Hills Garlic Festival continues tradition of success

by Art Joyce

The 23rd annual Hills Garlic Festival seemed to exist within a charmed circle this year as rain showers came down on Silvertown, New Denver and Hills. Attendance figures were down by about 600 this year compared to 2014, with total ticket buyers numbering 4,650. Gone were the long line-ups at the gate as people arrived in a gradual but steady stream throughout the day. Both festival vendors and New Denver businesses enjoyed a steady stream of customers.

"It's like people are realizing, I don't have to be there right at 10, it's happening all day long," says festival coordinator Paula Shandro.

The music hit a high water mark with the third annual appearance of bluegrass band Mountain Station from Nelson and world-class Cuban salsa musician Gabriel Palatchi. Dancers tripped the light fantastic to Palatchi's Latin rhythms and even the little ones shook a leg. Shandro says the festival would like to include more local bands in future.

"Gabriel Palatchi emailed us in March and I was negotiating costs; I had to let them know we're not on a music festival budget. But he wanted to come anyway. Then we got an email from El Grupo Cubano (Brias del Palmar) saying they wanted to come but we couldn't afford both."

Festival visitors may have noticed a few new vendors this year, as well as the perennial favorites. Madding Timberworks had a display for the second year, staffed by Hagan Zoll and showing some rustic bed frames as well as house plans. There were new garlic vendors from Lumby, Creston and Enderby. Two new vendors – Bad Duck Caramel and Wynndel Lavender – both hail from Wynndel on Kootenay Lake’s East Shore. The summer dessert of choice in Nelson – Little Miss Gelato – made its first appearance at the festival. The long-bearded Chick Sharp came from Revelstoke with his children’s books.

Local vendors included Carole Heidema with her Bodacious Bubbles bath products, Armand Lange with metalsworks, Paula Cravens with her original art and art cards, Patricia Menton’s Chaunceyrose Photography, and Sarah Rousseau’s jewellerly and print design. Regional non-profit groups were there in force too, with booths hosted by the Valhalla Wilderness Society, Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, Bear Smart with Evelyn Karklady the Bear Lady, and there for the first time was the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society.

"It was awesome for me to get in all the local people who asked," says Shandro. "I put the word out in January and I have people who respond by the end of the month. Some of them have been coming for years and years, many say it's their favourite festival and they wouldn't miss it."

Community groups benefiting from funds raised by the festival include Hills Nordic Ski Society, Hills Doctorbore Society, the graduating class at Lucerne Secondary School, the newly formed Hills Emergency Services Society (Hills Volunteer Fire Department), and Summit Lake Ski Hill. Katrina Snurulak takes on the recycling each year and the festival gives Lucerne school a donation toward its children's program. A youth burhary funded by the festival is available to Hills children and youth for recreational or educational pursuits. The festival also creates employment in the community. There are four paid positions with the festival plus up to six different performers and musicians and a soundboard operator.

The Hills Garlic Festival has had a goal of zero waste for some years now. Todd Veri of Myer’s Solutions is hired to collect compost buckets from food vendors throughout the day. Vendors are allowed to use only paper or cardboard containers and wood utensils. At the end of the day Veni shreds it all, adds his bokeh shavings and the composted material is used at the Lucerne school garden. All the garbage cans on site are sealed off so patrons have to bring their waste to the recycling station for sorting. According to Village of New Denver Public Works supervisor Steve Dackoff, ever since the festival began the program, crews have not had to pick up any garbage from the park.

"A lot of credit goes to both the vendors and patrons for being on board," says Shandro. "Katrina’s Green Team deserves special credit for the excellent job they do."

A series of contests is held throughout the day. This year the winners are: Heiniest Clove / Biggest Bulb; Soft-skinned varieties: Rick Callaway, Great River Grow-Ops; Biggest Bulb, Stiff-skinned varieties: Cindy Callaway, Goat River Grow-Ops; Raffle Baskets, Early Bird: Elaine Matsushita; other raffles ticket winners were Ross Bardt, Helen Davis, Anita Dunin, Erika Hepperle, Lin Harris, Julie Ewasiuk and Jane Neilsen. The Garlic Poetry Contest seemed to fizzle when this reporter arrived to do the judging. By deadline no entries had come in but then two poems suddenly showed up, with the Best Adult Poem going to Michael Ryan Wicks.

Aurora and Sequoia were just two of many children who enjoyed Leanne Boyd’s facepainting finesses at the Garlic Fest.

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South Okanagan-West Kootenay candidates on peace, security and climate change

by Art Joyce

The Mir Centre for Peace and Citizens’ Climate Lobby co-sponsored an All Candidates meeting for the South Okanagan-West Kootenay riding in Castlegar the evening of September 17. Candidates present were Dick Cannings (NDP), Connie Denesiuk (Liberal), and Samantha Troy (Green). Attendance was robust, with about 65 people filling the room at the Sandman Inn. Conservative candidate Marshall Neufeld was invited but did not show due to a prior commitment. Cannings said he and Denesiuk had participated in five such forums to date and so Neufeld has failed to show up at any of them.

The forum was focused on the issues of peace, security and climate change and the candidates weren’t tightly far apart on any of them.

Mir Centre Chair Randy Janzen introduced the event by acknowledging that in our “globally connected reality, events in other countries can affect us.” However, he posed the question: After a decade of Canadian participation in the overseas war on terror, has this money been well spent? How do we measure success? Janzen said research has shown that non-military intervention has a much higher success rate in reducing extremism and violence and creating peace and security. “We call on our candidates to think out of the box and seek solutions not based on fear or traditional approaches,” he said, calling upon the candidates to offer their proposed solutions.

Denesiuk believes peace and security starts by modelling it at home. “There’s been good recommendations from Truth and Reconciliation report and we can start with those right here at home in Canada. Looking abroad, we would immediately stop the bombing in Syria and Iraq and find ways of providing more humanitarian aid. Canada was once a leading peacekeeping nation but now we’re at number 66 in the world, and that’s not good enough.” She said the Liberals would open the doors to more Syrian refugees — to date only 2,500 have been allowed into Canada, mostly through churches and humanitarian groups.

