Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort sold to Lower Kootenay Band

submitted

Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort, a popular Kootenay Lake tourism destination, is being purchased by the Lower Kootenay Indian Band, Chief Jason Louie announced on Thursday.

The acquisition, which sees ownership change hands in April, is an important economic development investment for his people, and it has historical significance too, he said.

“The Lower Kootenay Band has a history with the site that dates back hundreds of years,” he said. “The Ainsworth Hot Springs are known by the Kukumza people as ‘usgikaw wu’, which has a literal translation meaning Spirit Water.”

The resort, located 22 km south of Kaslo on the west shore of Kootenay Lake, has been family-owned since 1962. Current owners Norm and Joyce Mackie purchased the property from Joyce’s parents, Sam and Belle Homen, in 1979.

The Lower Kootenay Indian Band is one of four Canadian and two US communities that comprise the Kukumza Nation. Lower Kootenay (Yaqa’n Nukiy) is located in the Creston Valley and has a population of about 280.

No immediate changes are planned for the resort, Louie said.

One of the goals for the new owners is to work closely with Ainsworth area residents and to continue to build relationships to strengthen the area’s tourism economy, Louie said. “The Spirit Water has been medicine for healing various ailments that the human body experiences,” he said. “This business venture reconnects our First Nation to a significant cultural site of the Kukumza people.”

The Lower Kootenay Band will continue to strive for excellence in hospitality and experience. Professional development will be ongoing and customer service will remain a priority.

Blue Gold: see how corporations are buying up water

submitted

The Perry Ridge Water Users’ Association and the Sinixt Nation invite the public to a fundraising dinner and showing of Blue Gold: World Water Wars. The celebration will be held at the Seniors’ Hall in Nelson March 22 from 4-6 pm for dinner, 5-6 pm for dessert and coffee, and the showing of this important video at 6 pm.

Blue Gold: World Water Wars is a 2008 documentary film by Sam Bozzo, based on the book Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World’s Water by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke. Produced by Mark Ashlor and Sti Livinschof and narrated by Malcolm McDowell, it was first screened in 2008 at the Vancouver International Film Festival.

World Water Day is held annually March 22 as a way to focus attention on the importance of fresh water and to advocate for the sustainable management of fresh water resources. An international day to celebrate world water was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating March 22 1993 as the first World Water Day.

Blue Gold is a real-life thriller about the corporate takeover of our most basic resource. In a shocking exposé, Blue Gold shows why, as the vice president of the World Bank has pronounced, “The wars of the next century will be about water.”

Increasingly, transnational corporations are plotting to control the world’s dwindling water supply. In England and France, where water has already been privatized, rates have soared and water shortages have been severe. The major bottled-water companies—Perrier, Evian, Naya, and now Coca-Cola and PepsiCo—head one of the fastest growing and least regulated industries, buying up fresh water rights and drying up crucial reserves. Mauze Barkow and Tony Clarke, two of the most active opponents to this trend, show how the corporate giants act in their own interest and how, contrary to advertised wisdom, water flows uphill to the wealthy who can afford it.

The consumption of water doubles every 20 years—more than twice the rate of the increase in human population. Blue Gold captures in striking detail the forces behind the depletion of the world’s fresh water, and the human and ecological impacts it entails.

Wars of the future will be fought over water as they are over oil today, as the source of human survival enters the global marketplace and political arena. Corporate giants, private investors, and corrupt governments vie for control of our dwindling supply, prompting protests, lawsuits, and revolutions from citizens fighting for the right to survive. Past civilizations have collapsed from poor water management. Can the human race survive?” says filmmaker Sam Bozzo.

Perry Ridge Water Users and the Sinixt Nation will celebrate our precious local water and stand in solidarity with communities and aboriginal peoples throughout the world to protect water.
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Big water rate increases for RDCK water system users

by Jan McMurray

The big news about the RDCK budget this year is that water rates are increasing significantly for most people on RDCK-owned water systems.

At the RDCK board meeting on March 19, RDCK CAO Stuart Horn explained to the board that in the past, water rates have been subsidized by surplus funds in the RDCK’s Environmental Services budget. With the surplus now depleted, water users are on the hook for the full costs of operating and maintaining their systems.

This came as a last-minute surprise to the RDCK directors. The budget had to be passed at the meeting to meet the provincial deadline.

Deaver Sidings residents will see the biggest increase in water rates this year, not only because of the loss of the subsidy from Environmental Services, but also because of a rockfall that damaged their water system’s intake last year. The $52.840 for a water rate is rising from $55 to $803 per connection last year to $503 this year. The cost of repairs accounts for most of the 2015 increase. If the only extra cost was the repair bill, Deaver Sidings water users would have been charged $803 this year. They are being charged $903, an extra $100, to make up for the lost subsidy.

Area H Director Walter Popoff is not happy that there was no time for a meeting with Deaver Sidings water users before the budget had to be approved. “It was a very rushed process this year. It would have been beneficial to have a meeting with Deaver Sidings residents rather than approve the budget and then hit them with the high costs,” he said. He expressed appreciation to staff for their work on the budget, but said that the new accounting system was “surprising to simplify the process, so I’m hoping it will be streamlined next year.”

Burton water rates are going up from $85 to $1,016 this year. Residents from Haney to Mr. Cooper, and Edgewood from $676 to $776. Residents won’t feel it, however, as BC Hydro pays these fees as part of the agreement made when the RDCK took over ownership of the water systems.

Woodbury Village water users will also see a $100 increase from $708 to $808.

CBT Social Grants for 28 projects

Submitted

Twenty-eight projects that support social well-being have been approved to receive more than $1.3 million in funding through Columbia Basin Trust’s Social Grants.

One of the successful recipients is the Nelson chapter of Options for Sexual Health. Its project involves renovating a building so it can house multiple community non-profits, including the local youth society, arts council, mental health and addictions counselor, and other preventative health organizations. CBT granted the project $34,722.

The Kamloops Connection Centre creates sustainability amongst non-profit and non-government health groups, said Teresa Weatherhead, Certified Sexual Health Educator. “We will be able to share resources and amenities under one roof, enabling funds to be directed toward the socially impactful services they provide, while enhancing visibility to accessibility to all ages and genders of our community, with specific inclusion of our youth in Nelson and region.”

The Circle of Indigenous Nations Society (CINS) is also a successful project to be funded in New Denver. It will gather 15 West Kootenay Aboriginal elders for four days of cultural sharing and learning, plus facilitate a year-long program to share the elders’ teachings with Aboriginal families in their home communities.

These projects clearly illustrate the strength we have in our communities, with organizations of various sizes working on many levels to improve the lives of residents,” said Liz Gillin, the Trust’s acting manager for Social Initiatives. “We’re pleased to be able to support their efforts, which in turn helps deliver on our goals of addressing systemic social issues, being responsive to community priority and solutions, and strengthening social sector capacity.”

Since the program was launched in 2012, the Trust has distributed more than $3 million to improving social well-being in our communities. Granting decisions are made by the CBT Social Grants Program Selection Committee, a volunteer group of Basin residents that includes individuals who have experience and expertise in the social sector and individuals who have broader community development experience.

For more information about the program, visit cbt.org/socialgrants.

The Trust also has a new Social Grants Program Selection Committee, a volunteer group of Basin residents that includes individuals who have experience and expertise in the social sector and individuals who have broader community development experience.

Columbia Basin Culture Tour call for entry

Columbia Basin Culture Tour is a project of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and is funded by Columbia Basin Trust which supports the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Columbia Basin.

Cultural tourism is an important part of the tourism industry in the Columbia Basin. The Columbia Basin Culture Tour is a project of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and is funded by Columbia Basin Trust which supports the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Columbia Basin.

“Cultural tourism is an important part of the tourism industry in the Columbia Basin. Both governments are committed to supporting cultural tourism initiatives that promote and celebrate the unique cultural heritage of the Columbia Basin,” said Columbia Basin Trust CEO David Schellenberg.

The Columbia Basin Culture Tour is a project of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and is funded by Columbia Basin Trust which supports the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Columbia Basin.

The goal of the Columbia Basin Culture Tour is to increase awareness of the cultural diversity and richness of the Columbia Basin.

The tour will be a series of guided tours that will take place in the summer of 2015.

The tour will feature cultural experiences such as traditional arts and crafts, Native cultural displays, music and storytelling, and guided tours of cultural sites.

The tour will be open to the public and will be led by local cultural leaders and experts.

The tour will be a great opportunity for visitors to learn about and experience the rich cultural heritage of the Columbia Basin.

North Kootenay Sport & Recreation Council assessing community needs

by Jan McMurray

The North Kootenay Sport & Recreation Council is doing a round of community conversations to find out what the community assets and gaps are.

At the New Denver meeting on March 14, participants agreed that the community has a lot of sports and recreation assets. Some of these include community halls, trails, beaches, tennis courts, a gym and fitness centre, the Summit Lake Ski Hill, and group and cross-country ski trails.

The gaps and challenges identified included coaches/trainers, communication, transportation and insurance.

Rebecca Sargent, coordinator for the council, indicated that these were occurring in both indoor and outdoor meetings she has conducted and attended.

Sargent is working on an online directory for the council's website, which will list organizations, facilities and professionals in the region. The online directory is expected to be available in the fall. Sargent is also exploring the possibility of a coordinated calendar of sports and recreation events for the area.

The council, in its first year of operation, is looking for three or four board members from the New Denver, Silverton and Slocan areas. Contact Rebecca at 250-777-1546 or nrkconell@gmail.com.
Bearproof garbage bin program pitched to the RDCK board

by Jan McMurray

With a bearproof garbage bin program, garbage-conditioned bears can be a thing of the past, says the West Kootenay Human-Bear Conflict Working Group.

Working Group representatives Jason Hawke and Gillian Sanders attended the RDCK meeting on March 19 to ask for $7,500 towards a residential bearproof garbage bin program. The total cost of the project is $25,000.

A study on bear attractants completed by the group shows that garbage causes most human-bear conflicts (55%), followed by fruit and not trees and berry bushes (26%), livestock (9%), food storage (8%), compost (4%), bird feeders (4%) and other (14%).

“This problem has been known for 40 years now,” said Sanders. “It’s a last-century problem. Let’s move on and get this done.”

The group hopes to purchase 25 bearproof bins this year at a bulk purchase price of $250 per bin, and make them available to people in the region who don’t have a secure place to store their garbage before it goes to the transfer station.

Through the program, people would be able to buy one of the 25 bins in a $50-50 cost sharing arrangement, or borrow a bin at no cost.

“Many people manage their garbage properly, but some don’t, and some don’t have the means to deal with their garbage,” said Sanders. “In some cases, generations of bears have been coming to the same site, so by cleaning up these sites, we actually improve the whole neighbourhood.”

