Residents vote in favour of the Rosebery-Summit Lake Rail Trail proposal

by Jan McMurray

The majority of Area H North residents are in favour of the proposed Rosebery-Summit Lake Rail Trail management plan.

In the recent poll, 62 percent of respondents voted in support of the plan, and 37 percent voted opposed. The response rate was high at 51 percent.

“We’re quite pleased with the response rate, and that the majority support the plan,” said Richard Allin, who was on the steering committee that drafted the plan over the winter. “The community has spoken loudly and clearly, and we hope to take the community’s perspective forward.”

A total of 341 responses were received out of 672 poll packages distributed. There were 213 ‘yes’ votes (62.46 percent) and 128 ‘no’ votes (36.95 percent). Two responses were received with no vote.

The consultant’s report on the poll results states that the 51 percent response rate “provides this poll with a confidence level of 99% that the results represent the views of the overall surveyed population, with a margin of error of ±4.5%.”

The report concludes: “Given the high response rate and the confidence level attained, as well as the high ratio of yes to no responses, the household poll results support the management plan moving forward as outlined in this proposal.”

The first priority of the management proposal is protection of the ecology of the rail corridor, including habitat for year-round and seasonal fish and wildlife species and native plants. Other guiding principles are the identification and protection of First Nations and other cultural and historic features, and the provision of safe and high quality trail experiences based upon the pattern of established local uses.

Most of the comments received on the response forms, however, concerned the motorized vs. non-motorized issue. The management plan proposes a ‘Friends of the Trail’ program, where local ATV users can become members if they agree to observe a speed limit and other restrictions, and where special one-day permits with conditions can be issued. The plan calls for feasibility study to assess the impacts of recreational uses on the trail, a study first recommended in 2001. “This will allow management decisions to be based upon good information,” said Allin.

Comments on approximately 44 ‘yes’ responses indicate a preference for minimal or no motorized activity on the trail, while comments on about 34 ‘no’ responses indicate a preference for unrestricted motorized use. Five people commented that they voted ‘no’ because they want the trail to be strictly non-motorized.

The community has been trying to get a formal management arrangement in place for the trail since at least 2001. This most recent effort got under way when the RDCK withdrew its application for tenure of the rail trail in 2013 due to the high costs of satisfying the Province’s requirements. This opened up a discussion between the RDCK and RSTBC, which oversees the management of most trails in the area.

The two organizations suggested that if a local group developed a management plan for the rail trail that had broad public support, they would support it. Richard Allin and Mike Kootan, both on the RDCK’s Golena Trail Commission, expressed interest in taking on the challenge, discussed it with RDCK and RSTBC personnel, and gathered steering committee members together based on their expertise and different areas of interest in the trail.

With input from RSTBC and the RDCK Area H Director, the management plan was drafted over the winter. RSTBC requested an application for trail designation be submitted to get the ball rolling, and the RDCK provided the funding for the public engagement and poll process from the Area H Community Development Fund.

The committee carried out a very successful public awareness campaign of the plan and the poll. The RDCK asked the Slocan Solutions Society to oversee the polling process; the society agreed, and hired Windhorse Strategies out of Nelson to conduct the poll.

The Rosebery to Summit Lake Rail Trail extends from Rosebery to about one kilometer north of Summit Lake, at the boundary between Area H and Area K, which is also the boundary between the Slocan and Arrow Lakes watersheds. Area H North (Enterprise Creek to Summit Lake) was determined as the polling area because the trail is located entirely within Area H North and the area covered by the Area H North OCP, which makes recommendations related to it. Similarly, the management plans for the neighbouring rail trails were created by the communities along those trails.

The management plan proposes that a new society be formed to partner with RSTBC to manage the trail. This was recommended by both RSTBC and the RDCK, following the model of the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. The Nakusp and Area Community Trails Society has a partnership with RSTBC to manage the Nakusp to Summit Lake section of the rail trail. Allin says the society for Rosebery to Summit Lake section will be formed once the trail receives formal designation.

Now that the results have been tallied, what happens next? The report states: “Recreational Sites and Trails BC has indicated that the information provided by this poll will now be considered during consultations with RDCK Directors from Area H and Area K, the RDCK Parks Operation Supervisor, the president of the Arrow Lakes ATV Club, the president of the Nakusp Rod and Gun Club, AIVBC, and the Committee.”

“The idea was that if we came up with a management plan that was broadly supported, then RSTBC and the RDCK would support it, so that’s where it sits. We’ll be meeting with them shortly to talk about next steps,” said Allin.

The poll report and management plan are posted on the website: www.roseberysummittrail.com.
Marilyn Burgoon launches crowd-funding site for Lemon Creek

by Art Joyce

Longtime environmental activist Marilyn Burgoon decided that if the
government wasn’t prepared to do its job to protect the environment, then
she would do it. To that end, she has
taken on a private prosecution of the
Province of BC and Executive Flight
Centre for a violation of the federal
Fisheries Act regarding the Lemon
Creek fish spill. Her lawyer Liliana
Lyseiko was able to convince Judge
Maryland McKinnon in the Nelson
court that there were grounds for
proceeding. The trial has been set for
April 18-28, 2016. The federal public
prosecutor has yet to take the case
on. In the meantime, Burgoon has set
up a crowd-funding site, Justice
for Lemon Creek, to raise money for
legal fees.

“We’re trying to get as many
people as possible to the site because
as you know, a two-week trial is very
expensive. The public prosecutor
hasn’t stepped in yet; they can do
at any time but they haven’t stepped in to
do their job.”

The case is being supported by
West Coast Environmental
Law and recently a second lawyer,
Jeffrey Jones, has been appointed to
assist Lyseiko. But it’s a labour of
love — typically they earn far less
than in corporate or government
practice. Private prosecutions are
not common in Canada, but Jones,
a semi-retired lawyer from Sointula,
says they are getting more frequent
because “our governments are
backing away from their regulatory
frameworks” and enforcing fewer of
their environmental regulations.

This requires citizens to take up the
slack.”

Already the crowd-funding site
has had donations in the first few
days of its being launched. Volunteers are adding their efforts too. Photographer Lucas Jusifff
is contributing aerial photos of the
Slocan River watershed from the
confluence of the Slocan and Lemon
Creek. Source Media Arts
contributed a video that explains the
case and follows the path the jet fuel
would have taken from Lemon Creek
south through the Slocan River to the
Kootenay River and finally to the
Brilliant Dam. (When you visit the
site, at the top of the page by the
‘contribute’ button is a ‘play’ button
for the video.) Another contributor
has offered to pay for a small-out to
Slocan Valley residents asking for
their donations. During the coming
year there are plans for a music event
fundraiser and a silent auction of
donated items.

For Burgoon, a grandmother, it’s
been a steep learning curve, learning
about crowd funding and using
social media tools for fundraising.
Her husband Barry passed away two
years ago and she still lives on the
Slocan Valley property near Perry
Ridge where they raised their six
children. Her activism was kindled
early, when she lived in Montreal
and learned that the St. Lawrence
was so polluted they had to bury
dead Beluga whales as toxic waste.
Her determination was firming up
when she met and married Barry
Burgoon, a Vietnam veteran who had
been partially disabled by exposure
to Agent Orange. She is well known
for her activism with the Perry Ridge
Water Users Association, which has
tried to prevent logging on the ridge
that in the past has led to dangerous
landslides. She was a supporter of
the late Colleen McCrory in various
environmental causes.

The day I interviewed her,
July 26, was both the two-year
anniversary of the Lemon Creek spill
and her son’s 32nd birthday. “He’s
been a great help. I took a little hike
up the property to where he was born
32 years ago. On his birthday we’ll
always remember Lemon Creek.”

To donate, visit defendbc.ca and
click on the ‘Justice for Lemon
Creek’ tab. To email Marilyn directly
regarding support or donations,
contact Lemon_creek_private
prosecution@yahoo.ca.

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Hills Recreation Society

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Slocan, 9 am -12 pm
Silverton, 9 am -12 pm

AUG 15
Creekside walk
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Kaslo Health Care Select Committee provides summary report

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo and Area D Health Care Select Committee has recently provided Kaslo council with a report summarizing its activities since its beginnings in September 2012, when IH announced that 24/7 emergency service was unsustainable at the health centre.

The group’s first major project was to work with Dr. John Ross, who was hired by Interior Health to participate in community consultation in Kaslo, to review emergency services in the area, and to complete a report with recommendations for IH. Dr. Ross’ report contains 16 recommendations. His report, and IH’s response to it, is available online at www.interiorhealth.ca.

In December 2013, the IH agreed to wait four more months before reducing emergency department hours while a local physician worked on a fee-for-service proposal. In March 2014, both the physician and the IH advised the Health Care Select Committee that they could not find three doctors – the minimum number required for the fee-for-service arrangement under the government funding model – to work in Kaslo.

In September 2014, Drs. Fontaine and Allen were hired on contract. In early 2015, Dr. Allen left. As a result of interviews held in May 2015, two permanent physicians, sharing one full-time position, are expected to join Dr. Fontaine on contract at the health centre in September.

The report also states that IH has recently advised it will create a “community paramedic” position at the centre.

The committee, according to the report, has been vigilant in encouraging the IHA and physicians being interviewed and hired to consider ways that emergency services can be delivered in Kaslo outside of 9-5 hours – including use of telehealth, community paramedics and nurse practitioners, as recommended in the Ross report.

The Select Committee’s report states that “the Committee believes that the issues facing British Columbians living in remote and rural BC are much broader than contracted versus fee-for-service physicians, and as a consequence continues to work with the Ministry of Health, IHA, BCEHS and other stakeholders for a province-wide solution to 24/7 medical care.”

Fee-for-service doctors are paid for their work by billing the Medical Services Plan for the services they provide. Physicians on contract with IH are paid according to the terms of the contract.

The committee expresses concern for the proposal being put forward by the new Kaslo and Area Medical Care Society for a fee-for-service model in Kaslo. “Unlike New Denver, where fee-for-service works in conjunction with the IHA and the Ministry of Health, what is currently being proposed by the Kaslo and Area Medical Care Society (see letter to Valley Voice July 1, 2015) is a go it alone direct competition with the Victorian Community Health Centre Clinic. What thought, the Committee asks Council to consider, has been given to what will happen to our current Primary Care Nursing and other preventative medical services, the Laboratory service, Physiotherapy and the Long Term Care facility should on contract doctors cease to work at the Victorian Community Health Centre clinic?”

It is noted in the Select Committee’s report that New Denver’s fee for service doctors work in the health centre clinic and do not pay rental fees to IH. The committee points out that this “no rent” arrangement is “grandfathered” – IH still offers fee-for-service doctors who work at their sites free rent and free use of IH equipment and ancillary services. Considering this, the committee wonders about the financial viability of an independent fee-for-service clinic in Kaslo, and if fee-for-service doctors would have access to IH facilities, equipment and ancillary services.

