Rosebery-Summit Lake Rail Trail proposal released to the public

by Jan McMurray

An end is in sight for the community’s efforts to get an official designation for the Rosebery-Summit Lake Rail Trail in RDCK Area H North. A management plan for the trail has been drafted by a group of volunteers from the north Slocan Valley, with some direction from the RDCK and from Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC), which is part of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

If Area H North residents support the proposed management plan, it will be submitted to RSTBC in an application to have the rail corridor designated as a public trail. With this designation, the trail would be managed by RSTBC in partnership with a local non-profit society.

“We were tasked to come up with a proposal that would have broad public support,” said Richard Allin, who sits on the volunteer steering committee. “A household poll will ask Area H North residents from Summit Lake to Enterprise Creek whether or not they support the proposed management plan. If this poll shows popular support, we’ll oversee the formation of a new society that will be dedicated to managing this trail only.”

The management plan proposal outlines the 15-year history of the community’s efforts to secure the corridor as a public trail. The RDCK applied for tenure over the trail in 2009, but withdrew the application in 2013 due to the high costs of satisfying requirements imposed by the Province. Then the existing North Slocan Trails Society applied for a partnership agreement with RSTBC for the trail. RSTBC was interested in managing the trail, and had discussions with the RDCK about it.

“The RDCK and Rec Sites and Trails BC both suggested we have a new society to look after this trail and this trail only,” said Allin. “It’s over 25 kilometres in length, has a lot of wildlife and wetland areas, and is in need of a lot of attention right now. Also, a new society owned it to the broader community to participate in its management, instead of having an existing organization with its own objectives already. We’re hoping to encourage a wide range of individuals and organizations to participate in the new society.”

The society would be responsible for raising funds to maintain the trail, and RSTBC would provide some funding and materials for infrastructure. The RDCK would not collect any taxes to fund the trail.

If the plan receives public support in the poll, the steering committee will start the process of forming the new society right away, while the application process is underway with the ministry.

The new society’s first priority would be to raise funds for a study by a qualified biologist on the impacts of recreational use of the trail on plant, fish and other wildlife species. “The first and foremost objective of the management proposal is to protect the ecology of the rail trail,” said Allin.

The study will include recommendations on managing the trail to limit damage. While the study is being done — it may take a year, Allin says — the trail will be managed for known issues. For example, there is known seasonal berry presence along the Benvenuto Creek section of the trail, and degradation of the trail due to drainage issues is of serious concern. “During that period, there will likely be some restrictions on the use of the trail because of wildlife issues and trail conditions,” he said.

Another objective of the management plan is to recognize and support the pattern of existing trail users. “One of the big issues we’ve been trying to come to terms with is the mix of motorized and non-motorized use,” said Allin. “During our consultations over the winter with trail users, including ATVers, no one was in favour of wide-open motorized use. Province-wide, it’s well documented that it is common for conflicts to arise between user groups. Here, however, there is a history of a small number of local ATV users who enjoy getting out there and using that trail, and conflict has been minimal.”

We’re hoping to accommodate them with a Friends of the Trail program.

Local ATV users could become members of the “Friends” program and agree to observe speed limits and other restrictions. Special one-day permits with conditions could also be issued to accommodate other ATV users when wildlife and trail conditions are favourable.

“This is a real opportunity for the community to help protect and manage this corridor in a way that still allows for recreational opportunities,” said Allin. “The trade-off is there will be undoubtedly some limitations compared to what it’s like now, which is a wide open, unregulated space. There will probably be seasonal closures that come into effect because of certain conditions. We believe that being able to maintain and protect the trail from here on out is worth it.”

Allin said if everything goes well, the trail could be officially designated as a public trail later this year.

Kaslo chooses its Citizen of the Year

Kaslo Mayor Susan Howard presents Elaine Richinger with her plaque as Citizen of the Year.

Elaine Richinger has been chosen as Kaslo’s Citizen of the Year. The text of the speech announcing her award says, “As the mother of three and grandmother of eight this year’s Citizen of the Year has always found time to make each of her children and the people around her feel like they were a priority.”

“She has contributed to many charities, has always had a PLAN and in 1995 went to Sierra Leone for six weeks to help rebuild a nursing station. Since retiring from nursing in Kaslo, Elaine has continued to tailor and repair the residents’ clothing as well as continue to do alterations on the ambulance staff uniforms for free. She still volunteers at the Langham Gallery and sits on the Housing Society board.

“Elaine is known to often host musicians for both Jazzfest and the Langham in her home, where she has also opened her doors to teenagers over the years in a safe place to watch movies and just hang out.”

Elaine has also helped to Grandmas to Grandmas and our very beloved JHV drama department, sewing costumes for many of their productions. "Whether it’s painting backdrops for Trail Blazers, selling memberships, rolling pennies, singing in choirs, sorting, moving, counting and ordering books at the library or sewing quilts for the Kaslo Quiltes... this lady is ready, willing and able.”

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Lemon Creek court case postponed to 2016

by Art Joyce

At a hearing in the Nelson Courthouse May 25 to determine trial dates, it was decided that the Lemon Creek fuel spill case will be heard in April 2016. The postponement was due to scheduling conflicts with lawyers for the Province and Executive Firefighting (EFC) Marilyn Burgoo, who managed to get the court to agree that charges against these parties were warranted, expressed a mixture of relief and frustration at the delay.

“The biggest thing will be the funding, that's an enormous thing to undertake. I'm doing crowd funding with West Coast Environmental Law's help. I've never worried about funding, though. Colleen McCrosky taught me about that; she said, just do it and the funding will come.”

At the May 25 hearing lawyers estimated the case would take two weeks of court time. Burgoo says the legal costs for this will mount into the hundreds of thousands, hence her reliance on the funding initiative. Her frustration comes from federal public prosecutor Todd Gerhardt's apparent reluctance to take over the case in the public interest. Otto Langer, a retired federal fisheries biologist who has testified in many such cases, has told her that if it were 20 years ago, there would have been no such hesitation on the federal government’s part. Yet no one from Fisheries and Oceans Canada showed up at the hearing; staffing levels were gutted in the last round of federal budget cuts. This has slashed $39 million between 2013-15, with further cuts of $33 million annually to a maximum of $100 million, leaving little or no enforcement staff.

If the Public Prosecution Service of Canada does take the case, it will relieve Burgoo of the need to raise money. But there’s a risk the PPSC would decide to stay the prosecution, leaving the case once more in limbo.

She says on the advice of West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL) it was decided to base the case on the clear Fisheries Act violation rather than on health grounds. “We don’t really need to prove intent, it should be a slam-dunk,” she says. “The facts are all there – the SNC Lavalin report identified that the toxin went to the river, that there were 261 fish killed. Not everything that died was counted. There’s plenty of evidence – the public meeting, the evacuation order, the recovery centre. It seems like the government is trying to complicate it.”

Provincial Court Judge Richard Hewson expressed similar frustration at an earlier hearing on May 19, when he said he needed more time for investigation. The judge gave legal counsel another week to determine how they wish to proceed. Burgoo’s lawyer Lilena Lysenko, speaking outside the courthouse at the earlier hearing, was just as puzzled at the delay. “People still don’t know exactly where we stand. That said, the court is tired of the delays and is allowing us to proceed. As we saw with the Marine Harvest case on the coast, the court commented that we’ve seen fisheries violations prosecuted in a very timely fashion.”

Lysenko said that from the testimony received thus far, both EFC and the Province were advised by another fuel tanker driver that the directions to the flight base were wrong. This driver too had turned up the Lemon Creek forestry road but managed to get back to the highway without incident. He then informed EFC and Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) a full day before the accident that caused the spill. She anticipates calling as witnesses both the driver and the biologist who wrote the SNC Lavalin report.

“I have the information available now, they didn’t take all reasonable precautions to avoid the spill. We believe it is in the public interest to proceed because the government hasn’t taken the initiative to prosecute. Their lack of decision is incredibly disappointing.”

According to Lysenko another advantage of having the federal prosecutor take over the case is that they have the power to execute search warrants and compel testimony – something the provincial authorities cannot do, even with a private prosecution can’t do. Burgoo says they’re trying to get a copy of EFC’s contract through Freedom of Information to find out what the agreement was between them and the Province.

“Right now they’re just pointing fingers at each other and it will take a judge to decide if it’s a shared responsibility,” she says.
Summit Lake logging proposal brings people out to NACFOR open house

by Jan McMurtry

Attendance at this year’s Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) open house at the Nakusp Selkirk College on May 27, was commendable. But what was most interesting to the public was the proposed logging in western toad habitat at Summit Lake. The western toad is a blue-listed species.

NACFOR plans to apply for the cutting permit this summer, and to do the logging this winter.

Open house materials were available at the meeting, and NACFOR Project Manager Frances Swan took notes on people’s verbal comments. “There was a lot of good discussion and input,” she reported.

NACFOR board president Kathy Smith said there may be modifications to their logging plans based on public comments, eventually, “We try to plan and design with everything in mind, but someone could come up with a great idea, that could be considered,” she said.

Open house held on Sum Of Creek microhydro project

by Jan McMurtry

The Sum Of Creek microhydro proposal moving along through the approval process, Sicamous council hosted another open house on the project on May 27.

Mike Walsh of SNT Engineering, the project consultant, said the provincial government is now actively looking at the proposal, and First Nations consultations are well underway.

The next step will be for the government to grant a provisional water licence, which will stipulate the maximum amount of water that can be taken from the creek for the project.

Walsh said government representatives have met with all the project site, and First Nations consultations have led to two tribes reviewing the proposal. “We are just waiting to finalize any issues. They want to be sure of the flows,” said Walsh.

Once the flows have been determined, the Village will be in a position to do a more accurate financial analysis. The project proposal is based on a maximum flow diversion of 0.8 cubic meters per second, producing about 3,100 MWh per year. If the government wants to reduce the amount of water that can be diverted, the amount of electricity generated will also be reduced, affecting the bottom line.

“The next phase is to figure out the finances,” Mayor Lums told residents at the open house. Counsellor Perrie added, “We won’t go ahead with the project unless we can make money for the Village.”

The estimates presented at the meeting show annual revenue after expenses to be approximately $100,000. This, however, depends on several factors, not the least of which is how much money the Village will have to borrow.

To cover the estimated $3.4 million capital cost of the project, the Village is hoping to get at least $2.1 million in grants and to borrow no more than $1.3 million. Great applications have been submitted to the New Building Canada Fund and the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund.

If the provisional licence is approved and the Village decides the project is viable, the Village will then apply to the BC Hydro Standing Offer Program and enter into an agreement to sell the power from the project to BC Hydro.

Many people at the open house wanted to know why the Village would sell the power to BC Hydro instead of providing power directly to residents. It was explained that to supply power to residents, the Village would have to become a utility. This is not advantageous for two reasons.

First, as a utility, the Village would have to own and maintain all the infrastructure — the power poles, power lines, transformers, substations, etc. This would be very costly.

Second, BC Hydro pays less for power from a utility than it pays under the Standing Offer Program. Hal Wright of Silverstream Power in Sandon attended the open house and said his utility sells power to BC Hydro at 1.3 cents per kWh, while the rate under the Standing Offer Program is more like 10 cents per kWh.

Although the project is in FortisBC’s service area, Fortis does not have a Standing Offer Program, but will ‘wheel’ the power to BC Hydro at a nominal cost.

