Village of New Denver celebrates Bear Smart status, June 26

by Jan McMurray

New Denver’s Bear Smart designation was celebrated on June 26 at Knox Hall.

Bree Lillies, local WildSafeBC community coordinator, welcomed everyone to the event. “This was no small feat,” she said. “It has taken a huge amount of effort over many years by the Province, local government and local citizens. It’s an effort the community can be proud of. Keeping our garbage secure and installing electric fencing around our chicken coops helps to keep wildlife wild and the community safe.”

Frank Rice, provincial WildSafeBC coordinator, travelled to New Denver from Kamloops to congratulate the community. He acknowledged all the partnerships that it takes to run the Bear Smart program: the provincial government, the Columbia Basin Trust, the RDCK, the Village of New Denver and the residents of New Denver. He especially acknowledged Bree Lillies. “Bree really put her heart and soul into this job. I thank all the partners, but also want to mention all the work Bree has done above and beyond the call of duty.”

Rice also gave special thanks to Wayne McCrory, who contacted the Province a few years ago about the need for the Bear Smart program in New Denver. McCrory and Maggie Paquet co-authored the Bear Hazard Assessment and Human-Bear Conflict Management Plan, a requirement of the Bear Smart designation.

Barbara Leslie, inspector for the Okanagan region of the Conservation Officer Service, attended on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and provincial CO Service. She too thanked all of the partners with a special thanks to Bree, “the driving force who spent hours in the community convincing people to change their habits.” She acknowledged the work of the Village, amending garbage pick-up regulations and installing bear-proof garbage containers. “It is a big challenge for a small community, but you’ve done it and we’re already seeing the benefits of your hard work.”

Leslie said provincial statistics show a big decrease in the number of complaints about bears in New Denver over the last few years. She also said that the community is helping Conservation Officers by removing attractants and making bears unwelcome in backyards. “Our officers will be able to do a lot more with that generation of bears because you have broken that cycle,” she said.

Wayne McCrory said that because New Denver is a Bear Smart community, Conservation Officers will now use more non-lethal tactics when dealing with bears in town. He also said that public education has to be combined with enforcement “to move further along the road to where we want to go.”

MLA Katrine Conroy pointed out that New Denver is the first Bear Smart community in the Kootenays. “If New Denver can do it, all the other communities in the Kootenays can do it,” she said.

New Denver is the seventh Bear Smart community in BC, joining Lions Bay, Squamish, Kaslo, Whitehorse, Port Alberni and Nanaimo.

19TH ANNUAL SUMMIT LAKE WALK/RUN/BIKE/PADDLE FOR FUN
Hosted by Three Islands Resort
Come out and walk, run, cycle, kayak or canoe the 10 kms around beautiful Summit Lake on Sunday, July 13.
Walk begins at 9 am sharp. Registration ($5) begins at 9 am.
Refreshments & Gifts – everybody walks out a winner.
All proceeds go to the Arrow Lakes Hospital with Three Islands Resort matching funds raised

Visitor Information - Page 19
West Kootenay Route highway signs installed

It’s a sign of what happens when people work together.

The West Kootenay Route signs have been installed along the highways around the West Kootenay Route region, which includes the Arrow Lakes, the Slocan, and the North Kootenay Lake Valleys.

"The Chambers of Commerce in Nakusp, Kaslo, and the Slocan Valley, and the Balfour Business Association are working together to promote the area as the West Kootenay Route, and we’re all very pleased to see the highway signs up," said Peter Wellker, president of the Nakusp Chamber and chair of the West Kootenay Tourism Alliance.

The West Kootenay Route initiative has been a long way since the Chambers began working together in 2013 as the West Kootenay Tourism Alliance (WKTIA). The alliance started out with strategic planning and then moved into a branding process that resulted in the West Kootenay Route name, logo, website and brochure. They are currently working on a business and marketing plan, which will be available in furthering the progress they’re already made on the West Kootenay Route regional tourism initiative.

"The West Kootenay Tourism Alliance believes that working together and marketing the region as the West Kootenay Route will attract more visitors for longer stays," says Wellker. "As a region, we have a lot to offer. We’re stronger as a region than we are as individual communities."

Wellker said it was a fairly lengthy process to get the approval from the Ministry of Transportation for the West Kootenay Route highway signs. "We’d like to thank the Ministry for working through the process with us. We’d also like to thank Destination BC/CBT for funding the project."

Wellker says WKTIA is working on promoting the West Kootenay Route not only to tourists, but also to tourism stakeholders in the region. "We are planning West Kootenay Route familiarization tours for tourism stakeholders in the region for this fall," he said. "The tours will be a fun way for people in the tourism business to do some networking and get to know the region better."

All those interested in joining the tours can contact Jan McMurtry, Slocan District Chamber representative for WKTIA, at 250-358-7218 or mcurreynjam@gmail.com. For more information about the West Kootenay initiative, contact westkootenaytourismalliance@gmail.com.

Harvest Share 2015

We connect people who have excess fruit from their backyard fruit trees with those who have the time and energy to harvest it. The fruit is shared amongst homeowners, volunteers, and other community initiatives.

How do TREE OWNERS get involved?

Local tree owners help us turn private trees into a valuable source of food for the community. If you have more fruit than you can manage, call now to register your tree.

How do VOLUNTEERS get involved?

Interested in food preservation and taking home a portion of the harvest? We would love for you to come and volunteer with our project. Scheduled picks run from July to October.

For more information contact your local coordinator:

Bree Lillies  250-354-8120 (New Denver, Silverton, and area)

Columbia Basin trust
Jumbo Glacier Resort development stopped in its tracks
by Jan McMurray

Jumbo Glacier Resort Ltd. has lost its environmental assessment certificate, putting a stop to any further resort development for the time being.

The expiry of the environmental certificate results from Environment Minister Mary Polak’s recent determination that the resort has not substantially started.

All eyes are now on the company, which must decide whether or not to start all over again with the environmental assessment process.

“They would have to start from the beginning in such a way that they had never been through the assessment before,” said Minister Polak in a press conference.

“The original proposal was submitted quite a long time ago, so there’s every likelihood that their reports would now have to be substantially updated.”

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations reports that the Jumbo Glacier Resort Master Development Agreement and land-use tenures issued under it are set to expire in 2072, but they can be cancelled or amended. It’s premature at this time to make any determinations with respect to the site.

Bringing the salmon back to the Upper Columbia
by Jan McMurray

Passion and determination were palpable at the Bonnington in Nakusp on June 24 when representatives from the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) came to talk about their efforts to bring the salmon back to the Upper Columbia.

D. R. Michel, executive director of UUC and John Jarvis, committee coordinator for UUC, explained that UUC is a consortium of five tribes in the US Columbia Basin that has created a draft work plan to look at creating fish passage over the Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams.

“It’s a multi-phase approach that will take some time and a lot of work, but we continue this work because it’s important for generations to come,” said Jarvis. “We want to have this place in a better way than we found it.”

“Salmon was 80 percent of our diet and that was taken away from us,” said Michel. “The salmon was a big part of our culture. To get that back will benefit all people up and down the river with a good functioning ecosystem.”

The draft plan has endorsed by 15 tribes along the Columbia River.

SLOCAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE AUXILIARY wishes to thank the community for their generous support! The 2015 Mercedes Benz van for the Pavilion has been purchased and delivered. So wave when you see Pavilion residents out in the van!

Many thanks to:

Arrow Lakes Health Care Auxiliary
Regional District of Central Kootenay Area H
United Church
Silverton Community Club
Pavilion residents
Royal Canadian Legion
People’s Pharmacy
Slocan Women’s Institute
New Denver Kyowakai Society
Martha Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star
New Denver/Silverton Seniors
New Denver Quilt Guild
Natural Choice Pharmacy
Light Up the Hospital 2012-2013 donors
Light Up the Hospital 2013-2014 donors
Raffle ticket buyers
Flea market table donors
Council business bias exposed

The corrosive voice of anti-business has spoken. New Denver Mayor and Council have delayed development progress and prosperity in our community. After ten months of arguments, deferrals, grand opening delays and thousands of profit dollars lost, the much anticipated Valhalla Pane has finally opened. In a town that struggles with economic growth, fluctuating population, annual threats to schools and hospital closures, it’s hard to believe we have a council that still hesitates at the opportunity to grow.

Congratulations David and Kelley on the long awaited but successful opening of Valhalla Pane and thank you for creating a marvellous and welcoming entrance to New Denver. Locals and tourists alike will surely benefit from your generosity.

Tamarra Barkowsky
Naro Coffee Bar

Doesn’t like Rail-Trail Plan

I am writing this letter in response to the Rosbery Slocan Lake Rail Trail Management Plan. I DO NOT agree with this proposal, not at all. My family and friends have been using this trail for over 22 years, basically since the railroad pulled out. We have taught our children and our grandchildren to be courteous and to respect the other users. I don’t understand where this committee gets off trying to make this non-motorized trail when there are only a few people that use it that way. We’ve had many many rides on this trail, we very seldom meet anyone that is not on a motorbike, four wheeler or snowmobile. Most of us who ride bikes will pull over and shut that of the machines if we meet a horse person, and yes there are some that do not, but we basically respect the other users. We have met an occasional pedaler, but we have never had a problem.

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 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.

We have NEVER met a hiker!!!

This trail was used by a motorized vehicle, a train. Can’t get much more motorized than that, I don’t think these people made any rush of a stink about the train using it, making noise and pollution. I don’t think the occasional use of this trail by four wheelers, motorbikes and snowmobiles makes a very big difference in the trail’s ecology and cultural/historical features, at least not as much as the original trains did. And yes, I would imagine the society will argue differently. But saying we have to apply for a permit to utilize this trail, is a total crock, why should we have to get special okay to use a piece of government land that we all pay taxes on.

I say just leave it as is, open for use by everyone, anytime.

Cathie Roberts
Nakusp

Bring back the cabeoose

It was good to hear Lisa Raits comments, warning the rail companies to take rail safety seriously, even though it fills a bit short coming on the heals of the Lac Magaré disaster and on the toes of a federal election.

In my opinion they started us in the direction of that disaster when they decided, a couple of decades ago that a train no longer needed to have a caboose. They assured us at the time that getting rid of the cabooses would not affect safety, and I guess it could be argued that it didn’t, but getting rid of the brakeman who rode in the cabooses definitely did affect safety. After getting rid of the cabooses, there was a steady lowering of safety standards to the point that they allowed a very dangerous train to be controlled by just one person, who had been worked so many hours that even by the poor safety standards that remained, was required to stop and have a rest. Before he got back that needed rest, too, he was also responsible for anchoring the train in his tared state. In any other country somebody’s head would have been on a platter for allowing safety regulations to get that lax. Never mind the braking, what if the engineer had had a heart attack while on route. The danger is still there, they are still running trains with only one operator. So we are just one medical emergency away from losing another beautiful Canadian town. Surely there should be at least two operators and a brakeman on any train, especially on a train carrying dangerous cargo.

For most of my life a train consisted of three parts; One or more engines, some cargo cars, and a caboose. Trains have never looked quite right since the caboose was removed, and apparently they have also never been seen. Canadians should demand the return of this third and vital part of the train. I miss it, and I miss the wave from the brakeman as he passes by. No train is complete without a caboose.

Red Betzloff
Glade, B.C.

Opposed to Rail-Trail Plan

The floor of my horse trailer is covered with the contents of the Rosbery-Slocan Lake Trail Management Plan Proposal and the “Back Door” political way it was brought to the public’s attention.

Where did the public input and process come from?? A select few?? Things that got my attention: There were no steering committee members south of Rosbery, yet all of Area H will pay for it. Petition? Who will issue them and how can they, as the Crown owner, the land, not them (Or is there something else we aren’t aware of)? No special taxation for maintenance. But funding will be by application processes offered by CBT, the Province and RICK. Does this mean grants? So, where does the grant money come from, if not from one form or another of taxation? If it is not from some type of taxation, is it picked from a “Great Tanks”? If so would you please tell me where I can get some “Great Team Seeds”, so I can plant some for the rest of the Area H residents.

