Kaslo Community Forest to repair Keen Creek Road

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo and District Community Forest plans to invest approximately $150,000 to fix up Keen Creek Road this summer in preparation for a 100-hectare logging development.

"I've been hearing that people want the road open, and this is their opportunity to do it," said Bill Kestell, community forest manager, at a public meeting on April 2 at the Seniors' Hall in Kaslo. "The road upgrading is costly, so it's not overly economic to harvest, but we believe it's feasible."

Keen Creek Road has been closed since at least fall 2006, due to instability and sloughs. Because about 30 percent of the KDCF's harvest area is in the Keen Creek drainage, and because the road leads to Kokanee Creek Provincial Park and other backcountry recreation opportunities, the closure has been a sore spot for the community. KDCF representatives, with the support of Kaslo and Area D elected officials, have had several discussions with provincial government officials over the years about possible cost-sharing arrangements to get the road open. Those discussions have gone nowhere. But now, the community forest is ready to take over responsibility for the road and keep it open indefinitely, to a full truck access standard. Kestell reported that KDCF will apply for a road permit this week.

"The board didn't take this decision lightly," said Jeff Mattes, treasurer. "We agreed we would pursue it as long as we had a mandate. We thought it was the right thing to do for the community."

Kestell explained that the road was under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Highways, which had no interest in maintaining it, until last December, when Forestry took it over as a forest service road. KDCF is applying for a road permit in opposition to a road use agreement. A road permit essentially makes the city the owner of the road, responsible for all maintenance. If the city ever wanted to hand it back to the ministry, they would have to deactivate the road to ministry standards, which usually means taking out all structures. However, Kestell said KDCF intends to maintain control of the road through a road permit tenure. "We may go in after hardening and do some level of deactivation — water bars and cross ditches to take away the risk of culvert blocking — but that won't impact 4x4 access to the park," he said.

"The advantage is that it will be the decision of the community forest and the community how long the road is there for," Kestell said.

The KDCF board is optimistic that they can keep up maintenance on the road. Erika Bird, board president, pointed out that logging obligations on the cutblocks will keep the road open for 15 years. Kestell pointed out that the road has been there for 80 years, has had no maintenance for several years now, and yet is mostly in good shape.

The road, from the edge of private property in South Fork up to the boundary of Kokanee Glacier Park, is approximately 18 kilometres long. KDCF will be upgrading the road to the 13 kilometre mark to provide access to the development. Beyond the 13 kilometre mark, Kestell believes there are no economic logging opportunities in the short to medium term with the current timber markets. However, because of the community interest in park access via Keen Creek Road, KDCF is in discussions with the ministry about working together to keep the last five kilometres of the road open.

Slope stabilization is the biggest problem, he said. To stabilize the slopes in these problem areas, they plan to build embankment fill slope support abutments out of ceder cribbing. "We hope to have the structures designed before we put them in," said Kestell. "They will be looked at by a geotechnical engineer."

CJ Logging will be doing the road building work. "I'm confident that with the expertise here, our plan is solid," said Kestell. He said that Sunshine Logging and CJ Logging are very experienced road builders, and that he had done a lot of this kind of work in the Heyto and Horseshoe Creek drainages when he worked at Meadow Creek Cedar.

Road upgrades will also include installing two to three bridges (over Dear and Ben Black Creeks) and possibly a culvert at Briggs Creek. Kestell explained that the wooden culverts on these creeks blew out a couple of years ago.

Beyond the 13 kilometre mark, there are two more bridges, and one will have to be repaired to keep access open to the park. KDCF is discussing a cost-sharing partnership with the ministry to repair the bridge. KDCF would then apply for a road permit for the remainder of the road to the park boundary.

The ice planed cutblocks are all on the south side of Keen Creek Road. The logging will ideally begin in September, but the timing will depend on markets.

Kestell explained that, optimistically, there is 50,000 cubic metres of harvestable wood in the development. However, approximately 40 percent of it is hemlock, which currently does not have a high economic value. If hemlock prices improve, the community forest could harvest up to 50,000 cubic metres of wood. If not, they hope to proceed with the plan to harvest 30,000 cubic metres.

"The 30,000 permit works marginally — we end up in the black," said Kestell. "We may get some bridges and culverts from the ministry, which would reduce the cost of the road upgrades. But there's a lack of valuable species, so I believe this is the last kick at the can in Keen Creek for a while. I think you are looking at the end of logging in Keen Creek for a significant amount of time."
Executive Flight Centre pleads not guilty in Lemon Creek fuel spill case

by Jan McMurtry

Executive Flight Centre (EFC) entered a plea of not guilty in Nelson court on March 31, in the case launched by Sloan Valley citizen Marilyn Burgoon against both EFC and the provincial government for their responsibility in the Lemon Creek jet fuel spill.

The Province did not enter a plea and was not required to, as the hearing was put over to May 19. The hearing was rescheduled because the federal government has not yet decided whether or not it will take over the case.

"The federal government told the court they are still investigating," Burgoon reported, then added wryly, "Two years later, they are still investigating something that clearly happened, so what are they investigating?

Burgoon's lawyer, Lilina Lysenko, agreed that the federal Department of Justice has had a lot of time to make a decision. "They had over a year before Marilyn swore her information, and now it's been seven months since Marilyn swore her information. They've had a significant amount of time, so hopefully we'll have an answer on May 19 as to whether or not the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (PPSC) will be prosecuting this or if it will be us."

Lysenko also pointed out that the PPSC has access to all the evidence submitted by Burgoon's team to the court in November last year, which resulted in Justice McKinnon's ruling that the case could proceed.

However, Lysenko is pleased that the federal government is investigating because "they have the ability to compel more evidence than we do as private citizens. Unlike the PPSC, we can't execute search warrants and require people to present documents."

Although Burgoon has been asked the federal government to take over the prosecution, she is afraid they might stay the case. "My biggest concern is that the crown prosecutor takes over the case and sits on it and delays it and it goes nowhere, because they have done that in the past." Lysenko said it would be disappointing if they stay the case. "To arrive at a decision to stay the case, they have to take into consideration whether or not proceeding with it is in the public interest and if there's a reasonable likelihood of conviction. From our perspective, it's definitely in the public interest. It was a significant spill with long lasting effects, arguably still continuing today. And the evidence we were able to attain seems to suggest a reasonable likelihood of conviction."

Lysenko explained that this is a "strict liability offence," so it doesn't require intent. "It just has to be proven that it happened - that they deposited a deleterious substance in water frequented by fish. That has been widely reported, so we certainly feel there is a reasonable chance of proving that to the satisfaction of the court. Then they have the opportunity to say they took all reasonable steps to prevent the spill, so to establish if they have committed a due diligence offence."

If the PPSC decides to take over the file and prosecute, Lysenko says they could try the case and lay new charges, or they could proceed with the charges laid by Burgoon. "Either way, we'd like to see them proceed because they have a lot more investigative powers and resources... and this is the purpose of the PPSC - to prosecute charges or lay new charges because they have more resources at their disposal than we do," Lysenko said.

Burgoon agrees. "I'm hoping they take it over and then they prosecute. My objective is to have it go the same way as Alexander Morton's case went." Morton launched a private prosecution against a fish farm on the coast, and the federal government took over the case and won.

Members of the public can ask the Department of Justice to pursue charges against Executive Flight Centre and the Province online at: http://www.gov.bc.ca/eicr/environmental-law/alert-demand-justice-lemon-creek.

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News.

Tuesday April 14, 2015

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The Valley Voice April 8, 2015

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by Art Joyce

How does a community recover from disaster? Since the catastrophic landslides of July 12 and 13, 2012, Johnson’s Landing has been on a long journey to answer just that question. The massive scar left on the mountain reflects the impact on the interior landscape felt by residents. Human resilience is infinitely varied. What is a shattering event for some may not be for others. While some residents had no choice but to leave, others who remained are doing their best to move forward. Yet even these hardy souls find that they must deal with a community that is forever changed.

Amanda Bath, in her book Disaster in Paradise, puts it this way: “You think you’ll never recover, and in some ways you don’t – you are no longer the same person you were. But in time you move forward and forge a new path. We the bereaved are like war veterans whose legs and arms have been amputated. Nothing can bring back those limbs, but we learn strategies to function around the losses.”

Angelo and Richard Ortega, owners of Slocan’s Landing Resort Centre, recently decided to put the centre up for sale. Had the first slide hit a day or two earlier, it would have claimed the lives of Richard and three others who were doing work on the water box. Angelo says the lingering perception of the community created by the mountain will never be the same. “Our community is not safe, and this has hurt their business. Cutting property taxes in half has saved them money, but the day of the slide a group brought to the centre to be turned back was at a loss of $12,000. When Angelo arrived back from a distribution run for Kings magazine that Friday, Richard, Friday, Richard had come around the foot of the slide to bring in the supplies she’d picked up. The formerly shallow bed of Gal Catch was scoured to a depth of 20 feet in places. Before the slide it was like a “dirty dell,” says Angelo, but now looks like a “Walmart parking lot.”

“Those here are the most inventive guys. Within two days we had trucks coming in getting us water in tanks from the beach.”

Harvey Armstrong’s pottery studio was destroyed but was too close to the slide zone to be deemed safe anymore. He’s since moved his studio to nearby land owned by his wife Katie O’Keefe and is predating pottery again. A former schoolteacher, O’Keefe came to the Landing in 1989 with a different partner to retire early.

“It’s kind of the urbanite’s dream,” she says, “to homestead and grow your own food.” Armstrong came in the 70s from the US, although he wasn’t a draft dodger, and raised a family here. For her, the deep scar of the slide remains. As stated in Bath’s book, O’Keefe now feels as if she’s always “either looking down the road from the slide.” Both are finding their social lives much diminished as friends moved away, that means being out of the community several days each week to visit friends in Kaslo.