Sanders explained that each of the five areas covered by the program would have five bins each to distribute. The five areas include Creston, Castlegar, Nelson, Kaslo and New Denver. The cost-sharing

Phase 2 of West Kootenay transit plan stalled

by Jan McMurray

The good news is that Saturday bus service got better throughout the region starting March 16, including an added Slocan Valley run. The bad news is that expansion plans for the public transit system in the West Kootenay have come to a virtual halt, due to a freeze on BC Transit funding over the next three years.

The bad news was delivered to the RDCK board at its March 19 meeting by Lawrence Chernoff, vice-chair of the RDCK board and chair of the West Kootenay Transit Committee. “We still want expansion but we aren’t going to be able to do it in three years,” he said. “We’re still following our plan, but there’s a little stop gap here.”

The West Kootenay Transit Committee has been developing regional transportation in partnership with BC Transit since 2012. The plan outlines improvements in three phases. The first phase is substantially complete, and focuses on improving service on the main route between Nelson, Castlegar and Trail. The second phase, which was hoped to be implemented between 2016 and 2020, is to improve service along the feeder routes, enabling better connections from the rural areas to the main route.

“Now we’re left with well-resourced main routes, which a significant portion of the population can’t get to,” observed Director Ramona Faust.

Silvertown Director Leah Main, who also sits on the transit committee, clarified that the freeze is operational funding, “and has not been applied equally to capital funding.”

“There remains a possibility that if we increase capital spending according to the existing plan and then re-jig some of the operational funding around, we may be able to accomplish some small steps to further our plan,” she said. “It’s not an absolute, that nothing can be done.”

Some of the service improvements envisioned in the second phase of the master plan include ten round trips per week between Nelson and Slocan City, four round trips per week between Slocan City and the junction via the back road, four round trips per week between Castlegar and the junction via Pass Creek Road, three round trips per week between Slocan City and the junction via Nelson via Blarst, three round trips per week between Slocan City and the junction via Nelson, and five round trips per week between Kaslo and Castlegar.

CORRECTION

In our article about the Balfour fisheries meeting in our March 11 issue (“Residents press officials over Kootenay Lake fisheries collapse”), we incorrectly stated that the FWCP spends $15-20 million annually managing West Kootenay fisheries. In fact, the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program spends approximately $2.5 million each year supporting the delivery of fisheries restoration projects in the West Kootenay.

Highway 6 ‘Needles slough’ repairs well underway

by Jan McMurray

Highway 6 near the Needles ferry will be open by the end of March for sure, and perhaps a little earlier, says Ministry of Transportation Area Manager Bart Chemz.

The highway has been closed since February 18, when a nearby landslide caused the road to slough dramatically about one kilometre from the Needles ferry landing on the Edgewood side. The detour on Barnes Creek Forest Service Road continues to be open to single lane alternating traffic, with pilot car service. All vehicles can get through. “We’re really fixed up the forest service road – the detour route is looking good,” reported Chemz.

The repair is “all about stabilization,” Chemz said. He explained that the road in that area has been sitting on clay, which becomes slick and susceptible to sliding when it gets saturated. “We had to find a solid base underneath the clay, so we had to dig the clay out at certain spots where the drainage is, and toe in rock riprap.” He says they are mitigating water issues through “Big O” and perforated pipes.

Repaired is also underway on Highway 6 near the Needles ferry. The highway will re-open as early as March 23. It has been closed since February 18.
We need Bill C-51

Horribly, as we have seen in Canada, the international jihadist movement has declared war on us. Canadians are being targeted by these terrorists simply because they hate our society and the values it represents.

One only needs to look back over the past several weeks at the terrorist attacks in Ottawa and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu as well as attacks abroad in Australia and Paris, to see that the threat of radical Islamic extremism is a very real threat.

As I travel throughout Kootenay Columbia, I hear constituents over and over again say that these threats require a strong response.

That is why, under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, our Conservative government took action and brought forward the Protection of Canada from Terrorists Act and Anti-terrorism Act 2015, which protects Canadians against these threats who seek to destroy the very principles that make Canada the best country in the world.

Our government rejects the argument that every time we talk about security, our freedoms are threatened. Canadians understand that their freedom and security go hand in hand. Canadians expect us to protect both, and there are protections in this legislation to do exactly that.

The fundamental fact is that our police and national security agencies are working to protect our rights and our freedoms, and it is these agencies who endanger our security and who would take away our freedoms.

Providing national security agencies with new tools will ensure that gaps in sharing information about suspected terrorists does not limit their ability to prevent attacks on Canada or against Canadians.

We in politicians do not enforce the law, but we have the duty to make sure that law enforcement has the necessary tools to keep Canadians safe. As a former RCMP officer, I can assure you that this government is doing everything in its power to continue to do just that.

David Wilks, MP

Kootenay-Columbia

C-51 is a bad law

The Conservative government's Bill C-51 stands to cause a very wide net over the rights and freedoms of Canadians. It significantly expands the mandate of our Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), but does not enhance oversight mechanisms.

Harper's new law is sweeping, dangerously vague, and likely ineffective. It does not do things that are proven to work and puts politics ahead of protecting Canadians. Unless significant amendments are made, the NDP will oppose the bill by every means at our disposal.

Alex Atamanenko, MP

BC Southern Interior

PALS Spay/Neuter Awareness Campaign for Cats

During the month of April, PALS will be working with the support of the Nakusp Veterinary Clinic to offer a Spay/Neuter Awareness Campaign for Cats. Our regular low income spay/neuter assistance program is available on an ongoing basis, but for the month of April, through this program, we are offering cat spays and neuters at a 75 percent discount. We believe that it is important to end the cruel cycle of unwanted and uncared for cats in our area, and that every cat deserves a safe, loving, and responsible forever home.

As part of our awareness campaign, PALS is offering free tattoos to all pets being spayed or neutered at the Nakusp Veterinary Clinic during the month of April. Tattoos are the best way to quickly identify and help reunite you with your lost pet.

For more information on our campaigns or to book your appointment, please call PALS at (250) 265-3792.

Linda Kendall

Nakusp

Don’t harm our best!

I met many others are dismayed with the mayor and council in New Denver. Their unbecoming effort to turf stellae Bill and Jill Roberts from their Bigelow Bay property is not in the best interests of our community. We suspect it is a mean retaliation by those who overwhelmingly lost an unpopular cause in the past. I cannot think of one good reason to do so I can think of many, many reasons to leave them and their property alone, as it is.

The premise that this home should be demolished to create a larger public space begs analysis. Obviously the road to the beach parking lot, in particular the overgrowth that scrathces our vehicles and the many deep potholes here and elsewhere in the village, are beyond our local government’s wish or ability to maintain at a reasonable standard; why take on more? When was the centre line last painted on our main street? New Denver citizens have pride in our neighbourhoods; the Village should also. A derelict appearance does not welcome the valuable tourist visitors that are an economic mainstay of this historic area. A wall eared for building, that illustrates our past, is an asset.

This is a diverse community, not a commune. We are not failed Communists sympathizers, those langust in crumbling North Korea and Putin’s Russia! Cease and Desist!

Valdis Wilks
New Denver

Keen Creek Road

I want to thank Philip Pedini for his letter expressing his concern about repairing the Keen Creek mainline. It’s been a long time since North Kootenay Lake residents have been able to access Keekamee Creek Park without driving almost all the way to Nelson. Some will be enthusiastic about this – but not everyone.

Pedini states that “a huge amount of community money is going to be squandered opening the road,” as if he believes the current board and management of the community forest is being careless. Squandered is a pretty loaded term; it is hard, as chair, not to be offended by that choice of word.

Like other boards before us, we have considered and debated long and hard on how we should operate in the area that is just over 30 percent of the forest in which the communities of North Kootenay Lake have been granted tenure through their community forest. Two provincial ministries have negotiated the maintenance of this access for decades. Having arrived at the idea that we can afford to fix the road, we now invite public comment and hope for support.

There will be a public meeting about the Kaslo Community Forest board’s decision at 7 pm on Thursday, April 2 at the Senior’s Hall in Kaslo. I hope everybody who has an interest in outdoor recreation, the natural resources (trapping, forestry, mining, water) and the natural environment of the Keen Creek drainage and Kokanee Park will be able to come.

Come to the meeting to find out about the plans that our woodlands manager is working on. Bring your local knowledge and your feelings about the potential impact sewer/forestry development in this area will bring.

Erika Bird, Chair, KDCF
Kaslo
Wolf kill

May I suggest that, while the BC government is shooting wolves from helicopters at a cost of over half a million dollars, they also shoot the last 18 remaining camouflages and put an end to the obvious and by shooting by shooting will be more humane than what now faces these few individuals. They will not recover in the future. Their beliefs are a potential threat to how many wolves and cougars are killed. Let us see a merciful end to the last 10, 15, 25 years of wildlife management. Admit failure and move on.

Lynn Bandura
Stoutly Beach

What drives young people to be radical Islamists?

To understand the Islamic radicals, we would be better served by reading the third chapter (only 7 pages) of T.E. Lawrence’s The 7 Pillars of Wisdom, to start with. T.E. was one of the ‘Lawrence of Arabia,’ who, like few other westerners, gained an understanding of the Arabic life and world during his years in the desert and in contact with the people at all their social levels, and wrote about his experiences in his 800-page book.

Lawrence sees the Arabic mentality founded in these people’s ancient way of life in or near the desert, and the base for their religious outlook. It is a harsh life, devoid of amenities and comfort, a life of extremes, freezing nights, blazing hot days, wide open landscapes of sand and rocks, clear infinite skies with innumerable stars of the desert. Their impulsive, explosive emotional outbreaks betray their everyday almost aphasis tend to indifference.

In the good old days, with the long-haired, headstrong, head or head off, do or die of the West, says Ali. Their religion is born in the desert, away from human companionship, devoid of empathy. Judgement is based on rigid dogmas, punishment is harsh: the whipping, stones or the sword.

Now, with all the unemployed, disillusioned, frustrated, aimless and adrift, the world searching for a ‘lifeline’ (Lebensmittel); they feel that ISIS can put them ‘on track’ in radical actions. Many of them have doubts, without hesitation, even to their own death. Who will blame them? Why be a slave for those that have too much already? Be it wealth, be it moral one-sidedness, be it ideological conviction? We talk about the widening gap between rich and poor — who is doing something about it? Certainly none of our ‘great’ educational institutions, churches, governments or charities, the World Bank or the International Money Fund. A world loaded with peace talks, but violent. The debating TV shows, movies and digital games everywhere.

The chances of getting harmed or killed are less than getting struck by lightning, but we are spending billions on weapons to fight terrorist, while there is no money, time or interest for an inquiry into the death of over 1,000 aboriginal women.

Where are we to blame for that all this world? These youngsters gone astray? Their parents? Our governments? Us, ourselves, the voters of our rulers?

Richard Eichenauer
Familar

Organic food is never irradiated

This letter is in response to Gabriel Acton’s letter about irradiated food. She states that there is no labelling for irradiated food and that organic food crossing the border is irradiated as well. This is, I’m happy to say, not true.

