Nakusp Medieval Days will return next year

by Jan McMurray

After the huge success of the first annual Nakusp Medieval Days on the August long weekend, there will definitely be more to come.

“We’re already looking forward to next year,” said organizer Daniel Abraham. “It was really great! The numbers exceeded all our expectations.”

Abraham reports that about 1,500 tickets were sold over the two days, with most attendees from the local region, Calgary, Edmonton, and the Lower Mainland. In addition, there were 255 participants from the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). SCA members came from as far as Regina in the east and Seattle in the south.

Abraham says that the venue – Sun Lodge Farms, just off Hot Springs Road – worked very well and the festival will be held there again next year. However, it will be scheduled for the weekend before the August long weekend so as not to conflict with other events in town.

“It will spread the wealth a bit more that way,” he said. “It’s primarily an economic development project for the region, so we want to maximize that if we can.”

Indeed, this event was born from Abraham’s desire for an economic generator in Nakusp akin to the former Nakusp Music Festival. “I came up with the idea of a medieval festival because there are so many artisans and handcrafted products in the region. I thought a medieval festival would be well received and would give them an opportunity to showcase their wares,” said Abraham.

In the medieval village on the festival grounds, there were both local area artisans and SCA members selling their handcrafted wares, including knives, baskets, bows and arrows, furniture, woodworking, clothing, jewellery, and pottery and horn drinking vessels.

Food vendors were also locals and SCA members, who did their best to serve up authentic dishes – sausages on a stick, turkey legs, and roast beef on a bun.

Meanwhile, SCA members engaged in battles, equestrian demos, archery tournaments and other medieval activities on the field. They were also available to teach festival attendees how to shoot a bow and use a sword.

Abraham reports that the SCA participants loved Nakusp. “They want to come back in much greater numbers next year,” he said. Ninety-nine percent of them had never heard of Nakusp, so it was a great opportunity to introduce the area to lots of new people.” The SCA is a very large organization, with over 30,000 members worldwide.

Abraham is not an SCA member, but explains that he contacted the organization with his idea for a festival in Nakusp because they’re the experts when it comes to all things medieval.

The SCA get enthusiastically behind the Nakusp event, and worked with the local society to create the festival. Abraham added that while they were in town, some SCA members went to Halcyon Home to visit the residents there, and said he was quite pleased to see them engaging with the community.

Medieval festivals like the one in Nakusp, co-hosted by the SCA and a local organization, are very popular in Europe and the US, but there aren’t many in Canada. The next closest one is in Brooks, Alberta. The SCA holds many of its own events on a regular basis.

Abraham extends “a massive thanks” to the 58 volunteers and everyone else who helped ensure the success of the event. The festival was supported by local sponsors, CBT, and the provincial Job Creation Partnership Program.
Meet the South Okanagan-West Kootenay candidates

The longest federal election campaign in modern history has begun, with the election scheduled for October 19. The South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding is a re-drawn version of the current BC Southern Interior riding. The communities in the new riding are: Nakusp, Area K (Arrow Lakes), New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and Area H (Slocan Valley), the City of Castlegar and Area A and J, the entire Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (Trail, Rossland, Warfield, Montrose, Fruitvale, Midway, Greenwood, Grand Forks and Chancellor Areas), Osoyoos, Oliver, and Penticton.

Brian Gray, Independent

Brian Gray was born in BC and has lived in Penticton for 13 years. He is 66 years old and retired. Gray says the main purpose of his campaign is to offer Canadians an alternative to the bankrupt City of London/Will Street banking empire and the desperate British/US NATO axis' unjustified and unwarranted war drive against Russia and China. "It is critical that Canada abandon this dying system and align with the BRICS nations' New Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for global peace through global development," he says. Gray outlines seven policies that are integral to achieving these goals in his campaign brochure. The first is to restore the ‘4 Pillars’ banking regulations, which the country’s banks operated under until 1987, and served to separate commercial, investment, trust and insurance banking transactions. The second is to charter the National Bank of Canada to allow for public credit to re- activate commercial banks and directly fund large-scale development projects for infrastructure and science. The third is to develop the Canadian Arctic, which should be done according to Denmark's North Order – by promoting a multi-national strategy coordinated with partner nations Russia, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and the US for high technological and sustainable development. The fourth and fifth policies are to revitalize the nuclear industry and the space program. The sixth is to withdraw the Canadian military from NATO and join BRICS (the association of five emerging natural economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). Finally, the budget of the British monarchy must be eliminated. "The incredible accumulation of wealth in wages as taxpayers foolishly pay to maintain our country's status as a British colony," he says.

The Committee for the Republic of Canada (CRC) strongly endorses this campaign policy, which is posted at canadaspartypolitics.com. More information: www.facebook.com/BrianGray2015

Connie Denisuk, Liberal

I have been a strong voice for my constituents at the local, provincial and national levels while serving as school trustee, board chair of Okanagan Skaha School District, president of the BC School Trustees Association, and director for the Canadian School Board Association.

On reflection, one common thread in my personal and professional life has been around a collaborative commitment to positive change. I have been fortunate to have served on the boards of the Okanagan College Board of Governors, Summerland Credit Union, and Summerland Chamber of Commerce, and my talents are around bringing people with disparate views and agendas together for positive change. My husband Bob and I operate a construction business that has served the South Okanagan since 1980. Our lives are enriched by four children and three delightful grandchildren.

During the past 14 months, I have focused my attention on hearing concerns and ideas from people throughout the South Okanagan-West Kootenay. Three reporting themes are:

- The economy: We are experiencing a made-in-Canada recession, which affects everything from job creation to funds available to improve the lives of Canadians.
- The environment: Instead of being world leaders, Canada has become a shameful example of regressive policies and inaction.
- Democracy: Has been short-circuited throughout the Harper decade. Our bills, election fraud, and rural legislation have contributed to weakening the voice of Canadians. Mr. Harper has wreaked havoc on institutions and groups like the CRC, veterans of the Supreme Court, and the Senate.

It is time to get Canada back on track!

The federal Liberals have a practical plan to strengthen the economy. Those who have the greatest need will benefit from tax breaks and the Canada Child Benefit, and those who need it least will get less.

Justin Trudeau has deep roots within this riding and is committed to immediately meet with premiers to develop robust environmental protection measures.

This election is about our future. Justin Trudeau and the federal Liberal party have the plan and the team to make a real, positive difference for all Canadians.

Richard Cannings, NDP

I am a biologist and author; I live in our house I grew up in just outside Penticton and I am proud to call this my home. I am married to Maria, my wife and I have our own consulting company. I have also worked as a member of BC Environmental Appeal Board and BC Forest Appeals Commission, travelling around the province to hear appeals from citizens who felt they had been wronged by government bureaucracy. At the national level, I served as chair of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada for eight years, and sat on the board of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. I’ve written a dozen books on the ecology and natural history of British Columbia.

And now I’ve put my name forward as the NDP candidate for South Okanagan-West Kootenay. I believe this is the most important federal election of our lifetime, and while there are many important issues at stake, they can be distilled down to three main topics: the economy, the environment, and democracy.

As an ecologist, I am deeply concerned about how the Harper government has gutted environmental legislation, misguided scientists, and taken no action on climate change. Tom Mulcair has said that one of the first things he will do as a prime minister is go to the Paris climate summit with Canada’s new plan to tackle climate change. The NDP climate plan will create good jobs in the renewable energy sector while protecting the environment and significantly reducing our carbon footprint.

Canada’s economy continues to falter. The Harper Conservatives have tabled a long series of deficit budgets, all of which are continuing to give tax breaks to wealthy corporations. The NDP have a plan to kick-start the economy by supporting middle-class families through affordable childcare and reducing the tax on small businesses.