There was also information at the open house about impacts on public recreation. Walsh said the lower waterfall (with the bridge across it) is outside of the project area and won’t be affected. The waterfalls in the canyon will be affected by the reduced water flows, but Walsh said it won’t be noticeable in the spring and summer, when there is plenty of water. Fishing will carry on as usual, as fish habitat and population will be maintained. Rainbow trout is the only type of fish in the project area, and Walsh said no spawning takes place there. Canyon trail usage will not be impacted, and a new trail would be created along the lower peatmoss route, linking the campground to the highway and canyon trail. During construction there would be restricted access to the project area for safety reasons.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE

BC HYDRO NAKUSP OPERATIONS UPDATE

BC Hydro is hosting an open house in Nakusp to provide information about BC Hydro’s operations and programs/activities in the Nakusp area. Topics include the operation of our Columbia facilities and expected summer Arrow Lakes Reservoir levels, Columbia River Water Use Plan projects and programs, and other BC HYDRO programs and initiatives.

When: Wednesday, June 10, 2015
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Location: Nakusp Senior’s Hall, 210 – 8th Avenue NW, Nakusp
More moderate approach to motorcycle noise needed

I read with some interest the article titled "Residents fed up with noise from motorbikes." Included were a couple of inflammatory statements referring to "craziness" and the need to "take these guys out of the equation."

Final solutions aside, a more moderate approach is in order. These exhaust sounds are daytime only, and noise bylaw infractions are notoriously difficult to obtain convictions on. Daily certified dial readings of motorcycle noise levels are only a couple of the difficulties encountered.

Signs designating quiet zones in the communities affected with the municipal crest or logo on them might be a place to start. Telling the RCMF how to do their jobs is not productive.

I ride this area regularly and live here. Small throttle openings and speeds in built up areas would avoid most of the criticism.

And twist the throttle and play the pipe music out on the open road.

Don McTaggart
Crescent Valley

Look out for invasive weeds

It’s that time again, when we can notice invasive weeds which are now blooming, and do what we can to keep them from spreading further where otherwise native plants might grow.

An especially pervasive invasive species is Swiss trough, introduced to BC in 1850 from the Mediterranean. It has spread widely from Vancouver Island throughout southern BC. Now, when the bright yellow blooms are visible, is the time to pull small plants or cut larger ones, using loppers or saws, cutting the stems right down.

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libellous. 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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Much ado about the new ferry

Over the last several weeks, there have been some points raised about the new MV Columbia operating between Galiana Bay and Shelter Bay. There are many stories in the media about its efficiency. This ferry basically cannot run a round trip in 60 minutes. It could get close if it run empty.

On the May long weekend, rumours have it that the waits were up to four and five hours. With people waiting, the ferry left Shelter Bay with less than a full load. There have been missing money or very late sailings for reasons that were never supposed to happen. Prior to building this boat we, the public, were told that nothing would stop this ferry and it could be fitted in time for full operation.

The new engines were to burn less fuel than the older ferries. That is debatable.

Another rumour is that this ferry cannot carry the number of vehicles or weights that we were told it would. A couple of the vans on the ship will handle motorcycles quite nicely but not the standard size vehicles that use the ferry. The old ferries could carry 50 and 26 vehicles and the new one apparently is rated at 25 vehicles and 94 passenger seats. That capacity considering the width of a couple of the lanes. Many travelers have said that they could not open their doors because the vehicles were too close. What would happen in the event of any emergency on the ferry?

The change to the highway to load the new ferry at Galiana Bay gave us a runway lane at the top of the hill. Does that make sense? Trackers, I have been assured by the ministry that all is safe. I have a letter which quotes in part: "A truck lost its brakes after the break check (even though the friction temperature will not get hot enough to do so), the truck struck the ditch. The rear side window of the cabin had shattered."

This might work on a one-way street. In a driver's mind - check brakes and miss the ferry or take a chance?

On the bright side, this wouldn't have been the first ferry that didn't do its job. Remember the three fast ferries that had to be abandoned?

Ernie Colushia 
Nakaxa

Remembering JC Bradford

When I think of JC, the first thing that comes to mind is water. Along with other members of the Slocan Valley Watershed Alliance, JC worked tirelessly to protect the water stored and filtered in the forests of our valley's slopes. This is the water that feeds our farms and homes. She knew that water is a precious resource, and the amount of water was of great importance to her.

She believed strongly that only a community-based citizen's movement could protect our water. She was a proponent of government policies and ill-planned industrial development. Indeed, her efforts over more than 20 years with the SVWA were a part of honoring Margaret Mead's words: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world - indeed it is the only thing they ever do." I wonder how many people in the Slocan Valley today, who treasure our water, know that JC's efforts and those of her associates played an immense role in ensuring our precious water supplies are protected.

On that note, JC would remind all of us that the struggle to protect Earth and the water she provides never ends. So, if you drink the water and use it to nourish your gardens, think the efforts of JC and the SVWA by being a strong advocate for the protection of water. JC knew that only the people who live here will protect the water and the ecosystems that sustain us. Of the many environmentalists she knew, JC's was art, which will live on even though she is not here to amplify its beauty for us. When Sue and I house-school our daughters, Jody and Shannon, JC taught them to care about the water. I am sure that she imparted important wisdom to those young women during those sessions. What a privilege to be taught by someone with her wisdom and vision.

Each time we walk down our street, we are adored and are nourished by JC's tapestry. Streamed, that the SVWA acted on, and taught us of many years of cooperative community work to protect our water. Each time I look at the tapestry I can hear JC's voice, "Do your share in making the Slocan River a small brook to the roar of the Slocan River in flood. In that way, the streambed and water that flows over and through it is transmitting JC's teachings, "always 'do' attitude to us.

Jody and Shannon were also part of JC's "family" of young women that she counseled and guided on hikes through the mountains and valleys of the Kootenays. We don't know all that transpired on those outings, because those are JC's "inner secrets." But, we know those times were full of love, laughter, and learning - yet another way that JC gave to the people with whom she shared this valley.

Given the unpredictable nature of the weather for landing planes in Castlegar in the fall, winter, and spring, JC was a mentor in helping people think about flying in Vancouver as part of any work. In those days, the bus was often full of smoke, and generally unnoticed. JC had a "fix" for that. She advocated for a garbage container for the quick disposal of garbage.

Susie and I remember many energy-filled cross-country skiing days with JC — often embellished with a winekin. Our abiding memory of JC is one of plac. A woman who taught us to never give up! She never did! We are taken firm steps in the regard that we had the blessing of sharing our lives with you. May you rest along a clear mountain stream in a cozy cabin with a never ending supply of books and supplies bathed in a pallet of colours that makes the rainbow seem pale! Herb, Susie, Jody and Shannon

Hammond Valley

Kootenay-Columbia, "diversity is a good thing." He emphasizes that our current system does not represent the public’s votes, and that PR would introduce variety into Parliament. Bill Green, Green Party candidate for Kootenay-Columbia, says, "Repairing our democratic institutions, including through proportional representation, quite simply means the highest priority." He believes that PR would help us to recover our democracy, and is a firm supporter of and activist for PR. Alternatively, David Wilks, PC candidate for Kootenay-Columbia, does not support PR, stating, "I respect the decision of the electorate not only in British Columbia, but also the provinces of Prince Edward Island and Ontario who also voted down referendums on proportional representation."

It should be noted that BC's 2005 referendum on changing our electoral system was not defeated. In fact, 58% of British Columbians voted in support, yet the government decided not to proceed with PR. After the 2009 referendum, a study was sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions at UBC after the defeat, in which voters were surveyed about their opinions on political parties versus a more balanced make-up of different parties. The study showed that BC voters generally favoured reducing the number of political parties, in addition to showing that most BC voters didn't actually know very much about PR. This ignorance was enhanced by the incredible public spending on TV, radio, billboards, and newspaper ads for the "No" side, something that the "Yes" side did not do. Moreover, the wording of the question was different in 2009 and likely influenced voter opinion, and the campaign and referendum were held over the Christmas, which the BC voters were enjoying the holidays, therefore reducing public interest.

Non-Conservative voters were outraged when the Harper government changed the boundaries of many of Canada's electoral ridings in 2012. The new re-drawn ridings will give the Conservative Party a much greater advantage in the upcoming election due to our electoral system, including here in Kootenay-Columbia. If we changed our electoral system to PR, these re-drawn ridings wouldn't matter. You could vote for who you truly wanted to vote for. Strategic voting, once riling many on voting day, would cease to exist. Our government would be forced to become more transparent and follow through on their promises. Moreover, a single party won't be able to make all the decisions unless the majority of Canadians voted for them. The concept of a majority government elected by a minority of Canadians would cease to exist. Let's make our system equal, proportional and transparent. We can do this by supporting only those candidates who support Proportional Representation.

Danette Meole Nelson/Calgary

Changing our electoral system will fix Canada's problems

This fall, we will all head to the polls for yet another federal election. And as you decide who you’re going to vote for, you will inevitably consider voting strategically. Why vote strategically? Because if you vote for a party that believes in proportional representation, you’ll be voting for your riding, you’ll be waiting your vote. Because that’s how the way our electoral system is set up. It’s designed to allow a party to have a majority, or voter support to win a majority government.

An alternative to our first-past-the-post system exists. It is called Proportional Representation. PR is a system where each party in the House is allocated seats in the House of Commons. It ensures that the party is given the number of seats the party deserves. In New Zealand and many European countries such as Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Switzerland, Portugal and Belgium, Proportional Representation has led to: a) effectively functioning governments; b) better representation of visible minorities, women, and minority parties; c) fewer policy surprises; and d) greater accountability and transparency. It also increases voter turnout as folks no longer feel that they are wasting their time voting.

In countries where PR has been adopted, calls for electoral change have been born out of government corruption and lack of accountability. Typically the governing party will not support a Proportional Representation system, because it would not allow them to have a majority government. The Reform, PR events the playing field, giving strength to minority parties.

In Canada, the NDP and the Green Party have been calling for proportional representation on the issue of electoral reform, both proposing to support a change to PR. I recently interviewed the NDP, Green, and PC candidates in the riding of Kootenay-Columbia on their views on Proportional Representation. (The Liberals do not so far have a candidate in this riding.) According to Wayne Stetski, NDP candidate for Kootenay-Columbia, "diversity is a good thing." He emphasizes that our current system does not represent the public’s votes, and that PR would introduce variety into Parliament. Bill Green, Green Party candidate for Kootenay-Columbia, says, "Repairing our democratic institutions, including through proportional representation, quite simply means the highest priority." He believes that PR would help us to recover our democracy, and is a firm supporter of and activist for PR. Alternatively, David Wilks, PC candidate for Kootenay-Columbia, does not support PR, stating, "I respect the decision of the electorate not only in British Columbia, but also the provinces of Prince Edward Island and Ontario who also voted down referendums on proportional representation."

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Slocan council, May 19: CBT Community Initiatives funding and Springer Creek water monitoring

by Barbara Curry Malahy

The Royal Canadian Legion and the Slocan Curling Club were the big winners in Slocan’s allocation of grant funds from the CBT Community Initiatives Program. Each group got $10,000, the Legion’s grant to go toward finishing its hall and kitchen renovation and the curling club’s to go to energy retrofits. These two grants are up two-thirds of the $30,000 in Slocan’s allocation. The remaining $10,000 was divided between the Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society ($4,500 towards a feasibility and business plan for the seniors’ housing project in Slocan), the Technical Rescue Society ($2,000 for training and equipment for steep slope rescues), the Slocan Valley Cultural Alliance ($1,500 for the 2015 Unity Music Festival), the Kootenay Animal Assistance Program ($1,500 towards subsidizing spay and neuter care for the ratepayers low income families), and the Slocan Valley Rail Trail ($500 towards the Drainage Improvement Project).