Organic food is NEVER irradiated whether it comes from the US, Mexico, or any other country where the food must be inspected by a phyto-sanitary inspector before it crosses the border to ensure none of the pests that are deemed invasive or otherwise destructive to our environment crosses our borders. This certificate travels with the produce to Canada. Big producers of conventional produce avoid this costly process by irradiating their products before crossing the border. Contrary to what you might hear, there is no irradiation facility at the border. Irradiation is performed by the producer and comes across the border with a certificate showing that it has indeed been irradiated.

So if you want irradiation labelling, look no further than a certified organic label and you can feel good about eating a product that has passed strict standards.

In fact, Canada has some of the highest standards when it comes to organic labelling. These third party certifiers are non-profit organizations that are passionate about keeping high standards for organic products. We are not written by real organic farmers who want the integrity of their product upheld and for the consumer to feel good about their eating habits.

I too believe in supporting local farmers and products, but I will not ingest non-organic produce as I’ve seen first-hand how awful these chemicals are used in conventional produce. In fact, anyone who has worked in the produce department at a large grocery store will tell you that when you crisp lettuce or celery for each hour, stone and feel good about what you eat. Support your local farmer and encourage them to grow organically. You get to vote three times a day with what you choose to eat. Let the powers that be know that GMO and irradiated food is not OK. Organise and maybe one day we will not need organic labelling as it will just be the way things are.

Harry Wojnarowski
HomeGrown Market
Jessica Bar
Nakusp

Bigelow Bay cabin

The controversy concerning the disposition of the lakeside cabin at Bigelow Bay in New Denver, a cabin which I lived for 35 years (though in May, 2011), has taken proportion that could lead to unnecessary, squalid and expensive litigation. The property has a long history. It has been in private possession and tax for over 100 years. It had originally been a squatter’s cabin from the turn of the century, and remained in one family’s possession for many decades afterward. Up to the present day, the Village and the Province taxed the property as if it were privately owned, and provided water and garbage collection. It wasn’t until the Roberts family decided to seek purchasing the property (they had purchased the cabin previously for a considerable sum) that the Village demanded that they pay taxes as well.

Believe the concern beyond this was that if the property passed into private hands, no matter how much the Roberts family intended to keep the cabin as a vacation home for their kids and their own sporadic visits, somewhere up ahead, some unknown contingencies might lead the heirs to sell the property. That could bring real estate speculation and a big, lavish house to take advantage of the view, removing the green spaces that the property encloses.

New Denver, the village in which Bill Roberts spent his boyhood, grew the world to him and his family. With Bill having been in the diplomatic service for years and repeatedly required to move his family, no longer based as he and his family love, it is enormously important to them; hence a solution that dissolves confrontation and acrimony is highly desirable.

It seems to me that the Roberts’ position, in seeking a reasonable case law connected to the legal effect of long-standing accepted and long-accepted Village and provincial taxation, the Village concern stands on other equitable and important grounds. There is a simple solution to this standoff, as both sides are essentially justified in their position.

I urge that the cabin and property be returned to its original 100-year old status, with the Roberts family owning the house and the Village owning the property. Surely this is preferable to expensive and tedious litigation, thus the controversy could be settled without loss to anyone except that the Roberts family would give up hope of ownership of the property. Hence, the Village could continue to control the fine of the property for the future, while Roberts, who bought the cabin in 2011, could continue enjoying the property as before.

The Village has concern for preserving green spaces is admirable, doubly so when it includes protecting the lakeshore. But I believe a compromise such as I urge is achievable: return to the status quo, allowing the uninstructive cabin to belong to the Roberts family – a privilege they surely deserve, with how well they have preserved every aspect of the property (while improving the inside of the cabin).

Richard Camillen
Silverton

Bill C-51 – the Secret Police Bill

It’s reckless, dangerous, ineffective and it’s coming right at all of us.

Something remarkable is happening in Canada. People are taking time out of their busy lives to exercise their democratic rights on a scale rarely seen in this country. We can thank Stephen Harper for this now-f Zugspitztettion. The Conservative government is trying to ram through Bill C-51 – a piece of legislation more commonly known as the ‘Secret Police Bill’. Bill C-51 is so unpopular because it is reckless, dangerous and irresponsible – it amounts to the most sweeping expansion of state power in Canadian history.

It’s reckless because it would transform security agency CSIS into a full-fledged and completely independent national police force. It carries a penalty of a year in prison for anyone who tries to reveal the existence of this bill. Bill C-51 is so unpopular because it is reckless, dangerous and irresponsible.

It’s dangerous because it opens the door to widespread violations of our Charter rights, including censorship of free expression online.

It’s ineffective because it will lead to even more dragnet surveillance and it will not even help Canadians – a practice that even Stephen Harper says is ineffective.

If the bill passes, no fewer than 17 government agencies and even foreign governments will have access to your private information. We’re talking about sensitive information that can reveal everything from your financial status, to your medical history, your sexual orientation, and even your religious and political beliefs. Even your tax information is up for grabs.

And all this while doing nothing to improve desperately needed oversight and accountability for Canadian spy agencies that, as Edward Snowden has revealed, are spying on our private and personal communications – even our letters to MPs – on a massive scale.

It’s no surprise that the legislation has prompted outrage across the country from former Prime ministers, Liberal and Liberal Prime Ministers, and five former Supreme Court Justices have spoken out to warn Canadians that this bill will sacrifice our freedoms while miking “serious human rights abuses.”

Well over 100,000 Canadians have put aside their differences and are united in their fight for our democracy. Last Saturday, over 70 demonstrations took place across all 10 provinces.

Conservatives have been especially vocal about how much power Bill C-51 would give the state over the private lives of citizens. Popular conservative advocate Connie Fontaine has urged her fellow conservatives to imagine their feelings “if Justin Trudeau or Thomas Mulcair were Prime Minister and there was a warrant at your door.” And grassroots conservative Joe Jessop points out: “This is not the Canada we are known for and it’s something we want to live in.”

Critics even include the government’s own Privacy Commissioner Daniel Therrien who has warned that the bill “does nothing to assure” fears of government spying. Now the government are trying to shut him up, by banning him from crucial Parliamentary hearings into the bill.

This shows that the government is ashamed of Canadians and it’s easy to see why. A recent opinion poll revealed that just 29% of Canadians want to give spy agencies more power in the name of security. A recent opinion poll revealed that just 29% of Canadians want to give spy agencies more power in the name of security.

Please learn more about Bill C-51 and join the growing community of Canadians demanding this reckless proposal be shelved at https://www.stoptac2.org.

Steve Anderson is the Executive Director of OpenMedia, a community-based organization that safeguards the possibilities of the open Internet.
RDCK taxes rise slightly for Slocan Valley residents

by Jan McMurray

Slocan Valley residents will take a bit of a hit on their RDCK tax bills this year.

For services that all Slocan Valley residents pay for, the recreation tax has increased from $529,371 in 2014 to $534,366 this year. This translates into about a $3.60 increase over last year on a $300,000 home.

South valley residents will see an increase in their taxes for the recreation service (about a $9.90 increase over last year on a $300,000 home), due to two factors. First, there is a deficit in that account that has to be paid off. Second, the Village of Slocan withdrew from the recreation service, so south valley resident have to make up for that. Also affecting south valley residents - taxation will remain for the south valley TV service now that the TV Society is functioning again. There was no taxation for the service for a few years because of a legal dispute, which has now been resolved. The total tax revenue for the TV service this year is $16,920.

North valley residents will see an increase in taxation for fire protection, in preparation for the installation of standpipes. Standpipes in rural areas outside of New Denver will make water supply more convenient for the fire department. This year’s requirement for fire service is $83,046, up from $27,151 last year.

The RDCK budget has been holding steady at about $24 million since 2013.

Slocan Valley businesspeople invited to lunch and learn sessions this spring

submitted

Slocan Valley businesspeople are invited to a series of free ‘lunch and learn’ sessions this spring. To help ensure that all Slocan Valley businesspeople can attend, the sessions will be held in three locations: Crescent Valley Hall, the Threads Guild and Knox Hall.

“The lunch and learn’ sessions are our response to the results of the surveys we did with businesses for the Business into the Region’s Expansion Project,” says Leah Main, chair of the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC).

SVEDC, in partnership with the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, surveyed 79 Slocan Valley businesses to determine the needs of the existing business community. The results of those surveys, analyzed by the Rural Development Institute at Selkirk College, informed the topics of the upcoming ‘lunch and learn’ sessions.

Lunch and Learn Sessions: Crescent Valley Hall

by Jan McMurray

The Slocan Valley Ambulance Service will be the topic of discussion in the first lunch and learn session. The Ambulance Service is essential to the health of the community. The session will give an insight into the workings of the service and what it takes to keep it running smoothly.

Lunch and Learn Sessions: Knox Hall

by Jan McMurray

The Ambulance Service in the Slocan has been facing the challenge of providing service to an expanding region. The session will provide an overview of the service and what it takes to keep it running smoothly.

Winlaw Ambulance Station needs workers

by Jan McMurray

Ambulance service in the Slocan has been leveraging since November, with only two ambulance workers at the Winlaw station. According to the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS), they need a total of 12 drivers, but are currently only staffed with 10. The current workers are working hard to keep the ambulance service running.

There will be three speakers in the lunch and learn sessions.

Slocan Valley Ambulance Service needs workers

by Jan McMurray

Ambulance workers in rural communities are paid $2 per hour to be on call, and are paid the full pan regional hourly rate when called out.

Winlaw Ambulance Station needs workers

by Jan McMurray

Rural ambulance stations are chronically understaffed, with recruitment and retention challenges.

McDonald Creek boat ramp closed till May

by Jan McMurray

The boat ramp in McDonald Creek Provincial Park is being closed. The decision was made to close the ramp due to the need for repairs.

Energy upgrade for Burton Academy School

submitted

An energy upgrade project is planned for Burton Academy School.

The project will include the installation of Direct Digital Controls that will enable staff to adjust the heating and cooling systems in individual rooms at the school from an off-site location such as the office. The project is expected to result in a reduction of both electricity and propane consumption. Electricity use at the school is estimated to decrease by 10-15 percent. The RDCK board has approved a grant of $31,604.75 from Ainslie’s Community Fund to pay for the project, which will be done.

The Slocan Curling Club wraps up successful season

submitted

The Slocan Curling Club had a very full and successful season this year. Regular play was scheduled for Wednesday and Friday nights, and the club hosted two “Fun-Spads” that were a great success. The curling club’s kitchen was open and was served some excellent fare.

The club has struggled in recent years to pay its own way, with huge power bills and declining participation. The club is widely used by the community as a space for workshops, meetings, etc. A Strong Start program and the district’s outdoor education academy are based in the school.