Troy agreed that Canada needs to restore its peacekeeping role in the world, and that we need to start at home. “We’ve got lots of issues with lack of peace and safety amongst our youth, our First Nations, our women, and child poverty. We can’t promote peace in the world if we can’t do that in our own families and communities.” The Greens would stop bombing in Syria, she added.

Cannings said the opening line in the NDP foreign policy is that Canada can be a force for peace in the world. “Our government has been more of a shrill cheerleader for belligerence forces around the world than a force for peace. We’ve systematically destabilized the entire Middle East region, and to think that a half-dozen bombers is going to help that situation is incredibly naive. We’ve spent $500 million on bombing; just think what we could do with that money.”

Last Saturday, the Citizens’ Climate Lobby moderated the panel on climate change. “Climate change is the defining issue of the century and it evokes a lot of emotion, from denial to despair,” she said. “In reality it’s a human issue facing all of us, not just environmentalists.” The question she posed to the candidates was: Given that Canada’s commitment to action falls far short of what is needed to limit carbon output, what would your party do?

Cannings called climate change “the challenge of our generation and of my kids’ generation.” He said Thomas Mulcair has promised that the first thing he’d do as prime minister is take the NDP’s climate action plan to the Paris summit and show that Canada is prepared to take the lead again. “In one year we were 2% in climate action in the world — only Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh were worse. We’ve known about it for decades and we’ve been debating.”

The NDP plan calls for a 34 percent reduction in carbon output by 2020 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050. As Official Opposition, the NDP has put forward a private member’s bill called the Climate Change Accountability Act, which contains the party’s plan. That would also include eliminating all government subsidies to fossil fuel corporations, said Cannings, amounting on average to between $240 million and $1 billion annually. Instead, this money would be used to subsidize green energy initiatives across Canada. The NDP’s carbon reduction mechanism would focus on cap-and-trade. Under Mulcair, the government would require the National Energy Board to consider pipeline proposals in light of their impact on carbon targets and environmental impact. NDP MP for Skeena-Bulkley Valley Nathan Cullen has introduced a private member’s bill that would permanently stop tanker traffic across BC’s West Coast.

“Many of us heard from our mothers, when you borrow something, you need to return it as good or better condition,” said Denesiuk. She said the Liberals will invest $20 billion in climate change initiatives, without stating specifically what those are. Denesiuk said the Liberals too would cut oil industry subsidies. “One size doesn’t necessarily fit all so we’ll bring the provinces together to discuss carbon pricing and cap-and-trade. Our scientists need to be leading the way.” The Liberal party would put a moratorium on oil tanker traffic in Skeena Strait off BC’s West Coast, one of the most turbulent bodies of water in the world.

Troy said climate change action requires political will, something that’s been lacking over the past decade. Green party leader Elizabeth May has made it clear her party would fully support federal climate scientists in advising goals and priorities with all levels of government. The Green platform states at their website regarding the mechanism for reduction would be carbon pricing, not cap-and-trade. Troy added that part of this goal would be a renewed national rail strategy and expansion of rail services, plus investment in biomass, solar and wind technologies. She would also push for a restoration of the environmental assessment process that was gutted by the Conservatives.

A document compiled by Environmental Defense in July compared the four parties’ climate change platforms, noting that no carbon reduction target has been specified by the Liberals. The document shows the Greens slightly behind at 4.1% NDP target, at a 25.7 percent carbon reduction target by 2025.

A statement from Neufeld was read that related the Conservative platform of strengthening the economy and Canada’s role in the world on war, including allowing more Syrian refugees into the country. The issue of climate change was not addressed by Neufeld.

The latter part of the forum included an open discussion of groups to allow the audience to formulate questions to put to the candidates. Only about a half-dozen people under age 50 were present. Of these, one young man asked what the parties would do about Bill C-51, “given that in this country I’m more likely to be ran over by a moose than bombed by terrorists.” Cannings responded that he was proud the NDP stood against the bill in Parliament. Denesiuk claimed credit for the Liberals for amendments to the bill allowing protesters to gather legally without being dubbed terrorists. Both the Greens and NDP support a complete repeal of C-51. “Canada already had all the anti-terrorism legislation that was needed before C-51,” said Cannings.

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Kootenay-Columbia candidates on peace, security and climate change

by Jan McMuray

The Nelson United Church was packed with people on the evening of September 16 for the Kootenay-Columbia All Candidates Forum on peace, security and climate change, co-sponsored by the Mir Centre for Peace and the Citizens’ Climate Lobby. Candidates Bill Green (Green), Don Johnston (Liberal) and Wayne Stetski (NDP) attended. Christina Yan (Libertarian) was home with her sick child and sent her regrets. She also provided a statement, summarized at the end of this article. David Wilks (Conservative) did not respond to the invitations to the forum, and did not attend.

Peace and security

Randi Janzen, chair of the Selkirk College Mir Centre for Peace, asked the candidates how their parties would create the conditions for peace and security for Canadians.

Bill Green said he has started working on peace and justice at home by talking with Indigenous First Nations in BC and Canada, as was brought to light in the Truth and Reconciliation report, and by eliminating poverty.

On an international level, Green said peace and justice can only work in a strong framework of international law. “Canada used to be a leader at this and we no longer are. We are in a much less safe world without the legal framework,” he said. He also put forward the idea of a Department of Peace and Security instead of a Department of Defence.

Wayne Stetski agreed that people have to feel safe and secure at home, and said ending violence against women, poverty and homelessness would go a long way toward achieving this. “Security doesn’t come from C-51, which invades our privacy with no oversight,” he said. Stetski feels we can fight ISIS by cutting off their supply of money and by making our youth feel at home. “When we show up in another country, we need to build the country, not destroy it,” he said.

We invite you to come to Canada when we engage in combative missions abroad,”

Don Johnston also agreed that “taking care of our environment and collectively taking responsibility for it” is necessary to achieve peace and security. Internationally, he said we have to reorient our foreign policy to reflect that Canada is a country that wants to help and participate. “We used to take our place on the stage that we held so capably and intelligently, not for many years and remember our commitment to the world,” he said.