There has been five generations of my family members that have and are living in these communities (Silverton and New Denver), I am the fourth generation still living here. As a younger living and growing up you never heard the word “MINE” referring to roads, trails, beaches, fishing lakes, etc. We all thought they were ours. Yet I attended a North Kootenay Trail meeting in New Denver on May 23, 2015 where Mr. Allin referred to it as his trail on more than one occasion.

Up until 20 years or so ago, there was no segregation of trail uses. They were covered by all types of recreation users. There were little if any problems then. Now there are problems being created before the fact. There is a multi-use trail from Kaslo to Zacotn that is being used by everyone with no problems. Why not here?

John Melchior

NOW HIRING
Housekeepers, Line Cooks, Server
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250-353-7714

The highly effective film is a retelling of actual events of motives in politics and as seen by the New York Times. The film does not necessarily show the political views of the artist.

THAT’S HIS HAIR.

Ken Gordon
New Denver, BC

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The Valley Voice July 1, 2015
Likes Rail-Trail Plan

I am enthusiastic about the proposal prepared by the Rosebury to Summit Lake Trail Steering Committee. My wife and I have traveled on trails such as this from Victoria to Halifax, in the USA and in Europe. In every case they were avidly being used by commuters, joggers, hikers, cyclists, dog walkers, and nature lovers of all ages. We have seen good and Breakfasts, hostels, campgrounds, and cafes located on the routes that benefited from the passing clientele. Nearby communities appreciated the reduced congestion and parking problems when users left their cars at home. Communities enjoyed the economic benefits of tourists using the facilities.

This trail with its rich historic, historic, and natural values will be a wonderful addition to the other successful trails established in Kasilo and the Slocan Valley and will benefit our community economically.

Daniel Heller

Caring, dynamic Kasilo

Something marvellous is happening in Kasilo! A group of “unselfish people” have come together to create a Not for Profit Health Society for the “long-term betterment” and daily support of every man, woman and child in the region. That includes Ball persuade, New Denver, Meadow Creek, Larder, all the other marvellous places in the area. At the meeting last Saturday many people signed up as new members as an overwhelming show of support donating whatever they could to kickstart this worthy effort. The objective is to form New Denver’s Fee for Service Model that works so well and all the others in many other towns and counties, across the country. For a few dollars a week (some only a few dollars), eleven thousand dollars ($11,000.00) humbly presented in support of the Fee for Service Model in Trenton Ontario, in direct support of medical equipment needed by doctors.

As an aside about two years ago as a newcomer and being a total stranger I walked around the Village and I gave out a personal letter to every business on the main street to personally thank them for serving under dire and tough conditions since 2008. Through the worst worldwide ripple in human history, I personally thanked the business community for carrying that personal struggle forward diligently and doggedly to serve the public. Chris at the Blue Bell Bistro said to me “Thank you Sandy for recognising that we all work very hard every single day to make it happen, and you’ve shown we have to work hard.” Trust me they all do, contrary to some a private business is not easy, including the Kasilo Hotel and all the other businesses. As a further example I have experienced the very best products from the Kasilo Meat Store, an unbelievable three or four generation family doing what they do in the famous BC role of quality and a well run business. A simple dedicated daily demonstration of great craft. Work. Pretty much I can say that about all of them.

So I will all of you in New den, New Denver, Larder, and Cranbrook, visit Kasilo Market on any weekend this summer. Walk the marvellous lake shore, take in a piece of history, buy something for your family member, take a family picture, take in the breathtaking view, see the humble Memorial Monument on Water Street dedicated to our vets (it should be enhanced, maybe someone wants to help me to make it work). Another sad death we don’t need, another very sick person in “panic” knocking on a door sometimes locked to them at the hospital, you don’t need. A valuable senior in search of care to have his or her life, that critical delay we simply don’t need. Ten bucks buys you in and your heart will be forever good. You supported this very necessary effort that somebody may be there for you. Our thanks to New Denver and all the other small towns across the county as successful models, somewhere we wish we could turn our neighborhood back to the way it was.

Sandy McLeod
Board Member
Kasilo and Area Medical Care Society

Dear Doctor

I attended Selkirk College in Castlegar, I was young. Ecology was my favorite class. At the beginning of the school year though, the teacher had made a joke, it was an ecology joke. When it was asked where we were from, that we were from Edgewood, the teacher said: “Hi, it’s the only place where the population went down as the water went up.” We are on the hydroelectric dam in Edgewood. The class laughed at the joke and at me. Not knowing anyone, and embarrassed, as if it were my fault that I was young. I said, “Yes, I am from Edgewood.” But I did get more outspoken eventually. But being from Edgewood is not the problem as I was also there, at the college, and studying the sciences of ecology. And I got an A in that class too. So I showed them all, albeit the teacher was just joking.

My concern is writing this is to ask: Do you think we are stronger than nature? You are dead wrong is the correct answer (now I have come back from college to college to college). I had learned quickly that we are not near, and never will be stronger than nature. (Now I am going to explain the hydroelectric dam) What we are taught by the dam is that the dam is considered by all who are our more powerful than nature. We think we can “help Mother Nature out,”

Cycling, and ATVing. By making the dam, the building, the hill, the public road, the dam, all is influenced by nature, all users, regardless of their physical limitation could enjoy the trail. Also all recreational users would have access to Shuswap Lake (5’s Road) and East Wilson’s (5’s Road).

The Nakusp ATV club does not exist. For clarification there is an Arrow Lake ATV club.

After the meeting had dealt with my notion, Richard Allan and Mike Koolen withdrew their presentation.

Residents of Nakusp and area have a much greater connection to the upper portion of Arrow Lake. We have developed and operate the Summit Lake Ski Resort. The provincial campground at Summit Lake was developed and operated by several volunteer groups from Nakusp before being taken over by the BC government.

Residents of Area H, Enterprise Creek, Red Mountain, Silverton and New Denver are much further away.

Jerry Van Immerschot
Nakusp

Advanced meters do anyone remember a few years back, “smart meters” first hit the news? BC Hydro announced that they would switch the province over to these new meters would cost $800 million. That quickly ballooned to $1.1 billion. It was recently announced, we are told, to stop grow ops from stealing electricity.

Fast forward to now. The grow ops argument is grow, and “smart” meters have become “advanced” meters.

I’m not about to wade into the controversy surrounding these meters with regard to EMF’s, the lazard, and data collection. That’s another topic entirely. However, in the latest 1/2 pages, seen in many publications, including the daily papers, the link has been made. That of “the Energy of Events” in general, and that there are so many benefits to consumers. Number 1 is monthly billing. Number 2 is your choice of billing date. Number 3 is oh okay, fewer estimates.

Lord knows what this meter exchange has cost BC residents to this point, since it has likely surpassed the $1.1 billion, but I think for one itself these “benefts” are a pretty poor return for such a whopping investment.

And one way or another, WE are paying for it.

Tom Thomson
Open letter to residents of the Kaslo area

We are the 176 members of the Kaslo Area Medical Care Society. We are a non-profit society formed with the intention of bringing back 24/7 emergency medical care to Kaslo and the surrounding region.

Kaslo’s health delivery system is not sustainable, to the needs of our community. The current solution by IHA and the Kaslo Health Select committee model is inadequate. Kaslo is served by part-time doctors, commonly commuting from Nelson, available 8 am to 5 pm, 5 days a week, except holidays. After hours and emergency services are in Nelson or further away. This is not good enough. Some of our friends and neighbours have and will die unnecessarily. The impact on the local economy is huge, people moving away, giving up for care, or deciding not to settle in the Kaslo area.

We want for Kaslo and area what New Denver already has. Resident doctors who operate an clinic independent from IHA, and who also are on call with 24/7 emergency services. The cost of medical care for patients in New Denver is the same as elsewhere in rural BC, but their physicians are compensated on a fee for service basis by the BC Ministry of Health. That is, they are not on salary with IHA, but bill the Ministry of Health directly for services provided to New Denver and area patients.

As a group of physicians and a nurse practitioner (with occasional locums) that number and model might work for Kaslo and the surrounding area. The key is the doctors must reside in Kaslo, be a part of our community, and be on call for after hours emergencies. The Ministry of Health will provide $200,000 per year to a group of doctors willing to provide such on-call emergency services in Kaslo.

As a group are pleading moral, political and financial support for such a solution. We plans help provide office space and housing for medical doctors willing to move to Kaslo to establish an independent clinic. We also plans to help with their relocation costs and with the cost of temporary housing while visiting and interviewing in Kaslo. We are also plans to help to equip clinic and office for the group of doctors willing to work for your help. As we move forward we expect to fund-raise to support our efforts.

Please join our non-profit society. Financial support in any measure will be gratefully accepted. Our society is applying for charitable status under the federal tax code so that any donations may be tax deductible. Be aware, independent doctors may face some competition from IHA. In addition to financial support in any amount you may be comfortable with, we need your family to support these doctors by patronizing their services, especially should they opt in competition with salaried, out of town doctors hired by IHA at the Victorian Hospital clinic.

Again, please join the Kaslo and Area Medical Care Society. There is strength in numbers. Membership is $10. Kaslo and North Kootenay Lake must have their own independent resident physicians who will be here with us. We believe this is possible, it is the only way we can once again have 24/7 emergency care in our community.

Thank you.

The Kaslo and Area Medical Care Society

July 1, 2013 The Valley Voice
The Jumbo mystery’s next installment

Yesterday, June 16, 2015, the BC Government, by way of our Minister of Environment, Mary Polak, announced that the Jumbo Glaciers Resort (JGR) has not made a substantial start. BC re-announced that several times. The Jumbo Wild public is elated, thinking the minister’s announcement means forever, the government is only half of the equation.

Today I talked with my government contact person in the Mountain Resort Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations. That office specifically handles the Master Development Agreement, which, when issued in 2010, allowed JGR to put a shovel in the ground and work toward their ‘substantial start’ to be determined by December 2014.

The Resort Development Branch had no forewarning about the announcement and were equally surprised. The announcement implies many things. All this will take some time to figure out. There is much interest in what happens next,” my contact said.

It is the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) which takes care of compliance, or in this case, non-compliance. I learned, “First the JGR people will meet with the EAO and then they’ll know better in which direction to head. It is possible that they’ll simply walk away.”

We do recall that when the recent avalanche report came in, the EAO offered a reprieve to JGR in order to move the foundations out of the non-compliance zone. Thus far there has been no report that they have accepted that offer. And, at the time when the EAO announced the non-compliance condition, Thomas Oberte (son of Oberte, in whose portfolio the JGR is located) said, “we knew we were putting the foundations in avalanche zones.”

So the plot thickens, as the old saying goes.

Rowena Edson, Argenta West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild

No business in Afghanistan

The Geneva Convention does not tell combatants not wearing uniforms to sit on their thumbs and let the invader take over. That is not what I meant. Not wearing a uniform does not necessarily make a combatant a terrorist or war criminal; it simply means he or she is not a soldier, that’s all.

Omar Khadr is a war criminal because he killed an American medic.

Such a cowardly and dishonourable act is deemed a violation of the Geneva Convention, as well it should be. Medic treated the wounded on both sides, be they friend or foe. Sad to say, this may have actually made Khadr a hero in the eyes of many who hold anti-American views, just on the basis of the nationality of the medic.

Speaking of nationality, Khadr and the other members of his family involved in that attack were not Afghans defending their homeland. The Khadars are Egyptian-Palestinian, and Canadian citizens, therefore they had no business ever in Afghanistan in the first place. Yes, they should have been sitting on their thumbs right here in Canada.

Finally, I am not advocating the deportation of everyone who does not hold a Western point of view, as long as they do not incite hatred or harm anyone, and as long as they respect our laws and institutions.

Folks like the Khadars, however, who are known supporters of our enemies surely must fall under at least some scrutiny. I should hope.