Finally, the NDP will repair Canada’s democracy by repealing Harper’s unnecessary and dangerous Bill C-51, abolishing the senate, and bringing in a proportional representation system.

I am proud to be part of Tom Mulcair’s NDP team. With your support, we can bring much-needed change to Ottawa and build a fiscally, Greener, more progressive government in Ottawa.

Marshall Neufeld, Conservative

My desire is to serve the people of South Okanagan-West Kootenay and the people of Canada. Service has always been important to me. My first career was in health care before Stockwell Day asked me to become his assistant on Parliament Hill in 2000.

Throughout my time working with Stockwell, I saw firsthand how an effective MP can help their constituents – whether helping an individual who has become frustrated working through government bureaucracy; advocating for the funding of worthy local projects; or making sure that legislation under consideration remains in line with the wishes of your constituents. Stockwell set an example I intend to follow in parliament as your representative.

I left Ottawa in 2008 and have been a realtor in Penticton for the last seven years.

Three of my priorities if elected include:

Jobs and the economy – Under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Canada has weathered economic instability with our Conservative plan of low taxes, a balanced budget, economic growth, and benefits provided directly to families. Now more than ever we must continue with our low tax plan.

Keeping Canadians safe at home and abroad – The Conservative party understands the threat that jihadists pose to Canada. This is why under Prime Minister Harper’s leadership, Canada is participating with our Allies in the international coalition against ISIS. We cannot ignore this threat. Thomas Mulcair wasn’t even asked to justify terrorism what it is. If you can’t call jihad terrorism what is it, you can’t be trusted to keep Canadians safe from it.

Standing up for lawful gun owners and against any attempt to bring back the wasteful and ineffective long gun registry – In the words of Thomas Mulcair, the NDP “will bring in something that allows the police to track every gun in Canada.” The Conservative government introduced the Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act that reduces needless red tape while increasing safety measures because the reality is that criminals do not register their firearms or acquire them legally. Thomas Mulcair forced his entire caucus to vote against the Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act.
Meet the Kootenay-Columbia candidates

Christina Yahni, Libertarian

I am a small business owner, a pharmacist, and the founder and director of The Queen Bee Programs. I am using my knowledge of beekeeping methods of the Kootenay Mountains of Canada for seven years and have been a resident for 13 years. With 14 years of small-scale farming and gardening experience, I have gained a deep passion for local and sustainable food systems. A large part of food security involves around policies that grow power to small and medium producers. Current regulatory processes have suppressed this important aspect of our food system and I believe we need to empower local food production.

I am a home-schooling mother of two with a strong philosophy in protecting the liberty of parents to make decisions about education and health care for their children.

I have sat on the board of directors for local environmental organizations, a member of beekeeping associations, and a very active public speaker for my honeybee advocacy work.

I desire to bring a true representation topolitics for my constituents through protecting individual liberty.

My top election issues are:

Non-interventional foreign policy - I am deeply concerned with our country’s role in aggressive foreign involvement over the last decade. This type of involvement in other countries’ conflicts has shown to increase violence towards the ocean. This gives way for justification on passing legislation such as Bill C-51, which strips privacy for Canadians at a false sense of security.

Ending corporate welfare - Policy should not benefit large corporations over small businesses and entrepreneurs. This is damaging to our economy and the importance of businesses for the community.

Respecting sovereignty for all First Nations - In our community specifically, I want it to be recognized that the First Nations is not extinct but rather a flourishing culture.

Environmental health is a reflection of a sustainable and functional society in almost every aspect. Through local and international benefits of our lands and economies, the delicate balance can be optimized by the people who are directly affected by management decisions.

David Wilks, Conservative

I grew up in the Kootenay and graduated from UVic in British Columbia. I have lived in Nelson, B.C. for many years. I am a grain grower and I believe in a fair and democratic system of taxing carbon emissions where companies and individuals who use more carbon pay more. The Green Party will reduce income taxes to ensure no net increase in taxes, and will offset the impacts of a carbon tax on low-income individuals and families through refundable tax credits.

Wanted to buy: Cedar and Pine poles

Brian Major

Please contact Gormans Pole Division

250-547-5296
Advertising in the Federal Election

Once again, we have a federal election, and once again I am and I expect to get an uncorrelated amount of energy into covering it. With the election comes a barrage of advertising on television and radio.

I have never approved of advertising on our public airwaves. I’ve always thought that it should be in the pages of privately held newspapers and magazines where readers have a choice to read or not read the page.

With the election comes advertising spending restrictions and the parties look for bang for their buck. Invariably that means television. Your local community newspaper might get a few ads for all candidates’ meetings, but the candidates themselves will probably spend very little promoting themselves in the pages of the Valley Voice. Sad, but true.

However, under the Fair Elections Act, we’ve discovered that anyone, rich or poor, is entitled to spend up to $500 in advertising either preorning a particular candidate, or encouraging people to vote against a particular candidate.

We want to the trouble of researching this, because we were concerned that one of our regular advertisers on the Kaslo page might be contravening the law, now that the election writ has been dropped. We are relieved to report the Hoofprint Graphics advertising campaign will be able to continue.

However, remember, if you want full page in our October 7 edition, you’ll have to register with Elections Canada.

This got us thinking, down here at the Valley Voice, that we should perhaps promote this to our other readers. We could put together quite a little package, since we’ve got four editions between now and the election.

We can run your partisan political message as a classified ad for as little as $8 + GST per edition. We could put together a series of 1/8 page ads for $40 + GST.

So if you want the West Kootenay to know that you support Marshall Neufeld because he’s got a button, or that you don’t think that Wayne Stetski is qualified to run a popsicle stand, let alone the country, this is your chance. Buy advertising early. Buy it often.

Dan Nicholson, Publisher

Closing off multi-use trail in Nakusp

With regards to the dirt bikes on the multi-use bypass trail around Nakusp, I am disappointed the best option that the Village of Nakusp could apply is the placing of multiple barricades and putting up signs saying ‘No motorized vehicles.’

Instead of dealing with the few miscreants who ignore the fact they are on a public trail, the Village has taken the easy way out and decided to punish the rest of us. Those in wheelchairs and scooters, those with mobility issues, those with small children, those pushing buggies and those who ride horses are all being discriminated against. Basically, only those able-bodied who are capable of negotiating this obstacle course are able to get through (oh, and also the dirt bikes, as they are able to jump and climb over the barricades). This trail is a dedicated multi-use trail, according to Nakusp Chamber of Commerce publications on the Nakusp to Roseberry Railway Trail and the Wrap Around Nakusp Trail. These publications are posted on the Chamber and Trails Society websites.

As proven many times before, the Village of Nakusp seems to do what they want, when they want, how they want.

Lynda Costey
Nakusp

Look for what you believe in

Don’t live in fear of this federal election giving us the same old government?

Kaslo’s Don Baker recently won the Canadian Medical Association’s Medal of Honour for her work on a major world health issue: water! She credits her achievement to her teenage son: “Don’t look for what you are against, look for what you believe in!”

I ask you, how many times in the past have you voted in protest? Were you successful, or did you just get more of the same kind of government, not addressing real and important issues?

If such prestigious recognition as the CMAs’ Medal of Honour for Water can be achieved by believing, so can we achieve the desired changes we believe in and vote for!

Most things build slowly until there is a paradigm shift, and belief becomes reality.

My belief is very much demonstrated in the growing Green Party. Who better demonstrates striving for common beliefs than MP Elizabeth May with her exceptional parliamentary work?

Don’t live in the shadow of fear: believe in your own positive values!

