40, New Denver, BC V0G 150 or by email to office@newdenver.ca. Closing date for applications is 4:00 pm on Friday, March 27, 2015.

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**SLOCAN VALLEY**

The Valley Voice March 11, 2015

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**W.E. Graham Community School 2015/2016 Registrations**

W.E. Graham Community School is now accepting registrations for all students in grades K-6, as well as we are accepting application for the Valhalla Wilderness Program. The programs at WEG are intended to engage students through a wide variety of Outdoor and Experiential experiences.

**The Nature Primary Class (Kindergarten to 3)** spends a minimum of 2 afternoons a week exploring the local environment and is actively involved in the use and development of the outdoor classroom area along the Slocan Rail Trail. Students will learn how to become good stewards of the environment through interactive experiences, discussions, critical thinking and hands-on projects. In addition to the educational value of nature-based programming are the health benefits of outdoor activities. Students are given a clothing list so they can be prepared for all weather.

The Outdoor Education Leadership Program is geared towards our grade 6/7 and 8 students. The OELP combines experiential activities with core academics to create a program that fosters leadership, resilience, an awareness of the outdoors, self-confidence and outdoor skills. The program includes day trips as well as extended out-trips.

The Valhalla Wilderness Program is a one of a kind junior wilderness program that has achieved an international reputation for excellence. This program focuses on creating a one of a kind experience which involves backcountry skiing, mountain biking, hiking, and canoing. The students receive certificates in avalanche awareness as well as first aid. This program involves 5/6 extended out trips as well as day trips every Friday. In conjunction with the outdoor experience the students are also in class for a regular selection of academic classes and integrated curriculum experiences. Spaces in this program are limited and an application process is required in addition to a regular registration form. If you are not in the W.E. Graham catchment area it is important that you complete a school transfer form by Monday, March 30, 2015.

If you have any questions regarding W.E. Graham or the specific programs please do not hesitate to contact the Ed Nielsen (Principal) at 1-250-355-2212 or by email enielsen@sd8.bc.ca.
Slocan Valley EDC discusses need for broadband

by Art Joyce

Through the Slocan Valley Directed Fund process, SVEDC has identified broadband as one of the Slocan Valley’s top priorities, along with local food security. At its meeting in Slocan council chambers February 26, the commission hosted Aimee Ambrose of the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation to explore ways the CBBC could provide support for broadband in the valley.

Ambrose outlined the CBBC’s mandate – a five-year plan to establish a Columbia Basin fibre optic broadband network. The Columbia Basin Trust subsidiary acquired the fibre assets of the Columbia Mountain Open Network and has an agreement with Shaw, resulting in a fibre optic ‘backbone’ from Nelson to Crawford Bay, east to Elkford and Sparwood and as far north as Canal Flats in the East Kootenay-West Kootenay – in particular the Slocan Valley – poses major challenges to extending this network. The main fibre optic trunk line in the valley is owned by Telus, which has not yet ‘lit up’ most of the ‘dark’ fibre. Laying fibre optic cable is estimated to cost $40,000 per kilometre, explained Ambrose, so a line from South Slocan to Nakusp would cost over $4 million. That is not an option for CBBC at this time. Shaw has shown more willingness to partner with CBBC and local ISPs, but its service only reaches as far as Crescent Valley.

Current ADSL service exists in New Denver and Appledale in the upper valley, but service in Slocan varies depending on location. Those within the village and on the west side of the river are well served but service problems have been reported in the Marcus Road area. Area H Director Walter Popoff reported that he had been involved in engineering the fibre optic line in the valley prior to retirement. His preference would be to see the ‘dark’ fibre ‘lit up’ rather than building more wireless towers in the valley. Bandwidth decreases from tower to tower with wireless transmission.

SVEDC says community chooses areas of need for funding submitted

Members of the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission have spent a fair bit of time over the past two years determining just how to use the Community Directed Funds that Columbia Basin Trust has asked them to administer.

“One of the facts of life, distributing $300,000 to the Slocan Valley community seemed like an exciting prospect – until we realized we also had to create the process and the rules around how we would do this,” said SVEDC Chair Leah Main.

The commission realized early on that as a group of volunteers, they had neither the time nor the expertise to accurately gauge the needs and the desires of the valley community, so they hired WithInsight Consulting to implement a valley-wide community engagement process. A series of 10 public sessions, an online survey and individual interviews revealed the areas of most interest to the people who chose to participate in the process. The top five areas of interest are agriculture, business development, community development, communication, trail development and transmission.

The results of the community engagement process will be used to guide the commission in defining the criteria it will use, and in establishing a process to solicit requests to support projects that will benefit the residents of the Slocan Valley. This discussion was begun at the last SVEDC meeting on February 26, and a working group was formed to develop these tools. The group will report back at the commission’s March 18 meeting.

“It has been a long and painstaking process,” said Main, “but we really want to get it right. The Slocan Valley is a diverse community – we want to use this money in ways that will benefit the entire valley, and we want the impact to last.”

The WithInsight report will be published on the SVEDC website www.slocanvalley.com.

Corky Evans speaks about food, farming and stuff like that submitted

The next ‘Food for Thought’ talk hosted by the Hidden Garden Gallery features former MLA and multi-portfolio cabinet minister Corky Evans.

Following his retirement from the provincial legislature in 2009, Evans continues to be busy and committed to community. He returned to farming, taking care of the land and growing organic food for many folks in the West Kootenay region.

Corky is known for many things, but two important ones include the development of the Slocan Valley Forest Management Project, and his dynamic storytelling that engages all aspects of land activism and social commentary. In his retirement speech, he encouraged his colleagues to “refuse to say words that are not your own. You wouldn’t let anybody else put you in a box, so don’t do it to yourself.”

Corky Evans lives by his word. The Hidden Garden Gallery invites you to his talk ‘Out of the Box’, Sunday, March 15, at 7:30 pm at Knox Hall in New Denver. Admission is by donation to benefit the Gallery.

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**Quack Me Up, a haven for ducks**

submitted

The Nelson BCSPCA Farm Animal Advocacy group recently toured Quack Me Up, egg farm and hatchery in Winlaw, and loved what they saw. It’s always interesting to hear how a Kootenay farmer first got started. For Mee Len Dickie, it was catching her dog Valley three years ago.