Brendan Bendis Kaslo

Thalidomide

I’m looking at an old picture of a Dr. Kelsoy who went to the same boarding school in Victoria as my mother did and who was one of my mom’s tennis partners there. In the photo, Dr. Frances Kelsoy is shaking hands with President John F. Kennedy, who is honouring her with a special award for keeping Thalidomide out of the United States.

There were an estimated 10,000 victims worldwide of this sleep-inducing drug, which, when used by pregnant women, resulted in many still births and horrific defects in babies.

Lucky US of A. Not so lucky Canadians. Dr. Kelsoy is now 100 years old, and in Canada today, there are only 59 thalidomide victims left. Our government started negotiations with these 59 in March. Surely I wish I could say, “better late than never” on this one. Regarding “smart” meters replacing in a month or ‘so we have what we want. I’m still passionate about preventing protecting our ubiquitous microwaves, the dirty electricity and fire-causing potential to our homes, but weary of the fright. They say the darkest hour is just before the dawn. So come on folks, let’s get together and do what we can.

Phoebe Fields
Slocan

Khadr is not a terrorist

I wish to take issue with Brendan Bendis, whose letter ‘Khadr is a terrorist’ appeared in your June 3 edition. This letter places Mr. Bendis in perfect lockstep with our Prime Minister, an unpleasant and controversial place to be. It also places Mr. Bendis in direct conflict with nine of the best legal minds in Canada, the Justices of the Supreme Court, who took only 30 minutes to deliver a unanimous decision against the Prime Minister in his vicious pursuit of Omar Khadr. I should add that six of the nine justices are Harper appointees and the Chief Justice, Beverley McLachlin, was appointed by Brian Mulroney, a Progressive Conservative, rather than a Regressive Conservative like the present incumbent.
The one remaining vestige of Canadian democracy is an apolitical judiciary. The national media, with the exception of the CBC, seem to have betrayed their responsibility as The Fourth Estate, and even the CBC has come in for serious criticism from members of the federal cabinet. If the Conservative Fascist Party comes out of the next election with a majority of seats, the days of the CBC as we know it are severely limited.

One can only hope that the three leaders who sit in opposition will arrive at some accommodation to join forces before the election writ is dropped.

John Perkins

The evolution of energy

FortisBC will soon be exchanging electricity meters in your area

Advanced meters are just one way we’re working to improve the efficiency and reliability of your electricity service.

Benefits of new advanced meters:
• Monthly billing
• Choose your billing date
• Fewer estimates
• Online tools to help you manage your electricity use

For more information, visit fortisbc.com/ami or call 1-866-436-7847.
by Ian McMurray

SLOCAN VALLEY
Silverton, June 16: Grant application goes in for Silverton Gallery project

by Ian McMurray

The final round of public input on the Crescent Valley Beach Park draft management plan is wrapping up. A questionnaire is available on the RDCK website with a deadline of July 10, and an open house was held on June 23 at Crescent Valley Hall.

The 10-year plan, expected to be finalized this summer, will guide the development of this 2.53-hectare (6.25-acre) property that was donated to the RDCK. The property has a registered covenant restricting its use for park purposes only. The property has long been used for recreation and to access the popular beach.

The plan estimates a capital cost of $611,400 for the proposed improvements to the park, which include two parking lots, a washroom facility; a day use area with covered picnic structure, seating areas and a nature themed playground; trail improvements; heritage site improvements; and signage.

Unity Fest returns to Slocan Beach July 25 and 26

There will be music from around the world and local musical legends at this year’s Unity Festival on Slocan Beach July 25 and 26. The lineup includes OKA (Australia), Delhi 2 Dublin, Pigeon Hole (Vancouver), Rosie Brown Band (Manitoba), House of David Gang (Toronto), Good ‘Ol Goats (Cranbrook), local dance troupes and the Claybrick Boys from Vallican!

Local了解 the music world and gives music appreciation.

The festival is free and all proceeds will go to the Slocan Valley United Way.

Unity Music Festival has something for all ages in this year’s diverse lineup. Kids’ admission is free at this family festival.

Organizers are looking for more volunteers and a couple more vendors. Here’s a chance to get involved in this great family festival in the Slocan Valley. More info at www.myslocanmusicfestival.ca

Tickets are available online or at Packrat Annie’s in Nelson, Evergreen Foods in Crescent Valley, Gara Tree Foods in Winlaw, and Mountain Village Station in Slocan City.

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Employment Opportunity

Village of Silverton
Administrative Assistant

Under the supervision of the CAO, the Administrative Assistant will perform a variety of duties. You will be responsible for general front desk reception duties, accounts receivable/payable, payroll, data entry, answering general customer inquiries. You will assist the CAO in the research and preparation of agendas and minutes, record keeping, report writing, correspondence, bylaws, policies, legal plans and documents etc.

The pay rate for this position is $18.50 to $21.00 per hour, dependent on qualifications and experience. A six month probation period will apply. This position is a minimum of 24 hours per week from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Tuesday to Thursday, and offers full benefits. Attendance at evening meetings may occasionally be required.

The successful candidate should have:

- High School matriculation graduation
- Minimum 2 years’ experience in a municipal administrative position
- Training and understanding of accounting principles
- Experience taking meeting minutes
- Strong leadership, interpersonal skills, and an excellent team player
- Working knowledge of the Local Government Act, Community Charter
- Ability to work independently under pressure, multitask, set priorities and meet deadlines
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written
- Experience working professionally with the public
- Valid BC Class 5 Driver’s License

Preferences will be given to individuals who have a post-secondary education in Local Government Administration, Accounting, and Records Management. Experience working with municipal software and an in-depth knowledge of automated accounting systems within a municipal environment is preferred.

Applications reflecting applicants’ knowledge, skills and abilities relevant to the position and proof of education, qualifications will be accepted until 4:00 pm, July 16, 2015.

All applicants must provide contact information for at least two previous employer references.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to:
Melisa Miles
PO Box 14, Silverton BC. V0G 2B0
mmiles@silverton.ca

We thank all applicants, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
New Denver council, June 23:

Valhalla Pure window signage not approved

by Karine Campbell

Once again, the new Valhalla Pure building was the subject of discussion. The Development Permit Application that David Harley and Kelley Wright submitted asked to add a concrete pad and step on the north side, which council had no problem with. The second request in the application dealt with the ‘window’ signage on the south and east face of the building, which the proponents called ‘inspirational pictures’ of people participating in sports, a mountain scene, and branded jackets and sleeping bags.

Councillors did not find the pictures inspirational, and called them billboards.

“The applicant has not followed due process. Once again we’re faced with something that has already been done,” said Councillor Nadine Raynolds. “I like the pictures, but they are corporate ads, and I’m not prepared to approve them.”

Others agreed that they like the building, but were not happy with the way the owners had followed the process.

Bunka suggested that, had pictures of local people and landscapes been used, it would be more acceptable but those used were all advertising.

Councillor approved the concrete pad, but not the signage. Staff was directed to have a conversation with the applicant about the sign.

Mayor Bunka attended the Emergency Management BC workshop for elected officials. She said it was a refresher course on the Village’s role in an emergency, mainly dealing with policy.

At the Federation of Canadian Municipalities AGM in June, she went on a tour that showed what host city Edmonton is working on for alternate energy, including solar and geothermal, and a look at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and its curriculum.

She also went on a tour of the waste, recycling, and composting site. Edmonton is at 50 percent waste and 50 percent reuse through recycling and composting, aiming for 10 and 90 percent respectively.

- A session on communications showed New Denver is in par with municipalities in efforts to reach residents.

- The national party reps including Elizabeth May answered questions from a panel and from the floor; a presentation of stats and trends showed Conservatives were losing ground with the Liberals and NDP gaining.

At the RDCK board meeting, Rec 6 grants to the Silverton Community Club and Valhalla Fine Arts Society were approved. The board moved that the chair write to BC Utilities Commission in support of Fortis BC’s request to change its street lighting tariff so it could bill municipalities for using the energy-saving LED and dimmable lights, instead of charging a higher flat rate. Bunka said she hoped this would open the way to lobby BC Hydro for similar billing.

- New Denver’s Community Development grant application for $31,000 was approved.

- After receiving the Radon Monitoring Report for February, Councillor Haney von Rhein asked staff to find out if the exhaust fan had to run continuously or if its use could be cut back to save money on the hydro bill.

- The Village will not have to return the Young Canada Works grant for two student positions at the Nikkini Centre. A candidate has been approved for one of the positions, and the NIMC can now proceed with the digitization project. There is still another job available for a student.

- Council adopted a draft communications policy. A key part of the strategy will be to gather feedback from residents regarding their preferences for methods of communication, and satisfaction with current practices. Staff will create a survey and members of council will gather responses from the public at the Friday Market.

- The draft 2015 Annual Report will be made available for public inspection. At the July 28 regular meeting, council will consider submissions and questions from the public. The document may be revised in response to comments from the public.

- Floodproof Savings Credit Union was granted permission to use parking spaces in front of its building for a fundraising barbecue on July 3 from 10 am to 2:30 pm. Proceeds will go to the New Denver and Area Volunteer Fire Department.

- Council turned down a request from the Slocan Lake Arena Society to donate an item for its silent auction on Canada Day, but not before some present suggested, tongue in cheek: worn out tools, garbage tags or a date with the mayor as suitable items.

New Denver Mayor’s Message

by Mayor Ann Bunka

Council is looking at how we communicate with our residents – how do we get information, get input, and discuss issues? We are looking for feedback from the community on what works and the preferred methods of communication. We are planning a table at the Friday Market to hear residents’ thoughts on communication and, of course, anything else people want to talk about.

We would also like to bring to your attention the Village’s new Bear Stewt designation. This designation recognizes the work the Village has been doing for many years to ensure the interaction between people and wildlife, specifically bears. This designation brings some funding for future work and education about wildlife interactions. New Denver is the seventh community in BC to receive this designation. A presentation was made by the BC Conservation Service on Friday, June 26 at Knox Hall.

We would also like to talk water. We now have the capability to record the water usage and pump usage on frequent intervals. This has created an interesting picture of water usage in our village.

In 2013, we pumped 33.5 million gallons of water. In 2014, we pumped 35.5 million gallons, an increase of two million gallons.

A significant portion of our water usage is for lawn watering. We see five or six times more water pumped in July/August than in February/March.

New dry weather also affects how much water gets used for lawn watering, and how long people water their lawns. The record water year on June 9, water pump #1 came on at 4:45 am and didn’t turn off until two days later on June 11 at 3:30 am. Pump #2 had to come on four times during this period to keep up with the demand. The temperature was about 34°C over the two days.

The annual operating cost of the water system is $82,000. This does not include any current or future capital works.

For further information on the water system or anything else, please feel free to come to the office or see us at the Friday Market later this summer.

Chief Leonard Casley honoured for 25 years with New Denver fire department

by Jan McMurray

New Denver Fire Chief Leonard Casley was treated to a surprise celebration on the occasion of his 25th year with the fire department. About 60 people gathered at the Knox Hall for dinner and presentations on June 26. The RCMP presented Casley with a plaque, Mayor Ann Bunka presented him with a certificate of appreciation from the Village, and fire department members Alvie Bouillet and Doug Fisher gave him a pair of honours on behalf of the department.

“We have been fortunate that Leonard Casley has been involved in the fire department for 25 years,” said Mayor Bunka in her speech. “He is a strong leader who believes in training, safety and the well being of the members. I have had the privilege to work with Leonard during emergencies and have seen firsthand the knowledge and ability he possesses to respond to events that seem overwhelming to others. He also fosters a congenial and professional atmosphere that the fire department embraces.”