Erie Faulks
Custer

Consider supporting Richard Cannings

On October 19, Canadians will choose whether to re-elect an anti-democratic government with a “dead in the sand” approach to climate change and “loadmouthing” and ignorant policies on international affairs, crime prevention, science, and just about anything else I can think of. For over fourteen years, we have endured automatic and often foolish policy support by less than 40 percent of our electorate.

All opposition parties are committed to reforming our electoral laws, so that in future, Parliament may reflect more accurately the diversity of opinion and talents that most of us recognize and value.

This year, it makes sense to vote for change, and make our votes count.

On August 18, I had the chance to meet Richard Cannings, NDP candidate for Parliament in the new South Okanagan - West Kootenay riding. I was very impressed. Dick is well known to naturalists in BC and across Canada as one of our greatest bird experts. His knowledge of environmental issues is much wider, and he has earned respect from distinguished scientists, and people throughout the community including the business world. He has served on countless local, provincial, and national environmental issues, including as a board member of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

If you value a clean, diverse, and sustainable natural environment, I urge you to consider supporting Richard Cannings. He is a good listener, obviously committed to representing the West Kootenays, Boundary, as well as the South Okanagan. I am convinced that he can make a great MP if enough of us get out and vote for him.

Tom Perry
New Denver and Vancouver

Remember wolves

Remember wolves... as their tortured bodies lay writhing on the ground in the last hours or minutes of dying, shot at with high powered assault rifles out of helicopters, caught in painful steel leg hold traps, reproductive organs ripped out, poisoned with strychnine, hung by their necks caught in snares and conibear traps, their dead bodies taken into agencies to be traded for contest money, mearing mothers and babies ripped to shreds by bullets as they were resting in their own dens, as they lay resting in their own dens, as they lay resting in their own dens, as they lay resting in their own dens, as they lay resting in their own dens.}

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infections. Remember our wolves because they are tormented to death by our hands, psychopathic and sadistic human hands. Our sacred earth is under attack every minute. Every day, there are many, many more indestructible bunalitudes that we humans inflict on our sacred earth. It can be convoluted not to think anymore about any of it, including the bestiality of our lost wolves and all creatures like them that does not help wolves and it certainly will not help you. As we speak, an all-out genocidal Armageddon is being waged against our wolves, the most peaceful, loving, talian, highly intelligent, noble, beautiful peoples. To wolves, family is everything. Wolves keep nature alive and healthy. Wolves are the keystone species. Without wolves, nature begins to die rapidly. Maybe you don’t care about nature, maybe you don’t care that your children will grow up without ever seeing or experiencing nature in the way it was created to be... but maybe you do. You are one the I want to appeal to. Donors and individual donors, if you care that your children will grow up on a livable planet, then speak and act in defense of our wolves because wolves are nature. Wolves were created by Mother Nature to keep nature in balance and to ensure that this fragile and precious ecologic will continue for ours and continues to provide every living being with all that they need to thrive. Yet humans in their inanity are touting to death the very creatures they need to survive... this land is gushing with the blood of wolves. What humanity has done to our wolves is tantamount to death every minute. Please people, stand up and speak, act in defense of wolves and all our sacred relations in Mother Nature.

There are so-called environmental groups in the West and East Kootenays that are colluding with the government to ensure that subsistence killing of wolves continues. These groups say they are wolves, they betray them, they betray our children, they betray our future, they betray our homes and our lands.

Catherine Church Nakup

Response to Anne Woods

In your last issue, Anne Woods wondered what the Rosebush to Summit Lake Trail committee was thinking by accommodating local motorized users. I can’t speak for the committee but the proposal, ratified by a healthy majority, seemed to reflect a sincere respect for traditional local users, respect for nature and age, who have opposing points of view. The proposal reflects a maturation in thinking. The old way of thinking wherein the majority gets its way will on the defeated minority was not evident. Rather than a winner take all mentality, a more balanced, reasonable approach was taken. It was analogous to the proportional representation voting system in which the votes of the minority would be given weight. In the case of the trail extension, the wishes of the minority (motorized) would be considered.

Kevin Murphy

Smart meter protection racket

Of course there will be misuse and minor conflicts; intercession and disrespect are basic to some human personalities but it is laughable that the lack of respect did not come from the consultant. Although the majority probably prefer non-motorized use, the hope is that, with careful management, limited multi-use can be successful. It will take reasonableness and responsibility from all sides.

Kevin Murphy

New Denver

Smart meter protection racket

A citizen’s protest is underway against smart meters.

Evidence of smart meters catching fire, causing health problems and invading privacy is public. Electrical energy utilities dismiss such evidence and assert there is no cause for alarm and in any event the technology serves a common good. Government at all levels are ambivalent. Insurance companies are mute.

I have decided to err on the side of caution and to keep my old meter. It records electrical consumption with the same accuracy as a smart meter. It has never caught fire and gives me no health concerns. It cannot invade my privacy.

However to keep my old meter I have to pay more for power consumption than my neighbour who has a smart meter. I live on pension. I will be paying about $100 more a year out of my fixed income because I want to avoid the risk of a smart meter causing harm. When the maila sends out things to small businesses and says to the owner if you pay enough money, we will not break your window or your leg, that is called a protection racket and it is illegal.

To stay safe, I am compelled to send about $100 a year of my retirement income to a rich faceless owner of an electrical utility so its device won’t harm me.

Sounds like a protection racket to me.

I leave it to the slick Fortis and government PR types to explain the difference.

Don Currie Sloan

Smart meter defiance

Or ‘(user) bias’ given that one of the main problems with the new smart meter is often outrageously high billing or – get this – a $4,500 bill for a house that got burned down. (How is it that the ‘oh so smart’ new meter failed to recognize that said house wasn’t receiving any power at all for all those months?)

Ah, the global grid smart meter roll out ‘disaster’ is exposed enough now to imitate ‘wins.’ Last month for example, a California court ordered an end to a pilot program in which an elevated residential plan to turn power back on with analogue meter kept. You will argue correctly that it was a municipal utility (or could have been a cooperative electrical utility not regulated by the State) from which said resident received power. And that would suggest the necessity that any meter should have some collective weight behind its lady of power.

Kevin Murphy

New Denver

Imagining a fossil fuel-free future

Fossil fuels have been such a huge part of our lives for so long that it can be difficult to imagine a Canada without them.Perhaps one way is to picture what it would not look like.

Picture our coastlines free from the threat of oil spills; our landscape unmarred by leaky pipelines; northern lands left unperturbed by the ravages of fracked-including earthquakes; indigenous peoples free from pledging off corporations seeking to exploit their lands; and farmers free from the same; our cities free of choking pollution; picture Canada without the real and symbolic stain that is the tar sands.

Of course, climate change trumps all the other fossil-fuel-burning consequences that have long beleaguered Canadian society. But, if we are able to successfully enter a new clean-energy economy, it is important to remember that it is we who will all gladly be leaving behind.

Paul and Dona Grace-Campbell

Kensal

Motorcycle petition defaced

A legitimate petition on our Hills notice board was defaced and scribbled over with obscenities covering people’s signatures. The petition simply asks for government enforcement of existing regulations under the Motor Vehicle Act to do with speed limits and noisier regulations for motorcycles. For those living near the highway, the noise can be nerve-shattering. If the vaudals actually read the petition, they would have seen there is nothing threatening in it that requires this sort of knee-jerk reaction. It is childish to deface others’ good-faith efforts. If you don’t agree, don’t sign—or start your own petition to get support for your point of view.