> “Now we have a dog, we can get some poultry and start a little homestead,” she thought.

A friend provided her first nine ducklings, and Mee Len soon discovered an insatiable passion. Ducks breed fast, and three years later she is the proud owner of a thriving egg and hatchery operation with a flock of 300. The farm, quirkily named Quack Me Up, is three lush acres of gardens, pasture and pond. To the Farm Animal Advocacy group’s eyes, it seemed more of a duck vacation resort than a farm. The ducks apparently agree; their wings are not clipped but they rarely fly more than a few hundred feet away and always come home.

Mee Len, with the support of husband Jason, built the farm from scratch. It was clearly a huge amount of work, a true labour of love. She created the pool and creek with a rototiller and shovel. Jason built the small group housing, complete with lights and cozy straw bedding. They have 14 breeds of ducks, and each breed has been trained to enter its own house.

> “When I come in the evening, I say, ‘okay guys, it’s time.’ And they all separate into different houses.”

She loves what she does. “Being here on the farm doing physical labour, being with my family and the animals, brings me joy. It’s a better way of life.”

The eggs are more expensive than battery eggs for some very good reasons. The eggs are more nutritious and rich in nutrients like unsaturated fats, and more protein. People allergic to chicken eggs can eat duck eggs. Mee Len also raises ducklings for live sale throughout BC. She designed a box suitable for travel, with bedding, food and water. All their ducklings arrive safely, peeping, at their destination.

Mee Len says that farming ducks rather than chickens has advantages. Ducks have a higher body temperature, so along with their downy feathers, they can withstand cold very well, she notes. Ducks are also quite disease resistant.

The eggs themselves are different from chicken eggs, with more omega 3 fats, and more protein. People allergic to chicken eggs can eat duck eggs. Mee Len wants to get SPCA Certified. Unfortunately, there isn’t a duck certification available, but she hopes to work with the BC SPCA to develop a standard which assures domestic ducks of humane living conditions and the freedom to express a full range of natural behaviours.

> “We left the farm with a dozen fresh eggs, which shortly after were cooked into the most delicious omelet we’ve ever tasted!” said Lorraine Raits from the Farm Animal Advocacy group.

“We use all the parts!” said Mee Len. “Our eggs are from our own farm.” The eggs are more nutritious and rich in nutrients like unsaturated fats, and more protein. People allergic to chicken eggs can eat duck eggs. Mee Len wants to get SPCA Certified. Unfortunately, there isn’t a duck certification available, but she hopes to work with the BC SPCA to develop a standard which assures domestic ducks of humane living conditions and the freedom to express a full range of natural behaviours.

> “We left the farm with a dozen fresh eggs, which shortly after were cooked into the most delicious omelet we’ve ever tasted!” said Lorraine Raits from the Farm Animal Advocacy group.

> “Their taste is similar to chicken eggs, just richer and more flavourful! Give them a try!”

Quack Me Up eggs are in the Kootenay Co-op, Save-On, and stores in the Slocan Valley, Nakusp and Trail. For more info see http://quackmeupfarm.com.

To find out more about the Nelson BC SPCA Farm Animal Advocacy group, email nelson@spca.bc.ca or www.facebook.com/groups/nelsonfarm.

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**Fundraiser for BC SPCA Farm Animal Advocacy Group**

submitted

The BC SPCA Farm Animal Advocacy Group believes that all animals have a right to live cruelty free.

The BC SPCA is holding a Burger & Beer Fundraiser on Saturday, March 14 to benefit the Farm Animal Advocacy Group. The fundraiser will be held 6-9 pm at Finley’s Irish Bar & Grill in Nelson. Cruelty free organic BC beef will be served, and there will be a vegan option. This is a family friendly event, so bring everyone out to support the cause!

Tickets are $15 in advance, $17 at the door. Ticket includes burger, beer, highball, wine or non-alcoholic beverage. There will be entertainment, prizes and raffles too.

Advanced sale tickets may be purchased from: SPCA, 520-C Falls St (above Savvy Bowling lanes), Nelson Animal Hospital, Selkirk Veterinary Hospital, Scotiabank, Kokanee Park Marina & Store. To purchase an advance ticket in the Slocan Valley, call 226-7520.

This event is generously sponsored by Kootenay Co-op and Kootenay Bakery.
Stephen Harper: The Musical
or: How To Survive and Thrive in the dying Days of the Empire Of Oil

A new one-man show written by and starring
James Gordon

West Kootenay Tour
- Rossland Miners’ Hall Tue Mar 17
- Kaslo Langham Theatre Wed Mar 18
- Brilliant Cultural Centre Thu Mar 19
- Nelson Capitol Theatre Fri Mar 20

All shows start at 7:00 pm
all tickets: $20 plus applicable fees

Advance tickets:
- for Rossland visit Alpine Grind Mon - Fri 7:00 am - 5:00 pm
- for Brilliant Cultural Centre, call 250-365-3613 x 21
- for Kaslo visit Sunnyside Naturals or Willow Home Boutique on Front Street
- for Nelson call Capitol Theatre Box Office noon - 4:30 pm Tue - Fri or one hour before performances. Charge by phone 250-352-6363 during Box Office Hours or anytime online http://www.capitoltheatre.bc.ca/

James Gordon puts the “ire” back in “satire”
Not exactly a Tribute Show with 20 new songs, rants, visuals, puppets and a bit of an attitude
www.jamesgordon.ca

Local skier Kolibri Drobish (#204) from Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club, charges a hill to take fifth place in the 3.5-km classic technique race and third place the next day, with a time of 17:38, in the 5.4-km skate technique race at the Teck BC Championships in cross country skiing near Kelowna. The event was attended by 500 racers from Alberta, Washington and all areas of BC, February 19-22. The following weekend, Valhalla Hills Nordic raced 13 skiers – aged four to 55 – in the Black Jack Loppet in Rossland and live at the Kootenay Cup Finale at Nelson, with good results.
**Nakusp council, February 23: Local governments' conference coming soon to Nakusp**

*by Katrine Campbell*

- On April 22, hundreds of people will descend on Nakusp for the AGM and conference of the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG), the first time the Village has hosted the event. Some highlights of the planning so far.
- The keynote speaker will be Deborah Grey, Canada’s first-ever female Leader of the Official Opposition. She will also do a ‘break-out’ session for delegates interested in an informal discussion with her in a smaller group setting.
- The Village has more than $60,000 in confirmed sponsorships.