Bunka said the New Denver firefighters’ families, and thanked them all for their commitment to the fire department and to the community.
Three new booklets released in Slocan History Series

submitted

Even something as insignificant as a Japanese Canadian interned in New Denver during World War II! Have you walked the Galena Trail or talked up Idaho Peak and wondered about the presence of the First Nations people, the Simuc? Now, in the Slocan History Series, a new series of booklets released by Cannelton Fine Editions, you can find out. This series is authored by Cole Harris, Professor Emeritus of Historical Geography at UBC and a descendant of one of the area’s original settlers; his grandfather Joseph Coblebrook Harris. These new booklets will be launched at New Denver’s Kiwanis Hall on July 17 at 7 pm. Last year in July first of the year, in the series, Boom Days in the Slocan, was released, and has proved popular both with locals and visiting history aficionados. That booklet and the second in the series, Beginnings of the Bannock Ranch, represented the first process of historical finds: a memoir written by an eyewitness to early events. The memoir was written by Joseph Coblebrook (JC) Harris in 1944 following the death of his wife. His family encouraged him to set down his early memories of New Denver and the Slocan Valley as a possible source for a future history. The booklets are of interest to those interested in Slocan and the broader Kootenay area. Harris also seeks to dispel a myth that had held as late as 1985 that there were no Slocanites who lived in the vicinity of the Idaho Peak area, and gives due credit to their age-old presence on the land here.

Booklet 3, industry and the Good Life Around Idaho Peak, is written by Cole Harris, based on an article he published in the Canadian Historical Review in 1985. It’s a vivid, sometimes harrowing, picture of the miner’s life in the early Slocan. The hours were long, the pay poor, the work backbreaking and the conditions primitive. Only the occasional prospector’s shack kept him alive. Mostly it was the mining companies who made fortunes. These conditions made the contrast between camp life and town life in New Denver and Silverton all the more stark, as more English and European middle class types settled in. Harris also seeks to dispel a myth that had held as late as 1985 that there were no Slocanites who lived in the vicinity of the Idaho Peak area, and gives due credit to their age-old presence on the land here.

Booklet 4, Japanese Canadians on Harris Ranch, reveals a lesser-known aspect of the WWII internment camps in the valley—the internment camp that was set up on the Harris family property. These Canadians couldn’t have found themselves in better hands, despite their unjust imprisonment. JC Harris and his wife were elderly by the 1940s and struggling to maintain their sprawling gardens and orchards. They and their son Richard “Sandy” Harris welcomed the assistance of the Japanese Canadian man, who transformed the place into lush, landscaped gardens. Nancy Harris befriended the woman and children and enjoyed recreational activities with them. One man, Mr. Tanaka, chose to stay on at the farm after the war ended, and other internee families remained lifelong friends with the Harrises.

Due to technical problems, Booklet 4 may not arrive in time for the launch, but Booklets 1, 2 and 3 will all be available. To purchase copies, visit Raven’s Nest Gifts in New Denver, Merittin Books in Nakusp, 1196 Books & Jewellery in Kaslo, and in Nelson, Otter Books and Booksmith.

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Land Act:

Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that Cooper Creek Cedar Ltd. of Salmo, BC has applied to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MLNRDO), Kootenay Region, for a License of Occupation for roadway purpose situated on Provincial Crown land located near Slocan and containing 1.86 hectares more or less.

The Lands File for this application is 4405595. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to Front of House BC, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook BC, V1C 7G1 or email to: AuthorizationAgency.Cranbrook@gov.bc.ca. Comments will be received by MLNRDO up to July 5, 2015. MLNRDO may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit the website at http://ardf.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp • Search • Search by File Number: 4405595 for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. Access to these records may require the submission of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. Visit http://www.gov.bc.ca/freedomofinformation to learn more about FOI submissions.
Meeting held to assess future of Meadow Creek Cedar

by Louis Becker

On June 15 over 30 people, almost exclusively residents of Meadow Creek, came to the Ladner Valley Community Centre to discuss the current state of Meadow Creek Cedar (MCC) and what the future may hold for the community’s forestry industry. The meeting was called by John D’Rector, who has a 40-year history with MCC, and saw Kalo-baso forester Isaka Mathew mediate a discussion around the crowd and a panel made up of Ladner Valley LINKS Society member Deb Bonardi, MCC representative Rod Arnold, local investor John Aitken, Hanwell Timber Owners owner Dwight Swifts, Director Watson and Manager of the local forest district Gurd Wiggill.

According to Aitken, the meeting was called for three reasons: to give an MCC update, to assess local standing on the matter, and to create a plan moving forward.

MCC’s licence has been suspended by the Ministry of Forests and will be cancelled on August 7 unless MCC owner Dale Koerner can find a “qualified buyer” that the Crown accepts. In this case, the cancellation would be rescinded to allow the purchase to go forward. At the moment, there are seven parties interested in purchasing the licence, with three of them also interested in the mill. Should the licence be sold separately from the mill, there would be very few local jobs retained – a dark thought for an already struggling local economy.

The fire which caused the mill to burn down last November has been deemed accidental and the insurance company has offered to pay for the building of a new mill or pay out the owner.

Aitken, a Ladner resident and retired banker specializing in corporate finance, spoke with Woman’s News at the beginning of the year about what might happen next with MCC. That conversation led to a group of investors and other entities currently assembling a bid for both the mill and the licence.

“The goal of the group... is to have both a mill and an operation in the bush,” Aitken said, “recognizing that this community needs something for the long term which can be an economic locus for other developments.”

Unfortunately for the community, there are no pertinent regulations in place – they were stared in 2002 – meaning that the ministry can’t give more weight to a local bid such as Aitken’s. All bidders are given a list of the liabilities and obligations currently owed by MCC, much like a list of issues with a used car, and Wiggill said there are certainly some “bennies” about it.

If anything is sold, such as the equipment or timber, the money would be used to pay off Koerner’s debt to the Canada Revenue Agency before being put into an MCC trust fund governed by a lawyer, where it would go towards liabilities owed to the ministry, then to contractors who are still owed money and finally to Koerner himself.

Koerner recently requested a hearing, where Wiggill expects he will apply to extend the cancellation date, most likely in hopes of securing a better buyer. Koerner is also willing to finance 50 percent of the mill to a buyer.

By August 7, if no buyer is approved and the cancellation date is not extended, then the crown would effectively cancel the licence. Should this occur, the timber volume associated with the licence (96,513 cubic metres) would go to a historic peak of 1.8 million.

Brooks explained that the number of Kootenay Lake kokanee that survive to spawn naturally cycle up and down. Numbers have been in a downward cycle since the fall of 2014, and they were the lowest they had been since annual monitoring began in 1964, at 150,000, from a peak of 1.8 million. The spike in numbers of Gerrard rainbow trout for the same period is in the waters for the Kokanee底, since kokanee are their prey. However, as kokanee numbers plummet, the Gerrard population is also at risk.

There were 7.5 million fry from the Meadow Creek spawning channel in 2015 and an additional 3.5 to 5 million expanded from Lacoste, with a full fry estimate of 9-10 million. However, Brooks continued, fry survival rates vary – only a fraction survive to become spawners. But the good news is that the Meadow Creek has doubled the typical survival rate of egg to fry this spring, from 50 to 70 percent. Gerrard spawners have fallen off from their 2008 peak – bad news in the short term for the fishery but good news in the long term for kokanee. Brooks also reported the latest Kootenay Lake rainbow trout stock assessment for the year of the lake, March 31, 2015 period. Rainbow and bull trout catch rates all show a decrease in 2014-15 while small rainbow catch continues to improve; the lower lake is still higher than average.

The bull trout catch is comparatively low but still much higher than in the past. Sales of rainbow trout licenses are around $5 000 for 2014, which is a historic high. As of this date in 2015 there have been more licenses sold than in previous years. However, catch rates are not seen as contributing to the decline.

In 2014 the expert team examined 20 potential actions for recovery. Top priority actions are to restore main lake kokanee populations as quickly as possible to reduce pressure on population to ensure kokanee recovery. This will mean an immediate reduction in fishing quota of kokanee to zero and increasing the food chain support from two to four per day, while maintaining the regulation allowing only one Gerrard per 50 catchments. The bull trout catch rates will be reviewed in late June to see if short term catch rates are consistent. Catch limits will be adjusted accordingly. Moderate priority actions include improvements to assist supplementation levels to bolster the food chain that supports kokanee. Supplementation of spawning channels was carried out on May 21 this year by introducing 90,000 kokanee fry in the Crawford and Hendley Creek tributaries. The biologist have also requested five million kokanee egg implants from the Freshwater Fishery Society from the other channel to be harvested and released into the Lake tributary, if kokanee escapement is below 2014 levels. The society will raise up to 50,000 additional kokanee fry for release in release in 2016. New genetic results of this recovery model will be analyzed as data comes in. The biologist are also researching opportunities to increase entrenchment of kokanee past Libby Dam and the feasibility of a mysid harvest to reduce competition with the kokanee food chain.

During duration period the biologist were looking particularly into fish abundance in the lake. Neufeld explained that a combination of electronic fish finders and troll sampling with a large net provided information. It was asked whether non-native species such as bass were having an impact, Neufeld said that is unlikely. One man said he’s seen brown trout in snugfish (pale minnow) in Gray Creek and asked if that might affect the downstream. FLNRO biologist don’t sample this for species, and don’t think they’re a factor in the kokanee population. It was asked if these non-native species may have overlap in food chains, but was algae bloom due to the nutrient supplementation; Fish Restoration Biologist Marky Basset said this is monitored and phosphorus/nitrogen rates adjusted accordingly.

Area F Director Ramona Faust asked whether FLNRO was prepared to provide the necessary financial resources for the recovery. Barrows said $85,000 is coming from the Freshwater Fisheries Society and a slightly smaller package from the Ministry. In his defence, Eileen Delashawery Peet, found it odd that the government would be spending so heavily on an NGO for funding.

For more information on the recovery, visit http://www.co.kootenay.lk.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=63

Steamkeepers report on Lemon Creek samples submitted

Samples taken by the Steamkeepers above and below the Lemon Creek spill site show moderately positive results for the recovery of the benthic invertebrate population. Benthic invertebrates are organisms that live in or on the bottom of rivers, streams and lakes.

In the fall of both 2013 and 2014, the Slocan River Steamkeepers took the samples. The samples above the spill site was taken as a reference site not impacted by the fuel spill. A kick net was used for three minutes at the site of the released samples. Environment Canada’s standards were followed through CABIN (Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network).

The Steamkeepers have been conducting CABIN on the Slocan River and various local creeks for over 10 years. CABIN protocol include collecting benthic macroinvertebrates, basic stream measurements, water chemistry and when needed sediment chemistry. These protocols are used across Canada as a standardized approach for water quality assessments and monitoring. Continuous monitoring is needed to be able to see change over time.

The samples the Steamkeepers collected were sent to a professional taxonomist for identification. Organisms found in streams and rivers (benthics) can be very sensitive to pollution. Some are more pollution resistant and used to verify results. By looking at the 2013 fall samples taken after the spill and 2014 samples, it appears that the population shifted somewhat from pollution intolerant to pollution tolerant.

The data was entered into CABIN’s online database.

by Art Joyce

Kootenay Lake fisheries update meeting held in Balfour

The Balfour Community Hall was considerably less full on June 15 for an update on the Kootenay Lake fisheries compared to the June packed event. The Kootenay Lake fisheries management biologists Jeff Barrows and Matt Neufeld announced the action plan designed to assist the recovery of kokanee populations and protect against overexploitation. The Province assembled an expert team of provincial fish biologists, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, the Kootenay First Nation and a BC Wildlife Federation technical expert to develop options to speed recovery of kokanee stocks.

Albir Chraco of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations & Sustainability informed the audience that the government’s commitment to doing everything possible to recover the fishery.

“If we don’t fix Kootenay lake I’ll never hear the end of it,” he joked. “My grandfather is an avid fisherman and he always has been on this lake.”

Barrows explained that the number of Kootenay Lake kokanee that survive to spawn naturally cycle up and down. Numbers have been in a downward cycle since the fall of 2014, and they were the lowest they had been since annual monitoring began in 1964, at 150,000, from a peak of 1.8 million. The spike in numbers of Gerrard rainbow trout for the same period is in the waters for the Kokanee底, since kokanee are their prey. However, as kokanee numbers plummet, the Gerrard population is also at risk.