The deliberations took more than an hour, during which Councillor Van Byen remarked, “This is worse than trying to decide where your inheritance goes!” How much to give the Curling Club and the Unity Fest were key points of contention. Since the Curling Club project would improve the energy efficiency of a Village building, council decided it made sense to fund it – where to fund the money was the question. Mayor Lunn wanted to use the gas tax fund to fund the Curling Club’s project. Councillor Perriere was adamantly opposed to the gas tax money “be saved for our hydro project” and, in the end, so it was.

The Unity Fest application was opposed on a number of grounds: that the fees for non-residents; the high rate of equipment rental costs, not infrastructure (Pelletier); that the festival drew away “a lot of people from Slocan,” when the mayor who didn’t attend “have to squint to one side of the beach, and that the grant would pay costs which should be borne by vendors (Van Byen); that the SVCA wasn’t working to make itself self-sufficient, that the festival was only “two days a year,” and that the Village already supported the group in-kind (Patterson). The Unity Fest was praised, too. Mayor Lunn argued that it appealed to young families. She reminded council that the Village’s community vision supported the arts. Pelletier said it brought a lot of people to the community. Lunn added that the Unity Fest should get $3,000 but in the end it got only $1,500.

Slocan organizations left without any funding under the program were the Slocan Valley Community Library, the Fitness Centre, and the White Pines Aikido Association.

Mayor Lunn suggested that next year council have “another process” to allocate the grant funds, one that would involve community participation. “I was uncomfortable with all the zeros,” she said. Other councillors were against changing the procedure. Patterson said the Village had tried before to get Slocan residents involved and “no one responded.” Perriere spoke of a “conflict of interest” when everyone who comes “belongs to the library, the fitness centre...”

Councillor had another look at Daplin’s request for a letter of support for a water monitoring project on Springer Creek. CAO Trish Dehnel explained that the Springer Creek Restoration and Preservation Alliance wanted to do this work. The Slocan River Streamkeepers would mentor SCRAPA in this project. SCRAPA would like in the future to work on restoring the lower Springer Creek.

To prepare for this they need to gathered baseline data on the quality of the water and surrounding habitats.

Fields had requested that council write a letter of support to the Columbia Basin Trust so that SCRAPA could become a member of the Columbia Basin Water Quality Monitoring Project and get funding from it for monitoring Springer Creek. An email from Laura Duncan, Coordinator of the WQMP, stated that “As the funder of the WQMP, the CBFT does not want to be providing funding to an activity that might be divisive within a community and therefore would want to be assured that the Council agrees the Village of Slocan is supportive of this monitoring.”

Councillor had a number of questions and comments. Perriere asked why the Slocan River Streamkeepers Society was doing this work, and asked if the money would enrich SCRAPA. Patterson wondered if it was a “money grab.” CAO Dehnel replied that volunteers would gather samples and the funding would cover processing expenses like lab work.

Perriere said the Streamkeepers had a “really good reputation” and called SCRAPA a “group that is a little obscure.” She asked the others to consider this as “consequences” for the Village’s microhydro project on Springer Creek. About SCRAPA she said, “Those people have told us in reality they don’t want us there.” Van Byen agreed saying support for SCRAPA “could come back and bite you.” When CAO Dehnel said the monitoring was to start in May, Patterson said Fields and SCRAPA were late in asking for council’s support.

Mayor Lunn reminded council that the project would be monitoring water. “I don’t think we have anything to hide... but I understand the discomfort with the organization,” she said. She reminded the others that in his presentation to council about another SCRAPA project, Abram Davis had spoken about the microhydro project and “made it clear that he was against it” but that SCRAPA “was neither for nor against it.”

In the end, council agreed they were in favour of monitoring Springer Creek but that they wanted staff to find out why the Slocan River Streamkeepers Society wasn’t the group doing the monitoring.

Call for Proposals

The Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC) has received funding of $300,000 over three years from the Columbia Basin Trust, to be granted to stimulate economic development in the Slocan Valley. These funds may be used for one or more projects serving the Valley. SVEDC has decided on a two-stage application process. The first stage is a Letter of Intent: a brief proposal to determine basic suitability. This letter should outline your idea to stimulate economic development to benefit the whole Slocan Valley from Summit Lake to the Junction.

Following a public input process last year, a number of economic development needs were identified by Slocan Valley residents, which will guide our decision-making process.

Anyone considering submitting a Letter of Intent should first review the “Setting Priorities for the Slocan Valley Directed Fund” report found online via a link on the home page at www.slocanvalley.com

Your Letter of Intent should outline your project idea, how your project will positively impact one or more of the areas of interest identified in the study, your track record doing similar work, and why your society, charitable group, co-operative or business would be the best party to take on the project. Projects must 1) have long-term and valley-wide impact even if implemented in limited areas; 2) use local resources whenever possible; and 3) promote collaboration. Your Letter of Intent should explain how SVEDC funds would be applied in a multi-year business model. This letter should be no more than 3 pages.

All Letters of Intent will be reviewed and once a fit has been established by the SVEDC, a short-list of organizations will be invited to submit a full proposal. Requirements and timeline for the full proposal will be provided to those on the short-list. Successful applicants will be selected for funding after proposals are reviewed by SVEDC.

The SVEDC has a conflict of interest policy for advisory committee review which will be followed in the event a member is affiliated with an organization or business that submits a proposal.

Interested parties should submit their 3-page Letter of Intent via email by Friday, July 17th, 2015, to:

Secretary, Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission
c/o Box 25
Winlaw, BC V0G 2J0
And/or
e-mail: slocanvalleyedc@gmail.com
Medical researcher Sam Milham exposes dirty electricity at June 12 forum

by Art Joyce

Renowned medical researcher and author Sam Milham was in the Slocan Valley as part of an ongoing initiative by Dunphoe Fields to educate residents about smart meters. Milham is the author of Dirty Electricity: Electrification and the Diseases of Civilization and was one of the early researchers exploring the link between close proximity to high voltage power lines and increased incidence of childhood leukemia. Milham had to cancel some engagements due to his metering equipment being held up at the border. However, he spoke at a private home in Willsow on May 28. Fields will be hosting an educational forum on smart meters at the Slocan Park Hall, June 12 at 7 pm. Curtis Bennett, an electrician who testified at the BCUC hearings for the Fortis application to install the new meters, will be presenting.

Milham has had a long and distinguished career. He began his medical studies at Union College, Schenectady, New York, in 1950, winning the Fuller Chemistry Prize and New York State Medical Scholarship. He decided to pursue medical research rather than practice, studying at Albany Medical College from 1954 to 1958. He interned at the US Public Health Hospital, Boston and later in Rochester, New York, furthering his studies at the prestigious Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. During the 1960s he went on to work for the New York State Department of Health as an epidemiologist and went on to become Assistant Professor, at the Albany Medical College Department of Pediatrics, among many other distinctions.

"In university I got curious as to why people getting sick with the same things over and over again," says Milham. "There had to be a common denominator. One of the first things I did was to work in children's hospitals. I thought, if we're going to study cancer we should look at childhood leukemia." In addition to his research in pediatrics, he compared data from occupational records in New York State. What he noticed was that men who worked in occupations related to electricity also had a higher incidence of leukemia. That led him to do some forensic research as far back as the 1920s, correlating health statistics with the electrification of the grid in each US state. He found a surprising relationship between the introduction of electrification and the rising incidence of leukemia and other cancers. Part of Milham's research involved comparing studies of pregnant women to see what their children were being exposed to in utero, and seeing what effects this had on health outcomes after birth.

"I started looking at childhood leukemia and it correlated with the trend of electrification," says Milham. "Today you don't see childhood leukemia in communities that are off the grid. For example Amish communities, which act as great controls for these studies. They also never had any ADHD, autism, or childhood leukemia. It's completely tied to the crap we're exposing kids to." Milham's research has revealed that "dirty" electricity, which is generated by AC-DC converters in computers, lights and various other devices, can cause exposure to electrical fields that is cumulative and health damaging over time. The amount of dirty electricity varies depending on the efficiency of the converter. It's not the steady current that causes concern but the 'spikes' and transient currents this switching creates. Milham says the ideal safe electrical system is a 12-volt DC (direct current). Another contributing factor to electricity is ground current. Milham says utilities in North America, attempting to cut costs by using the earth for grounding instead of higher capacity ground wires on transmission lines, are adding to the problem. According to dirty electricity.ca, "ground current can often carry unpredicted high frequencies and, in some cases, dangerous voltages into a home or building and intermingle with its AC power supply." The same can happen with higher band radio frequencies that can be picked up by poorly grounded home electrical systems. We've now increased our exposure by introducing into the home high-frequency devices such as crib monitors, cordless phones, WiFi, smart meters and cell phones. Compact fluorescent bulbs emit high levels of dirty electricity, as do some LEDs. According to the Karolinska Institute's Dr. Olle Johansson, humans are now exposed to up to a billion times more radiation that at any time in our history. "I've known people who've had to move away from their homes because they got too sick." EcoSociety opposes heli-ski application

West Kootenay EcoSociety is asking Fernie Counter BC to deny an application for heli-skiing near Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. The Nelson-based environmental society explained in a letter to Fernie Counter BC that the proposed recreation tenure could have significant impacts on caribou, wolves, and grizzlies as well as sensitive plants, birds, and amphibians. "There are really three issues here: one is the direct impact to species from increased human contact and noise from helicopters, the second is the impact on the existing recreation experience and the evolution of energy

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New Denver council, May 26: Fire truck purchase will affect taxes

by Karine Campbell

• Council gave first, second and third reading to Fire Engine Replacement Loan Authorization Bylaw #606, 2015. By provincial law, the Village must replace the truck because it is 20 years old, even though the mileage is only 11,128 km.

The Village has been discussing the issue for some time and hired a consultant to help council find the best option. A capital expenditure of up to $350,000 for the new truck is included in the 2015/16 budget. The Village will withdraw $65,000 from the reserve fund, and borrow up to $255,000 on a 15-year term, with an annual debt payment of $20,000. The cost of the debt would be shared with Silverton and the part of Area II the fire department covers. Tax impacts would range, typically, from $20 to $80 per year for an average property.

• The residents of New Denver have to approve the borrowing. This will be done by an Alternate Approval Process, i.e. at least 10 percent of voters have to call for a referendum. If residents were to turn it down, insurance for both the Village and property owners would triple.

• Council refused a request from Joe Chirico, the RDCK’s Manager of Community Services, to consider providing partial funding to improve the parking lot at Crescent Beach. The Village’s five-year financial plan commits $5,386 to the Regional Parks Service; any additional contributions would require amending the bylaw, which council was unwilling to do. Von Krogh added that there were “too many things we need to spend the money on for our community. I don’t want to send it down south.” Hodsall said the request was very late notice and Crescent Beach “is 40 minutes away, it doesn’t relate closely to our community.”

• Councilor Heaning von Krogh reported the lake was up 30 cm (one foot) last week and Carpenter Creek was muddy and mushing. He added that the water was hitting the bank where the dike had been strengthened last year.

• Councilor David Hodsall recommended a motion to consider Committee #5 May 7 meeting. Rob Farrell has been hired to clean and maintain Bigelow Bay Silverton Community Centre. The was awarded a $300 grant-in-aid for July 1st celebrations. Anthony MacKinnon was appointed commissioner for Lakecine student council. The Valhalla Fine Arts Society was awarded a $200 grant-in-aid towards the LESS grand dance.

• The development permit application for the new Valhalla Fire building was deferred until the June 9 council meeting.

• A request for in-kind assistance for improvements to the Bosun Hall was deferred until the Village receives the updated grant application it has requested.

• Although the Village was granted almost $9,000 by Young Canada Works, it will decline the money because no one applied for the jobs. The Nikkei Centre wanted to hire students for two Collection Assistant positions and had been advertising since March with 11 universities and colleges and in other locations. The Village can’t accept funding for positions it can’t fill.