“It changes the whole social dynamic of the community,” says O’Keefe. “My social group is not here so I’m always having to leave. And that’s hard because I love my life here, and I love the Landing.”

Patrick Steinruck and his wife Colleen are facing it a challenge to remain. Patrick now wears part-time water system coordinator. Farming here has always been a challenge and with the land now being valued by 70 percent, there’s little hope of getting back their equity or getting loans for developing the property. He sees this as a powerful burden for young families coming in, since affected families are unlikely to want to sell their properties at such flagrantly devalued rates. And while most residents had enjoyed the Landing for decades, Steinruck’s family had only been there a year and a half when the slide struck. So the majority of their time has been living in a post-disaster zone. The lack of a permanent water system is a particular challenge for farming.

“It’s not like the slide happened and then things went back to normal. People have pulled together and are trying to make it work but to me it still feels pulled apart. Even though we’re coming up to three years on, it’s still really fresh here.”

Bob Yetter, whose property sits on an “island of safety” due to the topography of the slide zone, is more optimistic. Like many residents, however, he remains frustrated by the continuing water supply problem. Because the community is now ‘under the microscope’ of government attention, any public water system must be designed, engineered and approved by Interior Health. That means a much more expensive system than rural residents are used to having to build, according to Randy Valentini – one they’re struggling to find the funds for. Residents are grateful to Gerry Rogers, whose spring has remained the main water supply since the slide. In terms of the social disruption, Yetter says he saw this starting before the slide when high speed broadband came in. He remains cautiously optimistic about the future for the community.

“In the weeks following the slide when I’d hear a loud noise, and I was in the house, I needed to quickly discern what that sound was and generally now I feel like that’s gone for most of the time. There were some comments made in Mandry’s book about how it will never be the same, which may be true, but Johnson’s Landing will be just fine.”

Not reported in the media accounts of the landslides was the fact that another home, the summer house of Eddie Watson, was also destroyed. Washington graduated from one of the last classes of the Argenta Friends School. The Rachel Rozzoli house had to be demolished due to its being within the undermined area of the slide zone.

Next time: More local views of Johnson’s Landing residents and an update on the water system.

ATTENTION TO  
Those Impacted by the recent landslides and overland flooding

Those impacted by the recent landslides and overland flooding event may be eligible for financial support under British Columbia’s Disaster Financial Assistance Program. Assistance is available to qualifying homeowners, residential tenants (renters), small businesses owners, farm owners, charitable organizations and local government bodies that incurred more than $1,000 of uninsured damage during the period February 12, 2012, to April 30, 2012, that are situated within the geographic boundaries of:

- Regional District of North Okanagan including Spallumcheon, Enderby, Coldstream, and other smaller communities
- District of West Kelowna
- Thompson Nicola Regional District including Blackpool
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District
- Electoral Areas C, D, & E

To apply for financial assistance, individuals must complete and return an Application for Disaster Financial Assistance. Application forms are available from the Emergency Management BC, web site at: http://www.embr.gov.bc.ca/ems/dfa_claims/dfa.html. Government agents, local government offices, Emergency Management BC regional offices, or by e-mailing the EMBC Recovery Office in Victoria at DJAinfo@gov.bc.ca or calling toll-free at 1-855-257-4777.

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than JUNE 1, 2015 by e-mail (DJAinfo@gov.bc.ca), by fax (250-953-3542), or by mail: Ministry of Justice, Emergency Management BC, PO Box 5201 Sim Coor Gov’t, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9A5

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BRITISH COLUMBIA
Open letter to MP David Wilks
Canada does not need Bill C-51. We have more to fear from rogue moose than from terrorists.
Serious, Canadians have much, much more to fear from the Harper Conservative Government than from any terrorists. Recent amendments proposed are mere window dressing. Your government is the most anti-democratic, corrupt, secretive, ill-informed government Canada has ever had. That is really what Canadians need to fear. Fortunately, that fear can be alleviated by simply voting you out of office in the next election. In the meantime, Bill C-51 should be scrapped.

Dave McCormick
Kaslo

No excuses for terrorists
This letter is a response to Richard Excherander’s claim that life in the desert, poverty and alienation have moulded radical Islam and ultimately the abbreviation that is ISIS.

Anax is not the only people who have, and continue to, exist in harsh, inhospitable environments: for example indigenous peoples of the Andes in Peru and Tierra del Fuego in Argentina, the Siberian reindeer herders and the Aboriginals of the Central Australian desert. None of these peoples have been inclined to terrorism.

The idea of poverty has been largely disproven. Osama bin Laden came from a wealthy family. The 9/11 hijackers were not exactly starving street beggars. The executioner in the ISIS beheading videos was identified as an upper-class British citizen. If poverty was the sole or principal root cause, then all impoverished peoples, Muslim or otherwise, would engage in terrorist activities.

Even if all grievances, real or imagined, were addressed, terrorist

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

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material. Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.

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OPINION

From the Valleys

Where is the captain of the ship?
Mr. Harper, please check your map – I think we’re headed in the wrong direction.

In an article by Bruce Cassille of the Canadian Press, it was noted that Canada has not submitted its targets for reduction of greenhouse gases by March 31, 2015. This date was a follow-up to agreements made in Copenhagen in 2009 and the Lima Conference in December of 2014. That submission has not been made.

Writing for the Bloomberg Business Report, Josh Wingrove commented on Canada’s premiers meeting a deal with the federal government that would clear the path for pipeline projects in exchange for new environmental commitments from the federal government that would include the reduction of greenhouse gases.

In January of 2015, in the House of Commons, the Government of Canada was asked if it would be ready to fulfill the terms to which it agreed in Lima 2014. Again, that statement of intent was on March 31.

There is nothing terribly wrong with this picture. If the Government of Canada is working on the establishment of pipelines which, in turn, help promote the expansion of operations such as the Alberta oil sands which, in turn, contribute additional CO2 to the atmosphere – how can that scenario possibly lead to an economic future that includes lowering CO2 emissions?

This is not a case of either/or: environment or the economy; it is a case of needing leaders who will help us move toward a sustainable economy that does indeed require an environment in which to operate.

Our ‘ship of state’ is in serious need of a new captain and a crew who understand we are heading for the rocks – it’s time to change course now.

Ron Robinson
Nelson

Imagine One Now
Hello to everyone in the Valley Voice community. Our family has lived in Appledale for 25 years, and we’ve seen and experienced how people help each other out in many different ways. Recent years have been particularly tough.

One person is not going to change the world, but as a community we can be a spark that spreads throughout the world, so maybe its time for us to go on the offense and create our own positive and good news.

Niels Hansen
Appledale

The Valley Voice April 8, 2015

DON’T SEND OUR TROOPS INTO DANGER

MILITARY AND TRINDADIAN VALLEYS’ DISAPPEARING SPACE IN SYRIA

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There you go again: being unCanadian.

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Why I vote Green

In every election since 1988 I have told someone that voting Green is a waste of my time, and by doing so I will be responsible for electing a federal Conservative or provincial Liberal government. Well, the truth is that since 1995, when I first started voting Green, I have been a Conservative and in 2006 I voted for Canada’s first Green MP in British Columbia in 2011, then Canada’s first Green MLA in 2013, followed by a Green MLA in New Brunswick in 2014. And I intend to volunteer and work for the election of more Green MPs and Green MLAs for the rest of my life, and do not appreciate people telling me that my vision and values are a waste of time and to vote for others.

Most recently the Liberal and NDP parties had 131 seats and 47.7% of the vote after the 2006 federal election, as compared to 123 seats and 36.3% support for the Conservatives. After the 2011 election the Liberals and NDP still had 114 seats and 44.4% support of the electorate as compared to the Conservatives’ 143 seats and 37.7% support. Through two federal elections and two provincial elections, the Liberals and the NDP, with Confidence and Supply from the Bloc Québécois, could have formed a majority government of the House of Commons. However, for reasons they need to explain, chose not to do so.

I therefore finally object to people lecturing me in public when they are expounding support of another political party that, when it had the chance to bring in electoral reform and a proportional Canadian voting system: take action on climate change: maintain our role in the world as a peacekeeper, etc., could not do so.

But in 2006 and 2011 I even attended public meetings where it was agreed that we needed to support a coalition government and an electoral alliance, but it all came to naught.

So in this election I will work for Bill Green (who I know of for over 20 years), because of his own work with First Nations and businesses like Teck in pursuit of water ecosystem protection and the bringing of salmon over the border into Canada. Bill has the vision and personality I want in Ottawa—to help develop cross-party support in the House of Commons for all legislation and policy and action that will be in the best interest of all Canadians.

In addition I am encouraging New Democrats, Liberals, and Conservatives and Greens to consider Bill Green as their future MP, in order to build a coalition for change that moves us away from the false choice of yes or no. Bill Green does not so sadly dominate our House of Commons. I want to work for someone who offers positive change, knows how to bring people together from across the political spectrum, and who will work to find meaningful solutions to what I worked for over the last 22 years of my life has been a waste of time. If you want to suggest to me that I should consider some other option than voting for the Green Party and Bill Green, I recommend you need to tell me why another party’s vision, values, and policies would be better. Otherwise you are just contributing to all the negativity that currently dominates and turns so many people off Canadian politics.

Andy Shadrock
Kaslo

Open letter to Garth Wiggill, Ministry of Forests re: MCC

The news of MCC acquiring Argenta Forest has now been circulated by community mailing and you will be getting a series of communications on the matter. I am writing to say that not all Ladner Village residents are of like mind.

First, what goes around comes around. After having the entire upper Danson removed from the MCC area of operation for carbon habitat protection, it seems reasonable to expect that areas UCBC Timber Sites area in close proximity to Danson might also be considered. Who else has a position to promote a responsible licence would be pivotal to the governance for a licence to continue. Most important, the work would go done to acceptable standards.