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The Valley Voice • July 1, 2015
Mt. Sentinel Valedictorians' Address

by Malin Chernoff and Patrick Falle

Welcome ladies and gentlemen, family members, members of the community, and those who didn't have anything else to do tonight. Thank you for coming, and to those who will be coming to celebrate 13 years of education for these 57 graduates behind us.

Remember the look on our parents' faces when I boarded the bus for my first day of kindergarten. The bus was full of nervous little kids; most of them had never met each other before. If you locked yourself in the bathroom, it was just you and the toilet paper. This was just the beginning of a very long journey to this very day.

With each day comes obstacles and challenges. Some we may lose, some we may conquer, but a great outlook trumps all.

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm." What would Churchill say?

Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Hoffman organized choir for the students. At first most of us joined because of the promise of missing school for concerts or the trips at the end of the year, but as the years went on, I think a lot of us really enjoyed singing. One thing I found was how much I grew when I put in soprano and the girls were put in alto. But looking back at this I would still put Oliver in Soprano.

For some reason in JK we all had to learn how to play the recorder. It was a long plastic tube that tasted like bleach, and since most of us didn't know how to play them, they sounded like an injured animal. I really don't think this contributed to anyone's interest in music. But the experience was valuable.

All of the skills we learned in elementary school were completely useless, like the recorder. Mrs. Foisier taught the importance of being environmentally friendly... and what more does one truly need? Another thing I liked about JK was Mrs. Hoffman's belief in homework. I wish more teachers took up this practice, cough cough Mr. Simpson.

Charlie Munger once said, "You're not going to get very far in life based on what you already know. You're going to advance in life by what you're learning after you leave here."

Coming into high school, we were told that it would be this big scary place, where there was tons of homework and no fun, but it turned out that it was a place to grow and to help us shape who we are.

The first week of grade 7 like they said it would be, with that big scary kid freaking through the halls, but throughout the years he realized he didn't have an angry or scary bone in him.

For those who went to the summer games in 2012, it was an amazing experience. The girls worked really hard at tryouts and formed a solid team, representing the St. Alberts. The boys' team on the other hand was formal with some skilled players from the East St. Alberts and mostly guys from Mount Sentinel who had nothing better to do. Marco Slater, a member of the team, couldn't even make it to gym without doing himself on a trophy case.

During grade 9, we all started to become intelligent kids, with big dreams. Some of us wanted to become doctors, mechanics, or artists. For a short quote: "Congratulations on completing the easiest part of your life."

We thought that high school was big and scary, but there is so no comparison to what's to come. With such a diverse group of graduates, it will be amazing to see where everyone is in ten years. We will see doctors and nurses, artists and therapists, actors and actresses, but hopefully not pirates.

At this time we would like to remember Mr. Blair D'Andrea as a caring vice-principal and a wonderful basketball coach. He really understood every student and this is shown through his famous quote: "There are two types of people in this world: ducks and geese. Ducks float in line with the rest of the flock and go about their business quietly while geese on the other hand make a lot of noise and go their own way." Which are you?

We would like to thank the members of our community, teachers, mentors, councillors, and parents for supporting us throughout the years. It's time to move on to our next adventure, embrace whatever comes at us, and show the people in our new world that there is much more to get out of life than we leave your troubles behind. Congratulations to all of us.

You're off to Great Places! Today is your day!

Your mountain is waiting. So get on your way.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

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Don’t be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated; you can’t cross a chasm in two small jumps.

- David Lloyd George

Best of Luck, graduates!

Slocan Valley Co-op

Congratulations Graduates!

I would like to congratulate the 2015 graduates from Lucerne Secondary School, Mount Sentinel Secondary School and Nakusp Secondary School. I hope that you have a safe and fun graduation celebration.

Good luck to all of you and may your future endeavours be successful!

Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West
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The Valley Voice
July 1, 2015

Mt. Sentinel Graduation
Mt. Sentinel graduates receive scholarships and bursaries

Major School Awards

- Governor General’s Award – Nick Paul; Mount Sentinel Service Award – Jesse Strong; Ken Savickoff Memorial Award – Patrick Falle; Brent Kennedy Memorial Award – Malin Chemoff.

Scholarships & Awards

- Aboriginal Heritage Scholarship: Natalie Stewart; Blair D’Andrea Memorial Scholarship: Oliver Cougur, John Dimitri Johnson, Aslan Mackay.

Columbia Basin Trust Award: Malin Chemoff, John Dimitri Johnson; Columbia Power Corporation: Mada Reinhart; Dogwood District Authority Award: Nicholas Pann, Mikayla Tarassof; Fraser Memorial Bursary: Emma Avery; Get High on Nature Scholarship: Emma Avery; Heritage Credit Union Award: Ann Vreey; Kootenay Conroy MLA Trades Bursary: Olivia Saprkien; Kootenay Lake Hospital Auxiliary: Allison Perepetkin; Kootenay Lake Principals’ VP: Patrick Falle; Kootenay Savings Community Foundation: Spencer Szabo; Kootenay Slope Lions Club: Emma Avery; Kyle Zarchikoff Memorial: Cassidy Viegas; McEwan and Co. Law Corporation: Katelyn Hocking; McGill University: Nicholas Pann; Molly Hutt Bursary: Lucas Raagust; Mountain Valley Station: Aslan Mackay; Mt. Sentinel Administrators Award: Cassidy Viegas; Mt. Sentinel PAC: Kadea Ellis, Patrick Falle, Cassidy Viegas; Mt. Sentinel Students Service Award: Allison Perepetkin; NDTA Scholarship: Nicholas Pann; Nancy Lih Memorial: Malin Chemoff; Nelson & District Credit Union: Kaden Ellis; Nelson and District Teacher Member Award: Katelyn Hocking, John Dimitri Johnson, Andrew Knupik; Nelson Masonic Lodge: Alexis Jaffe; Imperial KHC Insurance Brokers: Kyla Makortoff; Richard Memorial Bursary: Natalie Stewart; Rotary Club of Nelson: Emma Avery, Leila Daras; Royal Canadian Legion Sloen Valley Branch 276: Kya Makortoff, Spencer Szabo; Seltzler College Board of Governors (Sec. Grad Award): Malin Chemoff, Leila Daras; Kamishia Gill, Alexis Jaffe, Ilene Pherson, Enamalie Vale; Sehnwe Sargent Scholarship: Patrick Falle; University of Victoria – Black Press Scholarship: Aslan Mackay; University of Victoria Entrance Scholarship: Aslan Mackay; Wayne George Memorial: Willow Waller; West Kootenay Toy Run Bursary: Aslan Mackay; Yellowhead Road & Bridge: Enamel Valls.

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Congratulations to the Mt. Sentinel graduating class of 2015.

Congratulations to the graduating class of Mt. Sentinel School.

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You have brains in your head.

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J.V. Humphries graduates receive scholarships and bursaries

Kim Alarie - Howard Green Memorial ($1000), Kaslo Golf Club ($250), Aboriginal Education ($500), West Kootenay Toy Run ($1000), Kaslo Community Forest ($500)

Jarred Anderson - KLT A ($1000), Village of Kaslo ($400), Sinclair Memorial ($300), Royal Canadian Legion Poppy ($400)

Autumn Clarke - St. Mark’s Church ($100), JVH ($100), Howard Green Memorial ($1000), Kenadon Electronics ($500), Royal Canadian Legion Gaming ($400), Salkirk College Board of Governors Secondary Graduate Award ($1500)

Hannah Emus - Barry Butler ($500), After Burner’s Hockey ($1000), Dallas Benwell Memorial ($350), Alan Hoshizaki Memorial ($1000), North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council ($750), Dogwood District Authority Award ($1000)

Dayton Funk - JVF PAC ($300), Fach Vaillancourt Memorial ($1000), Kaslo Seniors ($500), Western Financial ($250), Kaslo Community Forest ($500)

Samantha Larsen - Student of the Year Lakeside PAC ($300)

Jessica Laybourne - KLT A ($1000), Leathwood Wynnchuck ($400), Jack McDowell Memorial ($400), CBY Youth Community Service Award ($2000), Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary ($300), RHC Insurance Brokers ($250), Nelson Rotary Club ($500), Dogwood District Authority Award ($1000)

Paige LeFranque - Howard Green Memorial ($1000), Kootenay Savings Credit Union ($750), Royal Canadian Legion Poppy ($400), Royal Canadian Legion, Ladies Auxiliary ($300), McKinnon Family Fund ($725)

Austin MacDonald - Larry MacNicol Memorial ($500), Columbia Power ($500), East Kootenay Community Credit Union, Elkford ($500)

Kim Alarie, Katie Surina, Mervin Allinair, Ayla Van Horn.
J.V. Humphries Valedictorians’ speech

by Hannah Enns and Katie Sarina

Good evening, Ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the celebration for the graduating class of 2015. It is a tremendous honour to be here. Our class would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to all of our teachers, friends, family members, and to the community members who have helped us get to where we are today – standing here in front of you, ready to enter the world of challenges that lies ahead of us.

Most of us have known each other for 12 years, or longer. Being a part of a small school has helped us form strong friendships with one another.

Our class can be described as compassionate and highly talented people; who, at times, can lack enthusiasm and have created a hobby out of complaining. Our vast talents range from athletics to academics to performing arts. For example, Hannah is an extremely accomplished artist (who did not write that line). Katie is really, really good at math (who did write that line). Paige is a soccer pro. The other Hannah is a talented actress and writes a great original composition essay. Autumn is surprisingly competitive and takes beautiful photographs. Cynthia is almost an internationally known soccer goalie. Be sure to vote for Jarred in the next election – the next US election, that is. Kim is very compassionate; she shares her food with everyone, including the staff. Jessica has a voice that closely resembles a choir of angels. Aidan likes to think that he is always right, and sometimes is, but don’t tell him that. Ayia is a fit yogi – just look at those quads. Gavvin’s got rhythm. Jenny is artistic and has created some beautiful murals in the school. Austin is probably good at lots of things, but he doesn’t talk much, so we’re not sure what those things are quite yet. Sam is extremely determined; although she is a year younger than the rest of us, she has done a phenomenal amount of work to graduate early. Dayton is a sick drummer who can keep a beat and knows how to make us all laugh. Maeve, who is an extremely talented writer, decided to bless us with her presence and attend her graduation with us today.

Our class is as wonderful and diverse as it gets, and we are all proud to be graduating together, this year of 2015.

We have been given such wonderful opportunities in this safe, happy environment we call Kaslo, and for that we are extremely grateful. But now, it is time for us to set goals for our future. It is time for us to leave our cozy nest – well, at least most of us – to move on with our lives and learn a little more each day. You have moulded us into the people we are today, and we thank you for that. It has been an honour to be a part of this community, and we would love to come back to Kaslo, sometime in the future, to remember that it was here, in this town, that we built the foundation our futures are now resting on and that the foundation is as solid as granite. Thank you for celebrating this milestone with us.

Kaslo’s talented Class of 2015 celebrated on June 26

by Jan McMurray

The J.V. Humphries graduation ceremony on June 26 highlighted the many talents of the 17 graduates. Some of the ‘gifts of the grad’ mentioned were drama, music, sports, outdoor pursuits and writing. Principal Dan Rude welcomed parents, family members, staff and community members. “It’s important to me that we consider this a partnership to support our children and youth,” he said.

Mr. Rude, Ms. McAllister and Ms. T introduced the graduates as they walked down the aisle and took their seats on the stage in the school gym. This was the first time we heard about the talents and aspirations of each grad.

School trustee Dawn Lang congratulated the graduates as well as the school staff, parents, friends, and community members for the part they played in the graduates’ success.

Superintendent Jeff Jones likened the graduates to a baby robin in his yard that had flown out of its nest that very day, with many other robins gathering around to help. “You have jumped out of the nest and have become your own unique people with your own talents, and many people came around to help you,” he said. “This is not the beginning of something but a continuation of who you have developed into with the support of this wonderful community.”