Climate change

Laura Sacks of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Nelson West Kootenay Chapter, pointed out that the United Nations Climate Change Conference will be held in Paris in just five weeks after the election. She asked the candidates how they thought we wanted our country’s greenhouse gas targets to change, and what policies need to be put in place.

Johnston said, “The first way our role would change in Paris would be that we would be there.” He said that Justin Trudeau would be there, as well as all of the first ministers, as the Provinces are leading the way on climate change. Trudeau is planning a first ministers’ meeting “focused on a national strategy for emissions reductions that would include prizes on carbon and reflect regional differences on how the approach might best work,” he said.

The Liberals would also institute a $20 billion carbon budget and encourage green technologies in forestry, mining, energy, fisheries and agriculture, and to begin to export those technologies. As well, Climate Research Chairs would be appointed at universities to make sure strong research is being done. The Liberals would also institute a Canada Green Investment Bank to encourage entrepreneurs who want to create local jobs in renewable energy projects, and would make Canada a tax-friendly jurisdiction in research, development, and manufacturing of green technology.

Green said that Elizabeth May would be in Paris regardless of the election result. But she has been at all the climate change conferences “because she cares so deeply.” He said the Green Party has a clear plan for a carbon fee and dividend system. “We have to have the incentives to change investments and change consumer behavior,” he said, explaining that the system is revenue neutral at $50 per tonne of carbon and increases by $10 per tonne per year to $150 per tonne per year within 10 years. “Industry will look at that and know what they are dealing with, and investors have to be in clean technologies, not carbon technologies,” he said. Green also said that carbon dividends would go to Canadians, whereas a cap-and-trade system (proposed by the NDP) results in profits from emissions trading going to transnational corporations. He said leaders of the major oil companies have said they want to move toward a carbon pricing system, not a cap-and-trade system.

Green underlined the importance of the climate change issue in this election. “We have to make substantial change before the end of this decade to get off the trajectory we’re on, so significant change is needed within the term of the next government. I urge you to look at the policies because we have to make the right choice for climate change in this election. The Globe and Mail recently said the Green Party has the best climate policies of all federal parties, and I hope you will consider that when thinking about your vote.”

Stetski said that the NDP would create a revenue-generating carbon market, imposing strict penalties for emissions [cap-and-trade system]. “A Green Fee would be a disaster for investments into green cars and public transportation. The NDP would also demand environmental standards in all international agreements to which Canada is a signatory. The NDP has created the legislative framework for its climate change policy in the [Climate Change Accountability Act], which has been tabled in parliament as a private member’s bill.”

Christina Yan said in her statement that her main attraction to the Libertarian party is its policy on peace and security. “We believe in non-interventional foreign policy and responsible foreign aid focusing on disaster relief and true humanitarian aid, not policing other nations or using aggressive force in other countries. I believe Canada has the ability to gain our reputation back as a non-violent peacekeeping nation once again.” She believes that the role of the military should be as a strong national defense on our own soil.

She said that legislation such as bill C-51 is of great concern to many Canadians who value freedom and privacy. “We can live with the protection of both liberty and safety without giving up one for the other,” she said.

Yan envisions human beings adapting to climate change by harmonizing with the environment rather than trying to dominate it. For green technologies and innovation to flourish, “we need to cut the ties between big government and big business.” She thinks the entire system needs to change “through creating green incentives and actually holding companies accountable for polluting our lands and our bodies through the judicial system – without government policy protection.”

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Voting in the federal election

I expect that I'll be voting in the federal election. I regard it as a responsibility of citizenship. In the household that I was raised in, it was expected that everyone would vote. It was just something that you did. Like breathing.

We didn't all vote the same way. In my formative years, my father and grandfather were rock-ribbed conservatives, my mother was always a socialist. I've voted all over the map. I've even spoiled my ballot once. I've voted for sentimental reasons, and cold, hard logical ones. I've voted for people that I like, and strategically, for people that I didn't like very much.

I've voted for the best local candidate. I've voted on policy, I've voted on the basis of local issues.

There's a lot of reasons to vote, and a lot to weigh before casting a ballot. I vote because I love this country. Even with all of its problems, it's home. I love our parliamentary democracy with its rituals and drama.

I vote now just one way that I have of showing people that I disapprove of policy. Voting is a powerful tool and it needs to be exercised often. It's a bit of a blunt instrument but it really gets the point across.

I want to see proportional representation. That way I could always vote for a candidate that is closest to my value.

I want the repeal of the unfair elections act. I want Elections Canada to be able to encourage people to vote again. I'd dearly love to see the return of the long-form census. I want to get rid of the secret police bill.

I want an end to second-class citizenship for my neighbours that weren't born here. I'd like to get rid of the senate, and perhaps the monarchy, although I'm terribly sentimental about the Queen.

It's past time that we get serious about climate change.

I don't like the way Mr. Harper has dealt with the economy. It really doesn't work for me and my family. He's encouraged people to hoard money that should be in the economy, creating jobs. Corporations are sitting on billions of dollars. That money should be at work.

I don't approve of the way that he trashed the National Archives and I want us to get back into peace-keeping.

The smart, strategic vote in South Okanagan - West Kootenay, for someone like me, is Richard Cannings of the NDP. He's the most likely to beat the Conservatives' Marshall Neufeld. He's a smart, environmentally savvy guy. I like him, he's friendly, and he shows up when our local Chamber of Commerce organizes an all candidates meeting in the Slocan Valley. He seems thoughtful. That's a good quality in an MP. He's got a good grasp of the issues, and mostly, he agrees with me. I seem to run into him fairly often.

Marshall Neufeld hasn't been around to visit very much. I think that it's a Pentiction real estate agent. He once worked for Stockwell Day. He's sent us lots of letters to the editor during this campaign, but we have always taken the view that advertising should be paid during a election.

Now this is the time that you should be meeting the people that you would have as your constituents, not writing flimsy-disguised political advertisements and trying to pass them off as thoughtfully opinion pieces.