Lorna Visser Hills

2015 Hills Garlic Festival

September 13, 10 am-5 pm
Centennial Park – New Denver
Garlic – Produce – Crafts – Food
Live entertainment by Mountain Station, Gabriel Palatchi Trio, Flydini the Magician
** Enter the Garlic Poetry Contest **

Admission: $4.00
No charge for children 12 & under
Advance tickets: $3.00 at Friday Market starting August 28 – Get them early – limited supply

* Use the Shuttle Bus to/from the Vashalla Inn
* Very few or no more passengers get 1 free entry at the gate

Remember: No dogs please!

www.hillsgarlicfest.ca
Silverton joins WaterSmart Lawn Flag Program

by Jan McMurray

- Silverton will implement CBT’s WaterSmart Lawn Flag program, which has proven to be very successful in other Basin communities.
- Yellow flags are placed on the front lawns of homes observed to be watering outside the regulated times. The lawn flags carry a message about Silverton’s watering regulations and a website address for more information. Other communities that will implement this program this year are Kadro, Nelson, Fruitvale, Revelstoke and Golden.
- Councillor Christiaan’s idea to encourage composting among Silverton residents was given the go-ahead. The program will get underway in the fall, when the Village will purchase 20 bokashi compost kits from a local supplier, and make them available to residents on a first come first served basis. The Village will be providing information about the opportunity and the bokashi kits in the coming weeks.
- Repair of the tennis courts will move forward, with a committee of interested local residents taking a lead on the project. Mayor Clarke will appoint the committee members, who will be asked to develop a work plan for council approval. Council has put aside $15,000 of gas tax funding to repair the court’s foundation and to resurface.
- Council agreed to provide a letter of support to the Red Mountain Internet Society (RMSI). The society is applying for a $50,000 grant from the Federal Government to support the Connecting British Columbia funding program, which is administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust.
- The matching funding program helps to pay for infrastructure for high-speed internet service in rural and remote BC communities. The matching funding program helps to pay for infrastructure for high-speed internet service in rural and remote BC communities.
- Hilary Elliott was hired as the Village’s new Administrative Assistant.

SLOCAN VALLEY

The Father of Canadian Karate commemorated in New Denver

by Jan McMurray

A karate clinic in commemoration of a highly esteemed karate teacher was held at the Kohan Garden in New Denver on August 8. O Sensei Tsurumaki, known as the Father of Canadian Karate, was instilled in New Denver as a youth. He had always wanted to return to New Denver, but never did. Tsurumaki died at 85 years old last October.

"O Sensei Tsurumaki was unable to return to New Denver, so we are doing it for him," said Sensei Scott Hutchison from the Revitalizing Rosebud Trail Chito-Ryu Karate Dojo. Hutchison made arrangements for the commemorative karate clinic attended by Sensei Scott, Sensei Kato, Sensei Slade, Castlegar and Fruitvale. One of the participants was MP Alan Adammnsen, who has been practicing karate since 1974.

This was one of several memorial events that have been held for the founder of karate in Canada.

Safety Review authorized for Smokey Creek dam

by Jan McMurray

Phase one of a Dam Safety Review is in progress for the Smokey Creek dam, which is part of the infrastructure for South Slocan’s water system.

The dam was classified as “high consequence” by the Province in 2010 because there are at least two residential properties that are situated very close to the creek downstream of the dam. According to provincial regulations, Dam Safety Reviews are required for “high consequence” dams.

Phase one will focus on a classification review for the dam. Area H Director Walter Popoff wants the Province to re-classify the dam to a lower rating. “It’s a very small amount of water behind that dam, and it would probably dissipate before reaching the homes,” he said. “A little common sense has to apply when they request Dam Safety Reviews that are going to cost a lot of money.”

The RDCK board awarded the contract for phase one of the review to Kent Wood Leadall Consulting Engineers for a cost not to exceed $2,000.

"It is the hope that this classification review, because of the small size of the dam and particularly the small volume of water contained behind the dam, results in reduction to a ‘significant rating,’" said Uli Wolf, RDCK General Manager of Environmental Services, in a written report.

He explains that a ‘significant’ classification would eliminate the need for a full Dam Safety Review and would substantially reduce the monitoring requirements, currently once a week. If, however, the classification remains ‘high consequence,’ the full review will have to be done and that may require borrowing.

The Smokey Creek dam is made of concrete, and is about 6.5 metres high. It is more than 50 years old. Smokey Creek is South Slocan’s secondary source of water.

Because of other dams like the one in Oliver that broke and caused a floodsite in 2010, the Province is going to review every scenario, said Area H Director Walter Popoff. "They are going by the book, but the book can be rewritten.

Slocom community hall gets new improved kitchen

by Jan McMurray

The kitchen in Slocan’s community hall is being renovated, and the Legion is looking for another $15,000 to finish the project.

“We’re trying to keep the hall preserved and functional for the whole community,” said Pat Ashton, Legion president. “Although the Legion is spearheading the project in partnership with the Women’s Institute, the hall is for the use of the whole community. We really appreciate the fantastic support the community has shown for the renovation project.”

The kitchen has been expanded – from about 144 square feet to about 244 square feet – and has been redesigned to be more functional. Energy efficient lighting and a new dishwasher have been installed.

Ashton says they need another $15,000 to purchase and install a commercial stove/oven, a two-door cooler, and more cabinetry, and to put in the exhaust and fire suppression system.

When finished, the kitchen will be certified as a full commercial kitchen. This will make the hall more attractive to renters. Also, people who would like to produce food to sell commercially will be able to rent the facility.

Ashton reports that the cost of this project is about $85,000. Funding has come from CBT’s Community Initiatives Program from both Slocan and Area H, CBT’s Community Development Program, the Legion’s fundraising efforts, and donations from local businesses and individuals. There has also been about $7,000 worth of in-kind donations.

We are extremely grateful for all the contributions,” said Ashton. “The community is really behind the project – doing a renovation like this can only be accomplished with the help of the whole community and the Village council.”

The Legion’s pig roast, St. Paddy’s Vegan Night and booth at Giltie Fest are the organization’s three biggest events, and all proceeds go directly into the hall renovation fund, Ashton said.

“The renovations don’t stop here – after this, we’ll need a new roof, new insulation, and the list goes on.”
Make 2015 the Year of the Cat(amaran): Sailing classes at Slocan Beach

submitted by Captain Dave Sizemore, catarman sailor for 37 years

A summer sailing camp will be held on the beach at Slocan for 12-15 year olds August 25-28. To generate some interest, here's some info on the four classes of sailboats in this world.

Keel boats are one such style and they have – you guessed it – a keel. The keel is the centreboard that keeps the boat going in the direction you want it to, but also allows it to stay upright when the winds are strong enough to blow the boat over. You'll see many of these keel boat at Ballon, the marina at 12 Mile and in front of the Prestige hotel. They all have one or two sails and multiple people to propel these heavy boats across the water.

Then there are smaller versions of these that junior sailors usually get to try at summer camp. These are dinghy boats which hold up to three people. They are small (12-17 feet in length)

Housing Society submits

Former Slocan councillor and RDCK vice-chair Hillary Elliott has been selected by the Slocan Valley Society Housing Society as its start-up coordinator.

She will plan an overall campaign for raising roughly $300,000 in funds, materials, services and other contributions needed to generate interest and for the proposed seniors' affordable rental housing project in Slocan. She will identify stakeholders, including governments, foundations, private businesses, service groups and other sectors that are likely to provide resources.

"Our need and demand" study shows that with only 20 units of affordable rental housing for seniors in the Slocan Valley, we need more housing, now and in the future," said VSHE's president Rita Moe. "So we are very pleased to bring Hillary Elliott – with her skills, experience, connections and verve – on board to move it forward."

"I am very excited to be working with the society, helping them build another great project for seniors' housing within the Slocan Valley community," said Elliott.

Besides her work on the Slocan village council, RDCK and Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government executive, Elliott served six years on the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, was a member of the Regional Innovation Chair and Development Institute advisory committee, and served as a committee member with groups such as the Kootenay Boundary Hospital Board.