Being a Jainist, I am not party to the legal ramifications of anything I am told. However, as an assistant manager in the Forest Service, a holder of timber sites under the Small Business Enterprise Program, and a Crown forest licence for 20 years, I know this situation would not have developed in times past. Clearly, there is a need for legislation and change to enable the prevention of bad non-compliance in forest licences.

Richard Brenton
Argenta

Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal best chance for Central Selkirk herd

The Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) played a leading role in the establishment of Valhalla and Goat Range Provincial Parks, and it goes without saying that VWS welcomes the recent expansion to West Arm Provincial Park. However, the VWS’ claims, however, the addition will not significantly benefit the endangered Selkirk Mountain caribou herd.

Scientific studies have proven that mountain caribou require large areas of intact wilderness habitat, which must include old growth forest at least 140 years old. It is true that the 219-hectare core of the new park contains all of the forest, but it is too small to be significant to the survival of the Selkirk Selkirk. Maps also indicate that much of the herd is too steep for caribou and some of it has also been burned.

A lot of caribou habitat in West Arm burned in the 2013 fire. But even before the fire, the Selkirk Selkirk was mostly concentrated around Stagleap Provincial Park. The mountain caribou recovery plan added another 4,000 hectares of partial protection between and around the two parks, but a large part of it is heavily cleared. The fact that the herd annually summer 18 animals in the devastating result of many years of government unwillingness to protect the herd’s habitat.

If we want to keep mountain caribou in the Selkirk Mountains, we must also consider the Central Selkirk herd, which ranges from Stagleap Provincial Park to the WestArm and Ladner drainages. Over the years, successive BC governments have taken some laudable steps to protect this herd, but much more needs to be done, as the herd recently rebounded from just 9 animals to a mere 33.

Attention must be given to other centres of mountain caribou habitat on the endangered species in the Selkirks. Expanding our park system is certainly the right approach, since parks offer full, permanent protection (relative to just being a “wild area”)—unlike the Umpqua Winter Range (UWR) created under the mountain caribou recovery plan. If the caribou fail to thrive, the UWR cannot be used. This would fast-track the demise of other species. Without a dramatic increase in our park system, the public could possibly lose the last hope of saving the UWR forest protection, numerous other species, and all the wolves killed from helicopters alone. The public would be left with exactly nothing to pass on to our kids for the many years of effort and tax dollars spent trying to protect caribou.

VWS calls on the Province to implement the 156,461-hectare Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal that it submitted to government in June 2011. This park would include more old-growth forest for caribou, as well as critical habitat for many other species. This proposal offers a rare opportunity for the government to create a lasting legacy and gives the Central Selkirk herd its best chance for survival by the end of this decade. (See photo) The Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal is for government to implement the 156,461-hectare Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal that it submitted to government in June 2011. This park would include more old-growth forest for caribou, as well as critical habitat for many other species. This proposal offers a rare opportunity for the government to create a lasting legacy and gives the Central Selkirk herd its best chance for survival by the end of this decade.

Azone Shadrock
Valhalla Wilderness Society
New Denver

Voting strategy in Kootenay-Columbia riding

Recently, Andy Shadrock has publicly expressed some excellent personal reasons for voting Green in the forthcoming federal election. Like Andy, I certainly prefer to vote my heart and my principles, which in my case means I would again be voting Green. But Andy’s reasoning (as I understand it) is not my reasoning in this upcoming election.

I do not understand Andy. I cannot trust that there are any sufficient net-good from the NDP (or the Liberal Party) to justify their receiving our votes in the Kootenay-Columbia riding. He tells us that prior to the 2011 election, those two parties had two chances in which to form a coalition government, one that he imagines might have brought in proportional representation and voting, and also policies favourable to reducing carbon emissions. He implies that voting should always be for the best candidate, and for the party with the best current policies, with no other values given consideration. However, voting for the best candidate and the best party often will not lead us to one and the same vote. And sometimes, voting for the candidate who appears best, who is also running for the party that appears best, will clearly risk helping to elect another candidate representing the party that is likely to do the least to improve the values that we hold dear.

Andy has asked us: what kind of change do we want to see after the next federal election? He tells us that only voting with our hearts can offer us the best chance for that kind of change. But how often now have we seen otherwise? Andy has not explained how he imagines a vote for Bill Green will be the best way to promote the change we seek, even in the likely event that Bill loses and the Conservative Party will remain in power.

I see the greatest chance for the change that I hope for by giving as much financial support as I can directly to the federal Green Party this year, and then voting in the K-C riding for the only underdog candidate who stands an excellent chance of replacing our existing Conservative MP in the next parliament—Wayne Stetski.

I share Andy’s disappointment that the federal NDP didn’t form a coalition government with the Liberals (and vice versa) when they might have done so. But voting Green in this riding, in the next election, will not change the past, nor make me feel better, or safer, or that I am a better Canadian citizen. In our K-C riding, with an NDP candidate who is an independent, unlike the NDP is even likely to field, I hope that voting NDP will give both that party, and the Conservative party, some humility, and give us an election this year with those Green MPs who may be also elected in other ridings this time around.

Burney Gilmore
Kaslo
The federal election, the economy, and fear

The federal election campaign is underway. The Valley Voice published letters to the editor on March 25 from Mike Mitro, David Wilks (Conservative) and Alex Amatuzio (NDP) re Bill C-51.

In my opinion Prime Minister Harper is re-establishing a sovereign member state of the United Nations, and enact Bill C-51, a challenge to freedom of speech and association provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, in a bid to create fear and divert public attention from the declining state of the economy. Conservative election strategists know public reaction lags the onset of a recession. Their plans are to return the Conservatives to power next fall before the full impact of the slump in about a year from now.

The economies of Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC, heavily reliant on the oil and gas sector, face a bleak future given the end of their major northern oil zones, and among western Canadian energy sector workers. The Alberta provincial government, confronting a $37 billion budget shortfall, enacted an austerity budget with higher taxes on wage earners in the income range of $30,000 to $100,000 a year. Health premiums have been imposed. Corporate taxes will rise.

Mr. Harper has supported the pet projects of pro-government academics and purists who peddle that market fundamentals are sound and unemployment unavoidable: “electoral districts” are laying off thousands of workers as if they were paviours in the Quebec City suburb of Boucherville. The government will not pay the salaries that are due. The Prime Minister’s boast that Canada is a global energy superpower has a hollow ring. It is easy to ride high in the polls as the price of oil rises above $100 per barrel. As the price of oil drops below $50 a barrel one would expect that the federal government would come to its senses. It doesn’t.

The Prime Minister simply changes channels and spreads fear about terror. He has no plan for the domestics.

The Prime Minister is acting recklessly. His government has no vision for Canada beyond the next election and the next war. Incontinent and wobbly Conservative MP’s, ideological, no longer on his side, complain he is a threat to their independence. His government is not renewable and it should not be discharged into nature. Hence the present pitiful state of pollution on this planet.

In our systems we use ozone, a form of oxygen that is 35 times stronger than chlorine, yet leaves no toxic residuals, while allowing clean air, clean water and sanitation and purification at the same time.

We are the first in the world to achieve this on a fully automatic industrial and full-proof scale, and we have the capacity to handle whole cities. Our technology is well suited in combination with solar energy, the wind, natural gas and septic systems is happening during daylight hours.

The first step, just like at our Factory in Nakusp, is to implement these technologies and to build factories. Factories will be able to completely cut off their access to the sewer pipes, and they love it, because it removes all the risks of their fines and liabilities for anything they discharge, and the risk to the environment. And they can re-use the recovered water in industrial processes and for flushing toilets, thus dramatically reducing the cost of fresh water supply. That alone will dramatically reduce the water consumption worldwide.

When it comes to the general population, these systems are very applicable to municipal wastewater systems. We would like to build the first demonstration projects at the Village of Nakusp, in cooperation with the largest BC municipal wastewater company, Ecora Engineering in Kelowna. NSF is already planning for a world conference in Nakusp on this.

In the past, we were not accepting job applications yet, but we are planning for employment opportunities in the future. We are developing for the future as fast as we can.

Mada Stubbles

Letter to BC Minister of Energy and Mines from local MP and MLA rep sant j. man

We write today on behalf of BC residents who are resistant to having smart meters installed wirelessly in their homes due to health and safety concerns. Such concerns have led other jurisdictions in North America to offer an alternative for customers to either keep their present analog meters or use a radio-off smart meter. In Quebec, for instance, residents pay $15 within 30 days and $5 per month. In British Columbia, the cost of either of these alternatives is very high and not affordable, or not available, or not available for BC Hydro customers.

The BC NDP Opposition opposed the government’s decision to force BC Hydro to spend over one billion dollars on smart meters without BC Utilities Commission approval or a well-researched business case. BC Hydro customers are now paying for this lack of accountability with rate hikes.

The Meter Choices program was to allow those with health concerns to be able to pay a small fee to keep their current analog meter, or to allow a smart meter with the radio signal therefore. The cost of converting their power from BC Hydro are paying significantly higher ‘legacy fee’ rates than any other jurisdiction in Canada to be able to access one of these alternatives.

BC Hydro customers across the province need to be treated with respect even when they disagree with the government’s direction. This is not happening. BC Hydro customers who refuse smart meters are charged an extra $32.40 per month. If they refuse to pay this fee, their electricity is being shut off.

A number of our constituents in the Slocan Valley have had their power shut off even in the midst of winter. As a public policy we find this to be totally unacceptable and inhumane. We feel that resolution can be found to accommodate those who are requiring this program because of health concerns.

We urge you to ensure that:

• BC Hydro immediately stop collection of electricity to those affected homes at no cost.
• BC Hydro adopt a fee structure more consistent with jurisdictions elsewhere in North America and in no greater than that of Quebec.