The club owes its success to the hard work of all the volunteers who run the show. The club encourages people to think about getting a team together for next year. Club members find curling to be a great excuse to get out during the long winter nights, for good exercise, good people, good food and a licensed bar.
Slocan council, March 9: SCRAPA presents proposal for kiosks

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Before presenting information on the Slocan Creek Restoration and Preservation Alliance’s project to map the recreation trails of the Slocan Creek Canyon, Abram Davis spoke briefly of the plan to map the area. He mentioned that this would be a “good step” in protecting the area.

As for the trails beside Springer Creek, Davis said they had been created largely by the “hiking community,” which has since moved on to the Lemon Creek area. In collaboration with the Selkirk College Geospatial Research Centre, SCRAPA has 20 maps. SCRAPA plans to erect two kiosks to display large-scale maps of the Slocan Creek watershed and recreation in the Lemon Creek area. The project has received funding from both the Nelson and District and the Kootenay Savings Credit Unions to print the maps kiosks and 500 brochures. SCRAPA plans to fund more funding. Any private money not used for the kiosks will be used to protect Springer Creek Canyon and fish habitat restoration of the creek’s outflow into Slocan Lake. If SCRAPA doesn’t receive permission to erect the kiosks in their preferred location, they will ask permission to meet in the Village. If permission is granted, SCRAPA will hold “at least one public meeting” on the project. Details on the application to the New Building Canada Fund for Slocan’s proposed microhydro project were received for information. Slocan’s application states, “Without another source of revenue, the Village property taxes will need to rise about 33%...” A letter from the Village to the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development called the project “an exciting prospect that looks like developing our resilience” and explained the project would produce “enough power to supply the approximately 225 homes within the Village...”

Young filmmakers wanted for festival

Submissions are now open for the youth, film festival hosted by SelfDesign High and the Nelson Civic Film Flicks in Nelson. Films up to 15 minutes in length will be accepted until April 1 in three age categories: 13-15, 16-19, or 20-30. The festival will run April 15-16 and feature short animation, documentary and fiction created by youth aged 13-30 from around the province. The festival celebrates youth voices in film, and aims to develop that voice by bringing young makers together to co-inspire and advance their skills through hands-on workshops led by professional filmmakers.

The festival also offers an opportunity for youth to be involved as organizers, gaining experience as event managers and film critics while receiving high school credits through

Dana Pizzorno, Senior Regional Transit Manager, BC Transit for the Kootenay Transit Area, presented an overview of local transit. He explained that BC transit is “run as a social service.” He said 100 percent of small mayors and city mayors support the services and subsidies, but 50 percent do. Ticket sales fund only 10 percent of costs; local and provincial governments provide the other 90 percent. Noting that though it was “hard to please everyone,” community needs, expectations, and values are taken into consideration when making service changes and schedules. For example, in the Slocan Valley where jobs are few, bus runs are scheduled to provide service for people to get to jobs in Nelson. There are requests for more runs so people can work evenings but evening runs are not used by enough people to be cost-effective. On March 16, Slocan Transit Service 30 will add an extra run on Saturdays.

Slocan and Area H have each agreed to provide $5,000 for supplies for the mobile pre-natal health and wellness Centre. Mayor Lunn noted that the money is for setting up and will cover the cost of the examination equipment, and other necessities. Slocan’s share will come from an RDCK Community Development Grant of $5,000. CAO Demo said BPA would do purchasing and get discount rates through bulk buying.

A letter describing gaps in health care service from Kelly Ridley, BC’s NDP, spokesperson for Rural and Northern Health, prompted council to investigate the local situation. They directed that Ruth Pearson, the Wellness ambassador station, be invited to the April Council meeting to provide information on current ambulance services and discuss a local solution. Slocan and the WE Graham Community Service Society will each provide $150 (Slocan’s money will come from the RDCK Discretionary Grant) towards an Easter Egg Hunt to be held at the beach on April 5. The coordinator of the Nelson Community Directed Youth Funds at WEGSS, Rhonda Euchuk, will be invited to the April council meeting to present information on the WEGSS Slocan Valley Youth Bus project.

The village will tell if the Village’s insurance policy would cover liability for a five-day skateboarding camp proposed by Shandy Campos at BC Action Adventure Services. Campos has had the camp in Slocan for two years, and proposed to hold it in the Slocan Valley. City officials have given approval.

The camp would be held at Tenacity Skateboard Park in Slocan.

Slocan will give the Association des francophones des Kootenays Ouest $200 from the RDCK Discretionary Grant Funds towards a French film that might be held in Slocan in May or June, when the French bookmobile is in the Village. Councillor Perrierie and CAO Demo encouraged themselves for this decision as they have ties to the organization.

Slocan will write letters of support for two projects: the Legion’s renovations at the Silvercity Slocan Social Centre and the Slocan Curling Club’s “environmental, energy saving, and sustainable viability improvements” to the curling rink. Councillor Van Byam was invited to attend the curling club. The Slocan Valley Ornithologists’ Association was given a two-year license to Occupancy agreement to occupy the land at 301

Arlington Road. Councillor Van Byam called the Ordinaries “a good asset to the town.” He said, “they sublet a lot of stuff that we should’ve actually done.”

Public Works was directed to estimate costs for replacing the washroom outside the library, to examine the heritage oak tree in front of the community library and the silver maples on the beach and mark them for printing next winter; and to determine where WE Graham students can display banners they are making. CAO Demo noted that banners could not be placed on Fortis and Telus poles. Councillor Perrierie suggested using the tennis court fence where it faces Griffin and Harold Streets.

Spring Clean-up week will be held Monday, April 27 to Thursday, April 30. Residents who want appliances and other goods picked up can buy $20 Fencon and $10 Non-Fencon tags at the Village Office. Council will hold a CBT Community Initiatives Meeting for discussion on May 11 at 5 pm. Grant applicants will be invited to give a five-minute presentation and answer any questions on their application. The CBT application to fund the Screeds Owl Project will be resubmitted. Mayor Lunn and Councillors Van Byam will attend the AKBLO AGM in Nelson April 22 to 24.

During public participation Connie Myhre said the mara promotion should have a private phone line; Patricia McGreal, quoting the Community Charter, described a way for Slocan to collect unpaid water fees from Area H residents; Denise Dufault suggested a committee be formed, with Councillor Pelletier as liaison, to implement an OCP waterfront development permit area; Daphne Field stressed the need to monitor Springer Creek water quality, especially to get baseline data before developing the microhydro project; David Layden said “I know what data’s got out of dog licence” and asked what businesses “get as part of the business licence” and how businesses could engage with the Village.

The Journeyman Heavy Duty Mobile Mechanic Owner operator, 20 years experience on most makes and models. Willing to travel, based in Nelson. Call Adam at 250.351.4448

The Annual Brown Trout dermacentor infestations Microscreen electron microscope studies of Holarctic tanck flies and service truck service van Emergency repairs.

Public input meeting

By June 2004, the 17-page draft of the Slocan Valley’s Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs will be available online. The public will be invited to a meeting that will be held at the Nelson Civic Centre on May 11 at 5 pm. The draft document will be available for public viewing at the meeting and will be available online.

Come learn about the projects applying for funding through the RDCK.

Please visit the RDCK website at rdc.ca/cpt-sap for more details regarding the public meetings.

Learn more at www.selfdesign.org.
Walking History course offers research and writing skills

submittted

Have you ever wanted to turn your family papers into a memoir? Are you interested in writing a history that transcends mere facts to become a fascinating narrative? Do you volunteer for a historical society and feel like you need more skills to write local histories? If so, you should consider signing up for Walking History — Exploring the Past in the Present, being offered at the Selkirk College Learning Centre on Nailup on April 15 - 10.

Taught by well-known Kootenay author and journalist Sean Arthur Joyce, the course will spend two instructional days covering the basics of historical research and writing techniques. Joyce will teach two components to the course. Day One will feature The Three Rs — Reading, Research and Recap. This component will rely on the author’s experience researching his family history and incorporating it into his latest book, Laying the Children’s Ghosts to Rest. Students will learn the basics of research — how to refine a topic and frame a research plan, how to recognize when sources are primary or secondary, etc. Participants will also learn the importance of noting findings on historical topics, and techniques of prompting recall of personal and family memories. Please note: this is not a course in genealogical research.

Day Two, Using the Techniques of Creative Nonfiction, will explore with students the basic craft of writing. The workshop will help students understand how to transform historical writing from “just the facts” into narratives that are engaging, personal and immediate. This is achieved through unconventional techniques, focusing on character development and even elements of poetic technique. Joyce will explore both the possibilities and limitations imposed by different writing approaches to history.

Joyce is the author of two local history books, Laying the Children’s Ghosts to Rest: One Hundred Years of Heritage Homes in Nelson (1997) and Hanging Fire & Heavy Horses: A Century of Public Truatsal in Nelson (2000). These books were compiled in large part from research he had done in his popular Nelson Daily News column, Heritage Nest (1998-2005).

About seven years ago Joyce made a historical discovery that was deeply personal — he discovered he is the grandson of a British Home Child (BHC). Having no knowledge of this aspect of his family history, he applied his research skills to develop his next book project, Laying the Children’s Ghosts to Rest: Canada’s Home Children in the West. The book was published in May 2014 by Haglof Press of Regina and has become the publisher’s fastest-selling title. Following the initial launch in Calgary it hit the Calgary International Bookstore’s Top 10 Nonfiction Bestsellers list. A national tour to promote the book followed, with readings dates in 24 communities from Ontario to BC. As an estimated four million Canadians are the descendants of BHCs.

Contact Selkirk College to register: https://www.selkirk.ca/arts-culture/writing/walking-history/exploring-past-present.

COMMUNITY

Sandy started out in the food business at age 14 as an apple packer and pie maker. She ran the food and beverage operation at a golf course and then had her own eatery, The Purple Pig Pizzeria. Matt had worked in the food business and was also in construction. Sally met Matt. They liked each other, got together and moved to Rooster Road in the Slocan Valley in 2001. They kept busy, but wanted more time together. In 2013, they saw the ‘For Sale’ sign on the Cup and Saucer and bought it for $10. That year they worked hard, put in a new kitchen and washroom, and now they can spend more time together. They created a “small venue for a family business in a rural area,” and, now, lucky for all of us, they have one: HURRAY! Before I get to the food, let me tell you something. While I waited for lunch, I lurked around and “conversed” with three individuals, one each from Nakusp, Red Mountain, and Nelson. A good mix. I asked them why they came to the Cup and Saucer. They were not sitting together, but all answered the same way: “The food, by far.” Sandy and Matt are great. And it’s a wonderful place to relax and enjoy yourself.” Three rave reviews!

There’s a new menu at the Cup and Saucer. New meals and old standbys. They’ve always had full breakfasts. There is a great variety of eggs, egg sandwiches, wild Pacific smoked salmon with all the trimmings, homemade brown all over the place, bacon, ham, homemade sausage spiced sausages, avocado kiwi toast, more eggs, roasted red pepper, spinach, black beans, Hollandaise everywhere, salsa and lots of other things. Warning: these items are not all in one breakfast (would that they were). The breakfasts have names like Banook Pt. Sandwich, Silverton Major, Lakeside Hash and Avalanche. You must go to find out which is which.