• In response to a letter from Denver Sidney resident Gisela Lago, requesting the Village expand its boundaries to take in her property, council directed staff to prepare a preliminary report on the process to expand the boundaries. The RDCK has told Denver Sidney residents that an Interior Health boil water order won’t be lifted until they have an approved water system.

• The Sloven Lake Stewardship Society’s request for the Village to provide a drop-off point for its monthly lake water sample was approved. There will be no cost to the Village to do this.

• Council received its 2014 Annual Water Report, compiled by Water System Operator Rayn Butt. Councilor von Krogh noted the reports were getting “more meaningful and informative” while Councilor David Hodsall said they showed forethought and planning. The Village’s water continues to be of excellent quality.

Mayor Branka said the recent visit by Li Governor Judith Guichon had gone well, and offered thanks to Administrative Assistant Amanda Murphy for organizing the itinerary.

Branka attended the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission AGM and thanked the directors for the grant for the Nikkei Centre’s 20th anniversary celebration.

At the last RDCK meeting, the board discussed the childcare compensation program, to encourage young people to run for office. The board also decided to change the number of people needed to sign a candidate’s nomination papers, from two to five.

Unity Music Festival 2015 announces line-up

submitted

Unity Music Festival is bringing music from around the world to Slocan City Beach on July 25 and 26. The line-up includes O.K.A (New Zealand), Delta 2 Dublin, Pigeon Hole, House of David Gang, Adbah Shalik, Moonehicks, Can Pan, and Jon Wood, Interstitial, Daza, Rosie Brown Band, J. Greg Walter Trio, Riton, Good Old Goats, Shawerz, Father Paul and the Fireside Prophets, the Claybrick Boys and the Circus Insanities. More acts will be announced in the next few weeks.

This is the fifth year for the family festival, which will have two stages, a kids zone, live art and the beautiful swimming beach of Slocan City along with the breathtaking vista of Valhalla Park. For the full line-up and the list of sponsors go to www.unitymusicfestival.ca.

Early bird tickets are only $65 for the weekend and can be purchased online or at ticket vendors (Mountain Valley Station in Slocan City, Gnia Tree Whole Foods in Witslaw, Evangeline Foods in Cranbrook and Packrat Annie’s in Nelson). Kids 12 and under free!

The organizers would like to thank the community and sponsors for their energy and support for the festival. Vendor and volunteer applications are online and volunteer applications are also at Fullbeaks Coffee Shop in Slocan City. The festival is presented by The Slocan Valley Cultural Alliance, a non-profit society dedicated to promoting music, art, dance and culture in the Slocan Valley.
Susan Wilson honoured with prestigious George Matthews Award
submitted
Winnipeg resident Susan Wilson is the recipient of the 2015 George Matthews Award, in recognition of the many years she has worked as an active and effective member of Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and District Parent Advisory Councils (DPAC), and as a director and treasurer for the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC). In all of these roles she has devoted her time and efforts voluntarily, and has brought boundless energy, good humour and a commitment to getting things done in a very positive manner.

Susan has been a tireless advocate for public education over many years, working at the school district and provincial levels. She has served on BCCPAC as treasurer, on School District 8 PAC as treasurer and participant in numerous district sub-committees (e.g. Policy and Finance), and as chair of Mount Sentinel Secondary PAC and Grad Committee.

Susan has developed and delivered PAC training courses to parents, and School Planning Council courses to parents, school and district staff – courses that continue to be used in the Kootenay Lake school district. She has helped individual PACs develop appropriate constitutions and become true Parent Advisory Councils rather than just fundraising committees. Susan has partnered with organizations and established successful programs, such as Parents’ Night Out. School District 8 now holds these well attended free parent education evenings several times a year. DPAC also provides travel and childcare subsidies upon request – another innovative practice. Susan initiated to ensure that such opportunities are accessible to all parents.

Her achievements have been many. She has advocated and been directly involved in teaching parents how to advocate effectively for their schools and their children.

The board of education of School District 8 Kootenay Lake actively supported Susan’s nomination for this award and believes it to be a very appropriate way to recognize and give tribute to Susan for all that she has contributed to the school district.

Susan Wilson received her well-deserved George Matthews award at the recent BCCPAC Annual General Meeting, held in Burnaby in early May. The George Matthews Award for Excellence in Parent Leadership was created to honour George Edwin Matthews (1941-2001), who provided unwavering support of parents in education throughout his years as Ministry of Education liaison with BCCPAC.

Pharmacy opens in New Denver
by Jan McMurray
The New Denver Community Pharmacy opened on May 16, and owner Ward Taylor says he’s very happy to be part of the New Denver business community.

Ward bought Kaslo’s pharmacy in August 2012, and New Denver was on his radar soon afterwards. “I made a trip over to New Denver and was enamoured by the town just as much as I was with Kaslo,” he said. “I thought that spending my career in Kaslo and New Denver was better than winning the lottery!”

The New Denver Community Pharmacy is a full service pharmacy, staffed by pharmacists Ward and Wendy Letona. “We do everything pharmacists can offer – we fill prescriptions, do medication reviews, compounding, compliance packaging, flu shots, vaccinations.”

The store also carries health products such as vitamins and supplements, antibiotic ointments, first aid items, stomach aids, antihistamines, cough and cold products, some health and beauty products, and some yoga supplies.

Ward says he can provide home care and mobility aids, as well. “I understand how important it is for people to stay comfortable and mobile in their homes, so I have good sources for all sorts of mobility aids like scooters, lift chairs, walkers, grab bars, and at good prices,” he said.

Ward says with the quality of medical care in New Denver, he felt the community deserved a pharmacy. “In a small town, it’s important to have the essentials,” he said.

Ward was born and raised in Regina, and finished a degree in biology at the University of Regina and a degree in pharmacy at the University of Saskatchewan. Right out of school, he worked for a corporate pharmacy and realized it wasn’t a good fit for him. He came to BC to visit his brother in Creston, and set up in Nelson as a locum pharmacist, doing relief work. “I instantly felt at home here among the lakes and mountains,” he said. He loves the lifestyle here, where he can enjoy his many outdoor pursuits, including mountain biking, kayaking, hiking, skiing, and snowboarding.

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Seniors Survey shows solid support for Slocan housing

Slocan Valley seniors have shown solid support for affordable seniors’ housing in Slocan.

A recent survey distributed through the Valley Voice and online came back in large numbers, with 411 responses from senior households, representing at least 625 seniors. It asked questions about housing and support needs and preferences of those 50+ years old.

“This is a very high response rate,” said Rita Moir, president of the Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society. “The data from the survey, along with interviews of key individuals throughout the valley and region, meetings with the public and seniors’ groups, as well as village and regional data, are giving us a good grasp on what people want and need.”

“The survey results indicate support from throughout the valley for an affordable rental housing project in Slocan,” said Need and Demand Study coordinator Ann Harvey. “192 households indicated that they would consider moving into the project in the future, with 42 of them indicating they were planning a move within the next five years.”

As expected, the highest interest among those considering the project and wanting to move within five years came from Slocan seniors (40 per cent), with 17 per cent interest from north of the bluffs, 17 per cent from the Lemon Creek to Winlaw area, and nine per cent each from the Passmore/Slocan Park and Crescent Valley/South Slocan areas, respectively.

“The number of people ready to move in solidsifies when project and operating costs are nailed down, applications are invited, construction draws near and the project becomes more real and visible,” said Harvey.

While all decisions will have to be moderated by costs, the current preference is for one bedroom, one-bedroom with loft, and two-bedroom units. Consultations with the public will continue as designs are modified to build on the data gathered.

Nakusp council, May 25: Municipal objectives endorsed

by Katrina Campbell

Council endorsed the 2016-2018 municipal objectives: economic development, land use/industrial growth, community development, hot springs development, and fiscal responsibility.

- Area K Director Paul Peterson requested $10,000 from NACOR’s Legacy fund for the southern zone, which was approved as per policy. Peterson asked for the cheque to be made out to Finspiker and Area Golf Course. He explained that the bridge on the course that goes over Heart Creek and leads to the number 6 tee box is failing and needs replacing. The cost is approximately $10,000 to replace the bridge, but with volunteer help it might come in at a little less. If there is money left over, the club will have no problem finding a use for it, due to the success this spring.
- Hot Springs Director of Operations Terry Welsh updated council on the Hot Springs roofing project. The existing shingles on all the cabins have been removed. Council debated having sheeting on the cabins at an extra cost of $32,000, which wasn’t in the budget. They asked staff to report back with options and ideas for where to find the money.
- Barb Miller was awarded the campgrounds operator contract.
- Council directed staff to submit a grant application for the arena roof project to Western Economic Diversification Canada’s “Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program.”
- Council approved staff’s recommendations re: engaging with the CBF Water Smart program to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to potential contractors. The RFQ would help to identify contractors that could provide the Village of Nakusp with Water and Sewer Utility Cost of Services, Revenue Requirements, and Rates Analysis.

The Village has been engaged with Water Smart in an initiative to bring economies of scale to the study process through a liaison with two other municipalities, Montrose and Valemount. Montrose has offered to act as lead in this liaison. Three municipalities issuing an RFQ together should provide a better response than just one acting alone. This should allow the Village to develop a strong short list of contractors, with the intention of issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) once it is deemed prudent. The Village provided Water Smart with a directive to initiate the RFQ process only on Thursday May 21, and will update council on the prospective contractor short list when it is complete.
- Fire Chief Terry Warren made a PowerPoint presentation to council with an update on fire statistics, including local, regional and provincial.
- June 8 council meeting was cancelled.

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Slocan Valley Art and Garden Tour happening June 21

COMMUNITY

submitted
The 16th annual Slocan Valley Art and Garden Tour will take place Sunday, June 21, from 10 am to 4 pm between South Slocan and the Village of Slocan. Eight beautiful gardens and a variety of artists will be featured this year. At each site, gardeners invite you to tour their properties and learn about their gardens. Discover organic veggies, established orchards, Jersey cows, perennial flowers, and even a dome greenhouse. Local artists display their creations alongside the gardens, including paintings, sculptures, and jewellery.

The Slocan Valley Community Band will play at the Slocan Community Library. Tour brochures are available at local businesses, garden centres, and on bulletin boards. The brochure includes a map with the location of each garden stop, as well as local businesses where you will find supplies for your own garden. Also on the map is a list of locations along the tour where you can stop for lunch, a light snack, or a giant ice cream cone.

This popular event is sponsored by the Slocan Valley Arts Council. Donations are gratefully accepted on site. For more information, phone Laura Tiberti at 250-226-7347 or Solona at solona.mend@gmail.com.

Winlaw watershed project a big success at Winlaw School
by Jan McMurray

All students at Winlaw Elementary participated in a project on the local watershed this spring that brought in expertise from the community and included field trips, theatre, music and painting. The project was funded with grants from Go Wild, Artsstarts and the Parent Advisory Council.

Principal Jon Francis wrote about the project in the school newsletter: “This project has been, from start to finish, an incredible example of many best practices in our profession. Deeper Learning is a model for students and teachers that does not simply focus on content and curriculum goals but also the less tangible skills such as creative thinking, problem solving and collaboration.”

Each class studied a part of the watershed: the pond (kindergarten), the upper forest (grade 1); the lower forest (grade 2/3); the wetlands (grade 3/4); the river (grade 5/6). The project culminated in the performance of a play, written by local writer Martina Avis. The play included music and songs, taught to the students by local musician Bo Cerdan. Each class played the role of their part of the watershed in the play. Costumes and stage sets were made with biodegradable and recyclable materials.