Karine Coutou, MLA, Kootenay West
Alex Amatuzio, MP, BC Southern Interior

Annual Ozone Systems in Nakusp

This is in response to your March 25 front-page article, "Blue Gold: see how corporations are buying up water."

I am pleased to announce that at our Ozone Systems factory in Nakusp, we have developed and operate, now for 12 years, a system that completely recycles and recovers industrial sewer water and drinking water quality standards. Our factory has no connection to the municipal sewer pipes, and it has no septic field. This system was developed prior to 2000 thanks to the BC Ministry of Health Innovative Technologies program. Last year we invited scientific representatives from NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) USEPA, and OTOA, and obtained reports, all with flying colours. We already cooperate with the Bill Gates Foundation on implementing a system that can save the huge investment in its massive scale in their projects in Africa. This technology has been selected by the State of California for 10% recovery of all wastewater and its re-use on irrigation. It is also connected to projects in China, where they have allowed us to clean up their wastewater and dust, and at the EU environmental commission for implementing into EU regulations.

Presently municipal wastewater post-treatment are either not done at all, or done with UV radiation, which has not been proven to sanitize or purify wastewater. High energy UV is not renewable and it should not be discharged into nature. Hence the present pitiful state of pollution on this planet.

In our systems we use ozone, a form of oxygen that is 35 times stronger than chlorine, yet leaves no toxic residuals, while allowing clean air, clean water and sanitation and purification at the same time.

We are the first in the world to achieve this on a fully automatic industrial and full-proof scale, and we have the capacity to handle whole cities. Our technology is well suited in combination with solar energy, the wind, natural gas and septic systems is happening during daylight hours.

The first step, just like at our Factory in Nakusp, is to implement these technologies and to build factories. Factories will be able to completely cut off their access to the sewer pipes, and they love it, because it removes all the risks of their fines and liabilities for anything they discharge, and the risk to the environment. And they can re-use the recovered water in industrial processes and for flushing toilets, thus dramatically reducing the cost of fresh water supply. That alone will dramatically reduce the water consumption worldwide.

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In the past, we were not accepting job applications yet, but we are planning for employment opportunities in the future. We are developing for the future as fast as we can.

Mada Stubbles

Nakusp
Heli-ski day trips proposed by Nelson company

by Ian McMurray
Kootenay Heli-Ski Inc. (KHS) has plans to offer heli-skiing and snowboarding day trips in an area between Kootenay and Slocan Lakes, bordering Kootenai Glacier Provincial Park.

Funding available for New Denver-Silverton groups

If you are part of a New Denver or Silverton area society or group doing good work in the community, there may be a new funding source for your work. The Turner Zion United Church is offering the proceeds from the sale of its New Denver church property to support local initiatives for the well-being of the community.

Celebrating the Sinxt with history, language and song

Touchstones Nelson and Selkirk College are joining forces to present the event Celebrating the Sinxt: An Evening of History, Language, and Song, happening at the Shambhala Performance Hall on Thursday, April 9 at 7:30 pm. This landmark event will celebrate the history of the Sinxt people and the revival of their cultural presence in the Kootenays over the last 35 years.

The story of the Sinxt is one that needs to be told,” says Jessie Denes, programming and co-ordinator and co-curator at Touchstones Nelson, “and I think our community is keen to learn about the history of Sinxt presence on this land, and to celebrate Sinxt culture.”

The event will begin with drumming and prayer, followed by the 35-minute film The Journey Upstream by Erica Kowz, which documents the Sinxt return to their ancestral lands. Lori Butchley will talk about how and why the government declared Sinxt extinction happened and continues to persist in this view. Eileen Delahunty-Pearkes will speak about where and how the Sinxt lived and thrived. Sinxt language will be shared by shayl Boyd (Ishkamek Language House) and LaRaie Wiley (Salish School of Spokane). LaRaie will then show her mastery of the language by singing contemporary pop songs in Sinxt! The event will be closed with drumming.

The event is one of several programs happening in conjunction with the exhibition entitled, a collection of indigenous and Sinxt prints on paper from the Kamloops Art Gallery, curated by Tania Willett, Aboriginal Curator in Residence. This is a unique opportunity to learn about and experience Sinxt culture first hand. Space is limited, so people are encouraged to buy their tickets early.

Did you know you pay no capital gains tax if you donate stocks to a registered charity?

For information: 1-877-649-5643
www.slocanvalleylegacy.com donations@slocanvalleylegacy.com

ATTENTION TO

Those impacted by the recent landslides and overland flooding

Those impacted by the recent landslides and overland flooding event may be eligible for financial support under British Columbia’s Disaster Financial Assistance Program.

Assistance is available to qualifying homeowners, residential tenants (renters), small business owners, farm owners, charitable organizations and local government bodies that incurred more than $1,000 of uninsured damage during the period the week of February 9-15, 2015, and are situated within the geographic boundaries of:

- Regional District of Central Kootenay (Electoral Areas A, D, F, H, I, J, K)

Inurable damages, such as sewer or septic systems back-up, and water entry from above ground including roofs, windows or other areas of the building that are not at ground level, are not eligible for DFP.

For your financial assistance, individuals must complete and return an Application for Disaster Financial Assistance. Application forms are available from the Emergency Management BC website at http://www.embrc.gov.bc.ca/ems/dfa claims/dfa.html. Government agencies, most local government offices, Emergency Management BC regional offices, or by e-mailing the ENBC Recovery Office in Victoria at DFA@emr.gov.bc.ca or calling toll-free at 1-888-257-4777.

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than JUNE 1, 2015 by e-mail (DFAgov.bc.ca), by fax (250-952-5542), or by mail: Ministry of Justice, Emergency Management BC, PO Box 9201 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9J1.

SHAKEN SENSE

The company acknowledges that the area contains significant wildlife values and habitat. A professional wildlife impact assessment and aerial survey for mountain goat were submitted along with the management plan, and these reports contain strategies to minimize impacts on wildlife in the area.

KHS submitted its application to government for the use of the Crown land on March 11. Comments from the public are being accepted until May 2. The application can be viewed and commented on at arf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca; search file no. 4405571.

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Employment Opportunity

FULL-TIME

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT WITH School District 10

Nakusp, BC

For full position details including qualifications, please refer to the Employers (Employment section) of our website at www.sd10.bc.ca.

Cover letter and resume should be sent to Ms. Tony Taylor, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer, via email to taylor.taylor@sd10.bc.ca by 12:00 pm (Noon) on Monday, April 20, 2015. The successful applicant will be subject to a Criminal Record Check.

We appreciate your interest but regret that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
New Denver council, March 24: Local RCMP officer attends as delegation

by Katrina Campbell

• RCMP Cst. Sean Chatwynd attended as a delegation in place of Cpl. Ryan Fowler. Chatwynd, who has been with the Slocan Lake detachment since August 2014, introduced himself and talked about policing in the area. He noted that 30 percent of the detachment’s calls were from the south valley.

Ann Buika said this was why council wanted community policing because "a little presence keeps things quiet." Chatwynd said each constable was designated a school to liaise with, his in Skidegate as his young son is a student there.

• Buika said she had received a survey from the RCMP and asked for council’s help and input in filling it out. A document called ‘Rural Health Services in BC’ lists the Slocan Community Health Centre as ‘remote,’ claiming it serves fewer than 1,000 people, which is only first-year and inexperienced care, and can’t sustain local health services. Council is asking for a correction and reclassification to small rural, and also to list the SCHC as a Level 1 Community Health Centre with no bed. At present, the SCHC does not even show up on the list of centres categorized by level of care.

• In response to an invitation from the Slocan Lake Community Legacy Fund, Buika said she would attend its AGM May 21 on behalf of council.

• Up to three members of council were authorized to attend Emergency Management BC’s workshop for elected officials on May 27.

• The Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC) invited council to attend the ‘Keeping it Rural’ conference in Nelson April 26-28. The event aims to gather stakeholders on developing, supporting and funding projects and initiatives that will stimulate and advance rural development. "Village C Ponds" is a program that has been successful in Slocan. Supporters say it is "an important tool to help farmers and others retain land in the community and to support the rural character of the area."

• The slocan Times has advised council that it will cease publication and the future is uncertain. Council hopes to find a solution to have the newspaper continue to publish.

• Council granted a request from Tracey and Francis Oldham for tree removal, at their request. On Villa land across from their property on Edelberg Ave. Woodbury reported the trees are on an unstable slope and the work is needed to prevent the possibility of trees falling onto their property. He added that there is no change to the viewscap, e.g. the removal of the small number of trees will not give them a view of the lake.

• Council receives a Temporary Licence of Occupancy. Council was also advised on challenges faced in building on municipally owned property. The province has recently made changes to how land is licenced for use of municipally held property for other purposes. This will limit the Village’s ability for other people’s activities on its property.

The Village will assign its leased interest in the gym, owned by Interior Health, to the RDCK. Since 2005, the Village has leased the gym from IH. The new lease agreement is for an indefinite term.

The RDCK is seeking input from the public on the proposed bylaw to deliver programs through Recreation Commission. The bylaw will set out on the millennial and remove the Village’s liability expenses.

Library hosts Slocan Valley student short story contest

Library hosts Slocan Valley student short story contest

Published March 18, 2015

Antonia M. Blackwell

Adrian Zuniga

Harley Neufeld

The Slocan Times

As a contest, it is set up to give literary creativity in Slocan Valley students. The contest, a project of the Slocan Valley Community Library, will award cash prizes for the best short stories by grade 7 or 8 students. The contest is open to students who live in Eagle Pass, Slocan, Silverton, and New Denver.

Authors must be members of the Slocan Valley Library, and their stories must be at least 500 words in length.

The contest is open to students who live in Eagle Pass, Slocan, Silverton, and New Denver.