The Kaslo and Area Medical Care Society’s response to the Health Care Select Committee’s report, as published to the Valley Voice states: “It is not the intention of the Kaslo and Area Medical Care Society to decrease the services provided by the Victorian Primary Care Nursing and other preventative medical services, the Laboratory service, Physiotherapy and the Long Term Care centre. It is a go it alone direct competition with the Victorian Community Health Centre Clinic.”

Toadfest 2015: Hot summer leads to early migration

Submitted

Toadfest provides a unique opportunity for the public to get up-close and personal with Western Toads, to help the tiny toadlets safely across the highway, and to learn more about their natural history and other species in the area. The hot summer, however, has the toadlets moving earlier than ever has been seen before. This means that by the time Toadfest rolls around organizers anticipate that there might be few toadlets to be bucketed across the road, but there will still be lots of other activities to do and displays to see.

The event will run on Wednesday August 12, between 4 and 7 pm at Summit Lake Provincial Park, just south of Nakusp. Toadfest, now in its sixth year, is coordinated by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP), with support from BC Parks, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Columbia Basin Trust, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

“A very early spring accelerated the growth of the tadpoles, and large numbers of toadlets were already moving by the third week of July,” says Crystal Klynn, program manager for the FWCP in the Columbia Region. “Then the very hot summer accelerated the growth of the tadpoles, and over a range of conditions, the toadlets were already moving by the third week of July.”

Western Toads are provincially blue-listed (vulnerable) and while numbers are still relatively strong at Summit Lake, their distribution is shrinking and the centre of the world’s distribution has shifted from the USA to BC.

One of the challenges faced by the toadlets at Summit Lake is getting across Highway 6 without getting squashed by vehicles as they migrate between the lake and upland habitat. Adults move to and from the lake to breed in the spring, and then the toadlets make one migration in late summer when they leave the tadpole and move to permanent habitat where they dispense and mature.

A recently constructed road tunnel and wildlife fencing, installed by the Ministry of Transportation, Highways and Infrastructure, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, have already proven very successful in guiding toads and toadlets safely under the road but there are still large sections of the road where they have no protection from the traffic.

“Todfests is about more than collecting toadlets; it really is a great opportunity to learn about the local ecology and other wildlife and plants in the region,” added Klynn. “There will be live aquatic insects, amphibians, and reptiles to see as well as a variety of fun kids’ activities and interactive displays to participate in.”

The event is free, and parking is limited so parking is encouraged. To learn more about Toadfest call the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program at 250-252-1300. The public is reminded not to transport any toadlets across the highway outside of this organized event.

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BRA HEAVENS
Dow Baker impressed with Know Your Watershed field trip

Thank you for publishing the article in your local newspaper about my Canadian Medical Association Award for the formation of CAWST, the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology. I am honored that you would choose to do so.

But I must say that all the accolades should go to the Canadian Medical Association for publicly recognizing the huge connection between water and health, the needs of people who live outside Canada, and the value of public health education.

I was also delighted to re-read your article on page 17 concerning the field trip of Nipmuc Grade 7 students to learn about their watershed and their water and wastewater treatment. I kept thinking, "Wow! I want to go on that field trip!" It’s wonderful that our high school students have such an appreciation of the concept of CAWST’s significant focus areas of teaching people how to treat water and handle wastes in their homes.

Camille Dow Baker Kaslo

World War C0

In 1944, my father lied about his age to join the army. In his last years, he repeatedly told stories about his experience in southern England during the Blitz. Despite the horror and misery, I believe it was one of the most vital periods of his life. We have all heard stories of the heroism during that time, how people overcome their differences, how they worked together for the common good.

In the early 1990s, I suggested to my father that the environmental crisis would be our generation’s war.

A wildfire of lies

This week Premier Clark blamed climate change for wildfire increase in BC. She wants to impose “stiffer penalties” for those who cause them. Will this apply to her government, whose support of LNG projects will lead to increased fossil fuel extraction?

The scientific journal Nature said that fossil fuel extraction must “fail to negligible levels by 2020, to avoid an increase beyond the 2°C that allows a livable planet.” Currently, we are headed for a catastrophic 5°C of warming.

When I expressed these concerns in a recent letter to Minister of Energy Bill Bennett, he responded by saying the government would not consider “temperatures” with regards to fossil fuel extraction, but they will instead be escalating their production.

With clear indication that fossil fuels must stay in the ground, unabridged extraction under this government, and record-breaking temperatures, one wonders who is hammering the flames.

N.I.M.B.Y. No More

The Not In My Back Yard philosophy has become obsolete. We are all upwind and downstream, each and every one of us on this planet. Climate chaos, the polluting of the oceans, etc., make this clear.

Not any different with the microwave radiation from the soon-to-be-installed “smart meters” in our area. For even if we put our meter over there on a pole, as Fortis suggests so that there is less danger to our home space, still that radiation would go into the homes of friends and other community members who cannot afford a pole ‘ever there.’ And that radiation would still travel from house to house and back to the utility miles away.

There are nearly 800 residents who have taken a stand against these not-so-smart meters and who have kept their original non-interacting, non-fire-catchers meters for about eight months and counting. There is much to suggest that we might follow this Okanagan process, out of which came their Regional District’s excellent resolution to put a moratorium on further installations.

For example, Safety Code 6 is finally under federal review, and we are fully expecting Canada to get with the international program and upgrade our miserable standards. Recently, the WTO (World Health Organization) has been petitioned by hundreds of scientists and medical doctors to push EMFs from the category of ‘possible carcinogen’ where it currently sits with toxicity of load, up to a stronger category of danger, to ‘probable carcinogen.’ Added to these two, the growing statistics worldwide about the many dire problems with smart meters indicate that if we keep them at bay, in time, they might be dissolved.

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen stepped up to the plate and did what the Province failed to do. From their resolution, petitions have gone out to the Liberal government. Perry Kendall, the BCUC and others at the provincial level to remedy this (their) mistake. Our local director for Area H, Central Kootenay, notes that former Area D Director Andy Shadrock’s resolution, supporting the rights of communities to propose zoning designations pertaining to changes in the electromagnetic spectrum, means that one local government has done what it can. Our Area H Director Walter Popoff will explain that it is in provincial and federal hands to rectify matters, and until we make our democracy right again, at least now at this late date with the smart meter disaster, it is in the hands of the individual.

So, like in one of those “better safe than sorry” situations, refrain from installing something that might have to be taken out again at the cost to taxpayers does seem the truly smart plan at this time. But, if a ‘lock up your meter and just say no’ is not what you are willing to do, a ‘maddle of the road’ stance would be taking Fortis’ RR-off option for the $9/month. (Unfortunately, the initial one-time fee is now $88 instead of the early bird $60.) This shows you recognize not just the real danger of increased levels of radiation not under your control, but that you understand that the NIMBY attitude can be no more. Also, with luck, the local Alex Anassosko hoped we’d accomplish also might help with the cost. However, the smart meter is of such poor quality RR on or off, that there will be increased duty electricity to counter with as well as the possibility of them sparking fires.

If you want to know more, or learn about the Kelowna process, please email: scoulans@valleynaymeters@gmail.com

For health and safety,

Daphne Fields Slocan

The Valley Voice

Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

Phone: 250-358-7218 Fax: 250-358-7793 E-Mail: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca Website: www.valleyvoice.ca

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LETTERS

Talking trees
Several years ago, I discovered an archaeological site in the Edgewood area that I had suspected the American Indians had used. They pulsed up in a long white van and began to exit from the side door (that totem pole in Edgewood is trouble ya know). There was a professor from New York State the came to confirm and GPS the archaeological site that I had discovered), an author of a book about the Sinxit, some local Sinxit people and others. There were seven of us. What I had discovered were culturally modified trees and fish ladders in Edgewood.

When we entered the forest, Marilyn asked how I had discovered these things. Another unique thing is that it is a pure cedar forest.

I told the crew that I had gone down to the forest the day I discovered the trees and fish ladders and I was ‘thinking like a Sinxit’ (they liked that). I wanted to know all about the Sinxit so I was pretending to be one. My great grand father was Mots – that might help to explain it. It was a somewhat understandable. They enchanting forest I sat down on the moss. In front of me, on slightly square, was the sun shining on seven long cedar in sort of half circle. I noticed there were trees had long scars on them almost to the top of the tree, but only on one side. I knew instantly what the trees were – I had heard about them in college – culturally modified trees. In this case, a long strip of wood, say, like a 2’x4’, 20 feet long, was taken from each tree and used to make canoe. The tree heater over leaving a scar. There were 14 trees I had discovered. When I showed the proposed place for poaching, a scar, I was smiling with him. “Yes, this is one”. The fish ladders were piled up rocks making a fish-bone pattern. Everyone was confused because the Sinxit people knew about didn’t fish like that. They remain a mystery. This beautiful forest, now an archaeological site in Edgewood, is in sharp contrast to the totem pole in Edgewood. I certainly made an important discovery. The totem has a plaque that says “all Sinxit archeological sites were destroyed by the hydroelectric dam”. I told the truth. The totem pole in Edgewood is trash.

Drew Harris
Edgewood

Motorcycle petition available at Valley Voice office
The Kootenay-wide petition asking for increased enforcement of existing laws on motorcycle noise and speed is alive and well! It has been greeted with enthusiasm and relief by a large number of people.

A big stack of petition pages has already been gathered from interested individuals. Many tourists have been ready signers, saying that the noise disturbs their visit. The police and Ministry of Highways have been supportive, and have already undertaken some actions. However, the petition drive will have to gain maximum number of signatures and go to government before legal action can be considered. Persistent progress can occur.

Many people are not aware that the loud noise of some motorcycles, which disturbs the quiet atmosphere of our communities, is both unnecessary and unlawful. Manufacturers make motorcycle mufflers to be quiet, but some motorcyclists change their mufflers to deliberately create more noise. There is actually a law against this in the existing Motor Vehicle Act. The petition is asking government and the police for greater enforcement of that law.

Electronic devices of sound and speed are linked, because motorcyclists sometimes accelerate to intentionally produce loud noise, and this is what often happens when they are leaving our communities. Statistics show that motorcycles are more prone to have accidents than four-wheeled vehicles, especially by skidding on curves while speeding. Yet our Kootenay communities have been advertised as a mecca for motorcycle touring where high speed may be attained.

The petition asks for strict enforcement of speed limits and muffler regulations. This is not just for people driving along the highways. It is for the safety and enjoyment of everyone using the highways – pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers of automobiles and people riding quiet motorcycles.