Shannon Bennett, local environmental educator, took each class on a field trip to study their part of the watershed. These included outings to Slocan Lake, the Retallack old-growth forest, the Airy Pools, DeMarco’s old-growth forest, river, the Winlaw Park wetlands, and river rafting.

Students also did drawings and paintings of the forages with local artist Ron Mulvey.

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Strouhal shows in Manhattan, Kelowna
submitted

Time to Breathe is the title of Frantisek Strouhal’s artwork which was juried and chosen for exhibit in two North American art shows. The first was Manhattan Arts International “Healing Power of ART” show for the month of May; the second month, is the Federation of Canadian Artists show “Owls” in Kelowna. Everybody is welcome to the opening reception, June 12 in the Galleria of the Rotary Centre for the Arts.

Art critic Brian Sherwin, editor of The Art Edge magazine, states Frantisek’s surrealistic approach “psychologically engaging. In other words his work forces one to ponder about the deeper meaning of life.”

Winlaw grade 3/4 class went on a field trip to Winlaw Nature Park to study the wetlands as part of the Winlaw Watershed project.

Jacob Roberts was the winner of the Prairie Quilt by the New Denver Quilt Guild. Jacob wasn’t at the May Days event to receive the quilt, but his cousins Mackenzie, Carson and Paxton Roberts were happy to accept it on his behalf.

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Kaslo welcomes Lt. Governor Judith Guichon in style

Recently BC’s Lt. Governor, the Honourable Judith Guichon, has been touring the Kootenays, visiting many towns and villages. On May 14 it was Kaslo’s turn. As her itinerary only permitted her a few hours, Kaslo organizers felt it was important to show Guichon the village’s two National Historic Sites, the Old City Hall, and the SS Moyie sternwheeler. At City Hall she presented Kaslo’s former CAO Rae Sawyer with an engraved plaque in appreciation for her many years of service. Guichon and entourage were then taken via horse and carriage to the SS Moyie where, after a brief tour of the ship, they were served a luncheon catered by the Legion’s Ladies Auxiliary. David Stewart provided classical guitar music.

Current CAO Neil Smith presented Guichon with a gift basket of locally made soaps, candles, and chocolates provided by Figments in Kaslo. With no time to waste it was off to JV Humphries school to meet the students and attend a 45-minute assembly complete with a short performance of the traditional May Pole dance by grades 2 and 3.

Guichon spoke to students about the electoral process, the importance of the land and the importance of being involved in the government they elected. Her comment on how there are more micro-organisms in a tablespoon of soil than people on the planet was very popular indeed and left more than a few of the students gazing in wonder at their own cupped hands.

Three big steps – one giant leap to go for Kaslo’s Unity Bridge

There were a few tense moments for the Kaslo Trailblazers, but the unloading of the bridge on May 21 eased with a high five when Glen Settle of Settle Holdings slung the two 50-foot sections to a safe landing on the south bank of the Kaslo River. Two concrete bridge abutments and protective riprap had already been constructed by Tom Duchastel and Chris Temple, with great assistance from the Village of Kaslo crew. Meanwhile, Val Koenig and his faithful band of stonemasons had painted three coats of magenta (beetroot) on the wooden superstructure. Next comes the dry land carpentry to build the treads, the railings, and the posts. The culmination will come when a crane lowers the 118 foot steel slats across the water at the end of Fifth Street and the final assembly begins. Don’t forget you can still sponsor a bridge trestle ($150) or a post ($500) with an engraved plaque. Call Val at 250-353-2168 or email Kaslotrails@bakers.com. The plaque wording is yours, but your gift is for everyone.

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Open House

Three big steps – one giant leap to go for Kaslo’s Unity Bridge

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Three big steps – one giant leap to go for Kaslo’s Unity Bridge
Asian Culture Night at the Langham attracts full house

by Art Joyce

From ancient times the connection between food, drink and the composition of poetry was well established. The fourth annual Asian Culture Night, held at the Langham on the evening of May 22, continued this tradition. Organized by Laurie Moss and Romelle Gloria-Moss, the event attracted a full house in the Langham Theatre. Poets Robert Banks Foster and Mark Mealing organized the literary portion of the evening.

Foster and Mealing along with David Jackson read selections from poets singing in time from the Song of Solomon (6th century BC) to the 19th century Japanese poet Isho Gakanze, with many stops along the way through history. Jackson read excerpts from the Confucian Odes, which were translated by Ezra Pound (from 1923 to 1954) and by Arthur Wesley in 1937, bringing this ancient text to a modern Western audience for the first time. The Odes are considered the beginnings of Chinese literature, and were first compiled between 1027-711 BC. Although the Odes bear the name of Confucius just as the Song of Solomon bears the name of ancient Israelite King Solomon, neither was its author. Chinese tradition has Confucius as the compiler of the Odes. Mealing also read works from obscure Chinese poets Tao Chu-iem (AD 480), Yang Wu (9th century), Chi Hsi (9th century), as well as the more universally known Li Po (8th century) and the equally famous Japanese poet Basho (17th century).

The theme of drinking – both tea and alcohol – makes an appearance in some of the earliest Chinese poetry, as it does in later, more famous poets such as Lumi and Hafiz. Rumi, who was Persian by birth, was a 13th century Islamic scholar, poet and Sufi mystic whose works are still loved across Middle Eastern cultures today. Rumi’s poetry began to reach a mass audience in the West with the recent translations of American poet Coleman Barks and it is still a top seller in poetry. For example: “Rocking and rolling / what have you been drinking? / I please let me know.” Its language is direct, its message simple and remarkably modern sounding. The poet known to us simply as Hafiz – another Persian – was a 14th century Sufi mystic whose work celebrates the joys of love and wine and skews religious hypocrisy. These poems emphasize the ecstatic or sensual aspect of spirituality rather than Protestant traditions of Western spirituality that tend to emphasize abstention and self-control.

In Asian cultures tea has far more of a ritualistic aspect to it traditionally than in Western culture. These are rituals of simplicity, explains Foster, rather than having any particular religious significance. Romello Gloria-Moss has demonstrated the tea ceremony at previous Asian Culture Nights. According to one anonymous Zen poet: “Tea is taught not by this: if you make the water boil, / then infuse the tea, / Then you drink it properly. / That is all you need to know.” The connection between the historical development of Buddhism and poetry was also explored. As another Chinese Zen poet wrote: “Past mind cannot be grasped / present mind cannot be grasped / future mind cannot be grasped. / With which mind will you drink this tea?” Zen Buddhism is an outgrowth of Chinese Chan Buddhism that spread throughout all of East Asia and Japan starting in the 7th century.

An impressive fashion show of classical and modern Asian dress followed. Laurie Moss explained the origins of each type of dress, its materials and typical uses. These included the traditional Japanese kimono, the Chinese Han Fu long tunic, the intricately embroidered tunic of the Mongol people of southern China, the traditional garb of Laos and Vietnam, and both traditional and modern dress of the Philippines.

The event always culminates in a delicious Asian meal. In the Philippine culture, the first question isn’t, “Hi, how are you?” it’s “Have you eaten?” explains Gloria-Moss. There’s always food involved in hospitality, and strangers are welcome to share food with the family during festive days.

The fourth annual Asian Culture Night held at the Langham on May 22 featured poetry from the ancient masters, a fashion show of traditional and modern Asian dress, and a delectable meal here the models demonstrate the various cultures present.

Second annual RAFTEX a great success submitted

On the weekend of May 16 and 17, 27 participants from nine SAR (Search & Rescue) teams around the province gathered in Nelson for the second annual RAFTEX. These members of regional swiftwater teams came together to improve their skills and bond as a technical rescue group in one of the most dangerous rescue environments that volunteers face in organized rescue.

Many a valley would have seen the bottle of a colourful raft that weekend as participants spent their days learning raft operations on many different types of rafts and cat-a-rats.

Participants received instruction in raft guiding techniques to prepare them for their BC RAFT Outfitters Association Guide Licence. The BCROA SAR specific guide licence is a new initiative from the BCSARA and BCROA to improve safety on the rivers with SAR teams. Under the direction of a BCROA Trip Leader, participants spent up to 30 hours learning to log many hours for the SAR Guides exam.

On the Monday morning, five runs from the West Kootenay and South Okanagan Regional Swiftwater Teams became the first successful SAR members to pass the new BCROA SAR Guides exam.
 Trails meeting attempts to bring groups together

by Art Joyce

About 35 people attended a meeting hosted by the North Kootenay Sports and Recreation Council at Knox Hall May 23 to discuss regional trails. The meeting was moderated by Rebecca Sargent, a staffer with NRSRC. Representatives were present from the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society, Kootenay Community Forest, Sproat Creek Restoration and Preservation Alliance, North Slocan Trail Society, Nakusp and Area Trail Society, Rosebery Patkshul Society, Galena Trail Commission, Arrow Lakes ATV Club, Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society as well as interested individuals.

Ernie Knecht, president of the Arrow Lakes ATV Club, came with a prepared statement calling for the opening of the rail trail south from Summit Lake to motorized use. He cited the council’s mandate to provide “opportunities for citizens to be active for life.” and cited a York University faculty of health study stating that ATV use can be considered a “moderately intense physical activity,” particularly for seniors. Knecht’s group would like to see a circle route taking in a loop from Nakusp to Rosebery through Wilson Lake and back. “We can address the issues related to the end use and personal conflicts with a little tolerance, respect and understanding,” said Knecht. He suggested drafting a Memorandum of Understanding with all users in order to avoid conflicts. It was clear that the ATV contingent was interested in making this top of the agenda, and had brought in a large group to press that goal. One man kept insisting on calling a vote from multiple vs. non-motorized users. Sargent advised setting aside this issue to deal with other issues of common concern to trail advocacy groups, such as funding. Richard Allin of the Kaslo Hills Recreation Society gave an overview of the recent history of trails management in the region. He and Mike Kool of the North Slocan Trail Society explained that a trail near survey will be forthcoming in the Valley Voice, and that this would better represent the consensus of opinion in the community than a vote called at the meeting. One woman said, “Trails for everyone but not every trail for everyone.” For example, mountain biking trails are specifically built as a single track and would be disastrous if used by ATV use.

One of the issues that come into play with multiple use trails is insurance. One man said the cost of liability insurance for trail societies triples when motorized use is introduced. Knecht said new regulations from ICBC require ATV users to have insurance and there are policies available for riding logging and mining roads. The provincial government looked in extra third parties liability coverage when the Arrow Lakes District asked on trails. It was pointed out, however, that simply having a policy doesn’t prevent someone from suing a society.

Sargent asked if the groups present might unite on the common front of seeking funding for trail development, sharing ideas and challenges. Chris Wetmore of Kaslo Adventure said it seemed pointless to go after government funding, which has mostly been wiped out at both the provincial and federal levels. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is barely maintaining the province’s extensive network of logging roads. Silverton Councillor Leah Main-Goorup noted that she did not abandon the idea of employing local government as advocates.

Former Kaslo Mayor Greg Lay made a very practical contribution when he suggested that an inventory of regional trails be done. He says the Kaslo Chamber of Commerce sees our trails as a potential economic generator and would like to eventually see consistent signage and marketing. “We live here, we’re the experts,” said Lay. “To have negotiations for use needs an inventory; we don’t want the government in Victoria telling us who live here what we should be doing.” Sargent advised the forming of a subcommittee to pursue the inventory and names were collected.

Silverton Councillor Carol Bob said she is increasingly concerned about the safety of cyclists riding between Silverton and New Denver, and would like to see a trail there. She also noted that the youth contingent was absent from the meeting and should be reached out to for support.