Teachers are encouraged to sign up students, and library staff will also be available to help. The contest will be judged by a panel of judges from the Slocan Valley Library.

The winners will be announced on June 1.

SLOCAN VALLEY

VILLAGE OF

NEW DENVER

NOTICE – ARBOUR DAY

The Village of New Denver is holding an Arbour Day on Thursday, April 16, 2014. We will pick up all yard and pruning waste that is placed at the curb by 8 a.m. Please ensure that all branches are bundled and tied and all garden refuse (leaves, etc.) is bagged. Absolutely no household garbage or construction material will be picked up. Please ensure that all bundles and bags are an acceptable weight. Remember, you only have to leave one bag in comparison to the number of persons will have to lift. Thank you for your cooperation.

Village of New Denver

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday April 21st, 2015
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
564 Highway 6 – Winlaw

Kindergarten Registration & Multi-age Elementary Applications
For 2015/16 Now Accepted

No family turned away for financial reasons

(250) 226-7737 – email: wholeschoo@gmail.com
COMMUNITY

Childcare centre opens in Winlaw offering full-day care

by Jan McMurray

The Winlaw Childcare Centre is now open. Jennifer Derco, Early Childhood Educator, opened the daycare on April 1 at Cedar Creek Gardens.

The centre is open 7 am to 5:30 pm, and offers full-day daycare with a preschool program included, as well as after-school care. Drop-ins are welcome as long as there is space available. The centre is licensed to take children 0-12 years old.

Derco says after having children of her own, she realized how much they love being around children. “It’s a lot of fun watching them learn, seeing the wonder in their eyes. I’ve never felt so grateful doing anything before,” she says.

Derco’s daughters are 6 and 7 years old. Wanting to live in the valley, she experienced firsthand the need for full-day daycare. She says she has room to be flexible with her hours at the centre.

Winlaw Childcare Centre

Winlaw Childcare Centre for parents who need it.

Although the law allows for a ratio of eight children to one educator, Derco says her personal policy is six to one. Once she has six children registered, she plans to hire another person trained in early childhood education.

The space at Cedar Creek Gardens has been totally renovated, with a backyard play area. Derco says her curriculum is “emergent style,” based on the interests of the children.

Derco moved to the Slocan Valley at 12 years old, when her parents took over Lemon Creek Lodge. She attended WE Graham and Mt. Sentinel Schools, and got her Early Childhood Education certificate from Selkirk College.

See the ad on this page for contest information for the centre.

SLOCAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY’S

Slocan Valley Short Story Contest
For Valley Students in Grades 7 to 12

3 CATEGORIES

9 CASH PRIZES

ONE DEADLINE

Grade 7 & 8 – Maximum 500 words
Grade 9 & 10 – 750 - 1,000 words
Grade 11 & 12 – 1,250 - 1,500 words

Each category: 1st Prize $100 2nd Prize $50 3rd Prize $25

Two requirements: At least one scene must be set in the Slocan Valley. Entrants must live in and/or attend school in the Slocan Valley from Hills to the Junction.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: MAY 15, 2015

INFORMATION & ONLINE SUBMISSION:
http://contest.slocanlibrary.ca

HIKE FOR HOSPICE

WHEN
SUNDAY MAY 3rd 2015

LOCATION
HOSPITAL COMPLEX
NEW DENVER, BC

TIME
10 AM REGISTRATION
10:30 AM STRETCHING & WARM UP
11:00 AM HIKE BEGINS
12:30 PM PICNIC IN CENTENNIAL PARK
(Can’t make the walk, come (join us for a picnic)
(Bring your own picnic)

REGISTRATION
$5 – ON THE DAY

ALL AGES EVENT
BIKES, DOGS, STROLLERS, HORSES,
WHEELCHAIRS... EVERYONE WELCOME

ROUTE
3.5KM. (APPROX)
MAPS AVAILABLE
ON DAY.
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WHEELCHAIR &
STROLLER FRIENDLY
ROUTES AVAILABLE.

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Item # 4600326 Reg. 27.99 Now $21.95

2.) Hose Garden 5/8 X 30’ Heavy Duty with Nozzle
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3.) Seed potato’s $6.99
Russet, Norland, Yukon, Kennebec and Red Pontiac

4.) Rake Plastic Leaf 22”
Item # 4041123 Reg. 8.29 Now $5.99

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Are Here
We have a good selection of
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“your favorite seeds” in stock.
Slocan Valley Arts Council holds social evening, April 1

by Ian McMurray

The Slocan Valley Arts Council social evening on April 1 featured a delectable potluck spread and some homegrown entertainment in the beautiful Arts Gardens Bed & Breakfast in Winlaw.

Laurn White, president of SVAC, welcomed everyone to the event. "This is a chance for the members to meet the board and for the board to meet the members," she said. She explained that the arts council is funded through the BC Arts Council and the RDKC. That funding is then available to members through a grant process.

The SVAC also administers the CKCA (Kootenay Cultural Alliance) funding programs in the valley. SVAC hires an administrator, Lesley Mayfield, to look after this grant program.

CKCA grant applications first go to a local committee, not the SVAC board. The local committee makes recommendations to the CKCA steering committee, which makes the final decisions.

One of the newest members of the arts council, the Valley Gems Theatre Group, led the crowd in a theatre genres and performed a "taster" of their upcoming play, 'The Real Inspector Hound.' You won't want to miss this show on April 24 and 25 at the Kootenay Whole. The group formed last year and put on their first play at Slocan Park Hall.

Robin Dupont, a member and accomplished ceramics artist, made a presentation, describing himself as "a fully fledged clay geek." Robin moved to Winlaw in 2004. With a SVAC grant, Robin brought an expert to the valley to lead a workshop on his property, where they built and fired an 'Aasagama' kiln. This very large kiln facilitates community," Robin said. Many pieces are fired at once, and the firing takes days, and three-and-a-half to four-and-a-half cords of wood. Several people participate in the process, keeping the fire going all night.

Robin also spoke about marketing and promotion, although he claimed he is not an authority on this subject. He said quality photos of his artwork have been the most important tool in promoting himself as a crafts-person. He encouraged artists to market themselves in as many ways as possible - showing in galleries, social networking, participating in the Columbia Basin Culture Tour, through the artist's own website. He also advised artists to expand their audience. "Getting out of the valley is really important. Go to conferences and workshops. There's a lot you can teach people, and the skills pale in comparison to the connections you make.

Nadine Smith, who works at the CKCA office, announced that the deadline to register for the Columbia Basin Culture Tour is April 13.

Healthy Child Day in Slocan: free info from health professionals

Healthy Child Day, a free special event for families with young children is set for Friday, April 24 at WE Graham Community School in Slocan. Health and wellness services for families will be highlighted with information displays staffed by people with expertise on infant development, dental health, hearing, speech and language development, refexology, herbal approaches to wellness, physio and occupational therapies, and more.

It can be challenging for families to know where to access information they need to support their young children, so the aim is to bring all of the health services providers together in one place and make it a fun day for families. Professionals will be coming from Nelson, Trail, Castlegar and the Slocan Valley to share their information and connect with families.

As parents celebrate milestones and face ever-changing challenges with their babies, toddlers and preschoolers, they often have many questions about where their child is at, and what to expect next. Individual sessions with a trained consultant will be available throughout the day to help parents understand their child's stage of development, and offer ideas or resources to support them. The sessions use a play-based approach with the child and a parent questionnaire (Ages & Stages). Call Penny at 250-226-7605 soon to book one of these fun and informative sessions, as limited time slots are available.

All families with young children are welcome to this free event from 10 am to 1 pm on Friday, April 24. Crafts and activities for the children, plus a circle time of songs and stories, are all part of the day. A nutritious lunch and door prizes will be provided.

Healthy Child Day is co-hosted by the Slocan Valley Early Childhood Advisory Council and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, with funding support from the Columbia Basin Trust.
Yard and Yardage Sale returns to Slocan Valley Threads Guild

submitted

On Sunday, April 25 from 10 am to 2 pm, the Slocan Valley Threads Guild will be the place to be, when the popular Yard and Yardage Sale returns. Indoor tables will be laden with great deals on fabric, fibre craft supplies, notions and related books and patterns. Outside, at the Garden Centre, you can buy perennial plants, get tips from experienced gardeners and visit with friends and neighbours. Everything is reasonably priced.

Savoury lunch items and sweet snacks, tea and coffee will be served in the tea-room area. You can sit and socialize or wander to enjoy demonstrations and the display of a variety of the art and fine crafts made by talented members of the Threads Guild during the past year.

Information about the Guild and memberships will be available, should you be inspired to join.

The Slocan Valley Threads Guild is located where Highway 6 meets the Perry’s Xing Back Road, a five-minute drive north of Winlaw. Plan a Sunday drive on a spring morning to feed your soul.

If you need further info call Sharon at 226-7703. This is a free event. No dogs please.

Kaslo Sourdough Bakery has some news for 2015!

We are excited to announce that all 12 varieties of Kaslo Sourdough’s “Pasta Fermentata™” have received Non-GMO Project Verification!

Silvio Lettrari, owner and I, Heidi Lettrari also exhibited our pastas in the world’s largest natural food show – “Natural Products Expo West” in Anaheim, California earlier in March 4th – 8th. There was a record of 71,000 attendees and almost 2,700 exhibitors!

As a BC Food Producer, we were happy to represent Canada in the Western Canadian Pavilion and are honoured to report that our products were nominated for the prestigious award of “This is What’s Next” for 2015.

Voting is officially open, vote before May 19th, 2015!

The public will have the chance to vote for who will win this award and we’d love your support!

Visit: www.nextforecast.com/nexxy

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO VOTE: 1. Go to the URL above 2. Vote Kaslo Sourdough (under the left column) 3. Confirm your vote, with the email sent to you!

Let a Canadian Company bring it home!

You're at home here.