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**Homes wanted for international students**

*by Katrine Campbell*

School District #10 has started a new program to encourage international students to enroll at Nakusp and Lucerne Secondary schools. NSS vice-principal Ryko Kobayashi held meetings at both schools recently to introduce the program and to recruit potential homes for the students to live in.

- Eight people showed up at Lucerne School, while 15 people attended the meeting in Nakusp. Kobayashi says they were generally very supportive, but some were afraid local kids wouldn’t get along with a student so they are a good fit. The host parents are paid $800 a month.
- The basic requirements, in addition to being warm, caring and interested in the student’s welfare, are a private bedroom with a window that opens, linens, a closet or dresser, desk, lamp, access to a bathroom with toilet, sink and bath or shower, and three meals a day.
- A student-teacher ratio is also very low, and staff can personalize a program for students.

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**Ellens Park has Nakusp connection**

*by Jan McMurray*

Harry and Lauretta Ellens of Nakusp recently visited the newly dedicated Ellens Park in Harry’s hometown of Willoughby, in the Township of Langley, with Township Mayor Jack Froese and Willoughby historian Alice Johnson.

- The park is in Willoughby, Harry’s hometown to see the new plaque dedication. Harry remembers helping on the old Ellens family property.
- Ellens Park sits on the old Ellens family property.

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**North Kootenay Sport & Recreation Report**

A public meeting hosted by the North Kootenay Sport & Recreation Council will be held at the Appletree Cafe in New Denver on March 14th from 2-4pm.

- The purposes of the Council are to:
  - Work to improve Funding
  - Act as a “voice” for sport and physical activity in our region – a champion.
  - Coordinate services for sport and recreation groups
  - Provide an information clearing house
  - Identify gaps in services and facilities
  - Facilitate – bring groups together for mutually beneficial projects, dealing with “big” issues.

We will discuss these purposes, and other ND/Silverton community assets and needs in detail. Our meeting will be informal, with snacks! Let us know how the Council can support your favourite activity!

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**North Kootenay Sport & Recreation Council**

*by Jan McMurray*

Harry and Lauretta Ellens of Nakusp recently travelled to Harry’s hometown to see the new Ellens Park, named after his family. The park is in Willoughby, a community within the Township of Langley, where the Ellens lived for years. Harry spent the first 23 years of his life there. His father was a landscaper, and ran a commercial bulk operation on a 6.5-acre piece of property in Willoughby for many years. Harry remembers helping out with the family business.

Today, a shopping centre sits on the old Ellens family property.
Slocan Valley TV Society seeks input from valley residents

It seems that 2015 is the ‘year of the survey’ in the Slocan Valley! So far, Slocan Valley residents have had the chance to provide feedback on the recreation master plan and seniors’ housing, and now the TV Society is also looking for your opinion. While it may feel onerous to complete so many surveys, let’s keep in mind that in some places around the world, none of this would be possible. Please take advantage of this opportunity to have your voice heard.

The Slocan Valley TV Society is the non-profit society that maintains the equipment which broadcasts four beach in the village of Slocan.

The festival is in its fifth year in the valley and the line-up will be announced in the next few weeks.

Passmore Lodge is the Nelson Library’s new official outreach location in the Slocan Valley, on the third Thursday of each month from 3 to 7 pm. The common room at the lodge is bright, roony and inviting, the perfect spot for browsing, visiting and playing a wicked hand of Bananagrams. Passmore Lodge will again take place on the beautiful July 26. This family festival is in its fifth year and advanced building performance standards in the world, achieving 90 percent compared to other buildings.

This funding will support increased training and certification opportunities for construction and design professionals so that they can build the most energy-efficient buildings in the world.

The board, management and staff wish Lorne well and would like to thank him for his years of service and recognize his achievements at HCU,” said board chair Julie Morrison. “Lorne leaves HCU larger and stronger than it was when he joined us. We are well positioned to continue serving member and community needs in the future.”

The Valley Voice

Credit Union CEO retires

After more than 28 years as CEO of Heritage Credit Union, Lorne Myhr has decided to retire on March 31. HCU has been very successful under Myhr’s watch and has grown to more than $143 million in assets. He founded the very successful HG Insurance Agencies and, in partnership with Creston Credit Union, created Growth Financial Corp. He also served as a director of Credit Union Central of BC. “The board, management and staff wish Lorne well and would like to thank him for his years of service and recognize his achievements at HCU,” said board chair Julie Morrison. “Lorne leaves HCU larger and stronger than it was when he joined us. We are well positioned to continue serving member and community needs in the future.”

James Craig has been appointed interim CEO and the board has started the search for a new CEO, Morrison said. Craig, a long-time resident of Castlegar, recently retired from a successful career in the credit union sector. He brings many years senior leadership experience in credit union operations and is recognized for his strong leadership and a commitment to credit union values.

The board of the society is looking for your opinion. While it may feel onerous to complete so many surveys, let’s keep in mind that in some places around the world, none of this would be possible. Please take advantage of this opportunity to have your voice heard.

The Slocan Valley TV Society is the non-profit society that maintains the equipment which broadcasts four TV stations and two radio stations to south valley residents, from the junction to the village of Slocan. This service is funded through tax dollars, collected annually by the RDCK. The board of the society is eager to learn more about what aspects of the service residents are using, how many people depend upon the service and what changes people might want to see. During the week of March 13, a survey will be distributed in mailboxes throughout the service area.

Surveys can be mailed in or dropped off at one of three locations (Evergreen Natural Foods in Crescent Valley, the Recreation Commission office in Slocan Park, and Mountain Valley Station in Slocan). The survey can also be completed electronically – email tvsvsociety@gmail.com to have a copy emailed to you.

Your opinion matters – please tell us what you think!

Unity Music Fest returns to the beach in Slocan in July

Slocan Valley Cultural Alliance announces the dates for Unity Music Festival 2015 – Saturday July 25 and Sunday July 26. The festival will again take place on the beautiful beach in the village of Slocan.

The festival is in its fifth year in the valley and the line-up will be announced in the next few weeks.

Passmore Lodge is the Nelson Library’s new official outreach location in the Slocan Valley, on the third Thursday of each month from 3 to 7 pm. The common room at the lodge is bright, roony and inviting, the perfect spot for browsing, visiting and playing a wicked hand of Bananagrams.