Sargent read out a protocol by Cascade Environmental designed to mitigate friction between user groups, a set of values and codes of behaviour that treat trails as shared community resources. Among its codes is that “trail use is a privilege and no one has any right to it than anyone else.” Unfortunately the ATV contingent continued to push for a vote on multiple use, at which point the meeting deteriorated despite Sargent’s best efforts to keep the peace.

Of all those present, only one person mentioned the sensitive ecosystems along the Rosebery to Summit Lake section of the rail trail. Concern for the environment was almost entirely lacking, trumped by individual rights to universal trail access.

Celebrate the Vallican Whole Community Choir at Passmore Lodge

Submitted

The Vallican Whole Community Choir is wrapping up its third season and the singers want you to help them celebrate! Come to the Passmore Lodge on Sunday June 14 at 2 pm and hear what this choir has accomplished over the last three years. The repertoire is truly eclectic, ranging from classical to contemporary songs. African tunes are a particular favorite, and are guaranteed to have you swaying along to the infectious rhythms.

The choir is delighted to have Sophia Gay as their conductor. She is a classically trained singer who took on the daunting task of conducting a non-professional and very enthusiastic choir and with the able assistance of Shiron Lang, she has helped mould the group into a harmonious whole. These women have amazing singing voices, and the

The choir is pleased they added these voices to some of the music; so for them to do so would be a great loss. Lang is also an accomplished pianist, and adds his talent to the mix.

The energy of the choir is truly inspirational: no one could doubt these people are having a really good time. If you want to have a really good time discovering what your friends and neighbours have been learning every Sunday afternoon for three years, this is an event not to be missed.

Admission is free. As this is a bit of a social occasion and chance to visit, refreshments will be available. Although donations are welcomed, the choir simply wants to share their music and joy with you, the community, and to show off just a little bit because they are so proud of what they are accomplishing together.
Interfor joins tree planting world record attempt

submitted

Interfor’s Kootenay operations participated in a North America-wide effort to set a world record for the most trees planted simultaneously in one hour on May 20. A total of 26 teams, each with 25 to 100 people, planted over 200,000 seedlings at locations from New York City to Minnesota to Vancouver Island.

Sixty-seven volunteers and forest professionals planted 8,272 seedlings at two Interfor harvesting locations in the Kootenays – on Outcost Road east of Williston Lake in TFL 23 and at Windmill Creek near Greenwood.

The initiative was organized by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI), an independent, non-profit organization that promotes sustainable forest management through standards, research, conservation partnerships and community building.

“The world record attempt is a wonderful way to highlight that SFI is more than a forest certification standard—it’s a diverse community that stands for future forests,” said Kathy Abasof, SFI’s President and CEO. “Interfor is an excellent example of this community commitment to local forests. In British Columbia, Interfor has 2.8 million hectares certified to the SFI standard, and all of its BC mills have SFI chain-of-custody certification.”

Once the teams submit their results to Guinness World Records, they should learn in six to eight weeks whether it will include the new category. There is currently a category for the most trees planted in an hour at one location by 100 people—the record is 40,885.

Silverton council, May 26: Council meeting schedule changes

by Jan McMurray

• Council meetings will take place on the second Tuesday of each month, starting in July.

• Council will be accepting public input on the Village’s annual report (2014) at the July 14 council meeting.

• Representatives of the Silverton Historical Society will be invited to the June Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the archives and museum.

• Council received a letter from the manager of Telson Telecom Ltd., a fibre optics supplier and service provider located in Richmond. The letter states that the company’s goal is to bring high speed internet and optic TV to rural BC, and proposed partnering with local municipalities to do this. Mayor Clarke will investigate this further.

• Mayor Clarke reported on Chamber of Commerce business. Thirteen West Koot Route signs will be installed around the region encompassing the Slocan, Arrow Lakes and North Kootenay Lake Valleys. The Chambers in these three valleys have been working together on the regional West Koot Route brand.

• Council declined a request from the RDCK to provide funding for the construction of a parking lot at Crescent Valley Beach Park. Council members felt they didn’t have enough time or information to consider the request.

• Councillor Main reported that Silverton, Slocan and New Denver were all being asked to contribute to the project. The park is part of the Slocan Valley Parks service, which all Slocan Valley residents pay taxes towards. However, there is only $55,000 available for the project in RDCK coffers, and the project will cost $121,000 or $234,000, depending on which parking lot design is chosen. An opportunity has arisen to complete the project this season at a $20,000 savings, as there will be a $15,000 6 paving project in June. To take advantage of this opportunity, the RDCK asked the three Villages to make a contribution over and above the annual tax requisition.

• A letter from the Deputy Minister of Agriculture informs council that the Agricultural Land Commission Act now identifies medical marijuana as a farm use in the ALR. Local governments can regulate, but not prohibit, this land use. Also, standards for bylaws regarding medical marijuana production facilities located in the ALR are available on the Ministry of Agriculture website.

• Council received a letter from Emergency Management BC describing the Alert Ready system, which will be used to issue emergency alert messages on television and radio once it is operational. Target operational date is March 2016.

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REPORT AN INVADER
June is Invaders Species Action Month. Invaders impacting water quality, invasive species have negative economic impacts on logging, agriculture, tourism & real estate. Know what invader you have and what to do about it. Zebra Mussels look like? Green algae on boating chats, algae blooms on beaches. Want to report an invader? Go to www.gc.ca/invasions/ or email to info@rca.mb.ca. INVADER LINE 1-877-877-1757

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Balfour and Kaslo transfer stations to be upgraded this year

Upgrades to the Balfour and Kaslo waste transfer stations will start soon, as the RDCK awarded the contract to McNally Excavating of Nelson at the May 21 board meeting. Construction was scheduled to begin in May but all original tenders were rejected for being over the approved project budget. The RDCK worked with the engineering team to revise the project scope, reduce costs and re-tender the project, which has been planned since 2010. The total contract value for the tendered works is $963,832. Construction is anticipated to occur from June 15 to October 2.

The RDCK says it has worked closely with engineers and contractors to create an action plan to minimize any inconvenience for residents.

Both the Kaslo and Balfour sites will be closed during construction but only one will be closed at any given time. The anticipated closure dates are Kaslo from June 15 to July 28 and Balfour from August 1 to October 2.

To minimize disruption to the public during the site closures the RDCK will take the following actions:
- Small loads of residential bagged mixed waste only will be received at the sites on Tuesdays, 10 am to 3 pm at Kaslo, and Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm at Balfour. A contractor will receive bagged mixed waste at $2.50 per bag outside the transfer station during the posted hours. Larger loads, scrap metal and wood waste will not be accepted.
- There will be extended hours at Balfour during the Kaslo closure. The Balfour station will open on Sunday from 10 to 4 am in addition to the regular Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday hours from 10 am to 4 pm. The site suggests ways to make dying easier. It pours no honey to make the medicine go down. Instead, with lyrical prose, deep wisdom, and stories from his two decades of working with dying people and their families, Jenkinson places death at the center of the page and asks us to behold it in all its painful beauty.

We must all die well, says Stephen Jenkinson

For more information Google ‘Stephen Jenkinson’ or go to www.orphanwitness.com.

This community event is sponsored by the Hospice Society of North Kootenay Lake - advance tickets in Kaslo at Sunasys Naturals, $15, or on June 16 at the door, $20.

Third and final year of West Arm water quality monitoring

The Friends of Kootenay Lake have started the final year of a three-year water quality monitoring program. The study will provide important baseline data for one of the highest populated portions of the lake and encourage a broader and deeper understanding of the lake’s ecosystem. In the first two years they captured 10,200 data points and provided one-on-one training for more than 50 volunteers.

The plan is to monitor by boat 12 times between May–October for chlorophyll a, turbidity, total phosphorus, dissolved phosphorus, total nitrogen, nitrate and nitrite, ammonium, fecal coliforms, E. coli, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, organic nitrogen, temperature, dissolved oxygen and water clarity.

The Friends are also teaming up with the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee to monitor for zebra and quagga mussels. These aquatic invasive species are posing a threat to many freshwater systems in BC including Kootenay Lake.

Want to get involved with the program? Come join us on the boat to try your hand at water quality monitoring! Check friendsofkootenaylake.ca for water monitoring dates.

A special thanks to program funders BC Hydro, Columbia Power Corporation, the Real Estate Foundation of BC, and Walmart evergreen for making this monitoring possible.

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Rezoning for seniors housing discussed at public hearing in Burton

by Jan McMurray

With the idea of a seniors housing project in mind, the RDCK is proposing to zone a piece of property to allow its construction in Burton.

About 35 people attended a public hearing on the rezoning of the RDCK-owned land at the Burton Hall on May 25. Ann K. Director, Paul Petson and RDCK Planning Manager Meeri Durand were there to present the proposal and to answer questions.

They explained that the RDCK board would like to facilitate the development of seniors housing in Area K, which has the second highest population of seniors in the region. Director Petson said the RDCK is willing to offer the property for $1 to a non-profit organization that would build and manage the facility. He said Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS) has expressed an interest in the project, but there is no formal agreement in place.

“We’re at stage one of a 20-stage program to see if this can happen. There are a lot of hoops to jump through,” said Petson. “We don’t want to see that if ASLCS decides to look at this further, they will have to do a lot of research to determine the feasibility of the project. Preliminary discussions with ASLCS put the size of the project at about 14.3 hectares.

Most people who spoke were in favour of the proposal, but some were concerned about the location. They asked if the seniors housing facility could be built down by the gynanhkana grounds or the school grounds, where it is more open and accessible.

Petson explained that this is the only property that the RDCK owns in Burton. BC Hydro gifted the property to the RDCK for resource recovery, but is no longer needed for that purpose since the landfill was built on an adjacent property.

Burton resident Liz Gillis said that seniors housing developments take a long time, and that it took 20 years in Qualicum. “This is a really good beginning discussion,” she said. “These developments can get a step forward if the local government offers land for $1, but there is concern about the location, and I hope this opens the dialogue. I hope the feasibility study, which is the next step, will help a project like this take hold here.”

The property in question is 14.3 hectares and is located at the end of the paved portion of Burton Main Road. The plan is to subdivide off a development area and transfer it to the proponent of the seniors housing development. The proponent will have to own the property in order to get a mortgage.

The parcel is in the Agricultural Land Reserve, so the RDCK has consulted with the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) about the rezoning. The ALC has given approval to rezone the one-hectare piece institutional to accommodate the seniors housing, as long as the remainder of the land is rezoned agricultural. The parcel is currently zoned industrial.

There is some concern about the rezoning because there is not enough industrial land in the Nakusp area. Durand pointed out that even though this parcel is zoned industrial, it is in the ALC, so any industrial use would have to be approved by the ALC.

Some people voiced concerns about the ability of Burton’s water system to supply an eight-unit seniors housing facility. Director Petson said Burton has enough water for double its population. He explained that BC Hydro had given out incorrect information about the size of the reservoir at some point in the past, thus the misconception in the community about the water supply.

Durand added that once a proposal comes forward, the water infrastructure would be fully investigated. She said it was pointed out that the RDCK would not put its own water system in jeopardy.

For the seniors housing facility to be hooked up to the Burton water system, an extension of the line would be necessary. This would cost about $15,000. Director Petson assured residents that the development would not impact taxes.

The final decision on the rezoning is expected to be made at the June 18 RDCK board meeting.

Grade 6 class at Nakusp
Elementary wins BC Green Games

by Jan McMurray

Megan Jamison’s grade 6 class at Nakusp Elementary has won ten elementary school classes in the province to win Science World’s ‘BC Green Games.’ The class won $1,000 to put toward environmental projects, and $1,500 towards a trip to Science World in Vancouver.