FOOD SPECIALS

| Organic Celery Hearts | $2.99 | Fresh Seedless Grapes | PER LB $2.99 |
| Fresh Raspberries | 170g | $2.99 | Fresh Strawberries | 454g |
| 100% Cranberry Fruit Blend - 5 Sizes | 1.36 L | $3.99 | Co-op Gold Pickles | Sandesh Garlic |
| Purex Bathroom Tissue | 300ml | $2.09 | 30 Super Pack | Jumbo Rolls |
| Brunswick Sardines | 106g | $1.29 | Breyers Classic Ice Cream | 1.66 L |
| 7 Different Flavours in the Blue Carton | 375ml | $5.99 | Unico Pitted Olives | Sliced or Medium |

TWO WEEKS LEFT TO FUEL UP TO WIN!!!

Contest ends April 23rd - How close are you to winning one of these?
- 3 Prizes of $30,000
- DevWatt 5 Tool Combo Kits
- 15 Prizes of Free Groceries for a Year
- 30 Pounds of Free Gas for a Year
- Poulan Lawn Mowers
- $5,000 Vacation Getaways - Gift Cards - Coupons and FREE STUFF!!!

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3024, Hwy 6, Slocan Park
Ph: 250-226-7433

April 6, 2015 The Valley Voice

SD10 INVITES YOU TO ATTEND:

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT CONSULTATIONS

SD10 is in the process of renewing its Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement with the Ministry of Education. This agreement sets out our goals for the program and methods for achieving those goals. Come and learn about our Aboriginal Education Programs and see some of the students work. Your input into the program goals and delivery would be greatly appreciated.

For further information, please contact: Heather Deere, Director of Learning heather.deere@sd10.bc.ca

AIRBAND COMPETITION

SAT. APRIL 25 SILVERTON MEMORIAL HALL

TICKETS: 10 ADULTS / 2 FREE / 12 & UNDER / 3 FREE / 5 & UNDER / 6 FREE

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Sun 8 AM - 9 PM * Mon - Sat 6 AM - 9 PM

THE VALLEY VOICE

COMMUNITY
Slocan Lake Gallery Society hosts community discussion on collaboration

by Ian McMurray

The Slocan Lake Gallery Society, as the area’s arts council, invited people from several community organizations to a meeting at Karon Hall on March 28 to discuss collaboration.

After a welcome from Martha Nichol, Leisl Main gave a brief history of the arts council and gallery society. In 1979, the arts council was formed and included the corridor from the lower valley to Nakusp. The Silverton school building was closed and sitting empty, and the arts council saw an opportunity to acquire the building for an arts centre. To facilitate this, they created the Slocan Lake Gallery Society. The Village took ownership of the building in 1980 and drew up a lease with the gallery society.

Vote for a Green Energy Youth Centre!

We want to turn this…

Into this…

CBT Community Initiatives Voting

When: April 12, 2015 12:00 - 4:00 pm
Where: Nakusp Community Complex

Project Name: “New Youth, Parkour, and Biomass Centre”

Since the destruction of the youth Green Door building in 2006, Nakusp and area’s youth have been without a facility that truly caters to their ambitions and provides the necessary skills they need to succeed. In collaboration with the Nakusp & Area Youth Society, Nakusp School District No. 10, Nakusp Parkour, and the Village of Nakusp (pending), this project aims to transform the former Green Door into a self-sustainable, green energy, youth facility.

A self-sustainable Green Door will be achieved through the creation of a biomass heating system. Local wood waste would be used to eliminate heating costs of the facility, with excess energy possibly being supplied to School District No. 10, and other buildings. The Green Door would become a de facto supplier of green, renewable energy – helping to educate the area’s youth about sustainable energy and reduce dependence on grant money.

With a stable source of income, the new Green Door would work towards its aim of supporting ambitious youth. Green Door will offer youth “instructors” free spaces where youth can pursue their business ideas and have room to grow without suffering financial hardship. The facility will also include a variety of recreational spaces: a parkour gym, leisure area, swimming pool and a greenhouse.

The new Green Door will be built entirely by youth. Under the supervision of local tradesmen, youth will have the opportunity to begin or continue an apprenticeship in any trades relevant to the construction of the facility. All timber will be sourced from area sawmills and contractors.

Owned by the Nakusp & Area Youth Society, the new Green Door will be a space run by youth for youth. Vote for the new Green Door - vote for youth!

Please come by on April 12, 2015 to learn about and show your support for the Phase 1 design of the “New Youth, Parkour, and Biomass Centre” project.

For additional information please contact Tom Zeleznik
Email: patton@telus.net
Phone: (250) 265-8414

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88 Broadway St., Nakusp 250-265-2228

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Nakusp Medieval Days
August 1 & 2, 2015

Office Grand Opening
Thursday, April 9 9am-3pm

Visit us for coffee and cookies at 109 Broadway St. in Nakusp.
Check out costumes and armour and find out more about our event. We will also sell event tickets. Hope to see you there!

medievaldays.ca - tel: (250) 265-3209
Lifestyle changes can reduce dementia risk

submitted

It’s never too late to make lifestyle changes to promote brain health.

“What is good for your heart is good for your brain,” said Julie Leffelaar, regional education and support co-ordinator for the non-profit Alzheimer Society of BC for the West Kootenays.

Better control and detection for hypertension and diabetes, as well as measures to encourage smoking cessation and to reduce cardiovascular risk, have the potential to reduce the risk of dementia. Currently 747,000 Canadians are affected by the brain disorder, and that number is forecast to double within the next 25 years.

“While there is no clear-cut way to prevent dementia, you can take steps to lower the chances of developing the disease,” Leffelaar says.

It starts with knowing your personal risk. Cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, smoking and depression can increase the risk.

“Healthy lifestyle choices are good for your heart, as well as your brain,” she adds. People should choose a diet low in fat, incorporate exercise into daily routines, challenge their brains, be socially active, and protect theirhearts. Another important step: talking to your doctor about your personal risk or if you have concerns about dementia. There is a difference between normal aging and dementia.

The society is doing its part by offering a variety of programs and services. A support and information group in Nakusp, for example, serves as a forum for sharing practical tips and strategies for coping with the disease. It helps create support and friendship with others whose lives are affected by dementia.

“The group is there for people who want to inform themselves with current information that will help improve quality of life with the disease. It’s a safe environment where you can learn, laugh, and help each other through mutual understanding.”

For more information on the Nakusp group contact Evelyn Hurry at 250-265-4641, Julie Leffelaar at 1-855-301-6742 or jleffelaar@alzheimerbc.org, and visit www.alzheimerbc.org.

Ichi 100: celebrating Nakusp’s historical photos

submitted

Ichiro Shino was born June 19, 1915 in Cumberland on Vancouver Island. After being interned in Nakusp in 1942, he started taking photos and for more than half a century, Ichi documented the lifestyle of the Arrow Lakes with his photographs and movies. To celebrate the centenary of his birth, the ‘Ichi 100’ slide show will be presented at the Bonnington Theatre on April 17 at 7 pm, featuring some of his movies and photographs from the 1940s.

He had a good quality Rolleiflex camera, which took 2 1/4 inch square negatives. On every special occasion, he was there with his camera. He had a darkroom in his house, and provided many photos to the Arrow Lakes News. He also took graduation photos, which he presented to each of the graduates, and other special occasion photos, such as when 10 Queen’s Scouts were leaving for the World Jamboree in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He had also a movie camera and projectors, and showed his films on occasion to groups like the Rotary. He recorded the last run of the Minto and took pictures of the loss of the two vessels in Nakusp. He recorded each July 1st parade, the tug boats in action, and the working of the Big Bend sawmill.

Ichi joined the Big Bend Lumber Co. in 1943, first as a tailor, and then in its sawmill operations. He continued to work for CanCan when they took it over. When the mill ceased operations in 1961, he joined the company’s logging operations, where he spent the next 19 years. He was a tough and honest man and pilot most of the division’s boats during his career. He retired on June 30, 1980.

ALAC presents the Community Artists’ Concert

submitted

On Sunday, April 19, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council is holding its second Community Artists’ Concert. These concerts are a major fundraiser for the ALAC concert series.

Come and support our local artists – soloists, ensembles, choirs and bands – as they share their talents with you in music, dance and theatre.

This year, we are changing our format. There will be a silent auction starting at 1 pm, and continuing through to the end of intermission. The concession will open early, also at 1 pm. At the close of the concert, the silent auction winner will be announced. There will be no $50 draw this year.

We welcome donations for the silent auction. Please drop them off at 216–4th Ave NW (Gail Posto’s house) by Friday, April 10; call her at 250-265-4526.

So, come and join us at the Bonnington Arts Centre at 1 pm for the silent auction and concert followed by community artists performing photos at 2 pm. There will be a donation jar at the door, for your contributions. This concert is open seating, so come early to select your seats in the house, as there will be standing room only!

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council Presents A Community Artists’ Concert And A Silent Auction Sunday, April 19 at 1:00 pm In the Bonnington Arts Centre A Fund Raiser for next season’s Concert Series Donation Jar at the Door

North Kootenay Sport and Recreation Report

Slocan Curling Club: Please be reminded of the upcoming Community Initiatives RDCX Projects applying for funding throughout area H at Winlaw hall 1-100-3:00 pm Friday, April 18 and Slocan Memorial Hall on May 11.

We encourage you to support our building infrastructure improvement projects as this will benefit the health and wellness of our local communities through social and physical interaction. Come and see what we envision for the future of the Slocan Curling Club.

Nakusp Trails Society has a submission for the RDCX/CICT Community Initiatives Grant. The community vote is Sunday, April 12 at the Nakusp Arena. The Trails Society is asking for $30,000 to develop a multi-use Rail Trail project on the old Nakusp & Slocan Railway from Nakusp village boundary to the top of Summit Lake hill. Please come out and vote for this project.