During an election, we only give free space to politicians who show up to events in our coverage area. We'd like to encourage you to come out to an All Candidates Forum on October 2 at the Silverton Memorial Hall. You might hear some of our concerns and be better able to represent us in Ottawa, if elected.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

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

Dear Green voters

Voting your conscience and philosophy is admirable.

Did you know that a major NDP platform is to institute proportional representation? This form of democracy provides representation closely related to a party’s popular vote. The Green Party received 3.9% of the popular vote in 2011. The Green Party received 0.32% of proportional voting power. The Conservatives received 38.6% of the popular vote and 53% of the voting power in parliament.

Everyone’s vote counts in proportional representation. Various forms of proportional representation are used in Australia, Germany, Israel, New Zealand, Sweden, and many more countries.

It is in the Green voter’s long-range interest to vote for the NDP in both Kootenay ridings. Proportional representation holds realistic hope for Green voters to receive more of a proportional voice. Consider voting NDP in this election.

Mike Lesnik Rosebery

Where is the cheap gas?

I often hear on the national news/ radio about how the low cost of gas at the pump is putting extra money in our pockets, allowing us to go out and spend it and... and... and the economy. I am wondering... where is this cheap gas? I drive every week from Nakusp to New Denver to Castlegar to Nelson to Creston to Cranbrook to Invermere to Golden to Revelstoke and I notice gas prices, each week, varying from a high of $1.42 a litre to a low of $1.19. How can there be a 32¢ per litre difference in cost from town to town? Although I hear of gas in Canada (and not in Alberta only) dropping below $1 a litre. I have seen no evidence of that.

It is reassuring to me to know that despite the low, low cost per barrel of oil, somewhere somewhere is still making a lot of money.

Deborah Austin Nakusp

Lampooning the leaders

I have considered all the leaders of the major political parties, and I still can’t make up my mind.

Stephen Harper just keeps going on how he is the only one who can manage the economy, and the only one who can keep Canadians safe from terrorism. Most Canadians are tired of listening to him, but he just keeps ‘Harping and Harping’ about it, so he is out.

Justin Trudeau thinks that the best way to get yourself out of a financial bind is to go out and borrow a bunch of cash. There are a lot of other hitchhikers out there who agree with him... they send me offers in the mail on a regular basis. Barack’s a news flash in it – it is just not ‘True-dib’. So I can’t support his party either.

Thomas Mulcair promises to be a prime minister who really cares about middle class Canadians. He proposes to provide subsidized child care for double income families, but fails to mention that many single income families decide to raise their own kids will be paying for it. So, I ‘Mulch’ it over and decided he doesn’t really ‘Care’ so much.

Finally I got down to Elizabeth May. She isn’t under quite so much pressure, and she sounds good most of the time, but she does have a tendency to get a little ‘hippy’ at parties, and blurt stuff out... barely prime ministerial. Add to that the fact that our current Head of State is already ‘Sporting Elizabeth’s monster, which could prove confusing, especially at a party after a few drinks. So ‘Elizabeth May’ make a good leader, but then again she ‘May’ not.

Personally, I think we need a new set of leadership candidates with less limpopoic names.

Rod Retzlaff

Glade

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LETTERS

Women: the hidden victims of climate change

Though climate change affects all of us, its burden falls most heavily upon the backs of women. The UN's Fact Sheet, Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change, states: “women constitute the majority of the world’s poor who are dependent on natural resources that are threatened by climate change.”

The report found: “Women face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping capacity. Together with unequal access to resources and to decision-making processes, women are disproportionately affected by climate change.”

In addition, ACTION AID’s human rights NGO found that environmental degradation puts pressure on girls to do more work at an earlier age. As environmental conditions deteriorate, girls often have to forego education and stay at home to care for younger siblings.

Priority must be given to safeguarding the lives of women and girls most adversely affected by climate change.

Carole Summer Kasiol

Quiet (part 2)

Quiet is the most valuable tool we have for attracting and retaining those tourists and residents that want to stay and spend their time here. Most jurisdictions like ours advertise for recreational machine-using tourists. Why compete with them when it will destroy our most important attraction (quiet)? Why not provide natural rural landscapes, to expand our awareness beyond our current boundaries, and at the same time, on our own property, call the people down to us, not make them do it for us?

Is there no quiet when a machine is humming quietly? Could there be a non-motorized alternative that enhances human propulsion values. Machines are not people, and I do not accept machines (or their drivers) as having a right over mine. All people should be welcome on our community-supported trails: machines obviously are not people.

Here are some reasons why motorized use of recreational trails removes incentive for human propulsion values. I’ve done many instant and bringing “facacions” on ski trails, my ski being retracted by a skidoo track, particularly in fudging light. This says nothing about the pleasures lost when a machine runs over an otherwise pristine hillside, but it does point out the reality of the skier to commit their footing for the desired glide and a relaxed ski. Speed differentials between machines and pedestrians are indistinguishable. Related problems will and do occur. Trail maintenance for machines requires much more attention, and I do not want to pay for it. Some critics, like loons, disappear from the lakes and landscapes frequented by motors, so environmental factors have to be valued more than recreational motorists on community and wilderness trails. The smells left behind by machine exhaust often linger for hours along some sections of the trail — another pedestrian value damaged!

If wheels are desired on community trails, then psychologists tell us that wheelchairs are acceptable! People can have it all: Machines No, Humans Yes!

Eric Faulks Hills

Pepper spray for geese

We used to frequent the park in Kasilo many years ago when you didn’t have to put up with the pooping geese that are now so prevalent. Now all of the birds were out in the open, and only a few were in the water. The lake was a very attractive place to be.

We recently moved to the area and found that the geese had now returned to the park. They were eating our lawn and were always in the way when we tried to walk on the path. The geese were so plentiful and grew larger in number that we decided to do something about it.

We used pepper spray on the geese, and they scattered in every direction. We have not had any problems with the geese since.

Although this method is effective in controlling the geese, it is not a permanent solution. We hope that there will be a more humane way to control the geese population in the park.

Daphne Fields Slocan

Response to ‘Trails for escaping noise and pollution’

At many points in the old rail trails a hiker can just veer off and disappear into the forest if they so desire. Motorized vehicles, for the most part, cannot.