We need every signature we can get. I hope that everyone who is affected will take the opportunity to sign the petition if a petition comes to your door. It is also available for viewing and signing on the counter of the Valley Voice.

Gloria Ligo
New Denver

Didn’t vote in Rosebery-Summit Lake trail poll
I did not vote in the Regional District poll on the Rosebery to Summit Lake Trail. I hear that a community meeting of hundreds of hours working to have the old roadbed made into a recreational area. I’m sure they were all very sincere about their work. I preferred to live in my own trail and think it is a very special asset for our communities, and I would like to thank everyone who has helped to maintain the trail.

I did not vote in the poll because I could not support the way this was done by participating in it. I say this while knowing that many friends and many fellow citizens of like mind as me voted ‘yes.’ Asked why, every single one of them told me that they felt they had no choice. Indeed, they did not have a choice. Only ONE plan option was provided for their approval, and they could either approve it or do without a plan altogether.

I expected the poll to offer a choice between motorized and non-motorized recreation. To my surprise, there was no option for a non-motorized trail even though the brochure acknowledged that the majority of users were non-motorized.

Now, if the plan passes, our regional and provincial authorities will make their decisions without even knowing how many people wanted the trail to be non-motorized. I understand there was a poll taken about 10 years ago in which there were only two options: one of which was the most had the votes. Now, we don’t know what the ratio may be after so long a time.

A key to my disinterest is that I do not believe that partial motorization is a realistic option at all. Since when does a government body use taxpayer dollars to support a public recreation trail, only to allow users who have ‘memberships,’ or locals with permits, to use ATVs and no one else? Who’s going to do monitoring and enforcement of the rules? Will someone be posted at the trailhead to check membership IDs and permits? I don’t think so. In summary, the planning committee doesn’t have the power/money to enforce a partial ATV option. And for the ecological goals, if the planning machinery can’t even put a non-motorized system on a poll, how would it ever eliminate the ATV usage if it were found to be ecologically damaging? In summary, I’m afraid that public disasters after partial ATV use will not be doubt full ATV use one of these days.

If a poll showed fair and square that the majority wanted motorized traffic, I would be prepared to live with that. But as a person who has participated in a number of provincial public planning processes, I simply cannot go along with a process that’s been done this way. I can only wonder how the good people on the committee came to think this was the way to do it.

Anne Woods
New Denver

Don’t leave Elizabeth May out
The recent decision by Google, the Globe and Mail, and Murk Debates to exclude Green Party Leader Elizabeth May from federal election debates underscores the need to end male corporate control of which parties and leaders participate in Canadian federal election debates.

Originally excluded because it had no seats in the House of Commons, certain business leaders are again moving the goal posts to exclude the Green Party, with the excuse that its leader does not have the official party status of the Canadian House of Commons. This time, however, they have shot out a party leader, Elizabeth May, who was a senior policy advisor to a Mid-Murray Conservation Environment Minister. Tom Macmillan, ... ‘involved in negotiating the Montreal Protocol to protect the ozone layer, new legislation and pollution control measures.’” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_May#Political_beginnings).

To paraphrase New Zealand cartoon character ‘Wally’: if you want to know why you should vote Green in the October 19 federal election, just ask yourself why you were excluded in excluding Elizabeth May and the Green Party from the foreign and economic policy debates and why May, currently, is the only Green leader who has successfully negotiated an international protocol that changed corporate policy to protect the Earth’s ozone layer.

In contrast, former Barrick Gold Chairman, Peter Munk, who principally funds the Munk Debates, is a well-known proponent of unfettered market trading, in opposition to the adoption of the 27 Rio Declaration principles of 1992 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Excluding Elizabeth May, in effect, ensures that the forum will be only one-dimensional, as will be one in the room with the depth and knowledge has about what is possible to achieve in terms of protecting the environment and tackling climate change.

The only way to end this male corporate stranglehold on Canadian foreign and economic policy to elect more Green MPs to support the work of Elizabeth May in Parliament. In April 2015, for example, she made two critical amendments to Bill C-46, the Pipeline Safety Act, that, first, “aboriginal governing bodies...be reimbursed for actions they take in relation to spills,” and second, “that the National Energy Board ‘shall [my quotations] recover funds to compensate those affected by a spill.’” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_May#Political_career)

Thus voting Green in the 2015 federal election supports bringing ‘balance’ back into the federal debate on foreign and economic policy debates. It challenges the NDP and Liberals to follow through on their proposals to implement reforms in our democracy.

Andy Shadrack
Kaslo

Campaign to abolish nuclear weapons
‘Hiroshima and Nagasaki are the most unpalatable crimes in history.’
(Noam Chomsky)

On August 6, 1945, the US dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, and three days later another bomb on Nagasaki. More than 100,000 people were killed instantly, and later from horrific burns and radiation sickness. Death, destruction and human suffering were the legacies.

Seventy years later, nuclear weapons remain a threat constant. Thousands of nuclear weapons remain on alert, ready to be fired at a moment’s notice, intentionally or even accidentally.

Most nations, including Canada, signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1970, agreeing to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and to work towards eliminating them. Since then, the number of nations with nuclear weapons has nearly doubled, and there is still no timetable to eliminate nuclear weapons.

The answer seems clear: there must be a global ban on the development, possession, testing and use of nuclear weapons. Specific provisions for the actual elimination of nuclear weapons and a timetable for implementation. Unfortunately, Canada is dragging its heels on this issue and remains committed to first-strike and pre-emptive doctrines.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a global campaign coalition working to mobilize people in all countries to pressure and persuade their governments to initiate and support a treaty banning nuclear weapons. ICAN calls on state and society to acknowledge that any use of nuclear weapons would cause catastrophic humanitarian and environmental harm; acknowledge that there is a universal humanitarian imperative to ban nuclear weapons; acknowledge that the nuclear armed states such as Canada have an obligation to eliminate their nuclear weapons completely; and take immediate action to support a multilateral process for a treaty banning these weapons. Prominent individuals such as Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama have lent their support to this campaign.

Finally, I would like to quote Isaiah 2:4: “And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

KAIROS: an ecumenical organization working for peace, justice and human rights in Canada and the world.

Sandra Hartline
KAIROS Representative, Kootenay Subregion
Nelson
SLOCAN VALLEY

Slocan valley, July 13: Four people hired for Winlaw ambulance station

by Hillary Elliott

In a Winlaw ambulance update, Chris Mason, superintendent of the West Kootenay District, reported that four applicants have been hired and are taking the EMT (Emergency Medical Responder) course in Winlaw. Four other applicants are at various stages of the hiring process and if successful, will also be supported to obtain their EMT qualification.

Smokey Creek Salvage
24 HR TOWING
New & Used Auto Parts, Body Shop Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Welder/Buyer/
BUY BACK CAR & TRUCKS
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3456 YEATMAN RD, SOUTH SLOCAN

EMR training.

Smokey Creek Salvage

“Smokey Creek was a large part of my childhood, and I was excited to be able to be a part of the recovery and rebuilding process,” said one of the newly hired EMTs.

“I am looking forward to working with my colleagues and contributing to the important work of providing emergency medical services in the community.”

The新型的EMR training will be delivered by BC EMT Association, in collaboration with the province, and is expected to enhance the skills of the new hires.

“With the increase in community needs, having more trained healthcare professionals is crucial, and we are pleased to be able to offer this training,” said Mason.

The four newly hired EMTs are scheduled to complete the course by October, at which point they will be ready to support the ambulance service in Winlaw.

The Valley Voice July 29, 2015

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The four newly hire...
New Denver council, July 14: Water sprinkling restrictions imposed

by Katrina Campbell

• CAO Bruce Woodbury reported that water consumption in June was significantly higher than last year’s level. Council voted to implement Level 2 sprinkler restrictions, which can only use sprinklers on odd-numbered days of the month, between 6 and 10 am, and 6 and 10 pm. The restrictions are intended to conserve water and limit the highest usage of pumping during the summer months.

• Councilor Nadine Raynolds reported on the Harvest Share planning meeting. The group brought in a specialist and hosted a spring workshop on pest management. The hot weather has resulted in more pests than usual.

The finding that come with the Village of New Denver’s Smart designation is free education, and how exactly to use the money is under discussion.

• Councilor Henning van Kreght reported that the Slocan Valley Community Health Centre (aka the hospital) is looking at ride sharing through the Seniors’ Outreach program.

• CAO Woodbury reported there has been a lot of talk in the community about the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission’s request for letters of interest for projects to stimulate the economy. The deadline for letters is now past; the next stage is to shortlist the projects, then invite those chosen to submit a full proposal.

Climate discussion paper open for public review

British Columbians are invited to review and comment on a newly released discussion paper that considers the ideas, values and priorities they want to see in a new climate action plan. "BC’s new Climate Leadership Plan will influence how British Columbians will work, travel and live for decades to come. That’s why it’s important we hear from you now," said Minister of Environment Mary Polak.

In May 2015, government appointed a Climate Leadership Team consisting of leaders from the business, academic and environmental communities, as well as First Nations and local governments, to review options for economic development and greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and make recommendations for the new Climate Leadership Plan.

Matt Home of the Pembina Institute and member of the Climate Leadership Team encourages all British Columbians to share the solutions they’d like to see in the Climate Leadership Plan. "We need a successful plan to help fight climate change and ensure a thriving economy."

The public will have two opportunities over the next six months to participate in shaping new climate policies in BC. During the first opportunity that runs until August 17, 2015, people can comment on the discussion paper.

After reviewing discussion paper submissions and the Climate Leadership Team’s recommendations, government will release a draft Climate Leadership Plan in December 2015. British Columbians will have a chance to review the draft plan and will be asked to provide comment on specific policies and actions regarding climate change.

Government will release the final Climate Leadership Plan in March 2016. To take the survey, review and/or comment on the Climate Leadership Plan discussion paper, visit: www.engage.gov.bc.ca/climateleadership
August long weekend brings Mama Sita's grand opening fiesta

submitted

Four months ago, Sita Koster and Doug Wearing opened Mama Sita’s Café in Winlaw. In classic Sicilian Valley fashion, that’s just about the right amount of time needed to properly get ready for their Grand Opening Fiesta over the August 1-2 long weekend!

Sita has long been known as one of the finest cooks in the Valley and over the weekend she will introduce many new items to the menu to give the taste buds a workout. As well, the restaurant wants to celebrate getting their audience participation license — you can now boogie late into the evening in the heart of the Sicilian Valley!

The two-day fiesta will feature plenty of live music with a wide range of local and area artists. Saturday evening starts with the cerebral music of Sancho Waiste entertaining the dinner crowd. Than’ there’ll be some serious funk happening when Lady V and Patti Cakes take to the stage to get the late night dance party fired up beginning at 9 pm.