Jones gave the grads one piece of advice – to pursue their passions and the things that inspire them to be who they want to be. He concluded with this quote: “Hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known.”

Hannah Enns introduced Jackie Murdoch, guest speaker, as “a former staff member and important part of the community.” Jackie wore a Princess Fiona crown for the occasion, and said she was honoured, thrilled and delighted to be asked to guest speak and a little nervous, too. She said a little something about each grad, giving us yet more insight into who these young people are.

Kim Alaric thanked the guest speaker; Cynthia Swales thanked staff, Autumn Clarke thanked the community, and Paige LeFranc thanked family and friends.

The Major Awards were presented, as follows: Principal’s Award – Hannah Enns; Award of Distinction – Ayia Van Hora; Excellence in Drama – Ayia Van Horn; Excellence in Music – Gavvin Arzt; Excellence in Humanities – Hannah Enns; Excellence in English – Katie Sarina; Excellence in Visual Arts – Hannah Enns; Governor General’s Award – Hannah Enns; Sheila Leadbeater Award – Hannah Enns; Citizenship of the Year – Jared Anderson, Kimmy Alaric and Aidan Turini.

In the Valedictorian address, delivered by Hannah Enns and Katie Sarina, we heard once again about each of the grad’s special talents.

Candles were lit for Drama, English, Music, Art, Shop and the alternative school in the candle lighting ceremony.

Scholarships totaling over $34,000 were given out and diplomas were presented.

After the caps were tossed and a short break for photos, the grads and their family members gathered for the Grand March.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

By Eric’s Meat Market & Deli

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Congratulations & best wishes to the 2015 Graduating Class of J. V. Humphries School!
Herbal Musings
with Colleen Emery

Ode to elder

The wisdom of nature never ceases to amaze me, with its ability to provide exactly what we need at the right time. With the spring surge of hot weather, along come the blossoms of the elder tree. So uniquely connected, the flowers arrive just at the time we can really benefit from their medicine.

This wondrous, wise tree has much medicine to offer us. Its beautiful, white, star-shaped flowers bloom brightly at the start of summer, providing us with the herb support for the heat of the season. Elder’s berries come in the fall, just in time to provide support for the upcoming cold and flu season.

Elders are most often found in low, wet areas as a large bush or small tree. The leaves are compound, having five to nine leaflets, and can be distinguished by flowering by a narrow groove that runs along the top of the leaf stem. In the summer numerous white umbels of flowers bloom, which ripen to bluish-black berry clusters in the fall. There is also a red-berried elder, which looks very similar but flowers early in the spring and bears its fruit in early summer.

Red elder berries are considered tonic, and should not be used. Elder’s berry was a myth, and is among the most revered of herbs, being considered a guardian and gatekeeper to the virtues of all other growing things. Its benefits were recorded by the Cree’s Modern Herbal and Stephen Harrod Buhner’s Sacred and Healing Healing Beers deliver much more deeply into the lore of the elder, and are worth looking into to gain a deeper insight into its mythical medicine.

The dried flowers of elder are very diaphoretic, meaning they encourage perspiration and the release of heat. They also have the ability to expectorate phlegm from the respiratory system. Elder flowers are mildly sedative, helping to create a feeling of ease and relaxation.

Medicines created from the flowers, when consumed in the heat of the summer months, will help the body to cool, relax and enjoy the season more thoroughly. The same medicine, when taken warm, or in the winter months, will help to dispense a cold or flu bug from the body in the early stages by encouraging a fever to work more effectively. An excellent way to capture both uses is to make syrup from the blossoms.

Elder flower syrup
1 cup dried elderflower or 2 cups fresh
1 cup honey (you can use less if you prefer a less sweet syrup)
3 cups clean water
1 lemon, cut into slices
Clean bottle to package in

Elder flower syrup: A cold tea for lavender, chamomile, or lemon balm to help cool and calm the nerves and relax the body.

Are you on the Emery Herbs email list? Each month we mail out our Herbal Musings newsletter, featuring Herb of the Month, upcoming events, community news and various herbal tidbits. Sign up at our website: www.emeryherbs.com

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

Introducing Wendy Letoria, New Denver Community Pharmacist by Jan McMurray

The New Denver Community Pharmacy has been open for a month now, so many residents will have met pharmacist Wendy Letoria.

Wendy lives in Nakusp, and works in the pharmacy, but was born and raised in Kaslo. “I love it!” she says. “It’s one of the most beautiful communities in the world. I feel very lucky to be able to live and work in this area.”

Wendy was born and raised in Roodland. After receiving her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at UBC in 1997, she moved back to the area and has worked mostly at pharmacies in the West Kootenay ever since.

Wendy met her husband Taylor, owner of the New Denver and Kaslo pharmacies, about five years ago when they were both working at the pharmacy in Fruitvale. Since Ward bought the Kaslo pharmacy in 2012, Wendy has been doing relief work for him in Kaslo, and was more than happy to become the pharmacy manager in New Denver.

Wendy has received certification in diabetes and asthma education, and is interested in getting certification in wound care. “We are one source of information for the community, so we encourage people to come in and ask questions,” she says.

Wendy also encourages people to let her and her partner June McMillan know about any items they would like to see in the store. “We can order in scooters, mobility aids, specialty bandages — we have access to a wide range of products.”

The store is open Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Nakusp Library hosts Writers and Poets Coffeehouse

Unlike visual artists, whose works are often on public display, writers tend to be a solitary lot whose work is seen only in publications or by spouses and close friends. In fact, Nakusp and the surrounding area has a lively group of active writers. Some are part of writer’s groups and some do their writing alone in candle-lit garrets — or maybe even just on their kitchen tables.

Time for these writers to descend from their garrets. On Friday, July 3, at 7 pm, a group of locals will read short excerpts from their work. There’ll be stories, essays, poems and maybe even a little humour. Some will be reading in public for the first time, so come out and support these budding Alice Munro’s and Farley Mowat’s. Have a coffee and enjoy some treats while listening to fascinating stories from these shy sprites, the writers who live just down the street.

If you’re interested in participating, it’s not too late. Just contact Barb MacPherson at a call at 250-265-3450 or inquire at the library.

Local artist wins Gold Award

Slocan Valley artist Frantisek Strouhal won the Gold Award in the Annual arts show held at the Canadian Artists Central Okanagan Art Show.

The open juried show, called Osiris and Inspirational Symposium, features the work of 54 artists and has drawn the interest of hundreds of visitors. It was on exhibit for the month of June in the Rotary Centre of the Arts in Kelowna.

Frantisek Strouhal received the award for his piece, “Time to Breathe.” The award was presented by the owners of Pleasant Pear Orchard B&B.

Strouhal works out of his Mirage Studio in Kaslo. M and welcomes and welcomes appointments by appointment only interested in

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In the shadow of the towering Valhalla Mountains in the Slocan Valley, post-secondary students and educators are meticulously documenting the human history of our region that stretches back more than 3,000 years.

The Slocan Narrows Archaeological Project is once again bustling with activity along the shores of the Slocan River, just north of Lemon Creek. Funded through Hamilton College in central New York — with support from the Slocan Valley Rail Trail, Columbia Basin Trust, the local Sinixt people and Selkirk College — the six-week archaeological field school has nine students, three teaching assistants and two project coordinators carefully digging through an amazing array of pithouses that provide vital links to the past.

“This site is important because the Slocan River is one of the last un-dammed rivers in the Upper Columbia system,” explains Dr. Nathan Goodale, associate professor of Anthropology at Hamilton College who is co-directing the project. “The fact that this site exists is significant because it’s probably the last big cluster of pithouses remaining in this area. It’s also significant because of the amount of knowledge that we have gained from it. It has intact deposits and is relatively undisturbed.”

Work on the Slocan Narrows Pithouse Village has been taking place since 2000, when archaeologists from the University of Montana and University of Lethbridge began the process of mapping out and exploring the footprints of the past. Almost 40 housespits have been identified and radiocarbon dating has revealed that four different periods of occupation exist stretching from approximately 3,105 years ago to the late 18th century.

This summer, students and teaching assistants are carefully digging into three different pithouses. As with previous field schools, participants are discovering mostly stone tools, which were the predominant means by which people made a living in the past. From small stone chips to larger tools used for hunting, scraping and cutting, the human-made objects help provide important insight into the lives of the people who lived along the river.

The people of the Interior Northwest relied heavily on fish, especially anadromous salmon. The Slocan Valley inhabitants were no different and lived during a time when the fish traveled up the Upper Columbia River to the tributaries like the Slocan River. Other evidence uncovered over the years has indicated that the Aboriginal inhabitants of the village also relied on trapping beaver, hunting deer and elk, and subsisted on wild roots like camas.

Selkirk College students have been involved in two previous field schools in 2011 and 2013. This year, Mike Graeme and Allysa Webber are getting their hands dirty with Hamilton College students who hail from many different regions of the United States.

All students live in a camp near the site and spend the entire six weeks immersed in the project. Along with the daily task of excavation and documentation, guest speakers are brought in to provide a deeper understanding of the importance of the work being done.

As was the case in 2013, the site has received several visits from school and community groups over the last few weeks. That aspect of the project will climax on July 12 with the Archaeology Open House which invites anybody interested to visit the site.

The open house will take place between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on July 12. The Slocan Narrows Pithouse Village can be found by taking Highway 6 north from Winlaw. Cross Lemon Creek and then look for Lindsay Road, where signs will be set up to indicate parking. Wearing comfortable shoes and packing bug spray is recommended.

Find out more about Selkirk College’s School of University Arts & Sciences at selkirk.ca/us.

Archaeology Open House

Everyone is welcome!

Join us and learn about the 2015 Slocan Narrows Archaeological Project and Field School, operated by New York’s Hamilton College. Tour the site and find out what has been unearthed this summer through interactive guided tours. A BBQ will raise money for the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society.

The six-week intensive program explores archaeological excavation techniques, ethnography, linguistics, and oral traditions of the Interior Pacific Northwest and Upper Columbia Plateau.

Lemon Creek Trail Head, Slocan Valley
July 12, 2015 from 10:00 a.m.

Selkirk College selkirk.ca/snap
From Macroinvertebrates to Muffin Monsters: students learn about water

submitted

Nineteenth grade science students from Nakusp Secondary School recently enjoyed a day touring the community and area during a Know Your Watershed field trip.

Know Your Watershed is a Columbia Basin Trust program that helps students understand where their water comes from, how it is used and where it goes after it is used. The program is delivered in schools around the Basin by Wildcraft.

"Since 2010, Know Your Watershed has been getting Basin students out of the classroom and into their communities, giving them concrete understanding of our water systems," said Rick Allen, CBT Program Manager, Environment. "Through hands-on activities, students gain knowledge and inspiration to take care of our precious water resources, which helps support the well-being of the region into the future."

The day was divided into three parts, led by instructor Marcy Mahr. First, with the help of Hans Dammert of the Arrow Lakes Environmental Stewardship Society, the students tested water quality at Gardner and Kasankaan creeks.

They learned about factors like turbidity (the water clear, or are there sediments and organisms mixed in that may make it hard for fish to breathe?), dissolved oxygen (do fish and aquatic insects in the water they need?) and levels of nitrates and phosphates (are these nutrients available for aquatic plants to use?).

The students played a game of Macroinvertebrate Mayhem. By pretending to be stonesflies, mayflies and caddis flies and learning how these insects can indicate the presence of a healthy ecosystem, and how water quality can change with the addition of toxic chemicals, silt from erosion of stream banks or aquatic invasive species. These in turns can affect the healthy functioning of a creek’s ecosystem. They were then able to view some of these creatures first-hand thanks to Dammert's bug-catching skills.

The second part of the day focused on water treatment. Joined by Nakusp Public Works staff Rachel George and Warren Leigh, the students visited the Village’s facilities on Upper Brass Road, which supply much of the community’s tap water. Here they learned how creek water passes through coarse filtration stages to remove rocks and sticks, leaves, sticks, frogs and radishes. Next the water moves through a micro hydro generator and the electricity produced is sold to BC Hydro.