The housing society thanks the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society for its support with this phase of the project.

For more information on the project, contact Elliott at vshe2017@yahoo.ca.

Google or YouTube America's Cup 2013 and you will be dazzled at the speed and agility of these super cats.

What you will see on Kootenay Lake, Slocan Lake and the West Arm are beach cats like Hobie Cat, Sol Cats and Sea Sprays, now found worldwide. They were first designed and built in California where beaches and coves abound, and are perfect for powering along at speed.

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The fundraising committee of the Slocan Valley Seniors' Housing Society welcomes Hillary Elliott (center) of Slocan on her newly hired start-up coordinator. (l-r: Ann Haynes, Sally Musickon, Hillary Elliott, Rita Moe, Paul Wilman)

The Grand Opening

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The fundraising committee of the Slocan Valley Seniors’ Housing Society welcomes Hillary Elliott (center) of Slocan on her newly hired start-up coordinator. (l-r: Ann Haynes, Sally Musickon, Hillary Elliott, Rita Moe, Paul Wilman)

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Herbal Musings
with Colleen Emery

Seasonal changes and vital immunity

Now that we are past the halfway mark of summer, the chill has crept back into our nights and the light is slowly narrowing. Not only do these signs motivate us to make sure our wood is in and our pantries are stocked, these small changes in our environment mark an opportunity to prepare our immune systems for colder, darker times ahead.

Summer is a glorious time of unstructured play for our children, fresh food from our gardens and forests, get-togethers with friends and family and, hopefully, a holiday from the normal routine of life. It’s easy to passively build vitality in the summer months. However, soon the children will return to school and we to our regular routines at the time when the colder weather returns.

Now is the optimal time to think preventatively and start working with certain foods, herbs and lifestyle choices to build immune system strength to be prepared for the coming changes as well as the cold and flu season. Think of the next four to six weeks as a training program, much like you would take on if you were going to run in a road race. You wouldn’t likely show up on race day without a proper conditioning program to prepare yourself. ‘Showing up’ for cold and flu season without proper preparation can, and most likely will, yield negative outcomes.

Simply put, the best time to build health is when one is healthy.

Five strategies to build vitality for the summer to autumn seasonal changes:

• Raw vs cooked: In the hot months of summer it’s very important to eat foods and drink beverages that cool the body. However when the colder nights set in it’s important to bring back some warmer foods to make sure that the internal furnace of digestive fire is stoked. Remember that we embody our natural environment. So, when the nights are cooler and damper we stand the chance of having these symptoms arise in our body systems as well. The common cold and chesty, phlegmy coughs can be signs of this.

• Rest: Take the time to appropriately rest and get enough quality sleep. If you can, let your natural biohythmic time into the changes of light. Go to bed when the sun does and awake as the sun rises.

• Drink a mug of bone broth daily: A properly prepared bone broth provides an array of minerals, micro-minerals and nutrients that function as the building blocks of a healthy immune and digestive system. Drink a cup when you wake up or in the late summer morning. Don’t have time to make your own? Look for Wild Peach Preserves and Soup Du Jour’s bone broth in the freezer section of your local health food store.

• Utilize tonic herbs: Certain herbs provide the action of building tonic energy and vitality, strengthening the immune system and overall foundational health. The herbs to include when you are well, to continue to stay well include melissa and chaga mushroom, astragalus root, elderberry and many more.

• Vitamin D: How has your exposure to the sun been since May? We can obtain good levels of Vitamin D from the sun from May to about the end of September in our region. Remember, to get enough from the sun, you need to sunbathe for at least half an hour per day, every day, during this time, without any sunscreen or sunblock.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay is inviting tenders for the Passmore Fire Hall Extension and Refurbishment Project. Work generally consists of exterior finishing and the addition of a new vehicle storage bay.

Documents will be available for viewing after 4:00 pm, Friday, August 14, 2015 at the RDCK’s office or www.rdck.ca.

A mandatory site visit is scheduled at the Passmore Fire Hall located at 3725 Highway 6 at 10:00 am, Wednesday, August 19, 2015.

Tenders will be accepted by the undersigned until 2:00 pm, Friday, August 28, 2015.

Jeff Phillips
Project Manager
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive
Nelson, BC V1L 5R4
PH: 250-352-1522 / 1-800-268-7325
Email: jophillips@rdck.bc.ca
Baby toads are on the move at Fish Lake

Western toads are in the limelight, taking centre stage at Toadfest on August 12 at Summer Lake Provincial Park. To learn more about this threatened species at risk in our region, a new western toad research project was initiated this spring at Fish Lake, located along Highway 31A between Kaslo and New Denver. The Fish Lake project is drawing from the lessons learned at Summer Lake.

Dr. Sue May, biologists Wayne McCroty and Macey Mahr, with the advice of amphibian expert Jakob Dutille, have been documenting the habits of adult and juvenile toads in the area around Fish Lake to learn more about this population and the hazards they face during their annual migrations during breeding season. “For years my grandchildren and I have enjoyed bear-watching in the Fish and Bear Lakes area,” said McCroty. “But there were times when we would witness the mass migrations of baby toads and their consequent slaughter while crossing the highway near the rest stop at Fish Lake. Last year I decided enough was enough and started recording up on all that was known about toads and their extensive migrations at Summer Lake. Thankfully, the Valhalla Wilderness Society got a small grant from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Fund to do the initial study at Fish Lake.”

McCroty and Mahr spent many late nights earlier this summer documenting adult toad movement across the highway between their forest habitat and breeding zone in Fish Lake. They found three major breeding locations: one near the rest area, another mid-way along the north lakeshore, and a third one at the west end. “Observing the toads during this part of their lifecycle was exciting because unlike the proverbial chicken, we know why western toads cross the road. It is clearly to get to the other side,” said Mahr. “The harder task for me was going back the next morning to see how many toads had been killed on the road, especially knowing each female killed on the highway was carrying up to 17,000 eggs.”

To help raise awareness of the toads at Fish Lake and facilitate future migration measures, the Valhalla Wilderness Society has partnered with the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The first step has been to install a large permanent information sign at the rest stop. Local property owners and managers of the “Wagon Trail” will also be consulted. “We would like local residents and visiting travelers to know that during this time of year (usually after a rainstorm) there could be tens of thousands of toadlets migrating across the highway. Once across the road, they move into the bush and along old roads and recreation trails where ATVs and hikers can impact migrating toadlets. We are currently working on different options to mitigate people’s impacts. The toads are a listed species at risk in need of protection,” McCroty said.

Nakusp, Rosebery and Slocan transfer station upgrades

by Jan McMurray

The RDCK board is having a second look at plans for upgrades to the Nakusp, Rosebery and Slocan transfer stations.

Costs have skyrocketed since the original estimates were made for the project in the 2010 Regional Recovery Plan. The 2010 Recovery Plan put the total cost of the upgrades at $1,118,800. Today, RDCK staff has revised those costs to between $2,759,000 and $4,125,000.

The plan is to install Transfer bins, which have recently been installed at Kaslo and are currently being installed at Balfour. These bins result in a huge improvement in hauling efficiency. They remain fixed on site and tilt to dump their contents into a compaction truck, which can take five bins full of garbage on a single route.

Currently, there are roll-off bins at Nakusp, Rosebery and Slocan, and the truck can only take one roll-off bin at a time. A report from Mike Morrison, Resource Recovery Manager at the RDCK, says that the long-term financial advantage of installing the Transfer bins may be eliminated because of the high up-front costs. However, he points out that there are many temporary advantages to the Transfer installation, such as lower operating costs and reduced greenhouse gas emissions through hauling efficiency.