The trails, though in actual point of fact they are really old roads and railways designed for motorized transport, remain for everyone’s use, otherwise you discriminate against those of us who wish to enjoy the land. Motorized vehicles are not physically capable of taking long distances but still wish to partake of these scenic pleasures. If you don’t want to be bothered by these motorized vehicles, take any of the hundreds of single path, non-motorized game trails that exist everywhere.

Most of the motorized traffic belongs to people who work all week long at some job somewhere and have very little time to actually spend their free time on the trail. That’s what we need to keep them from being a nuisance.

K. M. Hawes

Alensville Hot Springs

When to ‘cry wolf’

Sheep know. With us ‘sheeples’, it’s harder.

And we should blame ourselves for the confusion. It is, of course, NOT our job to play chemists (e.g., finding out the truth about GMOs or geologist/工程师们 (ey if they are not sure if it seems like that is not in their opinion in the middle of that mountain way out in the middle of nowhere where it could be stopped in time), etc. But still,

we must use our own intelligence and resources because there’s one thing we’ve been tricked:

If you study the history of how science has been spun, by reading The Skeptical Environmentalist, for example, you’ll see how we’ve been gawswished into believing corporate bought-out PR — from acid rain to climate change. And in Noam Klein’s considerably saddened by this turn of events that restored our way of this road whilst encouraging their. My grandparents have never been there. The roads and old trails must be shared by everyone as only push can keep these paths open over the years.

I’m sure you have a long list of pertinent comesbacks to this but the fact remains that some roads open up, we can’t do the hiking and you can. So hike on and we will motor on. And if luck, should have it, never the twain shall meet.

K. M. Hawes

Ainsworth Hot Springs

Open letter to Rosebery-Summit Lake Rail Trail

Steve Northby to Rosebery-Summit Lake Rail Trail Management Plan Proposal. My name is listed as “contributing time and expertise to the project” and I feel that is misleading because all I did was quickly update the trail map that had been updated in 2002. I do not want readers to get the impression that I am a supporter of the proposal. I also did not give you permission to put my name on the document.

I feel strongly that abandoned railway corridors should be publicly held land, managed for use by all, regardless of mode of transport.

These corridors connect communities and provide access to vast tracts of Crown Land in our region. The proposed non-motorized designation on this 26 km section of the trail, which as a Nalup resident I prefer to call the Summit Lake-Rosebery section, will severely restrict the road vehicle access to the existing maintained, motorized trails that branch off the rail bed along that section.

Share use should be acceptable, along the road, with the different user groups and modes of transport then having their specific-use trails branch off the rail bed for their complete enjoyment.

As you are aware, from the Nalup end of the railway corridor, the Nalup and Area Community Trails Society is now improving and managing the rail bed trail from the Village boundary to the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. I found the trail at Summit Lake as a multi-use trail. This shared use should not end at the political boundary.

I look forward to receiving a copy of the document once my name is removed, and I will check the website to ensure the new version is uploaded to the website as well.

Beth McLeer Nalup

Vote with a peace sign

First, I would like to compliment Custer Rettëf on his recent letter. He hit the nail on the head with his comparison of motorized rail trail use to the debate over smokers’ rights to poison the rest of us in a decade or so.

My second reason for writing is to put forward an idea to all those lovers of peace. An electronic mail ballot enables the voter a neat white circle in which to place his or her mark. Most use an X to mark that ballot, but any mark is acceptable. I have found that a peace sign fits nicely into that circle. Unfortunately there isn’t one on my keyboard,... too bad.

If we vote with a peace sign all of us pacifists could let whoever wins know where we stand on that issue, even if we vote for a certain party because of some other issue. For example, just because some of us trust the Conservatives most to run the economy doesn’t mean we are in favour of cutting our military, but people on the other side of the world.

Perhaps if enough of us voted with a peace sign, we could convince some party to have their scrutineers keep track of that.

Hope springs eternal. I gotta say a peace sign looks mighty fine on a federal ballot.

Rod Retallick Glade

The economy – are we missing the BIG picture?

How many promises does it take to fix the economy? Perhaps none – what is needed is a strategic policy and legislation. As Neil Macdonald, senior correspondent for CBC News, pointed out on this columnist’s blog, in terms of affecting the economy, prime ministers get to determine how federal spending is allocated, which is about 15 percent of the Canadian economy. Of that, a major portion has been spoken for with items such as equalization payments.

The big player in Canada’s economy is Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz. What government can do is make policy (legislation) that will help guide industry and investors as they move toward the vision of a new economy.

The tough questions, so far, are not being asked, even by Mr. Macdonald. Challenges like the future of living wages are great. What we need answered is how will all these trimmings work in the context of an adversarial political/economic system that moves away from energy sources based on fossil fuels. Canada would not be the first country to set an economic path that moves away from fossil fuels. We must move forward into the big decision to make fundamental changes to our concept of “economy.”

Ron Robinson Nelson
Slocan council: smart meters and knotted infestation

by Art Joyce
Mayor Lynn and council hosted four delegations at their regular meeting of September 14. First up was Blair Weston of FortisBC, who said he was there to have a dialogue with council about its recent announcement on smart meters.

Regardless of the authority village has or doesn’t have, what you say is very important to us and we take it very seriously," said Blair. He stated that “nobody has ever had a choice as to what sizes, poles, or transformers we use,” and that therefore meters should be no different, although the BCUIC has allowed customers the radio-off option. Blair claimed that no utility meter has ever been CSA approved but that Itron had recently taken the trouble of its own accord to get UL certified. He said Fortis has been checking every meter base each time a new meter is installed and if the base is cracked or otherwise intact, it is replaced. Blair claimed that “no fences in BC can be attributed to smart meters,” presenting a report by the University of the Fraser Valley. The report has already been challenged for lacking the true rigour of a scientific study. He further claimed there are no health risks from the wireless radiation emitted by smart meters, citing a document from Distinguished Scientist Mary McBride. This document relies on two discounted studies for its conclusions. When asked by this reporter if he was an expert in electromagnetic science, Blair said: “No, I don’t have to be. I rely on the World Health Organization experts who say it’s safe.” He did not mention that the WHO has classified electromagnetic radiation as a Class 2B “probable carcinogen.”