The class chose to make bird feeders and birdhouses, and some of the students started a program of recycling milk cartons at the school. They wrote a summary and made a video about their projects, and this was submitted as their context entry.

I had a chance to speak with four of the students, and to ask them about their favourite part of the project. Zhiara Moody, Trinity Didier, Win MacNeil, and Avery Coutinauld all agreed that making the birdhouses in the secondary school wood shop was the best part.

The birdhouses were made with donated scrap lumber, and most were set up in the school forest. Three duck houses were built and set up at Summit Lake. The bird feeders were made of plastic pop bottles and wooden spoons. Local wildlife biologist Julia Burger came to the class, and Win MacNeil said, “She taught us a lot about birds.”

Teacher Megan Jamison said she heard about the Green Games at a conference she attended in the fall. “The more I looked into it, the more I realized the contest was in line with the goals for my students for the year,” she said. Her goals were high student engagement, project-based learning, community-based learning, and a strong, cohesive classroom community.

Jamison said the students came up with many, many ideas for possible projects. The recurring theme was using materials to make something new.

“Even if we hadn’t won, we learned so much — woodwork skills, collaboration and cooperation skills, environmental awareness and taking action, and we gained knowledge about birds,” said Jamison.

With the $1,000 prize, the students have begun to create a garden at the school. They have built planter boxes and bought some seeds, plants and gardening tools. The class also bought butterfly larvae and will observe the butterflies developing over the next three weeks. Once developed, the students will migrate them to Granville Island.

The field trip to Vancouver was also a big hit with the class. They went to Science World two days, and also visited Lynn Canyon Park and the suspension bridge, Lighthouse Park where they saw starfish, mussels, crabs, etc. in tidal pools there, and went to an improv comedy show on Granville Island.

North Kootenay Sport & Recreation Report

Sign up today for the next CPR First Aid Course at Selkirk Nakusp June 20th.

North Kootenay Sport & Rec Members receive a discount price!
Cost $130 or $114 for members. Contact the Council for more details, or register directly with Selkirk at (250) 265-4077.

The Amazing Burton Triathlon! Paddle, Bike, Trail Run June 20th.
Individual races (Short or Long Course) MUST use a kayak. Relay Teams for Short Course Distance ONLY and must be a Coran with two people. Register online at KootenaySwimmers.com.

Slocan Village Community Conversation on Sport & Recreation will take place June 27th at Slocan Lake Gazebo (next to the boat launch) at 2-4 pm. Bring your ideas and input about what makes our North Kootenay area such a special place for recreation, and what support for our favourite recreation activity may need. RSVP to Rebecca at the Council email address below.

North Kootenay Sport and Recreation Council
nksrccouncil@gmail.com

Your local information source for sport and recreation in the Kootenays.

ALFA ARTWALK 2015 BEGINNING SOON!

Our summer season is about to begin and once again the ALFA Guild Society has put together the popular ALFA ARTWALK FOR 2015. With 18 locations featuring a wide range of creativity, this is the event residents will want to show off to family and friends visiting our beautiful area. From painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, and unique crafts there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Look for our striking brochure with the handy location map, and keep your eyes open for the new ALFA ART WALK FEATHER SIGNS!

Selkirk College will continue with the Artist in Residence program this year, and would like to welcome you to visit the participating artists while they utilize the space creating their artistic visions. Selkirk College will also be hosting a PREVIEW EXHIBITION of artwork by the participating artists from June 16th to June 30th. Please be sure to stop in and see an overview of the talent in our area.

The public is invited to join us on Friday June 26th from 5pm -7pm for our OPENING CELEBRATION at Selkirk College. Come and enjoy refreshments and h’ordrveus by Deb Guest Caterers, and handmade chocolate from Jennifer Chocolates. This is a great opportunity to meet the participating artists, venue, and gallery owners who support this event, enjoy the preview show and pick up the new brochure for 2015. Special thanks to Community Initiatives and Affected Area Programs, N.A.D.B. and the Nakusp Chamber of Commerce.
Kaslo council, May 26: Airport is now part of the Village

by Jan McMurtry

The boundary extension along Kaslo West Road to include the airport was approved. Councillor Lang asked if anyone had brought champagne to celebrate. Approval of the boundary extension has been a long time coming.

Councillor Glorioso reported that a new society has formed in Kaslo to fully investigate a fee for service model for Kaslo physicians. James Morris is president of the new society. She said the Health Care Select Committee of council has indicated that they are not pursuing a fee for service model after looking into it for three months without success. The CAO said that Morris was scheduled to attend the June 2 Committee of the Whole meeting as a delegation. In a written report, he stated that the vice chair and secretary of the Health Care Select Committee had asked council to “discuss the role of its appointed councillors in terms of another external health care group that is currently requesting and whether it will receive reports from that group.”

The CAO reported that dust control on Vanity Park Road is a problem again this year, impacting campers. Although the CAO suggested 15 km/h speed limit and temporary speed bumps, council decided to temporarily close the road, as was done last year. Councillor Lang was opposed. “There was some very strong negative feedback on closing that road,” he said. Asked why the Village was not allocating sufficient funds to do a proper job of dust control, like the job done by YRB at the airport. The CAO also reported that public works was looking into using some leftover asphalt to surface the road, but this wouldn’t happen until late summer at the earliest.

He recommended that a long-term decision be made regarding the footprint of the campground and the ring road, and said this item is also on the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Committee agenda.

A policy was adopted for the use of Village boardwalks, rights-of-ways and street parking spaces in front of businesses in the commercial core. The policy outlines the application process and fees involved. No more than 10 parking spaces in total (not per individual business) will be allowed for this type of use.

Mayor Hewit reported that she attended a meeting on May 19 in Castlegar with MLA Donna Barnett, Area D Director Aimee Watson and reps from the Interior Lumber and Manufacturing Association, Kalesnikoff and Formcor. Hewit had thought they would be discussing the Meadow Creek Cedar situation and the local economy, but the discussion centered on the regional timber supply and how to provide fibre to all local mills. She expects that a conversation will be continued.

Councillor directed staff to invest options for improving access to the seniors’ hall, after receiving a letter signed by 11 residents of the Victorian Community Centre asking for a fully functioning wheelchair ramp. The building will also be included in a broader discussion about accessibility to several facilities in the village.

Bylaw 1175, a bylaw to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to the Village of Kaslo public dock and boat launch was given three readings. The bylaw prohibits the mooring of any vessel for more than 48 hours in a seven-day period, and gives the Village the authority to impose fines on vessels that are moored contrary to the regulations in the bylaw. During the low season, people who wish to moor for longer than 48 hours in a seven-day period can register with the Village office and pay a mooring fee and damage deposit. The Municipal Taxation Bylaw amendment, adding fines for the contravention of the mooring regulations, was also given third reading.

Council approved a great application to the Canada 150 program for City Hall interior renovation.

Tony Frary wrote to council to suggest that a plan for the entire City Hall grounds be developed, rather than developing the grounds on a piecemeal basis. He will be encouraged to discuss his ideas with the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Committee and work with Lawrence Moss, who was awarded the contract for a landscape design for the old firehall portion of the property. The Village will provide a letter of support for Kaslo Search and Rescue’s application for a BC Gaming Grant to purchase a rescue boat.

Koootenay Buntant House

With the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Committee.

The campground operator will be offered rental of municipal porta potties for peak events provided that the operator covers all pump and cleaning costs.

The Community Garden lease with the hospital auxiliary was approved. It is a three-year lease at $50 per year. The five-year area lease was approved. The fee is $1,002 this year.

Kaslo Minor Hockey Awards

The Kaslo Minor Hockey Awards Night was held May 13, and awards were presented as follows:

Junior Novice: Most Improved - Lavina Toperowski; Most Dedicated - Ryder Austin; Most Sportsmanlike - Ryder Berg.

Senior Novice: Most Improved - Tristan Kachuck; Most Dedicated - Asey Wilson; Most Sportsmanlike - Evan Stamann.

Adult House: Most Valuable Player - Gabriel Zeigler; Tudor Rutgenifer Heart Award - Alana Hofman; Most Defensive Player - Quinn McKee; Most Offensive Player - Kyle Macdonald; Most Improved - Zak Lamontagne; Most Dedicated - Laundon Young; Most Sportsmanlike - Colton Chymeko.

Peewee House: Most Valuable Player - Justin Anderson; Tudor Rutgenifer Heart Award - Calum McDougall; Most Defensive Player - Julian Evans; Most Offensive Player - Jackie Smith; Most Improved - Sage Matthews.

Kaslo Minor Hockey Awards

Kaslo Minor Hockey Awards (Kaslo & Nelson scope): Most Valuable Player - Brayden Reichard; Tudor Rutgenifer Heart Award - Alson Bendi; Most Offensive Player - Ben Gardner; Most Defensive Player - Cole Lylehag; Most Improved - Hadley Command; Most Dedicated - Eric Vesin; Most Sportsmanlike - Kalen Jones & Ember Hartland.

Refrain Awards: 3 Official - Elijah Havens; Sr Official - Ken Austin.

Goalie Development Awards: Jr Official - Laundon Young; Sr Official - Alex Roberts.

As there were no graduating Minor Hockey players this year, the President’s Award and the Dallas Barwell Memorial Award were not handed out.

Kaslo Minor Hockey thanks all the coaches, managers, parents and family members that made this season a success.

Registration opens in June – don’t miss out on the early bird offer. Anyone interested in signing up to play, coach, officiate and/or run a skills and development camp is encouraged to contact the association through kaslonominorhockey.com.
FORUM on SMART METERS (microwave radiation) effects, update and action items – Friday, June 12, 305 Park Club, Hall, 7 pm, free admission.

BOOK LAUNCH Join Sean Arthur Joyce at the Nakupub Public Library Thursday, June 4 at 7 pm for literary readings from his newest book of poems, The Price of Transcendence.

FOR RENT
OFFICE/CONDO FREEBLITZ 1900-sq.-ft., as of June 1st, located at 201 Broadway St. Nakup, BC. Contact Ceris @ 250-265-3516.

NON-SMOKING, FURNISHED ROOMS will be for rent at the historic Planet in Silverton Lakehouse Inn on the water. There will be two rooms available. Long-term, month to month, $600 a month. Social assistance welcome. There will be no air conditioning, so it will be quiet. Old bar will be a private room for the owner. Call pacificlodging@live.ca.

APARTMENT FOR RENT: Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment located in Silverton above the old grocery store. No pets, $575.00 a month. 250-265-2925.

MOBILE HOME FAIR, available, first 3 months paid rent free. Located in a quiet, clean mobile home park in scenic Nakup, only 3 minutes to the hospital, golfing, boat launch, tennis and beach. Storage available. Info: nakupmobilehometrailerpark@rogers.com or 250-265-1730 or www.nakupmobilehomepark.com


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HELP WANTED
KOOTENAY COMMUNITY SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY LIVING support workers needed. This is a vital role working with adults with developmental disabilities and/or with spectrum disorders. We’re looking for resource home share leaders who have experience working with adults with developmental disabilities and who have the desire to provide a safe and welcoming home that offers individuals the opportunity for personal growth. For more details visit our website at www.kootenaycommunityliving.com. To apply, please forward your resume to info@kootenaycommunityliving.ca or fax to 250-355-5679.

CLASSIFIED ADS
THE NEW DENVER MUSEUM is looking for a student for July and August to help with their many projects at our historic building. The successful applicant must have been registered a full-time student in the preceding year and intends to return to full-time studies in the fall. The age range is from 15 to 30. 20 hours per week for eight weeks or up to $12 per hour plus holiday pay. Hours to be negotiated. Applications must be made by June 15th, 2014. Call 250-446-0024 or visit www.newdenvermuseum.ca

VANCOUVER VALLEY RECREATION Emergency First Aid with CPR. CI; Sat, June 13, 9:30am-4:30pm. $95. Crescent Valley Fieldhouse.