However, the board is looking at two other options for the sites. The first is to keep the Nakusp landfill open, add a waste compactor at Rosebery and rebuild the retaining wall at Slocan. This is the least expensive option at $175,000-$200,000.

The second option is to close Nakusp landfill and upgrade the site to a transfer station with the roll-off bin system. This option includes the waste compactor at Rosebery and the retaining wall at Slocan. This option would cost $757,000-$1,100,000, not including the cost of the Nakusp landfill closure.

The next step is an engineering report for the three sites, which will include a conceptual design, geotechnical investigation, topographical survey, and cost estimates. This report will be completed by the end of the year, and will help the RDCK board with its decision on which of the three options to choose. The upgrades at the three sites are scheduled for 2016.

Bamber’s fourth annual show at Studio Connexion Gallery

by Jan McMurray

Sharon Bamber is staying faithful to her Kootenay audience, even though her wildlife soft pastel paintings are getting international attention.

The artist is currently exhibiting her fourth series, ‘On the Wild Side’ at Studio Connexion Gallery from August 12 to 30. Bamber will be in attendance for the opening reception August 14 from 5 to 8 pm.

In this new show, Bamber continues her exploration of emotional bond and kinship with the other creatures of this planet. She has a very different approach from other traditional wildlife artists, preferring “to capture mood and emotional expression to establish a connection to the animal and the special impact it has in that moment.”

Bamber has been invited to share those brief moments that really move her: the moments that declare the importance and significance of nature. Bamber is as passionate about every stroke she makes as she is about wildlife she depicts. She enjoys knowing that because of the paintings with which she works, “every one of those strokes... will be the same in hundreds of years, the same colour, strength and vibrancy as the moment she lays them.

Bamber’s show is on view until the end of August at 209 Fifth Avenue, Nakusp.

Studio Connexion Gallery

Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm or by appointment

209 Fifth Avenue, Nakusp
Kaslo Jazz, Etc. Festival celebrates its 24th year of good vibes and great music

Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne and his band mesmerized the audience with their excellent playing.

The Burn Ins, winners of the "Best New Artist 2015" Kootenay Music Award, took the Jazz Fest uptown on Saturday.

The Kootenay Grains' performance was magical. Melody Daoust, Bo Contain, and Pauline Lamb are in the photo and were on stage with Laura Lamberg, Eilisse Wapp, and Ayn Sherritt.

These two girls were super happy that their auntie, MLA Michelle Mungall, brought them to the Jazz Fest this year.

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Local developers create open source multimedia multi-tool

by Jan McMurray

Three local people have teamed up to create evolutionary open source software called Light Paint HR, and have launched an Indiegogo funding campaign to raise funds to help them continue to develop the software. Light Paint HR is a tool for light painting, VJing and multimedia production, and will be released open source in October 2015.

New Denver residents Michael Honykyn, Mike Savage, and Karlo resident Dustin East make up the Light Paint HR team. Honykyn, a computer programmer, has been working on the project for about five years. It all started when he figured out how to isolate a colour from a live video stream. Then I had a revelation that I could use that isolated colour as a virtual paintbrush to do light painting,” he says.

With Light Paint HR, light painting can be done on a screen or any surface using a projector. The lightbeam can be a person’s body or any light source – such as a flashlight, light bulb, sun or LED bulbs as a few examples.

The Light Paint HR team is also creating custom RGB LED painting tools, one of which is already available via their crowdfunding campaign.

“Over the past few years, we have set up light painting installations at Full Moon dance parties, music festivals and numerous private functions,” says Honykyn. “It is really fun to see people light painting with their bodies, dancing, laughing and playing like kids as they see themselves in a new light. Visuals at events are always a treat, but interactive visuals are even better!”

Light painting is not the only thing that can be done with the software. Honykyn says it can be used for sound recording, screen capturing, stop frame animation, graphic design, live music videos, video and image editing, real time video projection mapping, VJing and much more.

“Light Paint HR started out as a light painting tool and has evolved to become a full-on multimedia production tool that more resembles an infinity machine,” he says.

Light Paint HR is made for Linux, however Mike Savage has created a bootable ‘pen drive’ that will work on PCs (hopefully) that Macs without having to install Linux. This is also available via their crowdfunding campaign.

Indiegogo URL: http://igg.me/at/LPHR/x
Contact Michael and more info at LightPaintHR.com.

Province declares level 3 drought conditions

by Jan McMurray

With weather conditions expected to remain warm and dry, water users in the Lower Columbia, West Kootenay and East Kootenay regions are being urged to reduce water consumption, and the Province has announced a level 3 drought rating for this area.

Level 3 conditions call for voluntary water-use reductions of 30 percent from all municipal, agricultural and industrial users. Staff with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations anticipate that this region could experience significant water supply shortages in 2015.

Ministry staff are closely monitoring river levels and ecosystems, and have upgrade the drought level if the weather continues to have a negative effect on stream flows and water supply.

Although residential, agricultural and industrial users with insignificance and regional districts backed by reservoir storage are less vulnerable to water supply shortages than water users served by smaller water systems from streams, lakes and wells, all are encouraged to observe local conservation bylaws to prolong supplies.

Water users are also encouraged to ensure that tankers are sequenced to prevent fish from being pulled into systems as water levels drop.

Level 4 drought conditions, the highest rating, are determined by factors including regional stream flows, water storage capacity, ecological concerns, weather forecasts and impacts on water users.

New home business in Silverton: Bodacious Bubbles

Silvertown residents Carole Heidema and her daughter were having so much fun making soaps that they’ve decided to open a new home business – Bodacious Bubbles.

“arour products are made with all the best ingredients,” said Carole. “These are 100% handmade soaps that contains no harsh chemicals or additives.”

Bodacious Bubbles is offering bath bombs, bubble bars, cupcake bath bombs, Shea butter drops, sugar scrubs, mechanics scrub, wax melts, and gift baskets. “And there will be more to come,” says Carole. All these soaps, bombs and scrubs are available to purchase at Carole’s home, and they will be available at the Silverton Christmas Craft Fair.

“These beautiful products are such a treat for the community!” Carole says. “They’re good for everyday use, for some great pampering, or for special gift ideas.”

Call Carole at 250-358-2771, email her at bodaciousbubblesbb@gmail.com or drop by 351 Victoria Street in Silverton.
Funding approved for Earl Grey Trail restoration

by Louis Becket

One of the most unique hiking trails in the Kootenays is getting some much needed funding. The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) will receive $80,000 to help facilitate repairs and additions to the Earl Grey Trail – a 61-km connector between the East and West Kootenays that takes five days to complete and has five cable car crossings. Kootenay-Columbia MP David Wilks made the announcement on Thursday, July 30, to a small crowd outside of Kaslo’s historic village hall.

The federal government will provide half of the funding ($40,000), while the rest comes from the Columbia Basin Trust ($20,000), KDCFS Area D ($10,000) and Parks Canada ($10,000).

“I am happy to announce today that the KDCFS will receive $40,000 to go towards the Earl Grey Trail,” said Wilks, adding that the money will go towards “recouting and rebuilding the existing trail.”

KASLO & AREA

The federal funding is provided through the Canada 150 Fund, created to commemorate Canada’s 150th anniversary in 2017.

The trail, which has suffered damage from neglect, floods and forest fires, was last overhauled in 1967 by the Opportunity for Youth program led by Hugh Herbston – a retired Kootenay resident of Argenta – and was also funded by the federal government, that time in commemoration of Canada’s 100th anniversary.

This time around the project will be handled by Chris Webster, chair of the KDCFS, as part of the KDCFS summer youth program.