Everyone knows that the burgers and wings at the Cup and Saucer are terrific. They come in beef, veggie, chicken, sausage, bacon and more. OK, OK, what did I have? On Sandy’s recommendation I had the Chalifean Wrap: “Shredded chicken, black beans, corn salsa, sour cream, lettuce and guacamole in a wrap.” I also had a plate of ribs. Yum! I also added a cup of avocado pie. Good Lord!

Then there are the well known Mountain Bowls. The Valladares brown rice topped with carrots, cucumber, roasted red peppers and toasted pine nuts with tanini dressing and choice of beef, turkey or chicken. The Selkirk Bowl involves chicken. That curry, rice and green onions. With salad.

Two gardens: Salt and Spinach Chips. (The soup.)

Did someone say pizza? Greek, Mediterranean, Hawaiian, Canadian, BBQ chicken, classic kids and create your own. Nineteen toppings to choose from.

Not much space left here, but I want to mention that Sandy and Matt are going to expand into the building next door again this summer and sell ice cream and convenience stuff in a general store atmosphere. The Cup and Saucer! Great food, great people. GREAT PLACE! GO THERE NOW!

Cool Eaters of the West Kootenay

with Andy Rhodes

The Cup and Saucer serves grizzly bear in my latte

It’s true! I had no idea! On Wednesday, March 18, I made my way to Silverton and The Cup and Saucer for lunch. I was looking forward to this because I had heard there is always great, and it’s a comfortable place to be. Who could ask for more?

Well, before I ordered, Matt brought me a latte in a large bowl. Something in the coffee started me. On the surface of the foam was an unmistakable accurate image of the face of a grizzly bear staring back at me. . . . On my coffee. No question. It wasn’t a black bear. It was definitely a grizzly.

A quick explanation: Matt Haefling and Sandy Smith own and operate the Cup and Saucer. Matt had never been a coffee drinker, but he decided to learn, through YouTube, how to make cool pictures in the foam in lattes. He practiced for hours, and experimented, but didn’t like throwing away his experiments, so he began drinking them. Now, Matt can serve you coffee with a variety of cool images in the foam. It’s fun, and now Matt is a confirmed coffee drinker. Alright then.

Come to the Cup & Saucer Cafe. You can have a grizzly bear in your coffee.

}.jpg
New Denver council, March 10: Working towards Knox Hall improvements

by Katrine Campbell

• Council agreed to apply for $4,000 from the CHB Community Development Program to put towards the cost of a professional structural assessment of the Knox Hall. This needs to be done before any plans for improvements are made.

• A request from Bill and Jill Roberts to buy a 100’ x 8’ portion of the road allowance known as Road Explanatory Plan R-225, DL-549 was turned down by council. The reason is provincial regulations: if a municipality closes a portion of a road and sells the property, it can usually put the money into general revenue. However, Section 41 of the Community Charter states that if the road provides access to a lake or other body of water, the municipality is only allowed to use the proceeds to “acquire property that the council considers will provide public access to the body of water that is of at least equal benefit to the public.”

• Councillor Henning von Krogh, who has been checking the lake level weekly, is concerned about the weekly change in temperature and precipitation in his report.

• Von Krogh, Councillor Nadine Randel, and Councillor Bruce Woodberry met with Regional Transit Manager Daniel Pizarro and talked about transit planning.

• Von Krogh also reported on the West Coastway Regional Hospital District meeting. Slocan Community Health Centre will get three pieces of equipment this year: a blood glucose scanner for the ER, a single-plex reader for diagnostic imaging, and an EKG analyzer for the lab. Total cost is just over $2,000.

The area now has no service expansion, as the Province is giving the same funding but there is no allowance for inflation. A presentation from Interior Health showed that its operating budget is $2 billion for the 142,000 residents for whom it provides health care. It outlined the “system pressures” which show that, for example, chronic conditions (21 per cent of the population) use 41 per cent of the resources, and the one percent of people who are “full care” use 27 per cent. (Oddly, the report says the 13 percent who are “non-users” use zero percent of the resources.)

The Ministry of Health’s strategy is to move from reactive to proactive care to reduce the need for high-cost hospital and residential care services to help people remain in their own homes. Von Krogh emphasized that B.C.’s capital budget for 2015/16 is just over $42,000 residents for whom it provides health care. It outlined the “system pressures” which show that, for example, chronic conditions (21 per cent of the population) use 41 per cent of the resources, and the one percent of people who are “full care” use 27 per cent. (Oddly, the report says the 13 percent who are “non-users” use zero percent of the resources.)

In addition, the needed capital investment over the next 10 years could be $2 billion, or $200 million per year. Mayor Ann Buhr said she had met with RCPM Inspector Tom Roy, who said the Village will get quarterly reports starting in April. Von Krogh asked for regional uplifting, as well as the Village-only report.

• Bunka met with Aimee Ambrose, CHB’s Chief Operating Officer for the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation. They discussed the logistics of CBBC coming into the area; CBBC has no access to fiberoptic cable here, so there is limited reasonably priced assistance it could provide.

She attended the meeting of the Economic Development Commission, and reported the Business Retention and Expansion committee will hold a series of “lunch and learns” in the valley this year.

Grassroots Grammas host Tools and Treasures Two

Grassroots Grammas is about to do it again! On the morning of Saturday, July 8, 2018, starting at 9 a.m., the Waneta Hall will be the place to be for Tools and Treasures Two. The scores of lucky people who attended Tools and Treasures, the deluxe rummage sale organized by the Slocan Valley Grassroots Grammas three years ago, are still talking about their new golf clubs, chairs, cussetour dishes, jewelry, toys, a tea buffet and even a swimming pool. It was the sale that gave twice: once to the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s international Grassroots Campaign, and again to the happy local shoppers who stocked up on good quality items at very affordable prices.

Grassroots Grammas is now seeking donations of items for the home and the workshop to make for a great Tools and Treasures Two. Things you have valued, but perhaps not useful for a while (though not books or clothing this time), will be greatly appreciated. Spring cleaning season is the time to borrow your friends, neighbours, relatives and co-workers to box up the “good stuff” for this sale. Call Linda, the lead organizer and owner of the former Caulfield’s store in Waneta: 256-7384 if you have donations that need pick up, pricing and storage.

An important note: All proceeds will be directed through the Stephen Lewis Foundation to the grassroots organizations in Africa that provide grants to Grassroots Grammas and the children in their care with food, educational supplies, uniforms, school fees, medical care, HIV counselling and testing, adequate housing and bedding, counselling and support groups, home visits and much more. African grandchildren, with almost no support, have stepped up to care for millions of children orphaned by AIDS, showing astonishing resilience of love, courage and emotional resilience, even while grieving the loss of their own children and dealing with their own health issues. Circle July 18 on your calendar, and start filling a box with treasures and tools to donate now.

On the morning of Saturday, July 18, 2015, starting at 9 a.m., this Waneta Hall will be the place to be for Tools and Treasures Two.

Pest Management for Fruit Trees Saturday April 11th

8:30 am - 4:00 pm (includes one hour lunch break)
Knox Hall in New Denver
30$-50$ sliding scale

Registration required (25 person max.). Call Bree to register 250-354-8120 or email: brelilies@hotmail.com

The intent of this workshop is to review common pest problems of fruit trees and management methods that rely on non-chemical methods and low-impact pesticides allowed for use in organic production. Participants will develop diagnostic skills for common pest problems and develop a management plan that can be applied at their site.

The learning materials will be based on industry standards of the BC Ministry of Agriculture, BC Ministry of Environment and Certified Organic Associations of BC.

Mario Lanthier from Crop Health Advising and research will be leading the workshop, check out his website here: http://crophealth.com/.

SLOCAN VALLEY

SPRING GRANTS FUNDED

BY REC. COMM. #6

NON-PROFIT GROUPS for Villages of New Denver, Silverton and Area H.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT:
Village of New Denver and Silverton Offices or email recocomm6@gmail.com for applications or information.

Applications close March 27, 2015

Harvest Share Spring Workshop

Control pests

ORGANICALLY

Pest Management for Fruit Trees Saturday April 11th

8:30 am - 4:00 pm (includes one hour lunch break)
Knox Hall New in New Denver
30$-50$ sliding scale

Registration required (25 person max). Call Bree to register 250-354-8120 or email: brelilies@hotmail.com

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The plump gray AMERICAN DIPPER resides year-round at the edge of our test-flocking Slocan streams and is recognized by its repetitive bobbling motion. An extra quack, plus scales that close their nostrils, allow them to dive and fly "underwater in search of insect larvae, fish eggs and fry. Extra oil and down keeps them warm. These birds are indicators of a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

Visit Lake Slocan's website: slocanvalley.com

On the morning of Saturday, July 18, 2015, starting at 9 a.m., the Waneta Hall will be the place to be for Tools and Treasures Two.
Free family day at the Slocan Valley Outriders riding grounds

The Slocan Valley Outriders Association (SVOA) invites the public to a free Family Day with EASE (Equine Awareness Safety Education) at its riding grounds in equestrian facility on Arlington Rd. in Slocan City. The event will be held Saturday, April 11 from 10 am to 2 pm.

"EASE is more than Equine Awareness Safety Education," says SVOA co-secretary Pamela Stevenson. "We are hosting this event to promote safe practices and respect between vehicle drivers, industrial traffic, horses, riders, and equestrian conveyances. Our theme is safety education; our motto is 'Be Seen to Be Safe.'"

The Ministry of Transport encourages us all to 'share the road.' SVOA appreciates all efforts made by vehicle drivers on our roadways to pass our horses slow and wide. Through education, drivers and riders increase their understanding and respect for the unpredictable and timid nature of the horse. Examples of hazardous situations may be blind corners, narrow roadways, vehicles with loads, heavy equipment or sudden congested situations in traffic. As riders, we are committed to increasing our visibility and using correct signals to communicate with motor vehicles.

SVOA members have been busy making reflective safety gear for both horses and people. This will be for sale at the event, along with prizes, raffles, free gifts and educational materials. There will be a concession booth offering light refreshments and a $5 lunch. Special activities are planned for children as well as lots of opportunities to meet SVOA members and their horses. Equestrian road safety will be demonstrated with a ride around Slocan village from the riding grounds at 2 pm.

SVOA would like to thank Ministry of Transport office in Nelson and Horn Council of British Columbia for their support and encouragement.
Photo of Kaslo Corporal Shaun Begg goes viral

by Jan McMurray

This photo of Corporal Shaun Begg of the Kaslo RCMP in his red Serge, playing shinny hockey on a glacier-fed lake high in the Purcell, went viral online almost as soon as it was posted to Twitter.