An ongoing farmers’ market takes place Sunday with live music on the outdoor stage beginning at noon. Scheduled acts include songwriter and new mama Sally T followed by Father Paul and the Fisheye Prophets rambling through a wide range of Paul’s tunes as well as rocking favourites. Then Savage will take to the stage and behave like his name implies!

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY
NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS

EDGECWOOD & AREA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION SERVICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Directors of the Regional District of Central Kootenay proposes to adopt “Edgewood and Area Volunteer Fire Department Financial Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2454, 2015” which would authorize the annual requisition of not more than $10,000 or $0.174/$100 of net taxable value of land and improvements, whichever is greater.

The purpose of this bylaw is to provide a financial contribution for the purpose of operating the volunteer fire department.

Eligible voters within the Edgewood and Area service area are being asked by Alternative Approval Process on whether or not they are in favour of providing the annual financial contribution.

BACKGROUND: The Edgewood Volunteer Department is a registered and fully incorporated society. The society operates two fire halls in the community. Volunteer fire fighters answer emergency calls 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

Operating expenses for the society include: hydro electric power; response vehicle licensing; insurance; maintenance and fuel; training; and equipment. Currently, the society’s gear is outdated and needs to be replaced with equipment that meets regulations.

TAX IMPLICATIONS: The fire department is requesting an annual grant-in-aid that would assist with these costs. This amount would not exceed $10,000 per year.

Bylaw 2454 limits the taxation to an actual rate of $0.174/$1000 which converts to a residential rate of $0.166/$1000.

Taxation on Residential Property at $0.166/$1000

Property assessed

$100,000 $16.60
$250,000 $41.50
$400,000 $66.40

ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS: Under Section 86 of the Community Charter, approval of the elections within the Edgewood and Area Volunteer Fire Department Financial Contribution Service Area is being obtained by means of the Alternative Approval Process. Therefore, eligible voters within the service area opposed to the RDCK establishing this service may petition against the adoption of Bylaw No. 2454 by signing an Elector Response Form which may be obtained from the Regional District of Central Kootenay office. At least 10% of electors must petition against the proposal prior to the deadline date, which is at least 30 days after the last publication of a notice in the local paper, in order to prevent the Board from proceeding with the Bylaw without the assent of the electors.

ELECTOR RESPONSE FORM: The Elector Response Form must be in the form established by the Board of Directors and is available from the offices of the Regional District of Central Kootenay during regular office hours or from the RDCK’s website at www.rdkc.bc.ca

WHO MAY SIGN THE ELECTOR RESPONSE FORM: Electors, either resident or owning property, within the boundaries of the Edgewood and Area Volunteer Fire Department Financial Contribution Service Area are the only persons entitled to sign the Elector Response Form. An elector is a person who meets the requirements and qualifications defined by the Local Government Act as described in detail on the Elector Response Form. The Board of Directors has resolved that a fair estimate of the total number of electors in the subject area is 290. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 66(1)(c) of the Community Charter, 29 or more electors must sign the Elector Response Form to prevent the Board from proceeding without the assent of the electors.

DEADLINE: The Elector Response Form must be received by the undersigned before 4:30 p.m. on August 31, 2015.

If you have any questions regarding this proposal or would like to request an Elector Response Form, please feel free to contact the undersigned. Information relating to this notice will also be available on the Regional District’s website at www.rdkc.bc.ca under “Public Notices.”

Aneita Virjini, Corporate Officer
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5A4
Telephone: 250-352-6665 Toll Free: 1-800-269-7325
FAX: 250-352-9300 Email: aneita@rdkc.bc.ca

The Sunday Late Night Dance Party starts at 8 pm when up and coming Canadian hip-hop artist Dazza performs, followed at 9 by the infectious big band beats of Three Side Show. There is still space for vendors at the farmers market (ten booth fee), so contact the restaurant at 226-7707 for more info.

On Friday night, catch the pre-show performance by Melissa Ruth. Local-born and raised, Melissa now resides near Eugene, Oregon and is currently doing a tour in support of her latest CD Riding Mercury, called one of the “10 albums of the year” by American Roots UK.

The Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department and the Edgewood Legion have each asked for $10,000 in taxation funds.

The residential taxation rate for each service would be $0.166 per $1,000 of assessed value. Taxation on a $100,000 home would be $16.60 per year for each service; taxation on a $250,000 home would be $41.50 per year for each service; taxation on a $400,000 home would be $66.40 per year for each service.

The letter of request from the Legion to the RDCK says the funding would be used to cover the net operating cost of the community hall portion of the Legion building.

The letter from the fire department to the RDCK lists the operating costs that the $10,000 would help cover: telephone, hydro, insurance on two fire trucks, maintenance of trailers and on board equipment, ongoing training, officers/directors liability insurance, annual audit fees, and membership in the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association of BC. The Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department runs two fire halls — one in Edgewood and one at the junction of Hwy 6 and Langille Road. The department responds to fires in Angel Falls, Whitlam, Needles, Edgewood and the Inosol Valley.

Electors are being asked for their consent to this taxation through the Alternative Approval Process — residents receive information in the mail and in their community newspapers about the proposals, and those who are opposed can register their dissent by filling out a form that is available on the RDCK website and at the RDCK office in Nelson. If at least 10 percent of electors fill out the Elector Response Form by August 31 at 4:30 pm, the proposal cannot proceed. In this case, 10 percent of electors has been estimated at 29.

Edgewood fire department and community hall request support by taxation

by Jon McLean

Edgewood electors (residents and property owners) are being asked if they agree to their volunteer fire department and community hall being supported with taxation.

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WETLAND ENGINEERS

Beavers slow the flow of streams by building muddy dams which create ecologically valuable wetlands. These wetlands filter stream sediment, allow time for microorganisms to detoxify pollutants, increase water storage and contain quiet nurseries for fish and other organisms — functions critical to alleviating the affects of food and drought due to climate change.

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society

811 Kildare St.,
New Denver

$270,000

Newer home, which is centrally located in New Denver. Views of the Valhallas from the master bedroom, living room and sun deck. Low heating costs. Excellent finishing details, including Hunter Douglas blinds and tiled kitchen floor. Single floor home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths (en-suite in master) with insulated, oversized, attached garage. Situated on a 50’ by 130’ lot with access on all four sides. Zoning allows for vacation rental.

Bill, Realtor, 250-551-5652
Coldwell Banker Rossing Real Estate
Lemon Creek fuel spill: residents faced with insurance and legal decisions
by Ian McMurray

Two years after the Lemon Creek fuel spill, residents are finding themselves having to decide between settling right now (by July 26) with ClaimPro insurance adjusters, who are acting on behalf of ICBC and Executice Flight Centre, or waiting for the upshot of the two class action suits that have been filed in Supreme Court by Rosenberg Law on behalf of two local residents.

According to ClaimPro, the right to pursue a claim related to the July 26, 2013 fuel spill expired on July 26, 2015. According to Rosenberg Law, the deadline to settle claims has been suspended and will not expire on July 26 for people eligible to be members of the class actions, “despite what you may have been advised by ClaimPro.”

Residents who contacted the Valley Voice about this had filed their claims in September 2013, after learning about their right to do so from a ClaimPro representative at the first public meeting at the Waterfall after the spill. They were told in November 2013 that there would be “no quick responses” to their claim because the accident was still under investigation, and that ClaimPro had to have all the information from all claimants before they could deal with any one claim. Then on July 11 this year, just two weeks before the apparent expiry date, a ClaimPro representative contacted them to ask them for the receipts for all the items they had listed on their claim, and to let them know that their right to pursue a claim was about to expire.

The residents also received registered mail from ClaimPro dated July 14, 2015, notifying them that if they were unable to include their claims with ClaimPro by the expiry date of July 26, but still wanted to pursue a claim, they’d have to start a lawsuit on their own or retain a lawyer to file a suit for them.

The registered mail included a Notice to Persons Wishing to Settle Lemon Creek Spill Claims, advising them of the proposed class action lawsuit filed by Robert George Kirk. The residents were asked to sign the notice and send it back to ClaimPro, “Your signature is simply an acknowledgement of being advised of the class action and does not release any rights you may have,” the letter says.

The notice states that Kirk’s lawyer, David Rosenberg, will want to include residents as members of the class, but that he doesn’t currently represent them.

Residents are advised that they can contact Rosenberg if they wish.

Finally, the notice tells residents that if they settle with ClaimPro, they will sign a “Release and Assignment in favour of all parties who might be liable for your claims.” This would waive the residents’ right to make any further claims in relation to the spill.

Meanwhile, Rosenberg Law is advising people via its website (www. rosenberglaw.ca/cls-actions/lemon-creek/) that they should contact the firm if they are considering settling with ClaimPro, as any settlement could prejudice people’s right to participate in the class action suits that the law firm has initiated.

Rosenberg has filed a property damage class action suit on behalf of Columbia Basin Trust, FortisBC partner on communities conservation program.

Submitted

Several West Kootenay communities will soon be reducing their carbon footprint thanks to a $168,000 support from Columbia Basin Trust and FortisBC. Over the next year, participating local governments will work alongside the Community Energy Association (CEA) which will provide expert support to help Columbia Basin communities in FortisBC’s electric service operating area find ways to use less energy in their community.

Through the community-based planning process, recommendations will include measures for communities as a whole to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency, focusing on things like residential and commercial buildings, transportation and waste. The process will benefit residents and businesses directly and could result in incentive programs such as energy diets or energy efficiency upgrade programs resulting in lower energy and heating costs to businesses and individuals. Each participating municipality will come away with a Strategic Community Energy and Emissions Plan, which will help achieve the greenhouse gas reduction targets set out in its Official Community Plan. Similar community plans have already been developed by CEA in Basin communities such as the Village of Nakusp, in the BC Hydro service area.

Three communities have already agreed to participate – Kelso, Salmo and Rossland – with others including the RDCK and the Village of Nakusp being invited to participate.

From 2006 to 2014, the Carbon Neutral Kootenays project resulted in local governments in the Columbia Basin reducing their corporate greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 10 percent.

The personal injury class action was filed in the Supreme Court very recently, on July 22, 2015. No court dates have been set yet for this one.

A Rosenberg Law representative told the Valley Voice that if the class actions are not certified, individuals will still be able to pursue their claims individually against the defendants (Executive Flight Centre, the Province of BC, Duroy LaSante and Transwest Helicopters).

When asked if he could explain why ClaimPro is involved, Graham Kozlowski of Rosenberg replied, “At this time, it is our preliminary understanding that ClaimPro has been hired by ICBC which is, apparently, acting as one of the insurers for Executive Fuel Centre. That said, we have not yet been provided with a clear explanation regarding ClaimPro’s involvement.” ClaimPro did not return our call by deadline.