“We’re really looking forward to making these improvements to the trail,” said Webster. “We’ve found ourselves being a major advocate for improving trails around here and creating youth employment.”

A fact supported by Wilks. “We have to find a way in rural Canada for youth, if they choose, to stay in their communities,” he said, “and for that to happen they need jobs locally.”

The construction, scheduled to start in 2016, will see crews of four youth, aged 17 to 19, and one crew boss tackle jobs like fixing cable cars and building new trail. Also, the original cabin built by Earl Grey for his family to visit Toby Creek will be rebuilt.

“It’s been a tough task,” said KDCFS member John Catton in his introduction. “There have been some forest fires and floods so we need some serious engineering to get it going again.”

Although the trail is currently passable, some sections, especially the cable car crossings, have become quite difficult.

The application for funding was initiated by Argenta resident Carolyn Schramm, this spring, Schramm, Catton and Webster all worked together to make it happen. The trail is the only one that connects the East and West Kootenays. It was first used by First Nations people and then by the early miners before its namesake, Canada’s Governor General from 1904 to 1911, went across it on horseback in 1908 and fell in love with the area.

The west end of the trailhead is located at the north end of Argenta and follows (Sumall) Creek up to the Earl Grey pass summit (2,256m) before following Toby Creek down to the east trailhead, which is located near Panorama Resort.

KDCFS Chair Chris Webster, KDCFS member John Catton, Argenta resident Carolyn Schramm, and Kootenay-Columbia MP David Wilks, who came to Kaslo on July 30 to announce a federal funding contribution to Earl Grey Trail upgrades.

Introducing Kaslo’s new corporal

by Jan McMurtry

Corporal Brian Hromadnik has arrived in Kaslo with his wife, Tanja, and their children, Kailie (9) and Luke (7).

“I had Kaslo on my bucket list for postings for many years and was fortunate to get the position,” said Corporal Hromadnik. “Kaslo is an amazing place! The people are friendly and very approachable.”

Hromadnik comes to Kaslo from Chetwynd in the Peace Liard region.

The Kaslo Trailblazers Society invites you to the Unity Bridge Grand Opening Sunday, August 23rd, 2-4 pm 5th Street & Kaslo River (south side) Goodies and refreshments will be served.

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Motorized vehicles blocked from rail trail in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

The village of Nakusp has recently installed barricades on the rail trail adjacent to the truck route (from the Esso station to Government Hill/Church Hill Road) to stop motorized traffic on this section of the trail.

Mayor Hamling explained that the Village had “no choice” but to block the road after a recent close call—a child walking along the trail with his father had jumped out of the way to avoid being hit by a dirt bike. The decision was made after considering the number of complaints received in the past. It was a point to a where we had to take action,” said Mayor Hamling. “Safety is paramount in the community. With the near misses and the complaints, we had to deal with it.”

Grant funding announced for Nakusp’s water system

by Jan McMurray

The Village of Nakusp will seek funding from the federal and provincial governments to help improve the water distribution system in the Sleepy Hollow area of Glenburn.

MP David Wilks travelled to Nakusp on July 30 to make the funding announcement at the Village office. The cost of the $260,000 project will be split three ways between the Village, the federal government and the provincial government.

The project will see the installation of a pressure-reducing station and the replacement of some water mains. Nakusp’s Works Director of Operations, explained that water pressure in the Nakusp RCMP arrests two residents

by Jan McMurray

Two Nakusp residents were arrested on August 6 for property crime related offenses after a search warrant was executed for a mobile home at 799 9th Ave NW.

The two residents—a 35-year-old male and a 35-year-old female—were held in custody overnight at the Nakusp RCMP detachment and released the next day on several conditions. They are scheduled to appear in Nakusp provincial court on October 20.

Corporal Bundred said the arrests were connected to a Break and Enter and theft under $5,000 that occurred in Nakusp on July 25. He reported that officers found some items associated with other investigations while searching the residence.

The male was released for the offence of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime and Break and Enter. The female was released for the offence of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime.

Nakusp History books: where to find them

submitted

People keep asking members of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society, “Where can I buy the history books? Do you still have copies?”

All of the books are available at the new archives office in Nakusp, located at the back of the Centennial Building, which houses the museum and the library. The ALHS also sells them through the Visitor Centre, at Otter Books in Nelson, and at Crizzy Books and the museum in Revelstoke.

“We have been showing photos in slide shows at the archives—Our Coloured Past and Ishii-100—which will be put onto DVDs in time for the PALS Creative Hands fair at the end of November,” says Rosemarie Parent. “We will sell them at the archives when they are available too.”

Extensive archival material is available to anyone looking for information on businesses or pioneers, and almost 20,000 photos are being digitized in categories for easy retrieval.

“If you haven’t come to see us yet, please do. We would be happy to see you and to help you out with any requests,” Parent says.
New Denver council, July 28: Council considers development of Nikkei Centre garden

by Karine Campbell

• Village staff were directed to work with Hiroy Okusa and Edvard Tenber to explore ways in which the Heiwa Tenmangū Japanese garden at the Nikkei Centre could generate revenue, and to explore options for grant funding to cover associated costs. In 2013, the Village appointed Okusa as the garden consultant to assist with the development of a business plan that would assist in developing the garden. The assistant of Tenber and Myles Berner, Okusa has been monitoring the condition of the garden, performing annual pruning, directing maintenance activities and gathering information required for the creation of a garden management plan. At this stage, the garden consultant requires direction from the Village, in order to ensure that the management plan that is developed meets the needs of the municipality.

If the garden were to be managed according to the current minimum annual cost would be in the $5,000 - $10,000 range, allowing for minor upkeep program and small maintenance/repair projects. This would result in "predictable cumulative annual budgets." By developing the garden, the Village could capitalize on the garden's pedigree to generate profit as the Heiwa Tenmangū Japanese garden become a tourist draw, as outlined in a 2005 report. Significant initial investment would be required, but there is potential for grant funding to offset costs.

CAO Bruce Woodbury noted that the Village would need 40-50 people impact on the garden's main features, and that one of the reasons the garden was built was to attract volunteers.

• Mayor Ann Bunaka said the July 16 meeting of the Regional District of Central Kootenay "was the shortest ever." The board supported a request from Hills for gateway signs to encourage motorists to slow down through the community, but passed a motion to Waste Management for all three areas was approved; regional district chairs will meet with the minister for Multi Materials BC recycling program.

• Councillor Henning von Krogh reported on four health-focused programs, acting in Castlegar, under review for possible use in this area.

• The driver program subcommittees for the cost for volunteers to take people to and from non-emergency medical appointments. gatekeeper participants in the ability to recognize signs and symptoms which may indicate an elderly person is in need of assistance and to identify that person to an agreed upon contact. Better at Home provides, for a fee, services including light housekeeping, minor house repairs, and transportation.

• PRIME (Personal Records in Medical Emergencies) participants are given a folder in which to keep their medical records; the container is kept in the fridge and a sticker on the fridge door notifies first responders the information is available there.

• The draft annual report was approved and adopted. No comments or questions were received from the public.

• A letter from Kelley Wright of Valhalla Pure Outfitters regarding their sponsorship for a trail sign was received for information.

• A letter from Smie O'Donnell asked the Village to consider establishing a speed limit on the highway, 50 km/h on the road and 30 in the Orchard. The Village was directed to look into the feasibility of establishing the speed limit.

Idaho Peak marathon and trail run breaks records

The third annual Idaho Peak Mt Marathon and 10km Trail Run, presented by the Kootenay Sufferfest Society, was a record breaking event. The event attracted 39 runners from across Western Canada for the races held on July 26 in New Denver, the highest number of participants the event has seen.