Jennifer Vogel of the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society presented via teleconference. She addressed council specifically blaming the increase infestation of knotweed in parts of the Slocan Valley, including the village. Invasive species, she explained, are defined as those that have social, economic or ecological impacts, lack biotic constraints, and are highly competitive for resources. They reproduce at high rates, have rapid growth and a short life cycle. Invasive knotweed grows through concrete and building foundations. In Vancouver having knotted weed on property needs to be disclosed in sale documents. Some municipalities are passing bylaws requiring removal of invasive species. Councillor Cailin suggested council would need to consider what the treatment options are. Vogel said a number of approaches have been tried but that the most effective is to inject the plant with glyphosate. “What about the adjacent homeowner, if they aren’t willing to participate, how effective can we be?” she asked.

Vogel’s suggestion is to treat only 10 percent of a knotweed patch is treated. During public question period, resident Felicity Gerwing expressed discomfort with the idea of using glyphosate, asking if it would happen if it got into the water table. Vogel seemed confident this would not happen but many scientific studies have established the carcinogenic qualities of glyphosate. It is currently rated a Class 2A “probable carcinogen” by the WHO. Natural Health Canada recommends banning glyphosate and for council for support for the Walk for the Plan, the proposed $10 a Day childcare plan for BC and the Council for Childcare Organizations (see article in this issue). The walk was to take place Saturday, September 19 starting from the Slocan beach at 10 am. Council resolved to support the plan by endorsing it online at www.ccbc.bc.ca.

Felicity Gerwing, of the Slocan Valley Cultural Society which produces the Unity music festival, appeared to provide a brief report on the festival and thank council for its support. Gerwing said she’d like a separate meeting with council for a full briefing. She is also seeking a letter of support from council for a Canada Heritage grant for next year’s festival. Council voted to support the 2016 Unity festival in principle. Only one letter of complaint was received this year about the festival.

Public Works supervisor Tim Hill reported that there were a number of Village street signs vandalized by someone driving a vehicle. “On the morning of the 8th we replaced four street signs; we then had to replace another seven signs totalling $2,000 damage. Police have opened a file but with no witness to the vehicle causing damage there’s not much they can do.” Hill’s report further noted that there will be a new access to the beach from Arthur Street, encouraging parking away from the boat ramp. When asked by Councillor Perriere about water usage summer, Hill said most residents complied so the supply was adequate. Village sprinkler systems were turned off in compliance with provincial water restrictions. Restrictions are still in place so residents should be vigilant and to increase flow in fish bearing streams.

• Council voted to support the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society request to transfer the $15,000 budget allocation to the 2016 budget if unspent. Securing these funds will enable the society to apply for grants. Councillor Perriere reported that Barel Skeete, former owner of Slocan Valley Planer Mills and Lumber Co, Widalh BC, has generously donated 20,000 board feet of timber for the Seniors Housing Project.

• Mayor Lynn said she would like council to communicate with the IHAs Cheryl Whitelinton regarding the innovative program, asking that the Slocan-Windar region be considered a pilot community for the new program.

• Council voted to set the week of Monday, October 19 to Thursday, October 22 as a week to be recognized by the Village of New Denver. Slickens. Collections will be limited to organic material only and the Village will offer free vehicle removal. Based on past practice, Public Works Foreman Tim Hill is not recommending public access to Village composting. This previously resulted in garbage dumping.

• The Spirit of Christmas Committee requested council support for its Christmas Tree Lighting festivities this year, inviting council to be present and Mayor Lynn to light up the tree. They further requested that the event be publicized in the Village newsletter and that the Wellness Centre should make available. Council agreed to these requests and will offer a $100 grant toward the purchase of new Christmas tree lights. It will also authorize public works to assist with labour and equipment for the tree.

• Following the recommendation of CAO Michelle Gordon, council voted to approve online payment for village taxes and utility bills.

• The Slocan Curling Club received financial assistance for its upcoming Oktoberfest fundraiser to be held Saturday, October 10. Council voted to offer a $200 discretionary grant.

• Council voted to explore the option of electric residents and WE Graham Community participating in the Community Voter’s Challenge. Council will contact WE Graham to encourage participation in the 35th annual Terry Fox Run.

Village of New Denver
NOTICE OF TAX SALE
The following described property and improvements thereon shall be offered for “Sale by Public Auction” at the Village of New Denver Municipal Office, 1135 Slocan Ave, on Monday, September 28, 2015 at 10:00 am unless the delinquent taxes and interest thereon are sooner paid:
Lots 25 & 26, Block 36, Plan NEP557, District Lot 549, Kootenay Larder District 402 6th Avenue
Lots 5-8, Block 43, Plan NEP557, District Lot 549, Kootenay Larder District, Lot B, Block 43, Plan NEP557, District Lot 549, Kootenay Larder District, EXC PCL A (SEE 159164112NDY) LOTS 5-8 S11 10th Avenue

Bruce Woodbury
Chief Administrative Officer

THE SLOCAN LAKE STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY (SLSS)
greatly appreciates the many volunteers who assisted this summer at the Friday Market information booth, ToodFest, the Hills Garlic Festival, and our wildly successful Wild Days field trips.

We greatly value the wonderful enthusiasm of the following individuals who assisted with the information booths and watershed mobiles: Leila Johnson, Hank Hastings, Mike Kooten, Leah Main, Matthew Fry, Evelyn Goodell, Randy Cofer, Gwynneth Davies, Becker Butzner, Deborah Sword, Jane Murphy and Brad Raymond.

We offer our huge thanks to Daniel Hellyer and Richard Johansen who brought their knowledge and passion to Wild Days, giving children and adults a better understanding of the natural world from the tiniest insects to the tallest mountains.

Special recognition goes to Diana deGroot for developing the wonderful illustrated map of the Slocan Lake watershed. Smaller copies of the map were a popular take-away at the information booths.