The gate price remains the same as last year at $85, and kids 12 and under get in free.

The Price for Locals’ is available until March 15 online at www.unitymusicfestival.ca

Nelson Public Library Outreach at Passmore Lodge continues!

At our next outreach session on Thursday, March 19, library members are invited to bring a board game and a friend to Passmore for pickup?

of Saints and Outlaws, the full-length feature film shot in the Slocan Valley with all local actors, has won a Royal Reel Award from the Canada International Film Festival. The award will be presented at this year’s festival, taking place April 11 and 12 at the Edgewater Casino in Vancouver. The film premiered last June at the Civic and Capitol Theatres in Nelson, and Director Antonio Bastone says the film will be screened locally again this April.

On Saints and Outlaws, the full-length feature film shot in the Slocan Valley with all local actors, has won a Royal Reel Award from the Canada International Film Festival. The award will be presented at this year’s festival, taking place April 11 and 12 at the Edgewater Casino in Vancouver. The film premiered last June at the Civic and Capitol Theatres in Nelson, and Director Antonio Bastone says the film will be screened locally again this April.

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Your opinion matters – please tell us what you think!
Top five reasons to include bone broth in your daily menu:
1. Strengthens digestive system function: The gelatin in bone broth protects and heals the mucosal lining of the digestive tract and helps aid in the digestion of nutrients. It basically seals and heals the gut.
2. Fights infections such as colds and flu: It has long been known that chicken soup is your go-to during cold and flu concerns. Bone broth contains the amino acid L-carnosine that reduces the inflammation response during respiratory infections. Simply put, a good cup of broth will help resolve that stuffy, runny nose.
3. Rich in minerals and inflammation: The glucosamine in bone broth can actually stimulate the growth of new collagen, repair damaged joints and reduce pain. Bone broth is very high in the anti-inflammatory amino acids glycine and proline making it an ideal remedy for healing with stiff and sore muscles and joints.
4. Helps with bone formation, growth and repair: The calcium, magnesium, phosphorus and sulphur in bone broth help our bones to grow and repair. The collagen and gelatin in bone broth supports hair growth and helps to keep your nails strong. For those who are dairy intolerant, bone broth is a fantastic way to obtain those critical nutrients in a highly bio-available way.
5. Saves you money: Firstly, if you prepare bone broth they ‘close the loop’ in their kitchen by putting to use all the remains of a previous meal. When you buy chicken scraps, bones from the chicken that was roasted, garlic and onion skins can all be used to create the most delicious of broths. Secondly, bone broth is a multi-vitamin and mineral supplement without having to purchase a costly product that may or may not be absorbed well in the digestive system.

CKCA looking for steering committee members

The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) invites members of the arts, culture and heritage community in the Columbia Basin to join its volunteer steering committee. The CKCA is a representative body of the arts, culture and heritage communities across the Basin, and manages and administers arts, culture, and heritage funding programs on behalf of Columbia Basin Trust (CBT).

The CKCA steering committee consists of 14 members, including six from the West Kootenay and two from the Heritage sector. CKCA represents all the disciplines in the arts, culture and heritage; therefore, it is important to provide broad representation on the steering committee. CKCA is particularly interested in new members that represent youth or cultural diversity.

Steering committee members are elected for two-year terms and represent the broader needs of arts, culture and heritage sectors in the Basin rather than individual arts councils or heritage organizations, or the communities in which they live.

Nominees must have a strong background in arts, culture or heritage, should have experience in working on boards/committees and must understand the needs and issues of the sector in order to develop funding programs/policies and adjudicate proposals. Members are expected to attend at least two meetings per year in various locations in the Basin.

Nominees do not have to be members of any organizations, but must be nominated by their local community arts councils or by the Heritage Federation of South East BC (HFSEBC).

Each eligible arts council may submit forward only one nomination. If there are more nominees than seats available, regional elections will be held in the beginning of April. The HFSEBC may put forward one nomination which will be elected at its annual AGM. It is recommended that nominees (if elected) will be invited to attend occasional council or HFSEBC meetings to stay in touch with local sector issues.

Currently, West Kootenay councils eligible for nominating representatives to the steering committee are: Arrow Lakes (Nakusp Area), Slocan Lake (Silverton/New Denver), Slocan Valley, Nelson, Revelstoke, Rossland, and Salmo.

CBT funds avalanche safety programs

Avalanche Canada is receiving $325,000 over two years from Columbia Basin Trust to help it launch a new avalanche safety for winter backcountry users.

Avalanche Canada is a national public avalanche safety organization, with world-leading expertise in avalanche education, research and services. Based in Revelstoke, the organization produces daily avalanche forecasts throughout the season, draws on its vast experience to use mountainous regions of western Canada, including the entire Columbia Basin. It has also developed an internationally recognized curriculum for recreational avalanche safety training, and support instructors who teach through Avalanche Canada’s education programs.

The Trust’s commitment includes $100,000 per year for two years for ongoing activities, such as the Public Avalanche Warning Service, training, and development of specific initiatives.

In addition, this grant will allow Avalanche Canada to make important information technology improvements to help fulfill its public avalanche warning services and reach a broader base of winter backcountry recreationalists.

To learn more about Avalanche Canada, visit avalanche.ca, or call 1-877-505-8998.

Brett Wildeman to play at Kaslo and Winlaw

Brett Wildeman from the Sunshine Coast is a young folk musician as he continues to hone his artistry while living in the raw coastal folk style. Their concerts showcase not only his singing, guitar playing and storytelling, but also Wildeman’s Dream Catcher Tour— highlighting his nature loving musician and cyclist who shares his passion for music and the environment. Working with the unique projects and creative initiatives.

Committed to minimizing his carbon footprint by choosing non-traditional and sustainable means of powering his tours, Wildeman hits the road on bike whenever possible. Cycling has played a significant part in the musician’s life, providing time for reflection, contemplation and musical musings.

New Denver’s Silvery Slocan Historical Society needs directors

Historical Society’s annual general meeting at the Hidden Garden Gallery on Tuesday, March 24 at 7 pm and keep the organization producing through its unique committee projects and creative initiatives.

They will dazzle you with vocal performance in an intimate coffee house setting to lighting up the dance floor with his band.