The evolution of energy
FortisBC is currently 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
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For more information, visit fortisbc.com/ami or call 1-866-436-7847.

FortisBC uses the FortisBC name and logo under license from Fortis Inc. (14-Dec-14) (9463)
Discovery Ventures plans to start work at Willa soon

by Jan McMurray

Discovery Ventures Inc., owners of the Willa Mine near Red Mountain Road, has announced plans to begin work soon at the Willa to rehabilitate access roads, and re-open underground portals for exploration, mine planning and engineering.

A spokesperson from the Ministry of Mines reported that the company currently holds a mineral exploration permit to explore for copper, gold and silver, including extraction of a two-tonne metallurgical sample from the underground. Recently, Discovery has submitted an application to amend its exploration permit to allow for a 10,000 tonne bulk sample.

The company’s proposed timeline for completion of the bulk sample program is August 16, 2020.

The ministry spokesperson reported that the application is under an initial technical review by an Inspector of Mines, and will be subject to review by provincial agencies and First Nations consultations. A decision on the application will take at least 60 days.

A Discovery Ventures press release states that following, or even during, the 10,000 tonne bulk sampling, the company intends to apply for a Small Mines Permit to remove up to 75,000 tonnes per year. The company also plans to apply to have the mineral claims converted to a mineral lease, which is done by application to the provincial government.

Discovery Ventures also recently announced the appointment of a new director, CEO and chairman of the board as of July 9 – Dan Omensk. Omensk has provided Discovery Ventures with $7 million in financing. He is the founder and president of Trappers Action Project, where both classes researched and drafted an interpretive sign to educate fellow students and the community at large as to the importance of protecting and stewarding their local watersheds.

Slocan Valley students learn about water stewardship

The Mt. Sentinel students’ interpretive sign will be erected at the new Crescent Valley Regional Park, and the WE Graham students’ sign will be located at their new outdoor classroom, which will be built this summer.

The students thank Columbia Basin Trust for their generous support of these programs and the Student Action Projects. To learn more, visit www.cbt.org/watershed.

LH mining exploration project near Red Mountain Road to continue

by Jan McMurray

Magnar Goldcorp reports that it completed phase one of its helicopter-supported drill program on the LH gold exploration property in June, involving 11 drill holes at one setup location. A phase two program is planned for the fall of 2015.

The mineral exploration permit allows for up to 14 drill holes and is good to September 2016, according to the Ministry of Mines.

A ministry spokesperson reported that the permit was first issued to International Bethlehem Mining Corporation in November 2012 and was transferred to Magnar Goldcorp Inc in October 2014.

By an agreement dated September 6, 2012, International Bethlehem granted an option to Magnar to acquire a 51 percent interest in the LH property. Under the option, Magnar agreed to spend $500,000 on the property – $250,000 by November 2014 and an additional $250,000 by November 2015.

As part of its 2014 exploration program, Magnar reported that it had completed four helicopter supported drill holes at one separate location.

The LH property consists of 19 contiguous crown-granted claims and six mineral claims, located approximately 3.8 kilometers south of Silverton. Access to the LH property is via Red Mountain Road for two kilometres and a four-wheel drive road along Fiji Creek for five kilometres.

When: Wednesday August 12, between 4 and 7 pm
Where: Summit Lake Provincial Park, south of Nakusp

For more information visit fwcpc.ca or call 250-352-1300

Drop in anytime. Parking is limited so please car pool. Do not transport any toadstools outside of this organized event.

Toadfest – August 12

Toadfest is a fun, free family event to raise awareness about Western Toads and learn about other local species. Due to the hot summer the toadlets have moved early, but come and see the live aquatic insects, amphibians, and reptiles on display; enjoy the kids’ activities; and take in the interactive displays on other wildlife and plants in the region.

Work begins on Crescent Valley Beach parking lot

by Jan McMurray

The parking lot at Crescent Valley Beach will be closed periodically over the next month, while upgrades to the lot are underway. The RDCK collaborated with the Ministry of Transportation, Yellowhead Road and Bridge and Selkirk Paving to have the parking lot upgraded in conjunction with the paving on Highway 6. The lot will be closed on days when work will occur.

This season, the first phase of improvements to the parking lot will be completed. This first phase involves development of the park entrance, 14 parking stalls and a drop-off/pick-up area. Phase two will involve adding about 45

Struggles to fill x-ray/lab positions in New Denver

by Jan McMurray

Since April last year, Interior Health has been trying to find a combined x-ray/lab technologist for the Slocan Community Health Centre (SCHC) in New Denver.

Karl Hart of IH reports that the health authority is now looking at maintaining these services not with one staff person who is qualified as a combined x-ray/lab technologist, but through separate x-ray and lab staff. He said IH is in the process of finalizing the hiring of a technologist to cover x-ray services at SCHC, and will soon be posting the lab position.

Hart explained that there are a limited number of combined x-ray/lab technologists and they are in high demand.

x-ray is available at SCHC Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 am to noon.

The lab is open for outpatient services 8 am to 11:30 am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

These shifts are currently being covered by lab staff from Nelson. Physicians in New Denver are also able to do some urgent lab testing at SCHC using point of care equipment called iStat available at the site.

The closest alternate lab and x-ray services are in Nakusp.
Unity Festival celebrates diversity on the beach at Slocan City

Valley Samba put on an incredible performance.

It felt like a perfect summer as the bubbles and sun came out together.

Krista from The Sticks held the beat.

You're at home here.

**FOOD SPECIALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<td>Breyers Ice Cream</td>
<td>$6.99</td>
<td>Classic Variety, Nine Favourites</td>
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Tuti Concert - 7:00 pm

Valhalla Summer School of Music: August 9-14
Opening Concert: Sunday, August 9 @ 7:00 pm
VSSM Faculty Concert: Tuesday, August 11 @ 7:00 pm
Final Concerts: Friday, August 14 @ 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

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CO-OP
Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival 2015 expands its lineup to please a younger audience

by Art Joyce

This year’s Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival will see a much more diverse lineup of musicians, with genres ranging from the roots/new folk and ‘newgrass’ popular with younger audiences, to world beat, Latin salsa, indie-rock, blues and even a classical ensemble. With festivals across North America struggling for audience share, a sluggish economy and an aging demographic, the new program reflects a practical approach to these realities.

“I was reading in Billboard magazine that less than half of one percent of all record sales in the US are for jazz now,” says the festival’s new artistic director, Paul Hinrichs. “The demographic that was interested in jazz is getting older, and maybe not as mobile or as interested in attending a three-day festival. Even the grandaddy of them all, the New Orleans Jazz Festival, is having headliners like the Foo Fighters and other acts but without changing its name.”

So the board of directors has responded appropriately, adds Hinrichs. Instead of recruiting mostly jazz acts, the emphasis will be on any exceptional music now — anything of a high caliber that requires a strong discipline in the musician’s craft, regardless of genre. However, Hinrichs says that approximately 50 percent of the program will still be jazz in various forms.

“A lot of the younger demographic sees jazz as kind of stale, even though they don’t always recognize how jazz is there in a lot of the music they listen to. So for example, the Lost Fingers are a cover band but they’re really, really fine jazz players even though the music they’re performing is party music from the ‘80s. And we’ll always bring in some traditional jazz acts, like Don Bruboch, who’s still carrying the torch.”

Another major change this year for the festival is the policy of having free access to the day program until 4:30 pm. The decision was made as a means of increasing traffic — a kind of ‘kind of try before you buy’ approach. Then at 4:30 festival staff will offer those present a chance to buy tickets for the evening headline shows. It’s an idea festival founder Jim Holland came up with based on past ideas and free events like the concerts on Kaslo’s main street. This year however, performances will be limited to the Mainstage and Upstage on the festival grounds in Kaslo Bay.

The 20 to 35 age bracket coveted by music festival planners seems to be mostly listening to roots/new folk acts — “we can thank Mumford & Sons for that,” says Hinrichs — and trends on folk music such as ‘newgrass.’ This age set will find plenty to enjoy this year at Kaslo Jazz Fest, including Don Mangan & The Boys of Salad, the Sloan Rambler, Sofiea Watt & the Huckleberry Bandits, and Fish & Bird. Although the set list for The Boys of Salad may be better remembered by their parents, younger listeners will probably also appreciate the band’s blend of bluegrass and gypsy jazz. Incredibly, they use this moody approach to cover artists as diverse as AC/DC, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, and Kool and the Gang. Another one to watch out for this year will be M/Girl, the indigenous women’s ensemble.

And what would a music festival be without dance times? Over the years Kootenay audiences have been almost unanimously on their feet in Kaslo Bay for bands capable of rhythmic mastery. This year local dancers can get ready for Polyrhythmic, an Afrobeat funk world beat band from Seattle, Camako, a “four-capped world fusion” band, Vancouver’s Brickhouse, and perennial favourite Gabriel Palkichi’s famous Latin jazz rhythm. Kaslo Jazz Fest has always been a supporter of local musicians, and the Kootenay’s produces no shortage of gifted professionals. Representing our stellar homegrown talent this year will be the Kootenay Divas, featuring legendary local divas Besse Wapp and Laura Loudburg, a 12-piece combo with full horn section. Rich Rabolot — practically an institution in the local jazz scene — will partner with bassist Jesse Lee. Lint is a four-piece funk band with the ubiquitous Clint Swanson will lay down the groove to keep the dancers happy. Cellist Jeff Farragher will have a six-piece classical ensemble on the program. The Cheryl Hodge Quintet, fast becoming one of the top jazz and blues acts in North America, will remain as why, Red-Eyed Soul from Argentina, a four-piece roots rock band, will complete the locals’ talent contingent, with one-man comedy wunderkind Luke Myers doing both his ‘shows’ and acting as MC for Saturday’s program.

continued on page 13
continued from page 12
For those of us who like to rock, The Barn-Ins – a blues-rock power trio from Maple Ridge, BC – will crank it up. The blues-soaked roots of popular music for the past five decades will be represented by Kenny “Blues Boss” Wayne. Ottawa-based MonkeyJunk have created a “unique blend of swamp roots rock” that blues legend Son House would have been proud of.

Tickets can be ordered directly from the Kaslo Jazz Fest website, at SunnySide Naturals in Kaslo or Packrat Annie’s in Nelson. Visit www.kaslojazzfest.com.
The Way of Tea: ‘A Cup of Humanity’ fundraiser for the Langham

submitted

The Langham Cultural Society in Kaslo is initiating a new annual series which is inspired by, and dedicated to, both Japanese Canadians and other East Asian cultures. Eighty Canadians of Japanese descent were housed in the old Langham building during the war years. The museum program would like to commemorate their experience, and to upgrade the museum while also extending the growing program series over the next number of years.