The water is then processed with activated carbon filtration, chlorination and UV radiation, and stored in two reservoirs: an above-ground one that holds one million gallons, and an underground one that holds 200,000 gallons. This water is gravity-fed into the Village’s water infrastructure to serve residential and commercial needs.

The community’s other source of water is groundwater located in an aquifer under the baseball fields near the arena. This clear, clean water is pumped up through two wells and doesn’t require treatment. It is used to supplement the water stored in the reservoirs on Upper Brass Road, which on hot summer days can become very low due to high demand. The students also learned that water from Arrow Lakes Reservoir wouldn’t be a feasible source, due to the expense of both pumping it and disinfecting it.

For the final part of the day, the students visited the medical treatment facility on 13 Avenue NW. The big hit was standing on the grill above the odorless ‘muffin monster’, which grinds up solids that have been flushed into the sewer. The students toured the three lagoons, which enable bacteria to digest organic materials in the sewage and allow solids to settle out. Once the liquid goes through the final steps in the treatment plant, the water—which is now the same quality as pool water—is released deep into the lake. In the future, the Village hopes to reclaim this water to use in spaces like parks and cemeteries.

The week after the trip, Mahr wrapped up the program by revisiting the students in their classroom.

“We played a game called Watershed Jeopardy, which is a fun way for students to review what they’ve learned and discuss what they can do to take care of water—both in terms of protecting water quality and conserving water quantity,” said Mahr. "They came to realize it’s everyone’s job to ensure we have healthy water in our local creeks and watersheds. Stewardship is something we all can do.”

National Aboriginal Day celebrated in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

National Aboriginal Day was celebrated on June 18 at the Nakusp community complex. Students and teachers from all the elementary schools in School District 10 Arrow Lakes attended and participated in bead-making, basket weaving, face painting and other activities.

Running Wolf, Init Cree man from Nelson, performed a fancy dance and a grace dance to begin the opening ceremony. Al Richardson, Sinixt man living in New Denver, closed with stick dancing.

Superintendent Terry Taylor welcomed everyone to the celebration. She said 15.7 percent of School District 10 Arrow Lakes students claimed aboriginal ancestry this year, and that this number rises every year. “We’re very proud of growing aboriginal understanding for our students, staff, families, and communities,” she said.

Taylor also noted that the year of Truth and Reconciliation is coming to an end, and learning about residential schools is now part of the BC curriculum.

Students participated in a ‘Reconciliation through Art’ Tiles Project made of yellow clay and on display at the celebration. Teacher Sigri Frederickson spoke about the piece done by grade 10 students in Nakusp and New Denver under the guidance of Terry Jackson, master carver from Rock Creek. Frederickson explained that the tiles look finished, some look barely begun, and some look damaged. This is to represent the children and families harmed by residential schools. The project will be permanently displayed at the school district office in Nakusp.

The celebration was supported by School District 10, CBT and the Nakusp Museum.

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North Kootenay Sport & Recreation Report

Keslo Golf Club

Calling all golfers...the Men’s Open Rainbow Tournament will be held July 1st at Keslo with a 10:00 a.m. shotgun start. Entry fee $55. This is one of the longest running annual tournaments in B.C. Sign up at the clubhouse or call Barry Hill at 250-635-7706

Valley View Golf Club will be offering half price golf on Canada Day

Slocan Drop-in Soccer (Adult)

Big thanks from the Slocan Team to all the Kootenay teams who came out to participate in the Slocan Soccer Tournament on Saturday. Good times had by all.

Drop-in Soccer continues at 5pm at Slocan Soccer field. All levels and abilities welcome. Call Garo for more info (250)226-7062

Idaho Peak Mountain Marathon

Register today for the July 28th marathon-$46k or 10k option. www.kootenayhalffam.com

Aikido Seminar (Adult)

White Pines Dojo invites observers and participants to a weekend of aikido training. July 31st – August 2nd. Please call the dojo for more information about participation in any classes, Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the summer. (250)355-0009

Nakusp Sport and Recreation Council

nkscouncil@gmail.com

Your local information source for sport and recreation in the Kootenays
Kaslo council, June 23: Trailblazers’ mountain bike trail plan endorsed

by Jan McMurtry

• Council endorsed the Trailblazers’ mountain bike trail plan, which would see the old parlour area and other area near the lake developed into mountain biking skills parks for children and parents. Council’s endorsement is subject to any issues with the landfill and private property being addressed. Doug Roberts attended the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Committee meeting of May 29 with the proposal.

• The May 29 Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Committee meeting minutes were received. The committee has decided to contact Friends of Kootenay Lake regarding an ecological inventory of the shoreline within municipal boundaries. This would be a preliminary step towards a shoreline management plan, which is one of the committee’s mandates.

The PROS Committee also discussed the Logans Sports grounds. It was noted that if the Village’s application for a Licence of Occupation for the grounds is approved, all non-compliant works on the grounds would become the responsibility of the Village. Also, if further development were proposed for the grounds, First Nations consultations would be required.

• The minutes of the Public Art Select Committee meeting held June 8 were received. The official name of the committee was adopted as the Kaslo Public Art Select Committee (KOPASCAS). The committee’s terms of reference were also adopted.

A meeting with MMBC (Multi-Material BC) was requested for both business and public meeting purposes. The Village has a contract with MMBC for the curbside recycling program.

• Up to $1,200 will be requested from the RDCK Community Development Council to purchase bicycle racks for suitable areas of downtown.

• St. Mark’s Anglican Church is building a ramp for disabled access to the church. A driveway will be built as part of the project and will be on Village right of way. Karen Pidcock of St. Mark’s Anglican Church wrote to council to ask for a licence of occupation, which was approved for the term, subject to a final agreement being drafted.

• Glen Stewart wrote to council to express concern about a cougar that has been seen near the hospital and in the valley. Staff will reply with information regarding wildlife interactions.

• Appointments will be made for council at UBCM with the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to discuss park tenures and/or local area forestry issues, the Minister of Health to discuss ongoing healthcare issues; and the Minister of Communities, Sport and Cultural Development regarding the sewer.

• The street closure request from Kootenay Sutterfest for September 5 was approved.

• A card was received from the Rutherford family thanking Public Works for placing the memorial bench for May Days.

• An email from Jill Brayle was received and the question of transparency in CMA Annual Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Kaslo woman wins Canadian Medical Association’s Medal of Honour

Kaslo’s Camille Dow Baker, co-founder of the charity the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST), has been named in the 2015 recipient of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Medal of Honour, awarded to a person who is not a member of the medical profession.

The award recognizes her work with CAWST as a ‘Made in Canada’ education-based solution for one of the world’s great public health issues: the lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In an interview with Chatelaine magazine, Dow Baker said, “CAWST is an engineering entrepreneurial – which means we take a developmental approach. We start by educating communities on what they can do right now (harvesting rainwater, bio-sand filters, safe water storage) and build from there to make people as self-sufficient as possible so they can meet their own needs.”

“I was my own teenager rebel that pushed me. He was always protesting against this or that, and I told him, ‘Don’t look for what you’re against. Look for what you believe in.’ It was part of a shift in our household; we wanted to do the best for humanity and for the earth – and for me that meant recognizing the great need for change worldwide and doing something about it. So I launched the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) from my basement. Now we’re in 69 countries.”

A native of Trinidad and Tobago, Dow Baker studied mining engineering at McGill University. She had a successful two-decade career in Canada’s oil and gas sector, then in 1998 she moved to the University of California to study environmental design.

New RCMP officer for Kaslo

by Katrine Campbell

Constable Leo Turko has just arrived in Kaslo from his last posting in Fort Nelson, replacing the recently departed Constable Tim McDonald. He chose to bring his family to Kaslo, he says, because “it looked very beautiful and I had heard many positive things regarding the posting.”

Although he has only been here since June 20, Constable’s long enough for him to decide “the people [are] very welcoming while the town and surrounding area is beautiful.”

Before joining the RCMP, Turko was a tradesman in Surrey, where he became an Auxiliary Police Officer. He moved to Mission and served as an auxiliary there until 2005, when he went to Detachment in Regina for training. He was posted to Williams Lake in 2006, and in 2011, transferred to the Northern Rockies Detachment in Fort Nelson.

“All of my postings have provided me with great experience,” he says. “[Having] the opportunity to police communities of all different sizes has allowed me to work in different sections such as general duty policing, Detachment, Section, General Investigative Section and First Nations Policing.

“My personal preference is to work in small communities where you have the ability to get to know everyone in your community and build on those relationships. I understand the importance of getting involved and look forward to taking part in different events and sports with my family here in Kaslo.”

Asked about the positives and negatives of policing in Kaslo, Turko says, “I have found the community has a very positive relationship with the police already. I believe this is in large part to the effort put forth by the departing corporal, Shaun Begg, and the other members of the detachment. I don’t see any negatives in policing Kaslo at this time.”

He adds, “If anyone sees me around town please don’t hesitate to stop and say hello’ or sit down and have a coffee with me.”

Kaslo and area annual Edible Garden Tour

This year, Kaslo and area’s popular Edible Garden Tour will be on July 12, from 10 am to 3 pm. Most of the gardens are new to the tour, and feature an interesting mix that is sure to be informative, inspiring, and fun. 

Several edible properties are featuring growing grain, mobile and geothermal greenhouses, bees, and a blueberry farm. In the village, explore the Community Garden and bas hives music thrill at 11 am, and see baby rabbits and a new garden built on bay bales. Please, no pets.

This annual event is a fundraiser for the Kaslo Food Hub. Get tickets for $10 in advance at Community Services, Willow Home Gallery, and Sunnydale Naturals, and on the day of the event at the Food Hub or one of the gardens.

Garden Gate prizes will be on display at the Food Hub, and awarded at the end of the day, thanks to donations from Kaslo Building Supplies and Home Hardware. The event is sponsored by Columbia Basin Trust, Kootenay Savings, Willow Home Gallery, and the Broken Pot Nursery.

Karlo’s Camille Dow Baker will receive the CMA’s Medal of Honour.

Constable Leo Turko has just arrived in Kaslo.
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202 Fifty Ave, NW, Nakusp, BC; 282-7622
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Museums
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Phone: (250) 358-7288  306 Josephine St.  newdawner@nicelik
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Silvery Slocan Museum  - New Denver
(250) 358-2011 The old bank of Montreal building at the foot of New Denver’s Main Street, restored to circa 1900. Special tours welcome. 250-358-2011 or 250-358-2165 for further information. See you soon!
Sandon Museum & Visitors’ Centre  - Sandon
(250) 358-7979  www.sandonmuseum.ca
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S.S. Moyie National Historic Site  - Kaslo
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Lardeau Valley Historical Society Museum  - Neudale Creek
museum.vh@gmai.com 3145 Highway 31 DE corner of Lardea Valley Hwy and Airport Rd, NE. Visit the UHS museum in scenic Lardea Creek and experience the history of the “Lardeau.” Housed in the historic pearston family home, the museum collection remembers you in the rich and colorful past of people and places of north Kootenay, Lake and the Lardeo and Durbin River Valley. Open weekends mid-June to September.

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Hidden Garden Gallery  - New Denver
www.hiddengardengallery.ca  803 Kildare Street, New Denver. 12noon-6pm, Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday. 3-A. Art from the Kootenay way back. 12 noon Thru Sat. 3pm. Come enjoy your own private lunch in our garden and see the best of local artists.

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CLASSIFIED ADS
July 12, 10-3. Benefit for Kaslo Food Hub. Event at the Kaslo Canadian Legion Hall. All proceeds will go towards the Kaslo Food Hub. 10-3. Kaslo Legion Hall.

AT THE HIDDEN GARDEN
Painting of Alex Brenner. “Other Worlds.” July 6-11, reception, July 10, 7-9 pm. Paintings by Paula Cronvon, “The Novel Person, Place or Thing.” July 13-18, reception on Monday, July 13, 7-9 pm with music by Bob Cook and Carol Street. The Hidden Garden Gallery, 903 Kildare St, New Deer, is open to 10 pm Monday through Saturday.