We appreciate the financial support of the Columbia Basin Trust and the Hills Recreation Society whose contributions enabled us to engage Marcy Mah and Theresa Tremaine to skillfully develop, promote, and manage our summer activities. This funding also enabled us to create an imaginative, interactive watershed model designed and built by Michelle Babic.

Finally, we thank all of the individuals and families who participated in Wild Days. We are already planning for more exciting adventures for next summer.

www.slocanlakesess.com
Walk for the Plan promotes affordable childcare plan

by Art Joyce

Slocan Valley residents were invited to participate in a Walk for the Plan event on September 19 to support a proposed Ten Dollar a Day affordable childcare plan for BC. Organized by Natalia Lucus, director of Valhalla Children’s Centre and Wee Ones daycare in South Slocan, the event is part of a province-wide campaign to influence childcare advocates. Supporters met at the beach at 10 am to participate in the walk.

The BC branch of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) has produced an extensive report on the proposed plan titled Solving BC’s Affordability Crisis in Childcare. The report notes that only one in five children in BC currently has access to childcare programs. “This is the second highest fees in Canada, with monthly fees for seven months ranging from $760 to $1,037 per month depending on the child’s age. Subsidies for low-income parents have been frozen for 10 years, with fees rising faster than inflation.” That can mean as much as $60 a day for some families and not everyone who needs the subsidy qualifies. “The annual $10 a day...”

New Slocan council, September 8: Denver Siding boundary extension to be proposed to ministry

by Karine Campbell

• The Lelu 2 water restrictions have been rescinded, effective immediately.

• The Village will proceed with the proposal for the Denver Siding and Area boundary extension, as requested by residents who want to be hooked up to Village water. Staff will develop a sign and submit the proposal to the provincial government. CAG Bruce Woddy informed the residents that the wording in the resolution comes from the ministry, and emphasized that staff will proceed with the proposal, not the boundary extension itself.

• Once the proposal is complete, it will be sent for comment to a number of agencies as well as the Denver Siding property owners. The results will be reviewed by the Ministry, then must be approved by the residents before going back to the Provincial Council for approval.

• Council approved the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 3. At that meeting, council reviewed the Slocan Intermont Memorial Centre operations. They reviewed the budget (historical values and projections from the current five-year financial plan) and discussed possible projects and options for increasing revenue generation.

• Councillor Heather Fox reported that the New Denver segment of Kooyenjoy Sutherland September 6 went very well. “Some [rivers] were lost and got found, and Sara the First Aid attendant was bowled over, which is what we were.”

• Councillor David Hodsoll reported that the Rec Commission is applying for a permit from the RDCK for a dock at Big Lax Bay. The commission will start taking bookings for the gym at the fitness centre, which is free, because it needs a schedule; it will also advertise the centre. The deadline for grant applications is October 6.

• The Healthy Community Society has been shortlisted for a grant from the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, Councillor Fox said. Now the society will work on a detailed proposal for its food hub, if its application is successful, it would look for a facility to rent.

• The Village will move to an Alternate Approval Procedure for: “It’s an election over the issue of the Village to proceed with the lease and sale of a portion of land to the Government of Canada for the Nova Scotia Defence of Canada Act. The issue will go to referendum.”

DID YOU KNOW... it’s easy to transfer your prescriptions to your local pharmacy! The New Denver Community Pharmacy will have them transferred for you! Just call or drop in and ask us!

New Denver Community Pharmacy 309 6th Ave 250-358-2500

MEET CAROLINE MUNROE author of Light Years: Memoir of a Modern Lighthouse Keeper

SLIDE SHOW & BOOK SIGNINGS at the following locations:

Wednesday, September 23

7:00 PM Nelson Library

Thursday, September 24

7:00 PM Nelson Library

Book sale by Otter Books

Friday, September 25

7:00 PM Ecosan Hall, New Denver

Book sale by Raven’s Nest

For more information, visit www.carolinemunroe.com

Bereavement Journal Group

(8-week)

Oct 1 - Nov 19 on Thursdays (1-4 pm) in Silverton

Facilitated by Counsellors, Sue Mistretta, M.A. and Alice Watson, M.A. Sponsored by New Denver Hospice Society and funded by CBCT.

$50 to register

For details call Sue 250-358-2177 or soulgarden58@gmail.com
Herbal Musings
with Colleen Emery

Fermentation and seasonal changes

The benefits of including fermented foods in the diet has widely been documented and reported. What not too long ago was an almost lost culinary art in the modern kitchen has now become a mainstay for most. Not only are people fermenting at home, everything from kombucha to fermented ketchup to probiotic-rich kraut can even be found in our local shops, health food stores and on the menus at local restaurants and cafes.

The benefits of including fermented foods in the diet are far reaching and include: preserving nutrients, breaking them down into more digestible forms; creating new nutrients; microbial cultures create B vitamins (including folate, riboflavin, niacin, etc.); and removing toxins in food. Also, some fermenters function as antioxidants, scavenging harmful free radicals from the body. Fermented foods are rich in healthy bacteria that promote the growth of healthy flora in the intestine helping with overall digestive system function.

However, the idea of pursuing a seasonal approach to fermenting is just now becoming more of a conversation although this approach was certainly the way our ancestors were about navigating this preparation method.

Eating seasonally is not a new idea. Taking time to consider what grows around us, what the weather is doing and the unique characteristics of the current season helps us connect to the organic rhythm of nature that deeply nourishes us.

It’s not so different when we consider our fermenting projects. It makes great sense to consume cool beverages of kombucha and tikis in the hot months of summer to help regulate our body temp and quench our thirst. When the season changes and we experience dampness and colder weather it’s important to adapt to this change and adjust the way in which we include fermenters.

Moving from the cooling fermenters such as kombucha into the warming beverages such as ginger bug makes great sense.

Preparing a ginger bug is a simple, inexpensive way to include a spicy, warming addition to our beverages in the fall. All the healthy benefits of including ginger as a bead are amplified when we prepare it as a fermenter including improving circulation, warming the body and stimulating digestion.