‘The Way of Tea’ special event fundraiser will celebrate the Japanese aesthetic known as wabi-sabi, by showcasing the art of tea and chocolate. At the heart of traditional Japanese culture is the value of harmony in all things. The Japanese traditional worldview, called wabi-sabi, is nature-based and concerned with the beauty of studied simplicity and harmony with nature. Wabi-sabi represents the beauty of things imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete. It is the beauty of things modest and humble, like a cup of tea.

Join Langham enthusiasts for a wonderful afternoon tasting a variety of teas and a diverse sampling of raw and refined chocolates. Listen to stories and learn from tea master Chris Harffman of Cloud Mountain Tea House, Nelson. Harffman started his tea apprenticeship in North India more than 12 years ago with his first sip of Tibetan yak butter tea at the Dalai Lama’s temple in Dharamsala. While a somewhat acquired taste, it started Harffman’s quest into the deeper aspects of tea and the amazing multitude of tastes this single plant can produce, depending on soil types and altitude.

In 2013 Harffman opened a tea house in Nelson, to bring the people of the West Kootenay some of the finer teas from around the world, introducing people to the concept of seasonal teas and small farm micro-batches. The chocolate makers are local to Kaslo and the West Kootenay region.

End the afternoon with a short Café Langham talk, The History of Tea with Dr. Laurence Moss, practicing Tofino and Asian scholar on the historical development and role of tea drinking in Japan and China with its associated practices of traditional garden and architecture design, calligraphy, and painting. Langham supporters may purchase two kinds of tickets. The premium ticket includes a special two-hour ‘Japanese Tea ceremony’ conducted by local potter Sara Lawless or Shannon Merritt, a traditional dye cloth dyed by local artists, and either a box of tea and chocolate by local makers. The standard ticket is for the simple pleasure of tasting teas and chocolate during the afternoon event entitled Café Langham talk. Tickets are available at Sunnyside Naturals and Willow Home Boutique (Kasco) and at Cloud Mountain Tea House (Nelson).

This is a great way to spend a summer Sunday afternoon and support the well-loved Langham Japanese Canadian Museum while traveling to Japan, China and India with a ‘cup of humanity!’ Contact 250-353-2661 for more information.

WE Graham students study bees up close

submitted

Sharon Myers and Keith Stetsko of the West Kootenay Honey Producers introduced an observation hive to W.E. Graham school in Slocan for two months this spring to bring ‘bee awareness’ to the students in the area. The hive is a two-frame unit with glass sides and a running glass entrance.

Approximately 160 students and adult groups observed the display and set in motion great projects for the future, along with some immediate art projects and stories.

The hive allows for daily observation of different stages of the bees’ lives, from the queen laying eggs, to the care of those eggs by the workers, to seeing the baby bees emerge from the capped cells; workers could also see the bees gather and store nectar and pollen, and clean the hive. One of the most interesting activities was to see the bees do their directional dance, telling others where they had located flowers.

The school held a brief assembly the first day, in which the students learned the bees’ anatomy, life cycles and culture. An amazing discussion developed around how students can assist in creating a healthy environment for the bees in the community—everything from planting particular plants to keeping their homes and gardens toxic-free.

The program was so successful that four more schools will participate in a similar program with the observation hive in the spring of 2016, which is dependent on a community art project surrounding the observation hive.

The observation hive has currently moved to the Four Nations Coalition of Indigenous Medicines where it will participate in the Indigenous Earth Studies for Kids program which runs for the summer months.

For further information about this project: suyner@nucleus.com

Natural bath and body products now available at Defined Tanning & Esthetics

submitted

One of New Denver’s new businesses this year—Defined Tanning & Esthetics—opened in April in the former Jane’s Trinkets & Treasures storefront.

Business owner April Sawaiy-Wilson offers popular treatments such as pedicures, gel nails, manicures, waxing, and a variety of waxing services. She is always looking for new services to offer. “Look for new exciting ways to define yourself,” she says.

She just started carrying IAZU natural shampoo and conditioner, formulated by local resident Sean-
Nakusp council, July 13: Meeting erupts in singing of ‘Nakusp is a Great Place to Be’

by Katrine Campbell

“By Kinlaw led the mayor, council and others attending the meeting in a song along of his composition ‘Nakusp is a Great Place to Be.’” Kinlaw intends to submit the song to the Chamber of Commerce, to get the NSS band involved in the song to the elementary school students, to have a video made of people singing it, and then apply for a CIKCA grant to have it recorded.

Ken France from the Nakusp Long Term Council attended to report on the minutes from the last meeting and the work on the 25-year lifespan, but is now three years past that. The active members of the launch “have been trying to keep it serviceable and alive” but there are few of them, most of the members don’t attend meetings, just pay for their moorings, France said.

The club has a good idea of what work it wants done, but doesn’t have an engineering study and design to ensure it is done properly. Mayor Karen Hamling said the Village has $100,000 for the boat launch that could be put into a study. She asked CAO Laurie Taylor to research who does this kind of work.

Councillor Tom Zelenak asked what would happen with the Village’s contract dispute with BEC regarding the breakwater. Hamling replied they had only one course left, to sue the Nakusp-Summit Lake Rail Trail improvements underway

by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp and Area Community Trail Society is improving a six-kilometre section of the Nakusp Summit Lake Rail Trail this season. The project is well underway.

“We want to make sure the trail is accessible and usable for everyone,” said Mike Wrode, society director. “We’re trying to do the best we can to accommodate all users and to ensure that everyone can use the trail.”

This multi-use trail is frequented by the whole gamut of users: hikers, runners, dog walkers, bikers, horse riders, ATVers, dirt bikers, cross-country skiers and snowmobilers.

The six kilometre section that is being upgraded stretches from the viewpoint overlooking Nakusp to the lake to Bon Lake lumberm. The project includes brushing, bank stabilization, ditching and drainage, and resurfacing. Some signage will be installed, and a parking area with a kiosk will be created.

Wrode reported that the brushing has already been completed by volunteers, and brush was chipped and removed to the forest.

Arrow Lakes Ready Mix has been hired to do the resurfacing, ditching and drainage, and bank stabilization.

Wrode said they’ve done a great job wherever washouts were forming. Large riprap boulders were placed along the side of the trail and bank, and ditching was done to direct the water away from the washouts to prevent future damage. Wrode said they would be replacing culverts if necessary, as well.

To reinforce, they’re reclaiming the gravel that has been pushed to the sides over the years and putting it back on the trail, and will fill in areas where potholes formed during runoff with road much gravel.

Words said that some parts of the trail section won’t be touched; work will be done only where it’s needed.

The society intends to install speed limit signs (30 km/hour), multiple user yield signs, and directional signs. A parking lot is being planned for the area where the trail crosses Hwy 6, just south of Freese Loop Road. A kiosk with a map of the trail will be installed next spring.

The society received about $40,000 in grants to complete the upgrades on this section of trail. The funding came from CET, RDRC, Area K and NACFAR. Recreation Sites and Trails BC, a branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, will also be contributing signage.

The Nakusp and Area Community Trail Society is responsible for the rail trail from the viewpoint overlooking the Upper Arrow Lake to the top of the hill at the north end of the community of Summer Lake.
New shows at the Hidden Garden Gallery

submitted

Tomeko Kokubo presents an exhibition of new paintings in oils and acrylics entitled Foray at the Hidden Garden Gallery from August 3 to 26. It is a foray into the unknown and the familiar—the formal abstractions of water, the seemingly unlikely density of petals, the spontaneity of growth, the liminal zone where garden and forest plants secretly meet to chase the weather.

Tomeko ‘Koko’ Kokubo was born in St. August in Japan. Returning to Canada in her late teens, she studied Fine Arts for four years at Vancouver School of Art (now Emily Carr University). She has worked extensively in fashion as a performer and costume designer.

For the past 25 years Koko has been a full-time painter, working mainly in oils and acrylics, drawing inspiration from her forest, garden and mountain home. She has had numerous exhibitions and has paintings in private collections in Canada, Europe, Japan, Mexico and the USA. She currently has an exhibition, Regenerations, at the Langham Cultural Centre in Kelowna, which explores her own family and community history.

A reception for Foray will be held Wednesday, August 5 from 7 to 9 pm with music by the ever popular Anna B and the Collaboratives.

Kasko transfer station reopens, Balfour closes

submitted

Kasko transfer station was closed for the Resource Recovery Plan construction period. These loads should be brought to the Grohman Narrow Transfer station 4km west of Nelson, with the hours of operation for this site being Monday through Saturday 8:30 am—5:30 pm.

Kaslo Guitarfest returns

submitted

Kaslo Guitarfest is pleased to announce its concert schedule for the week of August 17 to 22. All concerts take place at St. Andrew’s United Church.

Kaslo Guitarfest, now in its third year, is a week-long non-competitive festival where classical guitarists of all ages and stages can hone their skills under the guidance of a team of outstanding teachers and performers.

Kaslo Guitarfest is sponsored by the Village of Kaslo, Columbia Basin Trust, RKDC, D’Addario, and generous individual donors.

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The Donation Store

The Valley Voice • July 29, 2015
Nick Herder and Ben Nickerson are the new RCMP officers in New Denver

by Jan McMurray

Constables Nick Herder and Ben Nickerson have recently joined the Slocan Lake detachment in New Denver.

Constable Herder was last posted in Arviat, Nunavut Territory, a traditional Inuit community above the tree line on the west shore of Hudson Bay. The community is accessible only by plane.

"After completing a three-year posting in Nunavut Territory I was given the choice of being posted anywhere in Canada. We have always loved the outdoors and wanted to live in a small town so New Denver was a natural fit for us with our young family," he says. Herder has been with the RCMP for 11 years, and has served in Sea to Sky region (Squamish and Whistler) and Arviat. At Sea to Sky, he did general duty including watch commander, DARE officer, drug recognition expert, mountain bike patrol, snowboard/ski patrol, and a year in the crime reduction unit and in municipal traffic enforcement. In Arviat, he was the acting detachment commander for much of the time.

Herder’s wife is a professional opera singer/vocal teacher who has performed with Vancouver Opera Chorus. His son is four and his daughter is two. "My children have grown up on the tours so they look forward to swimming in the lake, tending a garden, and climbing trees but will miss the polar bears," he said.

"We are absolutely loving the warm reception that we have received so far in New Denver. We definitely made the right decision to move here." 

Constable Ben Nickerson also has a wife and two small children - an almost four-year-old daughter and a 20-month-old son.