And since, Begg says the media attention has been astounding. Begg and nine others from Kaslo’s Airborne hockey team had the opportunity to fly up to Shuswap Lake and play a game of shinny against a team from Invermere on March 15. “I asked my teammates if they’d mind if I brought along my red Serge for a photo, and they thought it would be great - they said, you can’t get much more Canadian than that.” They aren’t the only ones with that reaction. Comments on Twitter are all about how truly Canadian the photo is.

Begg says the group had a magical day in the Purcell, and he is very touched that so many people have been moved by the photo. “I’m truly blessed to have had that opportunity,” he said. “I am so proud of my country and the organization I work for. The media’s interest in this is humbling.”

Michael Ganley and Motus Bichlmeier bring Parks to Kootenay School. Every Tuesday, Michael and Motus set up mats, bars and different apparatus to teach the technique for parkour in the school gym. Kids and adults are learning to become stronger and more confident. There are over 35 youth and adults taking part and learning about parkour. Thanks to St. Mark’s College, Kerikeri School, Hills Reclamation School District #1002, Rec Commission #6 and RDEK Area B Director Walter Popoff for helping provide funding to make this affordable for all youth in our area to attend this program.

FOOD SPECIALS

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Fresh Strawberries 454g $2.99
Salt Blendz Seasonings 350g $8.99
Co-op Gold Tomatoes 398ml $1.19
Co-op Gold 100% Juice 1.36L $3.99
Co-op Gold Ice Cream 1.5L $4.99
Rogers 5 Grain Granola 700g - 75g $3.99

MARCH MADNESS SAVINGS

1.) Rubber entry mats 18” x 30”
   reg $14.95 NOW $9.98
   Item # 6426194

2.) Shovel Fiberglass handle round
   True Temper reg $18.49 NOW $14.95
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3.) Hose Garden Green Choice, 5/8 x 50’
   Drinking Water Safe
   Flexon reg $32.95 NOW $24.95
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4.) Sunshine Potting Mixes
   All purpose $3.99 Natural Organic $5.99 Container $5.49

We have a good selection of your favorite seeds in stock.

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March 25, 2015 The Valley Voice
Nakusp council, March 9: Kootenay Sufferfest presents 2015 schedule

by Katrine Campbell

Jasen Neufeld appeared as a delegate on behalf of Kootenay Sufferfest to present its schedule for events for 2015 and request the use of Village facilities.

From March 23 to 27 will be the Spring Break Youth Sport Camp, offering activities such as soccer, mountain biking, Parkour, climbing, ultimate frisbee, Akido, dance and an obstacle course. The Nakusp Road Bike Weekend will take place May 16-18, including a hill climb to the hot springs, a road race to New Denver, and a criterium race in Nakusp.

Sufferfest will be held September 5-7, with activities in Nakusp on September 7. Sufferfest’s request for support (fee waivers) was directed to staff for review; they will report back to the April 13 council meeting.

The request to host the WUBRDRD to provide money to plan the renovation of the Arrow Lakes Hospital emergency room was referred to the executive for a report at the March council meeting.

Other meetings the mayor attended included strategic planning sessions for both the Columbia River Treaty Local Government Program and the Kootenay Boundary Regional District; discussions with Interior Health about ALEH prototypes, and meeting with Columbia Power Corporation.

As well, Nakusp has requested the RDCK approved “gold” sponsorship of $40,000 for the ALEH demonstration grant of $400 for Area K for the BC Senior Golfer, and Community Development Grants for Area K Youth Society, $2,000; Legion, $1,000; Al Search and Rescue, $5,000; Intronadous Reading Centre, $1,000.

- Nakusp was selected as one of five pilot project communities for “Better at Home”, an initiative funded by the province through the United Communities Initiative. Services related to seniors care are required to remain in their own homes. Nakusp attended. The group was talking about two major priorities: transportation and light housekeeping. The IHA would like to find a better home for the bus and water treatment plant.

Nakusp hosts regional conference for local governments April 22-24

About 200 people will descend upon downtown April 22-24 to attend BC Municipalities’ annual conference and AGM of the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG).

This is the chance to support the community,” said Veronica Sage, conference coordinator. “It will be attended by many people from around the region and many of them have never been here before, so it’s a great opportunity to show what we have to offer.”

The 200 participants are local government representatives from all the communities in the AKBLG, including Nakusp and Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary, and East Kootenay, plus the towns of Golden and Valemount. That’s 27 municipalities and 32 electoral areas in southeastern BC that will be represented in Nakusp for the event.

The conference will take place mostly at the arena complex, but delegates will also get out and about. “One of the reasons we decided to bid on this a few years ago was that we wanted the council and staff to get out and about,” said Jasen Neufeld.

The welcome reception will take place on Wednesday evening at the Legion. For dinner on Thursday night, delegates will be able to choose from a list of participating restaurants. Then it’ll be back to the Legion for an evening of business.

The conference concludes with visits to Nakusp and hosts a final break. The group and businesses will definitely benefit, and local businesses will be providing refreshments during the breaks.

On Wednesday, delegates will go on tours of some of Nakusp’s points of interest. There’s the “Delegates Dip” tour of the Kootenay Foothills andghost towns, and the “Irrigation Infrastructure tour” of the marshy power plant, water treatment plant

For more information about the conference, please contact BC Municipalities’ conference coordinator, Jasen Neufeld.

Village of Nakusp
Expression of Interest 2015 Campground Operator

The Village of Nakusp is seeking a qualified firm or individual to fulfill the responsibilities of Campground Operator as an independent contractor for the provision of certain services for the Village of Nakusp for the 2015 season.

Written proposals are submitted to the Village of Nakusp, Box 280, Nakusp BC, V0G 1R0 or by email to clerks@nakusp.com up until 4:00 pm local time on March 27, 2015 clearly marked “Expression of Interest—Municipal Campground Operator”.

Expression of Interest packages may be picked up at the Village Office, 91-1st Street NW, Nakusp BC.

Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes

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by Jan McMurray

**SILVERTON COUNCIL, March 16: SLSS to monitor water quality of Silverton Creek**

by Jan McMurray

**Mr. New Denver, Ethan Grierson, will try out for BC Ambassador**

by Jan McMurray

**Mr. New Denver** for the past year, will be running in the BC Ambassador Program in August in Merritt.

"I have so much fun as a community ambassador and I don’t want to stop yet, so this is a way to keep it going for another year," said Ethan. He added that the other ambassadors he’s met this year have encouraged him to run.

The mandate of the provincial program is not only to nurture leadership and forge links between BC communities, but also to assist ambassadors with the expense of post-secondary education. As part of the program, Ethan will be doing a lot of fundraising. These funds are used to help keep the BC Ambassador Program running, as well as to provide scholarships to the candidates. The candidate who raises the most money keeps half, and the candidates who raise the second and third most money keep a quarter of the funds they raise.

Ethan attended a meeting in Merritt on March 14 with other people who plan to run in the provincial program. Ethan is the only male in the morning.

The August event is a pageant much like the one that takes place in New Denver. The biggest difference in the provincial program in the three-hour exam about BC that candidates take when they arrive in Merritt. At the pageant, Ethan will give a prepared speech, a speech about his community, and answer an impromptu question. He will also build a community table "that we can check out with what we feel represents our community."

Three candidates are chosen as BC ambassadors, and there is a speech award and a people’s choice award. There will be an opportunity for online voting for the people’s choice award at www.ambassadorbc.com.

Ethan will be graduating from Lacombe School this year, and plans to attend Selkirk College in Nelson next year for Digital Arts & New Media. He is confident that he will have time to attend pageants as a BC Ambassador if he is selected.

"I’m really excited about this opportunity, and I want to thank the community in advance for supporting me," Ethan said.

On the morning of Tuesday, March 17, 2015, our mother, Sumie (nee Kosaka) Matsukiwa, 97, passed away peacefully at the Pavilion in New Denver, B.C.

Sumie was the oldest daughter of Matsuoka (1915) and Koyoko Kosaka (nee Myo与众不同) (1909). She was born in 1918 to Jacob Koyoko (1918), and raised by her parents and siblings.

Sumie was survived by her daughter Elaine (Ray) Lott (Victoria, B.C.), son Nozaki (Pat) Matsukiwa (Vancouver, B.C.), grandchildren, Owen (Sara) Lott (Victoria, B.C.), great-grandchildren, and granddaughter. She was predeceased by her mother, father, and siblings.

Sumie was cremated as per her request and will be buried with her husband in Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver, B.C. A private service in Vancouver and memorial service in Merritt will be held in the fall.

The family would like to express their sincerest thanks to the staff at the Pavilion and Silverton Lake Community Hospital, and our mother’s friends in the New Denver community, for all their care and love.

In lieu of flowers and/or lunch, please consider making a donation to one of the following, the Pavilion in New Denver, New Denver Hospice Society (www.newdenvannahospice.com), Nikkei Inheritance Memorial Centre in New Denver (www.nikkeinadherent.com) or a charity of your choice in memory of Sumie Matsukiwa.
HERBAL MUSINGS by Colleen Emery

Seasonal allergies and the immune system

When our immune system is in balance, it does a seamless job of identifying and eliminating potential threats to our health, such as toxins, bacteria, viruses, and cancer cells. However, sometimes our immune system responds too vigorously to a substance in the environment that is usually harmless, such as pollen, animal dander, or mold. As the body acts to rid the body of the perceived threat, we can experience the uncomfortable symptoms of an allergic reaction, including runny nose, nasal congestion, coughing, and itchy, watery eyes. In addition, an exaggerated immune response can lead to symptoms in the lungs (asthma) and skin (hives, eczema).

Allergies affect a large percentage of the population at one time or another and can significantly limit activity.

The underlying causes of allergies

Heredity is one of the major distinguishing factors in determining one’s susceptibility to allergies. Your risk of developing allergies increases by approximately 30 percent if one of your parents is allergic. If both of your parents have allergies, your risk is greater than 60 percent.

In addition to inherited tendencies, several other key factors determine whether a person experiences an allergic reaction and how severe that reaction will be. These include the strength of the individual’s digestive fire, or inner resistance, the quantity of allergens that enter the body, and a person’s current state of balance/imbalance. Fortunately, there are techniques to strengthen our vital energy, avoid allergens exposure, and improve our state of balance. By addressing all of these factors, we can help prevent allergies as well as keep them under control.

Strengthening inner resilience and foundational wellness

When our foundational wellness is strong, we can take in energy and information from our environment, extract whatever is beneficial to us, and eliminate everything we don’t need. In addition, when our qi is burning brightly, our body won’t mount an aggressive response to foreign material such as pollen, but will instead remove it in a healthy, beneficial way. In other words, our body is more resilient to the changes in the environment.

Strengthening our foundational wellness can be accomplished several ways:

- Reducing stress and promoting healthy stress response
- Reducing physical and emotional toxicity
- Reduction of congesting or dampening foods
- Reducing the quantity of allergens that enter the body
- Supporting the immune system with essential nutrients and immune-modulating herbs

The use of essential oils with invigorating scents, such as eucalyptus, ravensara, rosemary or juniper, can act as a natural decongestant, thus reducing the symptoms of hay fever.