The event consisted of two races. The Idaho Peak Mt Marathon, which is based in New Denver’s trail network leading to Idaho Peak and back, covers a distance of 46 km over one thousand metres in elevation. Participants in the 10km trail run were shuttled to Three Forks, where they raced down the Idaho Trail to the finish line at Lancer School.

The fastest record time for the Idaho Peak Mt Marathon was set by Bridin from Canmore in a time of 4:07:35, breaking the previous record from 2014 by 8 minutes. Overall, 11 runners were over the finish line.

At the Hidden Garden Gallery

Karen Deahl reports her second art show entitled "Exploring the Unknown" at the Hidden Garden Gallery August 17-22.

There will be something for everyone: acrylics, watercolours, gists, collage, folk art, rock art and maybe some moss art too.

Karen took her first ever painting class in watercolour in 1997. Since then, she has continued to take workshops and classes, and has since been inspired by others painting and drawing in her own style that she hopes to inspire others as well.

"Paining is a meditation, a quiet place and a sanctuary," Karen says. "I love trying new techniques and pushing my own boundaries and boundaries..." hence the title, "Exploring the Unknown." A reception will be held August 20 from 7 to 9 pm featuring music by Fryra, Martineau's Shindig and Noel Fudge.

In her show "Being's and Spirits" to be held at the HOG August 24-29, Elisabeth Bylue, a well established Swedish artist, explores the mystic connection she has always felt with nature.

Elsabeth lives in Varmland, Sweden and makes regular visits to her family in the Slocan Valley, drawing inspiration from the woodlands and the lake.

Community paramedicine program launches in BC Interior

In this show she uses photography, painting, drawing and sculpture to show the ancient, tangible presence in nature of beings and spirits and power. She describes her process as being "like watching a very fascinating theatre play, where different actors suddenly appear on stage, dressing and one another and finally Off Monday to Thursday at 10 am to 3 pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10 am to 3 pm.

The Hidden Garden Gallery, 803 Ridgemont St., New Denver, is open 10 am to 3 pm Monday through Saturday.

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Museums

Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre National Historic Site - NEW RAVEN
(250) 358-7828 306 Josephine Street, New Denver

The Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre is a national historic site that commemorates the experiences of Japanese Canadians interned during World War II. The site features a museum, a historical park, and a memorial garden. The museum exhibits feature photographs, documents, and artifacts that tell the stories of the Japanese Canadians who were interned.

Silvery Slocan Museum - NEW RAVEN

The Silvery Slocan Museum is located in the historic town of New Raven, British Columbia. It features exhibits on the history of the area, including the mining industry, the railway, and local flora and fauna. The museum also offers guided tours and special events throughout the year.

Sandon Museum & Visitors' Centre - SANDON
(250) 358-7900 sandonmuseum.ca

Open 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Located 13 km east of New Raven on Hwy 22A, the Sandon Museum is a fantastic destination for anyone interested in local history. The museum features a variety of exhibits, including a model of the historic Sandon Hotel, a display of early mining equipment, and a collection of local artifacts. Visitors can also enjoy the beautiful scenery of the area.

S.S. Moyie National Historic Site - KASLO
(250) 358-7609 BC Historic Places, 324 Front Street, Kaslo

The S.S. Moyie is a historic steamship that was built in 1889 and operated on the Kootenay Lake between Kaslo and Bonners Ferry, Idaho. It was used for passenger and cargo transport until it was retired in 1920. The ship is now preserved as a museum, and visitors can explore its decks, cabins, and engine room. The ship is a popular attraction for history buffs and photography enthusiasts.

Tree never mind... every leaf is a flower waiting to burst into bloom. - Emily Dickinson
People/bear conflicts predicted to increase this fall

Although there was some bear activity around people’s properties this spring, the summer has been pretty quiet. The early spring followed by warm dry weather has provided bears with an abundant berry supply. However, crops ripened unusually early and wild fruits are now drying up quickly. In addition, this season’s numerous wildfires have displaced bears and other wildlife from some of their familiar habitat, meaning they will have to forage in other already food-stressed locales. Reports of increased sightings and bear activity near human areas are already beginning to trickle in.

A shortage of natural foods is very probable, at the very time it is imperative for bears to continue packing on the pounds in preparation for hibernation. To exacerbate the situation, the time for going normally coincides with the opening of our tree fruit. To a bear, the intestine of the most possible calories before hibernation is a matter of survival. Studies show that a malnourished female bear may not produce cubs. Many ‘well-behaved’, perfectly wild bears spend many years, or even entire lifetimes, avoiding people, their properties and their delicious smelling stuff: beekeepers, poultry, livestock, pet food, compost, barbecue grills and woodpiles that attract rodents and insects. When it comes down to surviving during years of natural food declines, however, these same bears will muster up enough courage to change their habits where human attractants are readily available.

Let’s be extra vigilant this season and manage attractants responsibly — that is, in a bear-proof manner. Let’s not cause the unnecessary death of a bear. Please give our already stressed wildlife a fair chance at survival. Don’t wait for a bear to get into your garage.

Invasive species hurt economy as well as environment

The estimated cost of invasive species to Canada is between $16.6 billion and $33.4 billion per year. Invasive species can lower property values, reduce tourism revenue, decrease food yields, and even increase health care costs. The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) understands that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

For the past 10 years CKISS, formerly the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC), has worked with communities throughout the region to minimize impacts caused by invasive species. The organization officially changed in name this year.

“We wanted a name that accurately described the full scope of the work that is done within our society. We are one of the first invasive species societies to have a zebra mussel and quagga mussel monitoring program and have recently launched an American bullfrog surveillance program with our partners,” says executive director Jennifer Vogel.

Invasive species removal and prevention is dependent on community involvement. The public is encouraged to learn more about the invasive species that are impacting the region, and to help by removing and preventing the spread of these species.

For information on how to remove and prevent the spread of invasive species, please visit www.ckiss.ca. The Kootenay region is home to 11 different species of invasive species, all spreading at an alarming rate.

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To contribute, please visit our website at www.valleyvoice.ca and choose your level of support. You can also contact us at 250-359-6611 or email info@valleyvoice.ca.
The Kaslo branch of Kootenay Cashmere is eighty years old and currently has ten members. John Collins, pictured here, has been a member since the beginning.

The New District Community Pharmacy’s grand opening celebration took place July 24 with in-store specials and a barbecue by donation. Proceeds from the barbecue were topped up by the pharmacy and donated to the New Denver & Area Hospice Society.

Christiane Frolof and Anne Dickson showed their pottery at Christiane’s studio in Silverton for the Columbia Basin Culture Tour, held August 6 and 8. Christiane’s studio (across from the dentist’s office) was one of 77 venues on the tour this year. This successful event has been running for seven years, and is a wonderful way to get people out exploring Basin culture.

What a way to start the game! It was a hole-in-one for Joe Delto August 5 at the Sicamous Lake Golf Course. This gave him an albatross (three below par) on the par 4 1st hole.

Business For Sale
Your ticket to living in paradise! Willow Home Boutique is a successful bed, bath, kitchen shop located in beautiful Kaslo, BC. Over the past 7 years Willow has established itself as the go-to place for bedding and home decor in the West Kootenay. The income from this shop will easily support a family business. If you are looking for a vibrant, successful retail shop and you have a passion for design, look no further.
For details go to www.venturesconnect.ca or Facebook/ willow home gallery or call 250 353 2122

Stay safe around dams
Remember to stay safe this summer when visiting dams and around reservoirs

- Avoid fishing, boating and swimming above or below a dam.
- Beware of floating debris and concealed hazards.
- Use caution walking on slippery banks and shorelines.
- Obey all warning signs and stay outside of restricted areas.
For more safety tips, visit coopsafetyprogram.ca/damsafety.
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