The future is looking bright for this young folk musician as he continues to hone his artistry while living in harmony with the planet.

Quintessence rounds off ALAC concert season

On Thursday, March 26, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents ‘Quintessence’ in the last concert of this season’s concert series. Doors will open at 7:30 pm. Featuring internationally known vocalists Robyn Drigger-Klassen, Barb Towell, Frederik Roberts, and Peter Alexander, with sensational pianist Tina Chang. Quintessence offers a fresh, innovative concert experience for lovers of classical music of any style. Their concerts take place in a tranquil, intimate coffee house setting, but also introduce their audiences to exotic musical gems by celebrated songwriter/performers from Schubert to Poulenc, Britten to Heggies, and Gershwin to Weill. They will dazzle you with vocal performance in an intimate coffee house setting to lighting up the dance floor with his band.

The future is looking bright for this young folk musician as he continues to hone his artistry while living in harmony with the planet.

So come and join us on Thursday, March 26, for a beautiful evening of song. Doors open at 7 pm. Tickets are available at Bon Marche/Dollar Store until 4 pm, then at the door.
Kaslo writer launches photographic show at the Langham

by Art Joyce

Robert Banks Foster is better known in the creative community as a poet, but has turned his attention to the art of photography. The result is a fascinating series of photographs and text known as ‘On Disturbed Ground,’ which opened at the Langham Friday, March 6 and runs until April 12. The exhibition is part of a work that includes a 20-page poem and there are plans for a video version of the images with voiceover. Most of the photos were taken in the north Kootenay Lake region.

The images depict both the micro and macro worlds perceived by Foster’s camera lens, revealing the traces of human occupation on the landscape. A wooden wall of red peeling paint, a rusting engine crankshaft, a scatter of light on lake surface – these and many more finely textured images are juxtaposed against phrases and titles employing precision and economy of language. The goal is to urge viewers to question what they see all around them. For example, one caption notes: “He is 80 years old; he is now in his 70s. He moved to the Kootenays when he was 10 to study geology. Foster’s family moved and natural processes such as wind and water, with and without human intervention, have went to work.”

New BC Early Years Centre opens to serve North Kootenay Lake

submitted

A new BC Early Years Centre has merged with established family resource centres at JV Humphries in Kaslo and Jewett Elementary school in Meadow Creek to better support families with children aged 0-6.

Hosted by North Kootenay Lake Community Services, the centre offers a number of programs, services and supports, including: evening programming and dinners to support parents or caregivers who work during regular business hours; programs to address the needs of families living in remote areas; travel vouchers to allow low-income families to attend services and programs; programs for expectant and new mothers; and after-hours and one-on-one support and counselling services.

The BC Early Years Centre is one of 14 new centres throughout the province. Each centre will receive $52,000 from the Provincial Office for the Early Years for this fiscal year as part of a $5.5-million investment over three years.

“I see through a design eye but there’s obviously a subtle political message,” said Foster. “It’s a statement of inter-relatedness.”

Foster says he was partly inspired by the abstract expressionist school of art that developed in the early post World War II era, with artists such as Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Helen Frankenthaler. But while he found the esthetic appealing, he never liked the way it de-politicized art. This in part was a legacy of recently revealed CIA influence in the promotion of abstract expressionism as a means of countering Soviet denunciation of American culture during the Cold War. The intelligence agency’s influence extended to other branches of the arts and financial support also came from the Rockefellers.

The natural environment is shown in these photos as having been “disturbed” by both human and natural processes such as geology. Foster’s family moved to the Kootenays when he was 10 years old; his new home is his “0s.”

As a child he lived in Victoria and was always struck by the contrast between the city’s self-promotion as a beautiful place even as they pumped raw sewage into the Juan de Fuca Strait. His father worked for the provincial government as a plant pathologist, giving the young Foster another opportunity to see human impact on the environment through plant diseases and invasive species. Although skeptical of current invasive plant campaigns, he saw how the black spruce mold nearly destroyed the pear tree orchards in the Okanagan. When Selwyn Blaylock planted a Japanese cherry tree on his estate near Nelson, it introduced “little cherry disease,” which largely ruined the West Kootenay fruit industry. His father tried to get legislation introduced to prevent the spread of these diseases but was stymied by lobbying by the ornamental landscaping industry of the day. Seeing his father’s political battles unfold struck Foster deeply.

“Those experiences have certainly informed my political views.”

Kaslo Public Library to receive $5,000 grant

submitted

The Kaslo Public Library has been selected to receive a $5,000 infrastructure grant from Western Financial Group. This grant will contribute to renovations and repairs to shelving units to help keep the library safe and user-friendly for users, volunteers and staff.

“The library is a great part of our local community,” said Kaslo Branch Manager of WFG, Joan Murach. “We are proud to be able to give back and to donate these funds to help with improvements to the Kaslo Public Library to benefit everyone.”

This year, Western Financial Group, through its charitable arm, the Western Communities Foundation, made 40 infrastructure grants totalling $200,000 in the communities where Western operates. The infrastructure grants are given to encourage healthy living, learning and to strengthen communities.

“The projects are selected by the employees, as they know the specific needs of their communities,” said John Jenner, the foundation’s executive director. “We are proud to give back where we live and work, and it’s great that we are able to contribute to so many local initiatives in the areas of public health, public housing, education and recreation.”

Intergenerational Cooking Class

Adults, seniors and youth come together to create traditional and contemporary recipes. Bring your secret family recipes and your appetite for evenings of cooking, eating and fun! This is a free program offered by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and WE Graham Community Service Society. Thursdays, 4:30 - 7:00 at the WE Graham Youth Centre, March 12 - April 30. Please call Alison at 359-6887 to register.

INVITATION TO TENDER

TO CONSTRUCT UPGRADE WORKS AT BALFOUR AND KASLO WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) invites Tenders for the construction of engineering upgrades including earthworks, drainage, retaining walls, roadworks, metalworks, electrical works, waste bin and weigh scale foundations.

OPTIONAL SITE INSPECTIONS are scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

Tenders will be accepted until 2:00 pm PST, Wednesday, April 8, 2015.

Tender documents will be available for viewing and downloading from the RDCK’s website www.ridck.ca. After 4:00 pm on Thursday March 12, 2015 and on BC Bid www.bcbid.gov.bc.