Supporting the immune system

Other treatments include the use of pomegranate and astringent herbs and spices including ginger, curcuma, pepper, basil, caraway, cardamom, sage, mint, and cinnamon. An easy remedy is drinking hot honey water, or ginger lemon tea. In addition, treatment should be geared toward strengthening the body in other ways, such as daily exercise and use of a dry sauna.

When allergy symptoms occur in the summertime, the underlying conditions causing the immune imbalance are often drier. Excess heat can produce inflammation in the respiratory tract or skin. These symptoms are usually rash, headache, burning red eyes, and inflammation in the sinuses and airway (sinusitis, bronchitis). Ingesting cooling herbs, such as chamomile and cinnamon, helps to balance the heat. Ingestion of clarified butter, or ghee, as well as slope and turmeric, can calm the inflammatory reaction that is typical of Pitta imbalance. From a biochemical perspective, these herbs contain healthy anti-inflammatory and antihistamine properties that support our immune system.

3) Allergic symptoms that include headache, wheezing, sneezing, dry cough, and red eyes are often seen in the fall when the air becomes dry and cold.

To balance these astringent symptoms it is important to stay hydrated and drink warm liquids, such as ginger tea with honey.

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

Join Colleen on April 11 as she teaches the annual Herbal First Aid Workshop with Slocan Valley Recreation. Call 250-226-0008 to enroll.

COMMUNITY

Seniors: Have you turned in your housing survey?

submitted

The 2015 census on seniors’ housing survey was completed by less than 50 percent of the residents in Slocan Valley.

Please return your seniors’ housing survey before May 1st.

The yellow-coloured survey was distributed through The Valley Voice as an insert to every home in the valley.

New Co-op program funds community projects

Project funding is available between $25,000 and $100,000 for projects that benefit communities in Western Canada, including non-profit, registered charity or community service co-operative. Funding is available for projects in three categories:

- Community Projects: Community projects will support youth and children, community health and social services, community wellness and recreation, economic development, community arts and culture, community tourism, artistic expression, and community capacity building.

- Recreational Projects: Community projects will support community outdoor sports, community camping, community recreation, community parks, community infrastructure, and community leisure.

- Environmental Projects: Community projects will support community waste management, energy efficiency, community land and water conservation, and community environmental education.

For more information on this program, please visit www.communityspaces.ca.

The Valley Voice March 25, 2015

Village of New Denver

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Village of New Denver is now accepting applications for the position of:

VISITOR RELATIONS – NIKKEI INTERMENT MEMORIAL CENTRE

Working from May 1 – September 30, the successful candidate will assist the Nikkei Interment Memorial Centre manager in the day-to-day operation of the National Historic Site. Customer service or office experience, as well as knowledge of Japanese Canadian history, would be assets. A complete job description is available from the Village Office. Remuneration is set at $15.00/hour.

Please submit a resume and cover letter to:

Village of New Denver, Attention: Bruce Woodbury, CAO Mail: P.O. Box 40, New Denver, B.C., V0G 1S0 Email: office@newdenver.ca

In person: 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver

This position will remain posted until filled. All applicants are thanked for their interest – only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The Hallerans have long had a vision to restore a area of their property for wildlife. Their land provides important spring food for grizzlies, ungulates, ducks, geese, and a wide variety of songbirds.

In May 2014, an opportunity arose to do the planning for wetland restoration on the Halleran property at a workshop hosted by the BC Wildlife Federation’s Wetland Education Program in partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. Funding from Wildlife Habitat Canada and EkoAction helped support the workshop, instructed by Tom Shingleton, a wetland restoration expert from Kentucky.

Yet another opportunity arose later in 2014 to put the design plan into action on the Halleran property, when the National Wetland Conservation Fund was launched by the government of Canada.

“When the National Wetland Restoration Fund was announced, it was great timing for this project,” says Neil Fletcher, BCWF Wetlands Education Coordinator. “We had completed the planning, and needed funding to do the work.”

The BCWF’s successful application to the fund allowed this and other wetland restoration projects across the province to go ahead.

Project manager Robin Annschild describes the process of digging and working on the property:

“We used an excavator to create shallow wetlands ranging from a half-metre to one- and one-half metres deep. We made the slopes gradual so the wetlands will appear natural and will support a wide variety of wetland plants. The deeper areas will stay wet longer, providing better habitat for frogs and toads, as well as waterfowl and other wildlife.”

One of the objectives of the project was to use the soil removed from the wetlands to create higher, drier ground on which trees and shrubs could become established. These were the shrubs and trees that were planted at the March 7 open house.

“Grizzly sows and cubs come down into the field to forage, but they get harassed from the road by the general public and a local commercial grizzly viewing operation. The shrubs and trees planted during the open house will create a visual screen for the bears from the highway, allowing them to forage undisturbed,” says Terry Halleran.

As wildlife lovers, Terry and Michele Halleran know how important wetlands are to wildlife.

“To protect remaining wetlands and restore wetlands across our landscape, we all need to get involved in wetland stewardship,” says Terry. “As landowners, we hold title to the land for a short period of time. It’s our responsibility to leave the land in better condition than we found it.” Is there an area on your land or in your community that might be suitable for wetland restoration? If you or your club have a project in mind, contact Neil Fletcher at the BCWF’s Wetlands Education Program at wetlands@bcwf.bc.ca.

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**Easter Dolly Derby on Kootenay Lake April 3-5**

_by Jan McMurray_

The 33rd annual Kootenay Lake Easter Dolly Derby (bull trout) will be held April 3 and 5 at Woodbury Resort and Marina, just south of Kaslo.

This year, derby participants will be able to weigh in one fish per day instead of one fish for the tournament. “This is one way we can help with kokanee recovery in Kootenay Lake,” says Terry Jones, Woodbury Resort owner.

At a meeting in Balfour recently, ministry biologists explained that kokanee stocks are declining in Kootenay Lake because of an overabundance of their predators.

**Kaslo and Balfour transfer stations to be upgraded**

_by Jan McMurray_

The Kaslo and Balfour transfer stations will be upgraded this year, and will have to be closed while the upgrades are being completed.

To minimize disruption to the public, the RDCK will close one facility at a time. The intended closure period for Kaslo’s transfer station is May 1-June 22, and for Balfour’s transfer station June 22-August 23.

The contract is expected to be awarded April 16. There is $553,000 in the budget for the Kaslo project and $715,000 for the Balfour project.

In addition to the upgrades, new garbage receptacles that empty their loads into collection trucks quickly and easily will be purchased for the two facilities. A highway tractor, backup highway tractor, compacting trailer and freightliner truck will also be purchased for the central subregion this year.

**Kaslo Recycling Depot to remain at Public Works yard**

_by Jan McMurray_

The RDCK has decided not to move the Kaslo recycling depot. Area D Director Aimee Watson reported that the MMBC program is stalled, so the RDCK will move forward with its plans to deliver a more efficient service, as outlined in the Resource Recovery Plan.

“There will be new recycling information, so we won’t be moving anything,” she said. She added that she had received a lot of feedback from her constituents, especially farmers, who said they wouldn’t recycle if the depot were moved to the transfer station.

The RDCK is issuing a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFO) for the front load collection, transportation and processing of recyclable material in the central subregion, which includes Kaslo. A Request for Proposals will be issued based on the results of the RFO.

**Woodbury Resort and Marina**

Friday, April 3 to Sunday, April 5

**NEW**

_THERE IS $100 DAILY PRIZES*__

($900 Total) Via ticket numbers called on VHF Channel 68

**NEW DAILY PRIZES**

$4000.00 First Prize
$2000.00 Second Prize
$1000.00 Third Prize

Tickets $5.00

Starts Friday at 6:00 am

Last weigh-in at 12:00 Noon Sunday

Call Toll Free 1-877-353-7717
Local 250-353-7717

**Tickets Available at**

- Jones Boys Boats, JJ’s Pub, Woodbury Resort - Woodbury
- Barren’s Sport Shop - Kaslo

**Pre-pay by phone**

Visa, Mastercard, Interac

Terrific Door Prizes

From our Local Sponsors!

1 pm - Awards and Complimentary Snacks featuring BBQ Oysters for ticket holders and sponsors

woodburyresort.com

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Kaslo council, March 10: Old English Car Show and Golf Club delegations

by Jan McMurray

John Ecklund attended to inform council that he is organizing the second annual Old English Car Show for September 13 this year. He hoped the block off Water Street from 8 to 4 pm, and expects the show to be quite a hit before last year’s. The Nelson Road Kings may get involved, so there may be classic American cars as well. Council was enthusiastic about the show, having benefited in the past from his application for road closures in early.

• Bryan McMillan and Graham Gilbert from the Kaslo Golf Club updated the council on the club’s plans for the season and to maintain a healthy and positive dialogue with the Village, which has always been the case. The club would like to make some changes to the irrigation system when the funds are available, using the piece of land between the highway and the golf course. That was added to the club’s list six or seven years ago. The changes will make the course visible from the highway, and will involve removing some trees. Gilbert informed council that they had planted more than 400 trees over the last five years, “so we’re putting in a lot more than we’re taking out.” Gilbert also informed council that the club is gradually replacing the greens, as a new, all-weather sand is being built on solid instead of sand. He said the club is considering developing its own sand farm.

• It was brought forward from council that the Village will no longer pay Greg Quinby for filming council meetings. The motion also stated that council has no objection to the firing. Quinby has since stopped providing the service.

• The CAO informed council that there has been significant water penetration into the Komrah building, reported by the Kootenay Lake Historical Society, and trees will have to be removed in order to assess the damage. The trees suggests that new trees may be planted further away from the building’s foundation.

• One proposal was received for the garden area in City Hall and will be referred to the Committee of the Whole for information on possible locations.

• Four pieces of correspondence about the recent waterfront maintenance work were received. Residents are very happy with the work, and one was from a taxpayer who is very unhappy with the work.

• The North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Commission submitted a letter of introduction to council, and asked that there be a liaison appointed to the NKLAH. The letter was referred to the CAO for consideration (PAC). The CAO said PAC would make a recommendation to council about the liaison request.

• Deb Bonnici was appointed vice-chair and David Jackson as secretary to the Public Arts Committee (PAC), with Pamela Griffin continuing as chair.

• A reserve fund will be created for projects brought forward by the Public Arts Committee. Councillor Holland explained that the PAC is not asking for a budget from council, but would accept contributions from other organizations and individuals and place them into the reserve fund.