Nakusp & Area Community Trails Society AGM & 2015 Planning Meeting Wednesday, April 22, 7 pm KC/Tenderfoot Lodge Meeting Room. Everyone Welcome.

White Pines Dojo - Kids 7-15 are welcome to drop in on our weekly kids classes held Wednesdays at 5 pm and Sundays at 12 pm in Slocan. See our Facebook Page for more details.

LUCERNE SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE EARTH: On April 22, Earth Day, please join us at 9 am for a Bird Walk and, in the afternoon at 1:30 pm, for NatureScapes at Centennial Park beach. Lucerne Community Garden Greenhouse will be active on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1:00-3:30 pm through the Spring. Parents, adults, and seniors please feel welcome to join in the fun and learning activities. We’d greatly appreciate some extra helping hands!

North Kootenay Sport and Recreation Council

nksrscouncil@gmail.com

Your local information source for sport and recreation in the Kootenays

Shon’s Bike & Ski

250-265-3332
86-4th Ave. SW Nakusp

www.shons.ca

WTH EUROPEAN CONCERTS IN KINZER 2015
RDCK residents still paying for recycling depots through taxes

by Jan McMurray

RDCK residents will continue to pay for their recycling depots through taxation. In fact, many BC residents will continue to pay for recycling through taxation, despite the establishment of the MMBC program to ensure that the cost be borne by industry. The RDCK’s depot service costs taxpayers about $1 million per year. “It’s clear now there won’t be intake into the MMBC program in 2015 or anywhere on the horizon,” said Mike Morrison of the RDCK.

Sarah Stephen of MMBC explained that the MMBC program is funded by the businesses that supply the recyclable packaging to residents. A significant number of these businesses have not signed on to the program, as they have concerns about the high fees and red tape involved, which they say could lead to job losses and business closures. Stephen says expanding to areas that don’t currently benefit from the MMBC program is a priority, “but it’s reliant on the number of stewards that pay in. As more stewards join, we can expand.”

The Ministry of Environment is in the process of ensuring compliance from businesses, which face fines up to $200,000 if they don’t sign up with MMBC or come up with another way to comply with the new recycling regulation.

Meanwhile, the RDCK’s contracts with companies that collect the recyclable materials from their depots is expiring this year. Morrison says it’s proposing that the RDCK issue a Request For Proposals for a service provider for the entire regional district for a three-year contract. In the past, the RDCK had three different contracts—one for each sub-region (west, central, and east). The board will be considering how it will proceed with this in the near future. Morrison said they would be looking at month to month extensions of the existing contracts until the RFP process concludes.

The Village of Kaslo and Nakusp are coming to the end of their first year with the MMBC curbside recycling program. The programs are supported by the public input with the help of an advisory group of 30 residents and an advisory group of 22 former CBT board members. They’re also working internally with CBT staff (about 20 people) and CBT’s existing sector committees. “Then we’ll come out to public and say, ‘This is what we heard from you. This is what we’re already doing. What are we doing not enough of or need to do more of?’ ”

“Outstanding results from large surprises coming out of the process,” says Gosal. “There’s a lot there that has been said before, so we need to get to work with communities.”

The Trust is hoping to have some final reports about what we’re going to do.”

The Our Trust, Our Future website includes a section for “big ideas,” where 121 ideas were posted. The most popular was the “Kootenay Centre for Applied Creativity,” posted by Randy Morse of the Kaslo Institute. “Our general idea is to get as much input as possible from the public with the help of an advisory group of 30 residents and an advisory group of 22 former CBT board members.”

Silvery Slocan Historical Society AGM a success

Susie Bolivar and Steve Lones. Returning board members include Gord Butt (chair), Agnes Emery (secretary/treasurer) and Marsha Rice. Butt reports that Paula Crevins brought a wish list to the AGM with ideas for generating more interest in the Silvery Slocan Museum in New Denver. Some items on the list include applying for grants, creating an event at the museum, and attracting more school tours.

PROJECT COORDINATOR

ARROW LAKE Better At Home Program (BAH) is seeking to hire a Project Coordinator to fund a Pilot Project. This is a 5 FTE for the duration of 1 year with the possibility of an extension dependent upon performance and funding.

The Project Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the project including volunteer recruitment, training, infrastructure development, promotional events, supervision and evaluation. The Project Coordinator will receive support and supervision from the Arrow Lakes (BAH) Advisory Committee.

The successful candidate must be computer literate (word, excel) and be willing to learn a computer based scheduling and data collection system. They will also be creative and energetic with excellent communication and writing skills. Preference will be given to candidates who have education, training and experience in the area of administration, program development, related to the not-for-profit human service area. A combination of education and related experience will be considered.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to: Arrow Lakes Better At Home Project, C/O Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services, Box 100, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0. Attention: BAH Advisory Committee or email bm.payne@aslcs.com

Closing date: April 13, 2015, 4:30 pm

Only candidates chosen for an interview will be contacted.
Herbal Musings

with Colleen Emery

Strategies for a successful spring cleanse

Springtime is a magical time with the benjamin blossoms bursting on the trees, the bright yellow of the skunk cabbage emerging in the wetlands, the return and migration of so many wonderful bird friends. It's also the time when we can fill with good ideas and products aimed to help irrigate our systems during an annual spring cleanse. The manufacturing and marketing of The Spring Cleanse is a multi-million dollar business promising to flush out, shine us up and make us well.

Spring cleaning is not a new concept. It has been a ritual in humanity for centuries. After a long winter of consuming stored foods our digestive systems may be feeling stagnant, slow and tired.’Briening in the foods and herbs that stimulate flow and encourage vitally makes great sense.

However, so many of the cleanse kits that are on the market today don't offer strategies on the importance of preparing to cleanse. This is a very important step to a successful spring cleanse. It's much like training for a 10k race; it's essential that you not only know which race you are entering but you make sure you are a fit. In the case of spring cleansing you need to flush out, shine up, and prepare to make the cleanse an easy and enjoyable experience.

1) Choose a cleanse: This is very much overlooked in our fast-paced, immediate gratification-based culture. The action of completing a cleanse is stressful for the mind, body and spirit. It's essential during a cleanse to have enough time to rest and recover from the stress that detoxification puts on the body. The immune system is required to work harder, the digestive system takes a higher level of waste output, emotions fluctuate and moods can shift. A cleanse should not be completed during a time of stress or busy ness or when the body system is struggling with illness or immune suppression or imbalance. Proper preparation for a spring cleanse allows for one to succeed and gain the benefits that a detoxification program can offer. What's even more exciting is that you might find that, by implementing the five key preparation strategies, that you have completed a cleanse all on its own without a fancy packaged product.

Join Colleen on April 11 as she teaches the annual Herbal First Aid Workshop with Slocan Valley Recreation. Call 250-226-0036 or email nakuspce@selkirk.ca, visit selkirk.ca/cce or call 250-254-4207 for more information. Coming in May, check our Summer calendar featuring youth and adult programming.

Community Foundation

Does your club or society need money for a project?

The NACF is preparing to distribute their annual Spring Grants.

APPLICATION FORMS AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS CAN BE FOUND AT OUR WEBSITE: NAKUSCFUNDATION.COM

APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 31ST

For more information email: NAKUSCFUNDATION@GMAIL.COM

Referrals available.

The Whole School hosts Earth Day celebration and open house

The Whole School welcomes interested parents and their children to take a look at the school on Tuesday, April 21, from 2 to 5 pm at the school (501A Highway 6). Join us to learn more about our school and about sustainability in the food systems and growing plants through intensive activities for children.

“This is a magical event where parents can talk to us about what we are doing and talk to our principal, Annik Leung, and other staff about our program and see if our school would be a good fit for their family,” says Tara Harvey, school board member.

“The Whole School program emphasizes connection to the natural world through our outdoor leadership program. Earth Day is an important day for learning and has chosen to ban all Wi-Fi and cordless phone signals at the school. The Whole School is now accepting applications for kindergarten and elementary level students. For more information contact the school at whole school@gmail.com or call 250-256-7777.

 refinements available.

Slocan River Streamkeepers Society’s Annual General Meeting on Thursday, April 23 at Portage Hall at 7:00 pm. Slocan River Streamkeepers have worked with the community for over 12 years to promote stewardship through education, monitoring and restoration.

We are calling for Board of Directors nominations and new members. Please feel free to contact us prior to the AGM with any questions or expressed interest at info@slocanriverstreamkeepers.com.
Kaslo council, March 24: First in-house filming of council meeting

by Ian McDermur

This was the first council meeting to be filmed using the new EPSON systems in council chambers. The CAO is working on this with the new IT service provider, with the goal of producing the videos in-house at minimal cost. In a report to council on the filming of council meetings, CAO Smith says he agrees with council that paying $270 per hour for weekly two-hour meetings, on average, is too exorbitant for the Village. He points out that few municipalities in BC pay for this service; filming is usually an optional choice by third parties at their own expense. However, he is happy to experiment with the new equipment to try to continue with the filming.

The video of this council meeting was posted to the Village Facebook page, and unfortunately, the sound quality is poor. The CAO posted a comment with the video, saying he would work on improving the sound in subsequent filings.

The only proposal that the Village received for the conceptual landscape design of the old fire hall site was from Lawrence Moss. After discussion, council agreed to invite Moss to consult with local stakeholders and refine his proposal at a cost not exceeding $1,000. Councillor Glorioso declared a conflict of interest and left the room for this item.

In the discussion on this item, Councillor Lang expressed concern about the optics of hiring Moss, who is Coeur d’Alene’s former planner. Mayor Hewat was concerned about the optics of hiring someone without the qualifications requested in the RFP: landscape architect or designer. Councillor Kaeli suggested council of council’s discussion about Moss’ excellent public consultation skills at the Committee of the Whole meeting. The CAO said he thought that the contract price of $1,000 published in the RFP was low and may have deterred people from submitting proposals. However, he said he felt Moss would get the job done for that price.