KOHAN GARDEN 35TH ANNIVERSARY
Join us for a wonderful day of celebration, Sunday July 26, New Deer, 10 am to 5 pm. Fun day for all, including live entertainment and a performance by the Yukekai Taiko Drums. Enjoy traditional Japanese art forms including ikebana, origami and an enchanting tea ceremony. Amiin will be displaying their work. music, dance and poetry will enhanced the day. Activities include Children’s Fun Art, Kohan Exploration Game with prize draw and Kohan Tours. Two adult workshops: Maruinim Bio Artist/Sculptor. Registration: Barb Yvon, yvon43@gmail.com. Fee of $35.00. Book early as places are limited. The day promises to be a delightful event for all the family.

LILA STRAND, former Kindergarten teacher at Lumaca School, will read her children’s book, The Star Children. Monday, July 6, at 7:00 pm at the Nakusp Library. Come out and enjoy a delightful bedtime story that creates a space apart from the usual bed times and feel free to dream. Also on the program are some little star songs, and a craft. This will be a family friendly event and children can come dressed in their pjs, and bring their favorite stuffie or doll.


OPEN HOUSE AT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL Dig: Sunday July 12 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Plateau site northeast of Nelson Center on the Sloan Valley Rail Trail. Group tours with students from Selkirk College and Haastetel York College. Learn and refreshments for a minimum $10 donation. Info: Sloan Valley Heritage Trail Society 188-885-SVHT.

SPEAKING OF BUSINESS
everyone is speaking of the exciting new business that is opening up in town. If you’re weighing the decision to start your own business, you might want to speak with the local Chamber of Commerce who can offer you valuable tips and resources.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
AND paid for to AFFIRMING ENTREPRENEUR? If you’re interested in starting your own business, the local Chamber of Commerce can provide you with valuable information and resources.

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New Salmon Beach Savings Program sponsored by The Healthy Community Society. For more information check communityconnect.ca.

Thinking of starting a business? Consider expanding your soap business. Community Futures offers business loans, counselling & training; and delivers the Self Employment programs in the Arrow Lakes. For more info leave a message at 250-367-2364 ext. 201 or email info@communityconnect.ca.

CARD OF THANKS
THANK YOU so much to the good people of Nelson for your much appreciated generous donation that will help me re-cover the stones in the broken and eaten and heft of my home in Kaslo. I am overwhelmed by your generosity and proud to be a part of this community.

COMING EVENTS
THE NEW DENVER FRIDAYS MARKET happens every Friday, from late September, 10 am to 2 pm featuring local artisans, food providers, fresh farmers market and Nelson Valley crafts. Visit www.newdenverfridays.com for details.

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Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST
compiled by Jan McMurray

The District Parent Advisory Council for School District 8 recognized parents for their volunteer work in the district’s schools at celebrations on June 18 in Nelson and Creston.

Four parents from the Valley Voice coverage area were given special recognition.

Cari Lamoureux is the PAC president at Jefferson School in Meadow Creek. She makes hot lunches for students once a week and organizes several activities throughout the year.

Christopher Petersen volunteers on almost all Jewett School field trips, and has made several things for the school, including the beautiful new wooden sign.

Alison Burns has been quietly going about her work at Brent Kennedy Elementary and more recently Mt. Sentinel Secondary for several years. At Brent Kennedy she was the chief popcorn maker. When her son graduated to Mt. Sentinel, she began the breakfast program there, making sure that all students have nutritious breakfasts, a friendly adult with whom to connect, and a social time with their peers. She has also been maintaining the Mt. Sentinel and DBAC websites for several years.

Jo BucKland has been an outstanding volunteer at Winlaw Elementary for over a decade. She has spent endless hours chauffeuring on field trips, cooking and serving hot lunches, doing line patrol, organizing cross country programming and gear, selling raffle tickets, and planning events for the purpose of offering programming opportunities to the students of Winlaw. Jo also worked closely with former Principal Christine Crowe to create the Winlaw code, which sets the expectations for each and every Winlaw student to treat one another respectfully and with kindness.

Jo has also held several of the PAC executive positions. During her tenure as president, Jo was the voice of calm and the mediating influence between the board and parents when difficult decisions were being made regarding the school.

Principals of Winlaw Elementary, Jan Fraser, had this to say about Jo. “Jo BucKland will be very missed at Winlaw School. Her commitment to the school and the students was extraordinary. When the school needed help and support, Jo was always available to lend a hand. One of Jo’s lasting influences on the school was the creation of our Winlaw Code of Respect.”

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COMMUNITY

Cari Lamoureux, Christopher Petersen, Alison Burns and Jo BucKland given special recognition

The Valley Voice July 1, 2015

Sorry!

Strawberry Shortcakes not available this year

Due to a number of problems Martha Chapter No. 24, OES Nakusp has had to cancel our annual fundraiser.

We will still be making our annual donations in the area.

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### New Denver author wants you to judge this book by its cover

Submitted

If you are familiar with the recently published children’s book, *The Star Children*, don’t be surprised when you see it with a new look. Lila Strand, the author and illustrator, has republished the book with a new cover, and this is a cover that looks like fun.

On Monday, July 6, she will read in the Nakusp Library at 7 pm. This will be a ‘pajama reading’ – children are invited to come in their pajamas and bring their favourite stuffie or doll. They can enjoy a few star songs and also do a simple craft.

“I was told that a child’s book needs a cover that creates curiosity and engagement – that you want a cover that makes a child want to pick up the book and find out what is going on inside,” the author says.

Strand, a lifelong teacher who taught kindergarten at Lucear School for many years, says she has been on a really steep learning curve in writing and publishing a book. But the steadiest part is the marketing.

“It is kind of fun to be a novice in a new field! I have had lots of support and caring advice from various quarters, and that has been very heartening.” She is buoyed by the enthusiastic response the book has had in this community.

The book tells the story of star children who visit the earth to play with the earth children in nature. It is tricky for them to find their way down, and even trickier for them to find their way back up. They enlist the help of the Mother-of-Us-All who advises them, and it is really quite simple when you consider what she says. This is a book that invites children (and all readers) to bring their feelings and souls into nature.

Now that the updated book is on hand, Strand will do readings in libraries and other venues around the West Kootenays. Her website (lilastrand.com) has now been set up to sell the book directly for $24 plus shipping. You can look for the new version in your libraries, and also at Raven’s Nest in New Denver, Maplerose in Nelson, and Spiritwood in Nakusp.

### Paving underway in Slocan Valley

by Jan McMurray

Highway 6 in the Slocan Valley is being paved from the Village of Slocan to Lebirdie Road south of Winkler, and from the junction to approximately the Pats Creek Road intersection. A two-kilometre section of Pats Creek Road will also be paved, from the west side of the Slocan River bridge to the Pats Creek bridge.

The Ministry of Transportation anticipates the work to be completed by the end of July, weather permitting. Typical delays will be 5-10 minutes with a maximum allowable delay of 20 minutes through the entire project site.

### Food Specials

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<th>Food Item</th>
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<th>Original Price</th>
<th>Markdown Price</th>
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<td>Snack Pack Puddings</td>
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<td>Classico Pasta Sauce</td>
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<td>Co-op Gold Laundry Soap</td>
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<td>1 kg</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Studio Connexion hosts third exhibition of season

by Art Joyce

Summer is blistering hot and so is the third exhibition of the Studio Connexion Gallery season. Gallery owner Anne Béliveau is pleased to host Rick Rogers, whose series of abstract paintings will run from June 30 to July 15. The opening reception will be held Friday, July 3, from 5-8 p.m. The artist will be in attendance and refreshments will be served.

Béliveau met Rogers when he stopped by the gallery on one of his frequent visits to Nakusp — his parents live in EdgeWood — and he mentioned being co-owner of an Edmonton gallery, Duffield Gallery, living in nearby St. Albert. Béliveau says Rogers’ work will be the first abstract exhibition at Studio Connexion.

“Most of the main galleries in Edmonton are clustered around 124th Street and 104th Avenue,” says Rogers. “We’re actually the new kids on the block. A couple of seasons ago we had our new Premier Rachel Notley judge some of the work in the Edmonton Artwalk overhead show in our gallery.”

In contrast to artists who work primarily with colour theory as the basis of their art, Rogers is exploring texture to evoke emotional response. Rogers said in his remarks he found that while plenty has been written in fine arts texts about colour theory, there was comparatively little written about texture theory. He found some guidance from the work of Josef Albers, an artist with the Bauhaus art school that existed in Germany from 1919 to 1933 and extended its reach beyond the galleries to influence almost all aspects of 20th century design. From follows function” became one of the famous Bauhaus concepts. Rogers found inspiration from Albers’ series, Homage to a Square, juxtaposing squares within squares by using different colours.

“Albers’ idea was how colours interact with each other and with the viewer. Rather than using colors, I decided to go with texture. Some textures play well with each other and others don’t.”

There’s an almost sculptural element to Rogers’ paintings. He uses glass bead gels, pieces of fibre, molding paste and a variety of conventional and unconventional tools to build up layers and shape them, almost as if contouring a landscape. That can mean using anything from brushes and palette knives to drywall waxing knives.

“A number of the pieces are part of my ‘Ouges’ series, so all of the works have ‘legs’ as part of their suffix. It doesn’t matter what title it someone will have a different impression.”

One of the paintings in the show, Admiration, was just published in an annual publication Acrylic Works 3, The Best of Acrylic Painting, an American-based publisher that does an international call for artists every year. “It’s very exciting because it’s an important award,” says Rogers. Another painting, Agrology, was featured in the Edmonton-based Night of Artists magazine in a profile explaining his techniques.

Like many artists, Rogers must keep a day job to pay the bills, working as an IT professional when he isn’t helping manage Duffield Gallery or painting. He foresees painting “until he drop” and is glad to have family here as an excuse for visiting. “I’m really looking forward to showing in Nakusp. I’ve been a fan of Anne’s gallery for quite some time. I like the region a lot and it’s great to have family to visit.”

Studio Connexion Gallery is located in the heart of Nakusp at 203 Fifth Avenue. Regular hours are 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday or by appointment to suit your busy schedule. You can reach the gallery at 250-265-3586 or 250-265-8888.

Kaslo Sourdough is getting recognition!

It’s already been an exciting year for Kaslo Sourdough. In March we exhibited in the largest Natural Foods Expo in the world in Anaheim, California. Our “Pasta Fermentata” won the Popular Vote for Best New Product and will receive the ‘Nesty’ Award for 2016 at the Expo East which will be held this September in Baltimore, Maryland. This was a huge event with over 3000 companies mainly from North America and even some from Europe.

We also recently returned from the FoodPro West “Taste of Success” Conference hosted by the British Columbia Food Processors Association and are honoured to win the Innovation Award and also Bronze for Product of the Year Award for our “Pasta Fermentata”®, competing on the world stage and now on the provincial level against other high class food manufacturers and even winning has been a thrilling experience. Our belief, devotion and passion, coupled with your support over the years has culminated in a product out of the Kootenays that is worthy to be proud of for the whole region. “Pasta Fermentata”® is getting acknowledged for its revolutionary new way of applying sourdough technology. We are being recognized for the World’s first Sourdough Pasta.

The Valley Voice July 1, 2015

Yamahiko Taiko Drumming Group headlines Kuchen Garden 25th Anniversary Celebration, July 26, 10 am and 5 pm. Program details next issue. Also at www.silvertongallery.ca www.rowdenvan.ca

Captions: Photo taken at the BC Food Processor Gala, the Kaslo Sourdough Teams (L-R): Heike Lettrari, Silvlo Lettrari (Owner, inventor), Heidi Lettrari, Laura O Ellis, Missing are Stefan Lettrari, Gabi Lettrari (Owner), Martin Bellefeuille, Emmanuelle Roy and Hugh Kerr.