Simon Bamber
Environmental Services Project Manager
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive
Nelson, BC V1L 5R4
Email: sbamber@rdck.bc.ca
Tel: 250-352-8191

Columbia Power has provided a $500 sponsorship to the Lakeparks Valley Community Club in support of the annual seniors banquet, April 19 at the Lakeparks Valley Community Hall in Meadow Creek. The banquet, prepared and organized by volunteers, has occurred since 1992. It is anticipated that more than 80 seniors will take part this year.

PINE POLES

Brian Major
• 250-938-3900
Please contact: Gormans Pole Division
250-547-9296

WANTED TO BUY: CEDAR AND PINE POLES
by Jan McMurray

The mayor read a letter about National Bullying Awareness Day from the Village, covering the society’s volunteers for general liability insurance on municipal property at an annual cost of $250. The Kaslo Building Maintenance was awarded an annual contract of $13,440 plus GST from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017. It was noted that the cleaning of the Community Forest offices had been covered by the Village in the past, but it was not covered in this contract. The question of a consistent fee policy for janitorial arrangements for Kootenay Lake Fisheries. She said the presentation would be posted on the Chamber website. She also reported that the mayor has asked the councillor Knoll at the meeting with the incoming principal and the vice principal at JHV to discuss engaging students in council activities.

Kaslo’s waterfront to be addressed by Parks Committee

by Jan McMurray

Mayor of Kaslo Suzan Hewat has established a Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Committee in response to the public’s reaction to maintenance work at the waterfront. Five community members attended the February 24 meeting to express their displeasure about the maintenance work at the beach. One woman reminded council that a resolution had been passed last year calling for a waterfront management plan. She asked why no plan had come forward, and why the crew cut the trees at the beach this year without the plan. She also commented that the waterfront maintenance work was an “ongoing process for years and years and there was no direction to change. They were following what was established from many years ago.” Laurie Moss commented that there was “strong discontent from your ecosystem last year,” and asked when the council was going to do something about it. Councillor Lang said he had done his best and working with many people in the community support the beach. “As council, we have to balance a number of people’s wishes.”

Councillor Holland feels strongly that the waterfront work goes against the OCP. “I haven’t spoken to a single person who endorses what is going on down there,” he said. “We have a plan and we’re in contravention of that.”

There is no development plan or management plan. We are directly in contravention with three years of community consultation. After the step work order last year, to take that work on without coming back and giving councillors a heads up is incorrect and embarrassing.”

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 3, council received a report from the CAO announcing that the mayor has established a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Committee. The committee’s ‘to do’ list is quite extensive, listing nine tasks that concern the waterfront area. These are outlined in the CAO’s report to the Committee of the Whole, received at the March 3 COW meeting.

“We need to look at both sides,” she said.

The committee will have seven members. Mayor Hewat has appointed four members of the public: Bill Wells as chair, Rick Koren, Michael Procter, and Subrina Mutterer as alternate. Four council members were also appointed (Howard Webster, Chuck Lang, and John McMurray) to serve. The committee must submit a report to council no later than November 15 this year.

Fish habitat project planned for the Lardeau River

by Jan McMurray

Columbia Power Corporation hosted an open house on the Lardeau River Side Channel Enhancement Project on March 4 at the Lardeau Valley Community Hall in Meadow Creek.

To compensate for possible fish mortality caused by habitat upgrades at the Brilliant Dam, Columbia Power plans to enhance an existing side channel of the Lardeau River. The goal of the project is to create a higher quality fish habitat for support 500 juvenile trout.

The side channel is located three kilometres upstream of Howser Bridge, and is high and dry most of the year.

The project is designed to ensure there is water in the channel year-round, increasing the habitat available to juvenile rainbows. The instream work is scheduled for this fall and will take about a month to complete.

The work involves excavating the inlet channel and constructing series of nine 20-metre-long pools. The excavated material will be stockpiled on a nearby island. A rock berm placed at the inlet will help create an additional side channel. Habitat structures made of logs and rootwads will be placed in the pools. “Wooly debris is not only good habitat, but it also scoops up a lot of sediment and keeps them at a good depth,” said Krista Watts, Environmental Support Manager at CPC.

At a time when there are too many rainbows and not enough kokanee in Kootenay Lake, it was good to learn that the RDCK Central Resource Recovery Committee held a meeting held February 11. A budget of $7.2 million was presented for 2015, an increase of two percent over last year. Upgrades at the Kaslo Transfer Station are estimated at $535,000. Lang said the town council was willing to help Kaslo with recycling contracts, but said it would take time.

Mayor Hewat attended the meeting in Balfour on February 23 regarding Kootenay Lake Fisheries. She said the presentation would be posted on the Chamber website. She also reported that the mayor has asked the councillor Knoll at the meeting with the incoming principal and the vice principal at JHV to discuss engaging students in council activities.

KOOTENAY - Kaslo council, February 24: JVH student asks Village council and staff to wear pink on February 25 in support of the National Bullying Awareness Day. The mayor read a letter about National Bullying Awareness Day from the Village, covering the society’s volunteers for general liability insurance on municipal property at an annual cost of $250.

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The SLOCAN LAKE Early Learning Society wishes to thank Dickens and Barb for bringing the Winter Blues Booze to Silverton. The group is in the heat of fundraising starting at the New Denver Nursery School. Thanks to the Nursery School teachers, all the volunteers and the community as a whole for being dedicated to making this event so successful. Special thanks to Terry Everett for kindly loaning the generator to keep everyone rocking!

COMING EVENTS
GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER BIG BANDWAVE SYNTCH CONTEST, happening Saturday, April 25 at the Silverton Memorial Hall! Calling on all Slocan Valley musicians, organizations, groups and individuals to strut your stuff and enter our cash prizes for 2nd and 3rd Places.ori. Don’t miss out on this! All ages and abilities, and all kinds of music welcome. Registration period March 30- April 10. Hosted by the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce. More info: 250-728-2940 or 250-726-5067.

SILVYRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM at 7 pm on March 24, 2015. To be held at the Hidden Garden. Support the local history volunteers. More information.

THINKING OF STARTING, buying, or expanding your own business? Your Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training; and delivers the Self Employment Program in the Atleo & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 250-567-341 or email nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

Buddy’s Pizza, Kaslo
March 11, 2015
Check community-connect.ca.