"I had never heard of New Denver," he said, "but I wanted to work in a smaller place - somewhere suitable for my young family." He told staffing what he was looking for, and they told him about the Slocan Lake detachment posting. "We came for a visit a month ago and everyone was happy!"

Originally from Moncton, New Brunswick, Nickerson comes to us from his first posting as an RCMP officer in Chilliwack. He was there for six years, mostly on general duty, but also served in the general investigation (plain clothes) section.

Anglican parishes welcome new incumbent

submitted

The wardens and members of the Valhalla Anglican Parish welcome The Rev. Elizabeth Hether and Ms. Joan Alexander to Castlegar and the Anglican Diocese of Kootenay. This includes the parishes of St. Mark’s (Nakusp), St. Stephen’s (New Denver) and St. David’s (Castlegar).

Lloydminster, Saskatchewan in 1995. In 2000, she left Canada to minister in the Anglican Diocese of Uninzivhulu, South Africa. Returning to Canada in 2006, she served in several Ontario parishes, enjoying closer proximity to her siblings and their families.

During this time, Elizabeth met her life partner, Joan Alexander. Following a civil marriage they celebrated a blessing with their Anglican community in Guelph, Ontario and began a journey that has brought them to Castlegar.

Ms. Joan Alexander

"This is my first time seeing the Canadian Rocky Mountains and I feel so blessed to be here," says Joan. As a Spiritual Director currently pursuing her studies with the Haden Institute, USA, Joan plans to develop a spiritual direction practice in the Kootenays.

Both Elizabeth and Joan have been described as "not your average kind of...anything." Taking that as the best kind of compliment they look forward to meeting new friends - friends who, like them, have walked many paths on this journey of life.

Watch for them at Castlegar’s Millennium Park this summer as they practice their newest hobby - giant bubble bowling! 

Regional District of Central Kootenay
NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Directors of the Regional District of Central Kootenay proposes to adopt "Edgewood and Area Royal Canadian Legion Hall Financial Contribution Service Establishment Bye-law No. 2455, 2015" which would authorize the annual requisition of not more than $10,000 or $0.1745/$100 of net taxable value of land and improvements, whichever is greater.

The purpose of this bylaw is to provide a financial contribution for the operation and maintenance of the community hall portion of the Royal Canadian Legion building in Edgewood.

Eligible voters within the Edgewood and Area service area are being asked by Alternative Approval Process on whether or not they are in favour of providing the annual financial contribution.

BACKGROUND: The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #823 has provided Edgewood and area residents with a community hall for several years. The community hall is well used and highly valued by the community. The Legion has subsidized operating costs of the hall as a service to the community. However, the Legion's income is falling while operating expenses continue to rise. The Legion has explored alternative sources of funds to continue to operate the hall but has found none.

TAX IMPLICATIONS: The Legion is requesting taxation to fund the costs to maintain and operate the community hall portion of the building. This amount would not exceed $10,000 per year.

Bylaw 2455 limits the taxation to an actual rate of $0.1745/$100 which converts to a residential rate of $0.1666/$100.

Taxation on Residential Property at $0.1666/$100

Property assessed at
$100,000  $16.60
$250,000  $41.50
$400,000  $66.40

ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS: Under Section 86 of the Community Charter, approval of the electors within the Edgewood and Area Royal Canadian Legion Hall Financial Contribution Service Area is being obtained by means of the Alternative Approval Process. Therefore, eligible electors within the service area opposed to the ROCK establishing this service may petition against the adoption of Bylaw No. 2455 by signing an Elector Response Form which may be obtained from the Regional District of Central Kootenay office. At least 10% of electors must petition against the proposal prior to the deadline date, which is at least 30 days after the last publication of a notice in the local paper, in order to prevent the Board from proceeding with the Bylaw without the assent of the electors.

ELECTOR RESPONSE FORM: The Elector Response Form must be in the form established by the Board of Directors and is available from the offices of the Regional District of Central Kootenay during regular office hours or from the ROCK's website at www.rock.bc.ca

WHO MAY SIGN THE ELECTOR RESPONSE FORM: Electors, either resident or owning property, within the boundaries of the "Edgewood and Area Royal Canadian Legion Hall Financial Contribution Service Area" are the only persons entitled to sign the Elector Response Form. An elector is a person who meets the requirements and qualifications defined by the Local Government Act as described in detail on the Elector Response Form. The Board of Directors has resolved that a fair estimate of the total number of electors in the subject area is 290. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 86(4)(c) of the Community Charter, 29 or more electors must sign the Elector Response Form to prevent the Board from proceeding without the assent of the electors.

DEADLINE: The Elector Response Form must be received by the undersigned before 4:30 p.m. on August 31, 2015.

If you have any questions regarding this proposal or would like to request an Elector Response Form, please feel free to contact the undersigned. Information relating to this notice will also be available on the Regional District’s website at www.rock.bc.ca under “Public Notices.”

Anita Winje, Corporate Officer
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 500, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R6
Telephone: 250-352-6665 Toll Free: 1-800-368-7325
FAX: 250-352-9300 Email: awinje@rdock.bc.ca

The Rev. Elizabeth Hether

"It is such a pleasure to return to British Columbia," says Elizabeth, who lived, worked and completed her theological education at the Vancouver School of Theology in the 1990s and was ordained in Travelling Country Acupuncture

Raven Acupuncture 250-551-2581 Winlaw Silverton Kinds

The Rev. Joan Alexander

"This is my first time seeing the Canadian Rocky Mountains and I feel so blessed to be here!" says Joan. As a Spiritual Director currently pursuing her studies with the Haden Institute, USA, Joan plans to develop a spiritual direction practice in the Kootenays.

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Watch for them at Castlegar’s Millennium Park this summer as they practice their newest hobby - giant bubble bowling!
Regeneration opening a lifetime to careers in art

by Art MacKee

The Laughter gallery was overflowing with visitors the evening of July 24 for the opening of the Regeneration exhibition, featuring the pastels, watercolours, Koko's Koko, and sculptures of Toru Fujibayashi. Both are in their '70s and have been professional artists throughout their adult lives. Koko lived near Silverton and Fujibayashi lives near Nakusp. Friends and supporters came en masse from New Denver, testifying to the high regard they are held in both personally and professionally.

Commissioned by Langham curator Art MacKee, Regeneration explores the impact of the artists' experiences growing up during the World War II internment of Japanese Canadians. Fujibayashi's sculptures for this show are mostly a career retrospective of selected works. They represent a more informal statement of how this experience was a driving force toward achieving personal resolution of inner demons through the lifelong practice of art. Less regeneration than kinetic, it's not hard to see the artist's energy in the sinusoidal, sensual forms captured in stone. He was only a young child when his family was interned at the Popoff camp in the Stinchon Valley, probably at the same time as Koko's mother and aunt.

"Growing up as a kid in the Stinchon Valley was great - baseball, hockey, swimming. It was only later I realized there was an undercurrent, something deeply wrong going on. I had a lot of anger and that took until my 60s to work out. It was a bad time to be a Japanese Canadian."

When I interviewed Koko back in February for ART/VOICE magazine, she was still working on several new canvases for the show. The theme was both a departure from her normal subject matter - typically light-hearted explorations of forms found in nature - and a late-career challenge. It's not hard to see elements of both impressionism and the minimalist aesthetic of her pastel poetry, with a focus on creating maximum impression through minimal use of language - or in this case, brush strokes. Although the paintings for Regeneration are probably her most political work to date, they are handled with a deft, light touch.

"I just like to focus on beauty because there's so much horrible going on in the world," Koko told me back in February. "I don't want to focus on that, so I decided to do the narrative story of my life. That's how my process is going, jumping from one place to another in my memories, but always looking for the beauty."

For someone who suffered one of the most profound injustices of Canadian history, that's an astounding statement, an example of grace worthy of emulating. Her family was split up during the war, her father and uncle sent to the Angler, Ontario POW camp on Lake Superior while her mother and aunt were sent to the Lennox Creek Popoff camp. Although born in Silverton, BC, Koko was taken back to Japan to live with her grandparents, only returning to Canada after the government lifted wartime restrictions on Japanese Canadian repatriation.

The evening program featured an introduction and reading of poetry by Toru, accompanied by the haunting bassoon flute of Paul Gibbons. Toru took time to pay tribute to Ayu Sugio, who had recently passed away. He held her up as an inspirational figure in his early life - she taught him in the one room school in Lennox Creek he attended as a child.

"She was a fantastic teacher, full of good cheer," he recalled. "She made me feel like the teacher's pet - probably the only time any kid ever felt that way."

The second set featured a dance performance by Koko accompanied by shakuhachi master Takuji Yamashita, Bouzu Soun on percussion, and Paul Gibbons on bassoon and sound effects. Painted in the whiteface makeup similar to that used in traditional Noh dance, Koko demonstrated a fluid, tri-chime performance that defied recent health issues faced by the artist. It was revealed after the show that the suzuki used by Gibbons for sound effects was the one used by Koko's father during his internship in Angola.

"We're some of the last ones of that generation," said Toru. "Once we're gone, that's it - a unique part of history."

Regeneration will be exhibiting at the Langham from July 24 to October 4. Visit www.langham.ca

Older smart meters being exchanged for BC Hydro customers in the Lardreau

by Jan McMurray

Corix smart meter technicians recently showed up unannounced at residences in the Lardreau Valley to change out the latest smart meters that were installed in 2012.

Mary Anne Coudes of BC Hydro explained that the change-outs are necessary for about one percent of its customers, due to an upgrade to the software of the metering communications network.

"For almost all customers, this upgrade is completed remotely," she said. "For about one percent of our customers, the existing meter will need to be exchanged."

A BC Hydro customer service representative explained that the operating system inside the smart meters is being upgraded. It can be upgraded in most smart meters remotely by sending a signal with the upgrade. However, in a very few cases, the smart meters have to be replaced with smart meters that already have the upgraded operating system in place.

Coudes said that since the work causes a brief power outage, the technician is notifying customers on site prior to the exchange.

She also said the meter exchanges would not result in any additional cost to BC Hydro. "All costs associated are included in our contract with our meter vendor, Itron," she said. "The cost of the smart meter program remains unchanged at $930 million and the project is currently running about $100 million below budget."

The company is working to complete the communications network for the smart meter system, scheduled for completion at the end of 2019. "As we are now in the final stages, we are upgrading the software of the metering communications network around the province to ensure we have the most up-to-date system available," said Coudes.

Stop Harper

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CARI TOEWS

proprietor
toewcsari@gmail.com
Travel the Basin, take in the culture tour

submitted

On August 8 and 9, from 10 am - 5 pm, the Columbia Basin Culture Tour allows you to explore artists’ studios, museums, art galleries and heritage sites during this free, self-guided event. Travel to studios and studios that aren’t normally open, see demonstrations, new exhibits and collections or meet people behind the scenes. To participate in the tour, simply grab a map, your Culture Tour Directory and go!