Vegetable & Herb Garden Planning; Sat, June 13, 1-4 pm. $25. Fundamentals of Photography; Sun, June 14, 10am-4pm. 100. Silverton Park Hall. Create Art with Glow in the Dark; Sat, June 20, 12:30-3:30pm. Silverton Park Hall.

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OBITUARIES

HELENA JOHANNA EWING (nee Hopp) was born on April 2, 1922, on the Hopp family farm in Edgewood, BC. She passed away on May 13, 2015 surrounded by loving family and friends. Lena was predeceased by her loving husband, John, on May 30, 1991. She is survived by her five children. Albert John (Barbara), Connie Jean, Terence Allen (Nita), Brian Alexander (Esther) and Conner Desly (John Kinton). She is also survived by 11 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and five great great grandchildren. A memorial graveside service will be held Monday, June 8, 2015 at 11 a.m. at Edgewood Cemetery. The wake will be held 12:00 at the Edgewood Legion. In lieu of flowers, Mom requested that those wishing could make a donation to the Arrows Lakes Hospital in Nakusp.

SHARON HILL passed away peacefully May 27, 2015. She was born in Trail, BC, July 3, 1931. Sharon lived in the Kootenays all her life and was known as a successful and humble restaurant. Sharon is survived by daughter Tara (Ritchie), mother Alice Hinz, son Keith (Joan Morris) and four beautiful grandchildren. Please honor Tara and family. She was devastated by her passing.

CLASSIFIED ADS

RUDOLPH HERMAN GOERZE
February 17, 1924 – May 25, 2015
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing away of Rudolph after a courageous battle with cancer.
Rudolph’s family was very special to him, as were his many friends. He will be sadly missed by his loving wife Ethel of 28 years, his son Doug (Jolene) Coorman, Cory (Dee) Goldfisch, grandchildren Rod Gross, Todd (Mel) Gross, his brothers Walter (Jena) Coorman, Art (Gisela) Coorman and sister Louise Dayglov. His grandchildren: Cheri and Joe Coorman, Chrissy Robertson, Thomas and Karyl Goldfisch, Ethan and Emerson Gross, great grandchildren Taylor, Haley, Alyssa and Brandon Robertson, numerous nieces and nephews and many friends in Kelowna, Vernon area. He was pre-deceased by his sister Martha Fredt and his brother Henry Coorman.
Rudolph was born in 1924 in Coalville, Alberta. He moved to Kelowna with his parents at the age of 10. Many will remember him from Peoples Food Market in Kelowna as he worked there for 26 years as a Moire Department Manager, retiring in 1995.
Rudolph loved his life. He loved following his passions. One of his many passions was music and he was a skilled putter player. He loved the outdoors and pursued many sporting activities throughout the years. In 1989, Rudolph and Ethel moved to Nakusp. During his time here he discovered his new passion of mountain climbing and he took pride in his various climbing purses.
He was loved by so many, touched many hearts and will be greatly missed. A service will be held on June 6, 2015, 1:00 p.m. in the Burton Community Hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Arrow Lakes Foundation.
The family would like to thank the staff at Arrows Lakes Hospital and Mann House for the care and compassion they gave Rudy while he was there. Online condolences may be expressed at www.valley(by)

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HOUSE-SIT WANTED: Respond to a nature male looking for house-sit in New Denver/Silverton or Kootenay area. Call 250-777-3482.

RUSTY VOLKSWAGEN bus/van with split front windshield. Any information please call 403-527-4648.

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The Valley Voice June 3, 2015

Arrow Lakes Hospital and Mann House for the care and compassion they gave Rudy while he was there. Online condolences may be expressed at www.valley(by)

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The Valley Voice June 3, 2015

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Erin Burkhodel returns for violin recital at Silverton Hall

submitted

Violinist and New Denver native Erin Burkhodel will perform in recital with pianist Susanne Ruberg-Gordon on June 7 at Silverton Memorial Hall. Violin-piano sonatas by Debussy and Beethoven anchor the program, with Bach’s complex and intricate Sonata in C for unaccompanied violin providing a contrast in timbre and style.

Erin is familiar to local audiences as she has performed here regularly since the tender age of four. In 2016, then aged 16, she performed her last major recital in BC before moving to Montreal for further training.

A fourth-generation violinist, Erin began her studies with her mother and then with her grandmother in New Denver. During her teens it was a challenge for her to find teachers who were available and comfortable teaching at advanced levels. For a couple of years she travelled back and forth to Calgary to get occasional lessons, while also playing with the Symphony of the Kootenays based in Cranbrook. Thanks to a combination of homeschooling and flexible enrolment at Lascence School she was able to make time for the travel and the hundreds of hours of practicing.

Ultimately she moved to Montreal during her Grade 12 year to study privately with Denise Lupien. Erin has remained in Montreal, at McGill University, studying for a Bachelor of Music in violin performance, which she will complete next year. She now plays a Cornet violin hand-made by Lupien’s world-renowned violin-maker husband.

Since leaving New Denver Erin has travelled and performed nationally and internationally. She spent two summers with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada (NYOC), taking a stint as concertmaster during her final year, touring throughout eastern Canada and the US. She travelled to China with an orchestra in 2012 for a series of performances.

In the summer of 2013 she went to India with a group of NYOC alumni to mentor that country’s fledgling national training orchestra. And last summer her McGill string quartet won a competition that had them travelling and performing in Europe. She is currently a member of the Pronto Musica Chamber Orchestra of Montreal and studies with Axel Strauss.

Camore-based pianist Susanne Ruberg-Gordon will accompany Erin. She is a summer resident of Silverton, a member of the Galena Trio, and has been on faculty at the Valhalla Summer School of Music for many years. This recital represents their first collaborative project and they are both thrilled to finally have the opportunity to work together.

The program is sponsored by Valhalla Fine Arts and is made possible by the support of the Sloan Valley Legacy Fund. Admission is by donation.

Free talk at Sloan Library: The Brotherhood of the Screaming Abyss

submitted

Mark your calendar for 7 pm Friday, June 19 – the Sloan Community Library is proud to present Dennis McKenna, author of The Brotherhood of the Screaming Abyss.

In this book, Dennis describes growing up in a small Colorado town during the 1950s and tumultuous 60s and explains the ideas and adventures he shared with his late brother Terence McKenna, famous radical philosopher, futurist and recession, sometimes called “the intellectual’s Timothy Leary.”

The two brothers, along with other kindred spirits in the 70s, 80s and 90s, yearned to explore the mysteries of time, mind and the improbable reality of existence, searching for the Holy Grail in the form of a legendary hallucinogen that would “change everything forever, which it did though in ways they’d never imagined.”

McKenna is currently assistant professor in the Center for Spirituality and Healing at the University of Minnesota. His professional and personal interests are focused on the interdisciplinary study of ethnopharmacology and plant hallucinogens. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in the Peruvian, Colombian, and Brazilian Amazon. His doctoral research at the University of British Columbia in 1984 focused on two hallucinogenic plants used by indigenous peoples in the northwest Amazon.

He continues to investigate the therapeutic uses of psychoactive medicines derived from nature and used in indigenous ethnomedical practices.

BILINSKI, Mike

1923-2015

It is with sadness that the family of Mike Bilinski announces his passing at Vernon Jubilee Hospital on May 30, 2015 at the age of 91.

Mike was born on August 2, 1923 in Fisher Branch, Manitoba, the son of Joseph and Mary Bilinski. Mike worked on the family farm and spent winter working in a gold mine and logging camp in Ontario in his youth. In 1946, the family moved to Faquir, BC, where he worked on the farm and spent time at Whanganui Lake in the Okanagan. He established a logging company, James Creek Contracting, was a partner in Green Mountain Trucking, and was a partner in the Aja-Vee-Med. He employed many local people and was a respected member of the community. After his retirement he continued to be a fisherman, golfer and traveler. With failing health, he and his wife moved to Vernon where he enjoyed the last eight years, particularly playing cards and going to the races. He always had a sense of humour and a story for all throughout his life.

Mike is survived by his wife of 44 years, Rose; his children: David (Lorraine), Gordon (Barbara), Bruce (Carolyn), his son-in-law Rick, his grandchildren, Phil, Barry, Pat, Rob, Tim (Faris) and Jannie (Sandy); one brother, Ike (Lin), 29 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was preceded by his parents, Joseph and Mary; his sister Jean, his brother Frank, his first wife, Lucy, his daughter Karen, and his grandson Michael.

In his words: “I don’t like good buy – See you.”

Prayers and the Funeral Mass will be held in Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Church. Prayers will be recited on Friday, June 5 at 7:00 pm. The Funeral Mass will take place on Saturday, June 6, 2015 at 11:00 am with Father Dale Normandeau, Celebrant. Cremation. A memorial service will be held in Faquir, BC at a later date.

Flowers are gratefully declined. Those wishing to make a memorial contribution in memory of Mike may do so in the charity of personal choice.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Pleasant Valley Funeral Home, 10102 Maharani Dr., Coldstream, BC, Phone: 250 542 4331. Condolences may be offered at www.pleasantvalleyfuneral.com.

WANTED

COUPLE FROM CANMORE looking for a house to rent for the summer from the beginning of June to end August, preferably in New Denver or Silverton. Please feel free to contact us if you have any leads or have a place to rent! Heather and Mike Bishop - bishopheather1@gmail.com or 604-566-2944.

Session d’information/Information session

Transport scolaire/ School transportation

Nouvelle route de Playmor Junction à Nelson pour élèves de ESA

NEW ROUTE from Playmor Junction to Nelson for ESA students

Date: 8 juin 2015/June 8th
Heure/Time: à 19 h /7 pm
Où/Where: École des Sentiers-alpins, 2780 Hwy 3A
Phone: 250.825.4020

On vous attend en grand nombre! You’re all welcome!
Yukon silver heist book comes to the Nelson library June 9

By Art Joyce

Continuing in its commitment to showcasing a variety of local talent and genres, Studio Connexion will feature the colour and black and white photography of Jessicas Stevens Gray from June 9 - 27. The opening night and reception will be Friday, June 12, 7-9 pm. The exhibition theme is One Love, a photographic adventure, based on her travels internationally.

"That was definitely a highlight in my career. There was actually a little girl there from Nakusp. People apply from all over the world, but that little girl was from Nakusp," says Gray. "It was awesome." Gray's images feature both the built human environment, such as doors, cars and signs as well as the natural environment of the country.

The library's Adult Services Coordinator, Anne Deforge is excited about the event. "This presentation will fascinate anyone interested in mining, history, or simply an audacious story well told," she says.

Second Studio Connexion show of 2015 features photographer Gray

Gray travelled as an official photographer with World Vision Canada on one of their missions to Guatemala. Although she'd been on World Vision missions before, it was her first time as a photographer. A year and a half ago, she was also photographer for a Disney day excursion for children with serious health challenges and other handicaps.

"That was definitely a highlight in my career. There was actually a little girl there from Nakusp. People apply from all over the world, but that little girl was from Nakusp," says Gray. "It was awesome." Gray's images feature both the built human environment, such as doors, cars and signs as well as the natural environment of the country.

Images in the show have been taken on her travels in Mexico, Guatemala and Seattle as well as more local to the Okanagan. Gray travelled as an official photographer with World Vision Canada on one of their missions to Guatemala. Although she'd been on World Vision missions before, it was her first time as a photographer. A year and a half ago, she was also photographer for a Disney day excursion for children with serious health challenges and other handicaps.

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