Suits one couple, or with one child. Oil furnace, new pellet stove. 2015. 2 bedr, 1 bathr, tool shed, extensions: $900+ sq. ft., $700 per mo. Appliances. 1-250-575-8867 or 1-250-848-0064/ slocanvalleyedc@gmail.com.

The SLOCAN LAKE GALLERY Society as its role as Arts Council is hosting a members’ exhibition to help promote the arts, culture and heritage, March 28 – April 2, Knox Hall, New Denver, supported by BCAM.

SilvaCarmanMaladivoy Group & Beer Fundraiser: Saturday, March 14, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Finley’s Irish Bar & Grill. Tickets: $17, includes cruelty-free burger, beer, HB Ball, wine or Non-alcoholic beverage. Music, Entertainment and raffles too! Generously sponsored by Kootenay Co-op & Kootenay Bakery. For More information contact BCSPCA (250-352-7178)

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, Vivienne Farrow is joined on stage by Fiddler Aurora Smith. Hear the excitement of Breakwater as they combine styles of folk, classical and modern to create an exciting musical experience. Performances on Saturday at the Blueberry Inn at Kaslo at 7 pm and Wednesday, March 25 at the Silverton Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm. Admission by Donation. Visit http://silvycarmanmaladivoy.com/breakwater

SLOCAN VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Scheduled to present at the Silverton Business Expo, March 14, May 26, September 30, October 21 and November 25 at 6 pm in Slocan and New Denver chambers at the Village Office, 503 Slocan St. unless posted otherwise. All meetings are open to the public. For more information: 250-226-0644/ slocanlakecouncil@gmail.com.

INTERESTED IN WORKING CLASS - Adults, seniors and youth come together to create traditional and contemporary arts & crafts to sell in family recipes and your appetite for evenings of cooking, eating and fun! This is a free program offered by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and WE Graham Community Service Society. Thursdays, 4 – 7:00 at the WE Graham Youth Centre, March 12 - April 30. Please call Alison at 359-6877 to register.

Nakusp Triple X for Rent - 3 bedrooms. On acreage. 1200 sq. ft. 6576 m². Appliances. 1-250-575-8867 or 1-250-848-0064/ slocanvalleyedc@gmail.com

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT - 900 sq. ft. as of June 1st located at 204 Broadway St., Nakusp, BC. Contact Emre @ 250-845-4516.

MOUNTAIN COTTAGE above Slocan Lake available for short term rentals this spring. Monthly disclosure, 250-231-2374.

Nakusp Legion AGM 7 pm April 9 Vallican Whole. The Legion welcomes members & guests. Fantastic food, good fun, great music! The Legion is holding this Great to have members & guests.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! April 14 Two concerts for Concorza Youth Choir. An afternoon at 2:00 and an evening concert 7:00. Both at The Maple Leaf in Nakusp. More information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Saturday, April 14 Two concerts for Youth Age 7. More information. 2015. 2 bedr, 1 bathr, tool shed, extensions: $900+ sq. ft., $700 per mo. Appliances. 1-250-575-8867 or 1-250-848-0064/ slocanvalleyedc@gmail.com.

Budd’s Pizza, Kaslo
March 11, 2015
Check community-connect.ca.

Suits one couple, or with one child. Oil furnace, new pellet stove. 2015. 2 bedr, 1 bathr, tool shed, extensions: $900+ sq. ft., $700 per mo. Appliances. 1-250-575-8867 or 1-250-848-0064/ slocanvalleyedc@gmail.com.

The SLOCAN LAKE GALLERY Society as its role as Arts Council is hosting a members’ exhibition to help promote the arts, culture and heritage, March 28 – April 2, Knox Hall, New Denver, supported by BCAM.

SilvaCarmanMaladivoy Group & Beer Fundraiser: Saturday, March 14, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Finley’s Irish Bar & Grill. Tickets: $17, includes cruelty-free burger, beer, HB Ball, wine or Non-alcoholic beverage. Music, Entertainment and raffles too! Generously sponsored by Kootenay Co-op & Kootenay Bakery. For More information contact BCSPCA (250-352-7178)

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, Vivienne Farrow is joined on stage by Fiddler Aurora Smith. Hear the excitement of Breakwater as they combine styles of folk, classical and modern to create an exciting musical experience. Performances on Saturday at the Blueberry Inn at Kaslo at 7 pm and Wednesday, March 25 at the Silverton Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm. Admission by Donation. Visit http://silvycarmanmaladivoy.com/breakwater

SLOCAN VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Scheduled to present at the Silverton Business Expo, March 14, May 26, September 30, October 21 and November 25 at 6 pm in Slocan and New Denver chambers at the Village Office, 503 Slocan St. unless posted otherwise. All meetings are open to the public. For more information: 250-226-0644/ slocanlakecouncil@gmail.com.

INTERESTED IN WORKING CLASS - Adults, seniors and youth come together to create traditional and contemporary arts & crafts to sell in family recipes and your appetite for evenings of cooking, eating and fun! This is a free program offered by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and WE Graham Community Service Society. Thursdays, 4 – 7:00 at the WE Graham Youth Centre, March 12 - April 30. Please call Alison at 359-6877 to register.

Nakusp Triple X for Rent - 3 bedrooms. On acreage. 1200 sq. ft. 6576 m². Appliances. 1-250-575-8867 or 1-250-848-0064/ slocanvalleyedc@gmail.com

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT - 900 sq. ft. as of June 1st located at 204 Broadway St., Nakusp, BC. Contact Emre @ 250-845-4516.

MOUNTAIN COTTAGE above Slocan Lake available for short term rentals this spring. Monthly disclosure, 250-231-2374.

Nakusp Legion AGM 7 pm April 9 Vallican Whole. The Legion welcomes members & guests. Fantastic food, good fun, great music! The Legion is holding this Great to have members & guests.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! April 14 Two concerts for Concorza Youth Choir. An afternoon at 2:00 and an evening concert 7:00. Both at The Maple Leaf in Nakusp. More information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Saturday, April 14 Two concerts for Youth Age 7. More information. 2015. 2 bedr, 1 bathr, tool shed, extensions: $900+ sq. ft., $700 per mo. Appliances. 1-250-575-8867 or 1-250-848-0064/ slocanvalleyedc@gmail.com.
**OBITUARIES**

**PATRICK BUTLER** - It is with great sadness the Butler family have announced that Patrick “Pat” Butler passed away on February 26 in Merritt, BC at the age of 78 years. Pat was raised and attended school in New Denver. In later years, he worked as a greenskeeper at Valley View Golf Course. Pat will be missed by all of his family and friends. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to Canuck Place Children’s Hospice, 1690 Matthew Ave., Vancouver, BC V6J 2T2.