Starting in the Slocan Valley, visit Cindy Meizer, painter (mixed media abstracts and representational), gardener and assemblage creator, in Slocan Park along with several other Slocan Valley artists with a wide variety of styles and media, in a lovely garden setting. Penne the whimsical garden art and beautiful functional Twigg Furniture by Rustic Creations. Joining Cindy is painter Evelyn Kihuly of Wild Images whose passion for the outdoors has inspired a large body of work in various media depicting wild places and their residents. Barbara Brown’s series of oil paintings of trees and forest scenes will also be on display at this location as well as work by artist Robyn Gold whose latest works use fluid acrylic paints which create crisp, vivid colors and a looseness and movement to her work. Natasha’s newest work will show a colorful collection of semi-abstract original prints and collage paintings, including her newest works. Just along the highway in sunny Pattenos is the studio of Cameron Stewart, who has invited some talented ceramic artists to join him again this year including Lisa Christie of Slip Bucket Designs and Pamela Nagley Stevenson. Cameron’s work is hand-built thin slab porcelain pottery fired in wood-burning kilns with a soda vapour introduced at peak temperature to give each piece in the firing a unique and varied surface. Lisa Christie creates handmade functional art using red stoneware clay dressed in white clay slip on which the screen prints images reflecting landscapes and her love of the outdoors onto the surface. Each ceramic vessel Pamela Nagley Stevenson makes is a contemporary celebration of ancient form and diverse cultural traditions, made for use and contemplation.

Located on the Slocan River Road you will find Mirage Studio. Half-painting, half-photograph, Franksek Stronhol uses the inovtive oil painting technique in the creation of his haunting works. South of Wiwalin is the fine pottery studio of Robin DaPunt, a contemporary ceramic artist who uses wood and soda glaze as a surfacing technique to create functional and decorative artwork, including one-of-a-kind teapots, bowls, mugs, pitchers, plates and decorative forms. Cross the bridge at Winlaw to find Rahia at the Artful Lodger. Here you will find functional and whimsical art, rusty steel sculptures, mosaics on steel and glass, fused glass pieces and tumblers catching the slightest of breezes all in an outdoors setting of roof, fruit and flower gardens. Further up the valley visit the Slocan Valley Threeds Guild where dyers create dyestuffs and print on paper and fabric featuring; you will have the opportunity to chat to members of the guild about any aspect of fibre arts and there will be a variety of work on exhibit.

Still heading north, go to Silverton where Christiane Forrier creates functional and decorative pots with a porcelain stoneware clay. Ana Bokstrom creates primarily clay sculpture – masks, figurative and abstract which often incorporate found objects such as anchors or trigs.

In neighbouring New Denver visit the lovely, old Silvery Slocan Museum, formerly the Bank of Montreal. It features a rare beek bank vault, transportation exhibits, a collection of journals, business machines and memorabilia from the Newmarket Hotel (Victorian sitting room and kitchen) and an exhibition dedicated to New Denver’s Japanese Canadians. Louise Ducharme, who works in oils, acrylics, watercolours, clay, collage, multi-media and encaustics, will be exhibiting at Ginger Gecko. Visit Crazy Raven Studio where Paula Craven will demonstrate gilamon prints and exhibit her original paintings, art cards and matted prints.

In downtown Nakusp is the studio of Debra Rufflefeld; view her over-sized, almost photographic chaloups drawings, her whimsical and colourful abstract mixed media paintings, and experience a working art studio/gallery. Also in Nakusp is the Studio Connexion Gallery, a small independent gallery which promotes local and regional artists.

In Kaslo visit Karel Peterson at his new studio/gallery Koctema Pottery on Historic Front Street, featuring colourful, functional, earthware pottery and the work of other fine craft regional artisans in different media. At The Langham Cultural Society visit the Japanese Canadian Museum with archival photographs and view Recreation, an exhibition by celebrated artists Tomoko Kokubo and Toru Fujihayashi.

North of Kaslo, tour the lovely garden of Fred Rudolph that features raised beds of vegetables and flowers surrounded by wilderness and mountainside. Take in the photography, mixed media and group painting exhibition by Fred Rudolph, Sergey and Anthea Santos.

In Ainsworth the J.B. Fletcher General Store joins the tour for the first time! Circa 1896, it is one of the oldest buildings in the area. Purchased by Heritage Trust BC from the Fletcher family in the mid 1980s and restored in 1986-87 as a museum.

This is just a sampling of venues. Tour Directories are available at tourist information centres and participating venues. Visit the website at www.cbculturetour.com to view full artist/venue profiles for further details on each location’s activities or register to receive a tour brochure in the mail. For further information, call the CKCA at 1-250-505-5995 or toll free at 1-877-505-7355.

The Columbia Basin Culture Tour is generously supported by Columbia Basin Trust funding.

Our sincerest thanks go out to all of the people of New Denver and surrounding area for their sympathy and comforting words we have been given. We have experienced generosity that exceeds all expectations. On behalf of Natasha’s family and very close friends we again extend our heartfelt thanks.

Al & Roxanne Weiss

In Memory of Natasha Weiss

Late Sunday night, July 12, a fire consumed our house in Hills, and with it, the mother of my children.

Natasha’s entire focus was to raise Ginger, Juniper and Paazuu to become fulfilled, loving and respecting human beings. Whether it was the food they ate, the clothes they wore, or the books they read, it was always with the intention of instilling character and love of life.

Natasha was well known for her capabilities as a mother and a gardener, and indeed, these are the qualities I fell in love with so many years ago, but there was much more in between; her eye for exceptional pebbles at the beach, her ability to arrange and coordinate, whether it was the flowers at the dinner table or the wool blanket to match the season; her innocence and joy upon first discovering her moon shadow in her adult years. Though much was lost, the speed and ability of our local firefighters, family and neighbors to contain the devastation saved as much more potential tragedy and not enough can be said, for the heart and care I witnessed that night.

Huge thanks to Pete at Highland Creek contracting for his respectful help in clearing and hauling the debris.

Huge thanks to the RCMP; Constable Herder and Sheila Seaton have been incredibly calming and helpful.

Huge thanks to everyone who provided food and clothing. We are grateful.

Natasha’s energy will live on and be remembered in this community. Evidence of her passion can be seen in many of the gardens in our area and in the lives of our children, who will carry on her legacy with love.

-Hagain Zoll

Columbia Basin Culture Tour
Aug 8 - 9, 2015 10:00am - 5:00pm

Explore artists’ studios, museums, art galleries and heritage sites through this free, self-guided tour within the Columbia Basin.

Meet the artists, shop for fine art and craft, view demonstrations, special exhibitions, interpretive displays or chat with local historians during this cultural celebration!

For further information visit our website or call.
Nakusp Medieval Days: It’s time to take a walk back in time

by Kairine Campbell

A year and a half is a long time in some ways, but for the Nakusp Medieval Society it has gone by in a flash.

The first annual Nakusp Medieval Days happens this weekend, August 1 and 2. Members of the Society for Creative Anachronism have already started arriving in Nakusp, you may spot them at the hot springs, or shopping in town. The crowns, gowns and tunic are a dead giveaway.

The SCA is providing the entertainment and education for the festival, showing how people lived and worked in the Middle Ages. Visitors can cheer and jeer at battles between individual knights and between armies, watch an equestrian demonstration, see archers compete for distance and accuracy using longbows, or find out how those bows and arrows were made.

In the medieval village, just inside the public gate, merchants will offer food and items for purchase, while crafters and artisans will hold demos of how things were done in the olden days. These include woodworking, nailbinding (Scandinavian single-needle knitting), tinsmithing, fabric dying, silk painting, coopering, cobbaging, leatherworking and blacksmithing (if fire regulations allow). The family-friendly festivities take place north of the village at Sm Lodge Farm, near the airport on Hot Springs Rd. The route will be well-marked with signs. The gates open at 10 am; displays and demos close at 5 pm with the merchant booths staying open until 6.

A few notes for safety: wear sturdy footwear. The ground is uneven and heels and flip-flops are not a good idea. Forecast is sunny and hot; dress lightly, wear a hat and use sunscreen. Thanks to Gardner Falls Water of Nakusp, lots of water will be available on site. Drink it and stay hydrated.

Please leave all animals, except service dogs with certificates, at home. No smoking except in designated smoking areas.

For more info, visit medievaldays.ca.

The Society had help from many sponsors in getting the event up and running. Columbia Basin Trust provided several grants, and the provincial government approved an application for the Job Creation Partnership program.

The Nakusp Medieval Society received more than $21,000 to support the development of the first annual Nakusp Medieval Days Festival. Two workers are receiving 25 weeks of work experience, including event planning, promoting and selling tickets, bookkeeping and administrative skills, as well as stage setup. The work experience project wraps up on September 11.

“This program has been so much fun,” says JCP employee Aubin Coulthard. “I have learned so many new skills and it’s opened my eyes to new career choices and possibilities. Being part of this program has inspired me to reach higher than before; I have so many new job skills and way more confidence. I feel lucky to be a part of it and have enjoyed my time immensely.”

NMD director David Abraham says, “This project has been an exciting and fascinating learning experience for all involved. I am so grateful to have been a part of building a new identity for the community, and I look forward to building upon our efforts in the future.”

Job Creation Partnerships are part of the Employment Program of BCC’s Community and Employer Partnerships, which fund projects that increase employability and share labour market information. For more information on the JCP and other provincial employment programs, visit Community and Employer Partnerships at www.workbc.ca/CEP.

SWAMP WETLAND FIELD DAYS

Come and get hands-on learning about wetlands in the Slokan Watershed.

- Experience what makes wetlands biologically rich and unique.
- Practice identifying plants and different types of wetlands.
- Discover what wildlife and other organisms live in wetlands.

What to bring:
- Shoes for walking that can get wet, not leather
- Water bottle, notebook & pencil, water and snacks

Pre-registration for either of these programs is recommended but not required.

AUG 8, 2015
SOUTH VALLEY - Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.
Meet in Winlaw at Ford’s Bakery. Come learn about wetlands along the Rail Trail. For further details, contact Rhia Mackenzie at zzori@gmail.com or 250-226-7544.

AUG 12, 2015
NORTH VALLEY - Time: 12:00 - 3:30 pm.
Meet in Hills at the Hills Fire & Community Hall #4480 on Highway 6. Learn about wetlands before attending Toadfest at Summit Lake Provincial Park. This event is sponsored by the Stewardship Society. For further details, contact Marcy Mah at marya@netidea.com or 250-358-2669.