Councillor received two separate requests for tree removal.

A letter from Julia Mayer and Bouat Machoula asks that four fir trees from a Village lane easement between their properties be removed, as per the Village tree planting and removal policy. The trees are not part of the “Adopt a Tree” program and attract beets. A letter from the Kaslo Community Garden sede asks that the community garden on Washington Ave be removed, as it threatens the garden fence and interferes with the power lines. They suggest planting an ornamental maple in its place. Council decided to refer existing and new tree removal policies to the Committee on Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces. Future tree removal requests will be referred to the Harrelt FireSmart Clearing Program of North Kootenay Lake Community Services. If no satisfactory arrangement is made for the trees within a month, Public Works will remove them.

Mayor Hewat reported that the RDCK taxation for Kaslo has decreased slightly, from $341,543 last year to $340,743 this year. Council approved noise variance applications for wedding events at the Golf Club restaurant on August 1 and 22. Both applications explain that there will be DJs from the same company as the wedding.

The Village of Kaslo will actively participate, support, promote and work to implement an age-friendly initiative as part of Council’s ongoing commitment to inclusion of older persons and for the whole community.

Mayor Hewat reported that she was invited to attend a screening of the three-month video Public Works will remove them. Slocan Valley Council of Nations (Coeur, Silverton, and Slocan) and the RDCK Director for the Slocan Valley, Walter Popoff, on April 8. They said they expressed concerns of them in working with Kaslo. They want to explore common ground with Kaslo. Hewat was authorized to attend.

Council discussed the importance of visible hands behind the scenes, for the public and the paper. Staff was asked to continue looking into potential funding sources for a reflective house number program.

The Committee of the Whole approved the corporation sponsorship to the golf club as a municipal grant. Council agreed to declare a conflict of interest and left the room for this item.

The UBCBC Biosphere Reserve

Outstanding book on Johnson's Landing

by Art Joyce

Incredibly, the seismic shifting of the moment that made Gar Creek was felt by sensitive individuals prior to the actual slide. In a chapter titled “Dreams and Portals,” Rotch relates how her niece Margie-Ann Rotch had a dream in 1972 that the Johnson’s Landing residents tragically discovered in July 2012. One of the survivors of the landslide that killed four people, Rotch describes her experience of living in the area. “Gone is the sound of the waves bashing into the shore. The woodwind is gone. We can’t see the stars, only the moon. The waves are gentler, the sound of the wind is gone. The only thing left is the silence.”

Margie-Ann Rotch, who grew up in Johnson’s Landing, explains how the community becomes part of us, like a family member. “It’s so tough to lose four people. It is also hard to lose this land. It’s always been home to me, it feels like my home for so many of us – it’s almost like losing another person.”

Barnes is forthcoming about both the triumphs and struggles of the area in the aftermath of the disaster and recovery operation. Many volunteers and staff put forth heroic efforts, such as bulldozer operator Duncan Lane and RCMP officer Chris Barnes, who each lost two of their own. Yet the system in manuals and plans has failed the residents of Johnson’s Landing. In a stroke of absurdity, almost no effort was made to tap into local knowledge of the community. Crews kept digging in the wrong location for Webster’s house before allowing Bob Yetter to point out the exact location. Insurance companies refused to pay compensation to the provincial disaster relief fund program would only compensate for 80 percent of the primary residence’s insurance. That cost residents thousands for dollars for local contractors and land now declared uninhabitable.

Barnes writes with skill and precision, given the fact that she was experiencing chronic pain at the time of writing. The book reads with the intensity of a thriller, but always harvested by Barnes’s capacity for thoughtful reflection. She succeeds in writing a memoir that is deeply moving. Too often the media resort to platitude about humanity’s ability to bounce back from trauma, ignoring the emotional aftermath. Barnes strikes both the perfect balance. “Human beings are resilient,” she writes. “You think you’ll never recover, and in some ways you don’t – you are no longer the person you were. But in time you move forward and forge a new path. We are the stewards of our lives, and the layers and terms have been removed by the disaster. You can’t go back. These limits, but we learn strategies to function around the losses.”

Disaster in Paradise was launched at the Langham March 31, September 2014 at Tosstoshees Nelson April 30, 7 pm.

Argenta turtles take a hit: action planned to help them

by Angus Galbraith

Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program

Argenta was not a good year for the population of Western Painted Turtles near Argenta at the north of Kootenay Lake. Within days, or indeed hours, of the eggs being laid, more than nine out of every ten turtle nests had fallen victim to predation. Actions are being put in place for 2015, however, to see the highest failure rate can be turned around.

The species for the blue-listed (vulnerable) Western Painted Turtle typically runs from the end of May to the end of June near Argenta. During this period in 2014, a total of 56 turtle nests had been uncovered and of those 15 in total, nearly 30 percent — were taken, most likely by skunks. The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) supports the institution of the nests the following breeding season. In 2014, 12 of the nests (12 out of 17) were outside of the main nesting area, and instead, along the roof skidders and down the embankments. Due to the terrain, these nests are even more difficult to monitor and protect. As result, predation occurred in every single one of these nests outside the main site, often instances that not the nest was dug by the turtles. Of the five nests within the main nesting area, two were saved from predation by natural geese being placed on top of them.

Therefore, if each nest contains an average of 100 eggs (typical for a Western Painted Turtle), then 2,064 of the eggs laid in 2014 near Argenta, only up to a maximum of 24 hatchlings will potentially survive throughout the FWCP initiatives this year to see if the turtle nest success rate can be increased. Two new nesting areas will be created just north of the existing nesting site and the nestingDominion be added to the existing site with the rice and the ability to do more extensive monitoring during the 2015 nesting season, if necessary.
Slocan to celebrate Nurse Practitioner services
by Barbara Curry McLcacy

Celebration will be the order of the day at Slocan’s grand opening of its medical clinic on Saturday, April 11. Mayor Jessica Lunn said, “It truly is a beautiful space and we are absolutely thrilled to be welcoming (more practitioners) Donna Gibbons to the community. There is definitely a demand for her services as there are many people in the Village and surrounding Area H who currently do not have a family doctor.”

The public event, to be held at 10 am, will include MLA Katrine Conroy, other dignitaries, and people instrumental in bringing medical service back to Slocan. Coffee and cake will be served and speeches made.

Slocan has been trying to attract a nurse practitioner or doctor ever since two doctors who had a part-time practice at the Slocan Motel closed their office. The village, thinking, first class office space might attract a medical provider, remodelled Slocan’s heritage schoolhouse, creating the Wellness Centre about 10 years ago. A clinic with three offices and examination rooms became a key feature. A fitness centre and the community library, also in the building, are further evidence of the Village’s commitment to healthy living.

Convincing others that Slocan needs medical service and finding the right person to take the job proved not an easy task. Slocan council and the RDCK, especially Area H Director Walter Payoff, worked together to convince the IHA of the need in the Slocan Valley. Cheryl Whittenen at the IHA worked hard in this effort. The medical clinic in Slocan Park closed last year, just as the IHA was advertising for a nurse practitioner. Donna Gibbons, who was hired this year, has a master’s degree in nursing. She worked for many years as a midwife in Alberta. She also was a consultant and educator in community health where she focused on women with addictions and mental health challenges. After the trained as a nurse practitioner, she worked at Edmonton’s Lois Hole Hospital for Women, first in maternal fetal medicine and then as a family practitioner. As a nurse practitioner, she is able to provide many of the same services as a doctor. She can examine patients, diagnose and treat illnesses, order tests, prescribe most medications, and refer patients to specialists.

Gibbons will work at the Wellness Centre on Harold Street every Tuesday from 10 am to 3:30 pm. Her office hours are on April 9. If there is enough demand, her office hours may be increased to two days each week. Weekend and evening hours are also being discussed.

Gibbons works other weekdays at the New Denver Medical Clinic in the Slocan Community Health Centre. Until a private phone line has been installed at the Wellness Centre clinic, patients may call 250-358-7211 or stop in during Thursday office hours at the Wellness Centre to book appointments with Gibbons.

Gibbons will share the office with two other service providers, Leslie Jordan, a Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Dr. Sarah Sherard, a psychologist. Jordan graduated from the International College of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Vancouver in 1992. Chinese Medicine consists of acupuncture, cupping, diet therapy, and herbal therapy. Jordan also practices ortho-bionomy.

Jordan has worked in Nakusp since 1992. In 1995 she started working also in Slocan. She comes to the Wellness Clinic every second Thursday. All appointments are by telephone. Patients may call 250-265-4126 to book appointments.

Dr. Sarah Sherard offers psychotherapy for individuals and couples, and psychological assessments. She provides services for a wide range of issues, including depression, anxiety, anger, grief, trauma/PTSD, relationship issues, and chronic pain. In her practice, Dr. Sherard uses cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), mindfulness, and, when appropriate, psychodynamic approaches.

Dr. Sherard has worked at the Wellness Centre for a year. She lives in the Slocan Valley and accepts appointments during the week and on weekends. In the evenings, she has an office in Nelson, too. Patients may contact her through her webpage at www.drsarahsherard.com or by phone at 250-777-3017.

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Tell us your views on our Preliminary Report before May 26, 2015.

In a Preliminary Report to the Legislative Assembly, the British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission is proposing changes to the area, boundaries and names of electoral districts in B.C.

Read the Preliminary Report at www.bc-ebc.ca/reports.

Tell the commission your views on the Preliminary Report online at www.bc-ebc.ca, at a public hearing during April and May, or by email at info@bc-ebc.ca.

All submissions and presentations to the commission must be made before 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

For a schedule of public hearing locations and dates, and more information, visit www.bc-ebc.ca