• Mayor Hewart reported on an RDKC Central Resource Recovery Committee meeting and a FireSmart training update for improved recycling services in the central subregion. The RDC will issue a Request for Expressions of Interest for five Forest Fire Management draft contracts and processing of recyclable material in the subregion. These plans have been

Upgrades at St. Andrew’s United Church

The renovation project has now been completed at St. Andrew’s United Church in Kaslo. Grant funding from Columbia Basin Trust, Kaslo Community Forest Society, and the RDC Community Initiatives went towards upgrading safety in the building. The Columbia Basin Trust and Kaslo Community Forest Society have also received grants from the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake and the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance. The renovation upgrade and safety improvements that enhance concert presentations held there. The financial assistance is an example of the valuable community organizations that contribute to many projects here in the Kootenays. We are most appreciative.

The completion of these two projects will set the stage for the next one, which is the idea of moving the recycling depot in Kaslo for now. Planned upgrades to the Kaslo and Balfour transfer stations will also occur this year. New garbage reception equipment, for both Kaslo and Balfour, will be collected trucks quickly and easily will be purchased for the two facilities. A highway transfer, backup highway transfer, compactor trailer and debris will also be purchased for the central subregion this year.

• The Utilities Coordination Committee Bylaw was adopted.

•Council Long was appointed as liaison to the Kootenay Lake Historical Society.

Kaslo & Area

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society News

March, 2015

It’s been quiet in the community forest since the beginning of this year. While no crews or machinery have been working, a lot of evaporation and outreach has been going on. The following is a snapshot of how the woodlands management works through its Forest Operators, and the role of the community forest board, as the directors try to understand and weigh community and forestry priorities.

Long Range Planning

Last fall several directors got the sense that we were running out of good options on where to go next to harvest. The board was reluctant to keep cutting in the areas where we have been operating over the last decade, and lost dredge's fire history and Cooper Face's previous logging made those areas options for much later. Any hillside easily seen from Kaslo could not be considered either for obvious reasons (no pun intended).

The board asked the manager for the kind of information gathering and analysis that should tell us if our operating area could support the harvesting of 25,000 m³ of timber annually in the next decades, and if so, then, would we go broke doing it.

We are now in the early stages of conducting a long-term plan of the community forest’s land and resources.

We will use the most updated inventory, mapping and GIS information available to review our harvestable area to create a realistic 40-50 year operational plan. The economics of harvesting road and road building operations will also be considered. The goal will be to provide timber and the potential for diversification to the Kaslo Kootenay Community Forest in this planning project — NACFOR is now using this model to establish or renew management agreements.

Opportunity on Keen Creek

The Keen Creek drainage is a significant part (over 30%) of the area in which we can operate. In the last couple of years we have harvested a few cut permits closer to Southfork and the New Denver highway, but the bad condition of the Keen Creek Road has prevented us from going much further west.

Successful community forest boards have lobbied the government for some time to improve the Keen Creek Road. With no help forthcoming, the community forest turned to other, more accessible areas — Shifty Bench, Bjerken, Buchar, Nasuton, Nashville.

Until 2015, the Keen Creek Road was under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. The road was then transferred from the highways department to the forest service. Anyone who has gone up that road in the last 20 years on skis, on foot, on snowmobile or ATV can see that the condition of this road has been ignored for a long time. Certainly you cannot drive to Kokanee Glacier Park like you could a few years ago.

The Forest Service's website states that "Resource roads are a highly valued part of BC's transportation network. They are essential to British Columbia's economic development, provide access to backcountry recreation, and help connect communities across the province. It's worth quoting, once again in these pages, Patricia McGrold, a former Slocan Village Councilor “Whatever these roads once were, they are now access to provincial parks… We own the roads, we pay for the roads, through our taxes, they are paid for us. We need an advertised ‘super natural experience’ that brings $1.5 billion dollars into the province annually from tourism.” (Valley Voice, Feb 26, 2015)

New legislation covering backcountry roads has been in the works for years, but the Natural Resource Road Act has not yet been approved. Kaslo, just like the Village of Slocan, is appealing for help to save community assets like our formerly easy access to Kokanee Park (for Slocan, for Kokanee and Valhalla provincial parks.) Right now there is only one decent road to Kokanee Glacier Park, via Slocan, Enterprise Creek, South Fork (Keen Creek) and the one near Nelson.

A public meeting, in which we will show Keen Creek development plans will be held on April 12 at 7pm at KDCFS headquarters.

Public Meeting on Keen Creek Drainage: April 2

There will be a public meeting on Keen Creek drainage on April 2 from 7pm to 9pm at KDCFS headquarters.

The meeting will include a presentation on the benefits of improving access to the Keen Creek Road, as well as discussion on the current condition and future possibilities for the road.

There will be an opportunity for questions and feedback from the public.

The meeting is open to the public and is intended to provide information and answer any questions that may arise.

2015 Annual General Meeting

The board will discuss the current financial situation and the future goals of the community forest during the annual general meeting on April 15 at the Kaslo school. Three positions on the board will be up for election, although the meeting of this year is writing it is unknown whether enough candidates will step up before April 1st so as to warrant an election. If three or fewer candidates volunteer, then the positions will be filled by acclamation.

In addition to reports and the election of directors, the current chair of the board, Erika Bird is proposing two amendments to the bylaws. The first resolution seeks to do away with the need for a few new members — or people who have not paid their $5 membership fee in the previous 12 months to be considered “good standing.” The second special resolution, would, if passed, allow for an election for the position of directors.

Youth Crew Back in 2015

We have good news to share: There will definitely be a youth crew again this summer and we are pleased to announce that KDCFS has several partners helping to fund this program. KDCFS has committed to contribute $40,000 -- $20,000 from Columbia Basin Trust and promised $12,000, the RDC $3,000 and the Forest Service $5,000. The county has already raised $3,000 for the third year in a row, granted $5,000. We expect to hire four youth for eight weeks this summer — full time and at a decent wage. Similar to programs in 2013 and 2014, the majority of the work will be directed towards improving our area’s hiking trails. In the next month, we will be setting priorities with the help of Kaslo and Area D recreation groups and individuals. We are also networking with partners in New Denver and Nakusp through North Kootenay Lake Sports & Recreation.

In closing I’d like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the Forest 2012 Festival. A special thank-you is due to directors Jeff Mattes, Stu Baker and Glen Dettmer who helped develop and run the event, as well as community members donating funds from their own pockets.
Kootenay DJs come together to raise money for charities

A group of 11 DJs instrumental in shaping the Kootenay electronic dance scene in the 90s is coming together for a night of good beats, dancing, and fundraising for local charities and a green energy project in Mexico.

Called “Old School 2”, this show will be held at the Spirit Bar in Nelson on Friday, April 3. This event is the third charity event organized by Kootenay native Ben Conroy’s Dova Productions. Dova Productions started in 2011 focusing on the music scene and raising money for local charities to help Kootenay families, local organizations, and the environment.

The first charity event of Dova Productions was “Bro Hymn” in 2011. This was a tribute to the life of professional skateboarder Josh Evin, with proceeds going to Josh’s charity Sk8 Shoes 4 Kids. The original “Old School” in 2012 brought together local DJs who helped build the early electronic dance scene before the world-class phenomena known as Shambhala began. This event was a huge success, with all monies raised going to local charities. “Old School 2” will be no different.

“It is time to give back to the West Kootenay community that has given us all so much,” says Ben Conroy. This year, the money raised will be donated to Friends of West Kootenay Parks Society, Castlegar and District Recreation Centre, Nelson and District Women’s Centre, West Kootenay Eco Society and Castlegar Hospice Society. In addition to these local...
Kootenay DJs come together to raise money for charities (cont’d)

Continued from page 18

A new project has been selected. Some of the money raised will help build a green energy power project at Yimtii Ecological Reserve in Oaxaca, Mexico (http://yimtii.org/ en/). This reserve is a sustainable eco-tourist location that works to protect 90 acres of majestic tropical deciduous forests.

Undoubtedly, it is no small task to round up all these people and fit them all in one show. Everyone looks forward to playing together again for a good cause. They hope to see you all on the dance floor. Doors open at 9 pm sharp.

Advance tickets are $10, or $12 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at http:// kootendj.com, at the Home Hotel front desk, or by calling 250-352-5331.

Free herbal medicine class touring the Kootenays

submitted

The Kootenay School of Herbal Medicine is offering a free two-hour presentation titled ‘How to Use Local Herbs to Heal Yourself and the Earth. Spiritual Herballing for Prisoned People.’ The class is designed “for those who want real, nourishing alternatives to pharmaceuticals and who have a sense of the healing power of Nature connection, but want to go deeper.”

Participants will learn five steps to develop confidence and trust in using herbs for healing; the key ingredient to herbalism that many herbalists and plant lovers never see; and four reasons healing with herbs can and will change the world for the better.

The first presentation, in Kaslo, has already passed, and Avgieta’s session is today (March 25) at 1:30 pm. The others will be in Nelson (March 26 at 7 pm and April 4 at 10 am), Waskwaw March 28 at 10 am, Crawford Bay March 31 at 7 pm, Salmo April 1 at 7 pm, and Creston April 8 at 7 pm. Register for any of these at www. kootenayshoolofherbalmedicina.com.
Walter Popoff chosen for Seniors Advocate Council of Advisers

BC Seniors Advocate Isabel Mackenzie has appointed a new 30-member council of seniors from across the province to be lay volunteer advisers to the advocate and her office. Walter Popoff, RDCK Area H director, is one of them.

Popoff says he applied for the volunteer position because he would like to assist seniors, particularly those in rural areas, by representing their views on the numerous issues that face them. “My intent is to bring the rural view to the council,” said Popoff.

Popoff believes that the number one issue for seniors in rural areas is transportation. “Seniors in rural areas need transportation to municipalities for grocery shopping, doctor appointments and social events,” he said. Popoff was a Senior Citizen Counsellor for the Slocan Valley with IHA from 2005 through 2008, and served on the executive of the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society for the same period. He has been RDCK Area H director since 2008 and is currently vice-chair of the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board.

“The applications for this council were outstanding and it is inspiring to see so many seniors willing to offer their time to serve fellow seniors,” said Mackenzie. “This is an exciting new journey we are embarking upon and I am very fortunate that I will be guided in my work by actual seniors who can ensure their many perspectives are heard and considered. I want to advocate for seniors with seniors.”

The appointed council members bring perspectives from a variety of backgrounds. Among the group there are advisers with experience in social work, teaching, health care, business, and local government, to name a few. Advisers range in age from 65 to 85, live in 25 municipalities in all regions of BC, and come from diverse cultures and communities.

Recommendations for members were made by the Council of Senior Citizens’ Organizations of British Columbia (COSCO-BC), after reviewing more than 300 applications. The advocate also welcomes the public and service providers to get involved in an advisory role on upcoming committees and focus groups.

The media and the public may connect initially with regional council members through the Office of the Seniors Advocate. The Office of the Seniors Advocate is an independent office monitoring and analyzing systemic issues affecting seniors. For more information, visit the Seniors Advocate website: www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca.

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The floating dock at the boat launch in Slocan was repaired and put back into the water on March 17. The dock sat on the shore all winter, after the cable snapped in a windstorm last fall.