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laughs ever. He is a fearless seeker of spirit and immense vitality, and one of the most infectious musicians and songwriters. Those of you who know Rushforth on his Facebook page:

He always loomed blessedly large for me and was a consistent source of support, encouragement, creative provocation and sheer ingenuity. I’m going to start by stepping aside from the responsibility of that time and deep friendships were forged there that carried through until the end of his life. He struck out on his own, working in farming and logging, and working for a period at a Winnipeg detox centre. Where he heard a lot of poetry and was invited to join a group of much older writers who went by the name W3 (Winnipeg Writers Workshop) which was made up of novelists, poets, and songwriters - many of whom had published - that led him onto the ground floor of the Winnipeg Folk Festival in 1974. He shared a booth with the Artistic Director and his family for many years and had the great good fortune of spending time with many of the leading musicians of the day. There was a time when it looked like he was going to become a children’s entertainer, but he had other fish to fry, and by the end of his time in Winnipeg he was the Festival’s site co-ordinator and had helped organize the first Edmonton, Calgary, Canmore and Toronto Folk Festivals. Michael had a son, Ethan in 1980 and soon thereafter moved to BC where he became a Treeplanter and Homesteader in Argenta. Numerous songs and square dances later he was still at it at 80.

He assisted several tours with Harry Manx including one that took them from New York to San Francisco, he opened for the Be Good Tanyas and played his own music throughout BC. He wrote, performed and recorded his own original music for many years and created a substantial body of work. His most recent work (the CD entitled ‘A place like this’) was written while facing his terminal cancer diagnosis...

Michael included these comments in the cover notes on the CD jacket: “November 12 - 14, 2013 were magical days for me. Somehow I found myself in a great recording studio with six of Vancouver’s finest musicians playing and interpreting my songs. Choreographed and quarter-backed by Simon Kendall, this CD is a very love and largessy collaboration. My heartfelt thanks to all of you for sharing your time, talents and camaraderie during those days in the studio, and a special thanks to Linda for additional vocals. Caroline for her available ears, suggestions and cover design and to John Redforth, who made it all possible.”

Michael died on September 4, 2014 in the Nelson Hospital. During his last couple of days, from his hospital bed in waiting moments, Michael used his energy largely in speaking words of love, care and support for his family, friends, and his beloved partner Caroline. His kindness, generosity of spirit, insights and enthusiasm for life have touched all those who knew him in profound ways. Michael honoured and encouraged both the world and the people around him and in so doing earned their forever respect and love.
Felix and Jasmine Schellenberg from Rafter 25 Ranch are coming to the Kootenays March 27-28 to share their knowledge with the local farming and food community. Their ranch is a testament to the family’s commitment to ethical agriculture, with their biodynamic and organic practices dramatically increasing biodiversity on their land.

Felix is the keynote speaker at this year’s ‘Farm Food Fork’ conference, talking about his family’s farm practice.

The couple will also run workshops on March 28 through the Homesteading 101 program. Felix will teach a field-based morning workshop on the ins and outs of rotational grazing, covering a variety of topics from fencing, supplementation and irrigation to stockmanship and animal health. Jasmine will spend the afternoon looking at biodynamic farming, including the seven foundational preparations of biodynamic agriculture, which will we apply in the field during the workshop. She’ll also share other complementary practices they use to build healthy soil and food.

Workshop tickets are priced at $25 for each workshop, or $45 for the whole day. This year’s Farm Food Fork event March 27 focuses on sustainable local meat production. During the day, we are hosting a STEAKholder forum, inviting anyone involved in food or the local economy to attend, including farmers, economists, policy makers, funders, chefs, butchers and passionate consumers.

In the evening we’re opening the doors for a STEAKKeater feast, inviting consumers to come and learn more about the meat they eat. As well as hosting a live butchery demo, we’re challenging local chefs to show off their skills and cook up some of our snout-to-tail tastings. Attendees will also enjoy a series of short presentations by knowledgeable experts through our “grass-FED” talks, and be entertained and educated by short films on the subject of meat.

Felix Food Fork is being held at the Spirit Bar in the Hume Hotel in Nelson. Tickets are priced at $25 for the STEAKholder forum, $20 for the evening STEAKKeater feast, or $40 for a big STEAKS full day pass. We are also offering subsidized tickets to the first 10 farmers who sign up for the ‘Whole Hog’ ticket which, priced at $65, gives you access to the full day of F3 plus both workshops the following day. (Too steep? Email f3@kootenayfood.com for volunteer opportunities and ticket subsidies. See www.farmfoodfork.com for further info.)

This is a great opportunity to gather together as a community to look at how we, as a region, can produce more of our own meat, eat more sustainably, and strive towards better food security. We look forward to seeing you there!

Improved wireless service choice, government says submitted

OpenMedia, an advocacy organization working to encourage open and innovative communication systems within Canada, says the recent AWS-3 wireless spectrum auction has broken the ‘Big Three’ stranglehold on the industry. Independent cell phone service provider Wind successfully obtained an important portion of spectrum in this auction, increasing its spectrum assets by 180 per cent in BC, Alberta and Ontario. According to Industry Canada, Canada’s new wireless competitors increased their spectrum holdings by 107 percent on average. For context, after this auction the Big Three (Telus, Rogers and Bell) still control 75 percent of the available spectrum. While the Big Three controlled 98 percent of the spectrum in 2006, they controlled 75 percent of the available spectrum. Improved wireless service choice, government says submitted

Improved wireless service choice, government says submitted

OpenMedia welcomes the news as a positive step forward for wireless choice, but notes that more action will be needed to ensure every Canadian has an affordable alternative to the Big Three. Canadians currently pay some of the highest prices in the industrialized world for wireless service, which OpenMedia blames on the Big Three’s control over 90 per cent of the market “to keep prices high by blocking Canadians from more affordable providers.”

More and more Canadians are speaking out against the Big Three’s activities to block access to content and services at: http://unblockCanada.ca.