HOW TO BREW A GINGER BUG

Ingredients
Fresh Ginger
Whole Unrefined Cane Sugar

Instructions
• Break off a knob from your piece of ginger, peel and grate to yield 2 heaping tablespoons.
• Place the grated ginger in a small jar and stir in 1 tablespoon water to get the ginger into a jar and 2 tablespoons clean water.
• Cover the jar loosely and place in a warm spot in your kitchen.

Joyce to speak on British Home Children in Kaslo

Well-known West Kootenay author and poet Sara Arthur Joyce will appear at the Kaslo Library to read from his book Laying the Children’s Ghosts to Rest – Canada’s Home Children in the West. In addition to the reading, Joyce will present a slideshow based on his research at the library on Wednesday, October 7, 7 p.m.

He will also answer the question, “What is the biggest ‘open secret’ in Canadian history?”

Want a hint to the answer? Canada’s most beloved literary icon, Anne of Green Gables, is based on this historical phenomenon: between 1869 and 1948, 100,000 children were taken from shamans and orphanages in Britain and shipped without parental support to work as indentured servants in Canada. A further 30,000 were emigrated to other British colonies, mainly Australia and New Zealand.

For Joyce the story is personal. In 2007, while researching his family tree, he found immigration records showing that his paternal grandfather came to Canada with three other boys and a chauffeur, but no parents. After consulting a local genealogist he was introduced to the term Home Children. Although it didn’t mean anything to him at the time, his journalistic curiosity was sparked and he decided to investigate.

“The wider story interested me because I realized if this happened in my family, it must have happened in many other Canadian families,” he says. Indeed, an estimated four million children can trace their roots to Home Children – approximately one in eight Canadians.

The practice persisted well into the 20th century, aided by dozens of immigration agencies, many of questionable repute. Though some of the children did well, many were exploited and hardy, their new lives hardly an improvement on the ones they left behind. A few Canadian families adopted the children, but most were wanted strictly for their labour.

Joyce’s book explores the lesser-known part of the story – what happened to some of these children – and the impact of this experience on subsequent generations.

Laying the Children’s Ghosts to Rest chronicles this essential yet seldom-discussed aspect of Canadian history. The book combines exhaustive research with memoir and reflective reflection to paint a vivid picture of life for a Canadian Home Child.

Coe Harris, Professor Emeritus of History and Geography at UBC, calls the book “A significant achievement in Canadian history.” Gary Geddes, an icon of Canadian poetry, says, “Joyce is an excellent writer and has produced an important, engaging book. With a poet’s eye, he often finds the exact image to make his story fly beneath the surface of the text.”

When the book was launched in Calgary in May 2014 it reached the Top 10 Nonfiction Independent Bookstore Bestsellers list. Joyce toured Canada with the book that year, visiting 24 cities and communities.

To continue with a seasonal approach to fermenting why not try this recipe with a chili tea blend. Since this recipe can be made any time of year, even on days where the winds are blowing, the sun has slumped below the horizon too soon and the chill is in the air, a ginger bug and fermented tea is also very helpful during cold and flu season.

Want to hear more, try samples and learn more fun fermenting skills? The Fermenting 101 intensive is now open for enrollment! This dynamic class hosted by the Homesteading 101 series runs Saturday, October 17 from 10 to 4. Call 250-226-7744 or email kootenayfood.com for more details and to sign up.

Colleen Emery is the owner and Master Herbalist of Emery Herbals Dispensary, Healing Suites and Teaching Centre in the heart of Winkler, BC. Colleen is passionate about empowering individuals with the tools and understanding of their wellness through fostering traditional skills and connection to the natural world.
Standing ovation for Eloise Charet-Calles at New Denver book launch

by Jan McMurray

We laughed, we cried, and we gave Eloise Charet-Calles a standing ovation at her book launch in New Denver on September 11 at the Bonn Hall.

Never Without Our Children is Eloise’s memoir of running an orphanage with her sister, Anna, in war-torn Cambodia in 1975. With war raging in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, Naomi Bronstein of Families For Children, a small Montreal-based organization, asked 23-year-old Eloise and her 20-year-old sister if they wanted to go over and help the orphans.

They were no innocent. It was like a form of initiation to be plunged into the war and have to figure a way to get out of there,” she said. “Like any initiation, you’re never sure if you’ll come through unscathed.”

You might say that they came through unscathed, but certainly not unchanged. “Tonight, I have the honour of showing you a part of my life that had so much meaning – not just to me, but for my entire generation,” Eloise told the crowd at the book launch. “The Vietnam War affected all of us. It was the very first time in history that young people stood up to say, ‘No more war.’

Eloise and Anna managed to escape the region in the nick of time, and to heroically bring back more than 50 orphans to Canada with them. Despite several notices and warnings to evacuate Cambodia, the sisters would not leave the country without the children.

“We never gave up on our children,” she said. “This book is a reminder of how important our children are. They are our future. I hope this book honours all of our children.”

Eloise read several passages from the book – some sad and serious, describing the abominations of the war; some hopeful, describing the happenings at their ‘Canada House’ orphanage; and some hilarious, describing their experiences in a new culture. “The book has all the ingredients: drama, intrigue, humour and even a love story… it’s all there,” said Eloise.

Perhaps the most endearing quality of the book, however, is Eloise’s writing style – humble and unassuming, open and honest – just like Eloise herself.

Never Without Our Children is available at www.amazon.ca and at local outlets throughout the region.

No go for multi-use trail designation on rail trail in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp council chambers were packed to overflowing on the September 14 council meeting when Danny Wiebe made a presentation asking council “to work with all community trail stakeholders to make the old railway bed within the Village boundaries an all-inclusive, multi-use, shared trail open for 100 percent of the people.”

The group also provided council members with a binder full of information in support of their request, 110 letters from Nakusp and area residents and businesspeople expressing support for the trail being multi-use, and a petition with 276 valid signatures calling for council to amend the Village bylaws to permit motorized vehicles on the trail.

Earlier this summer, the Village installed barricades to block motorized vehicles from using the rail trail adjacent to the trail route, after a child walking along the trail with his father was nearly hit by a dirt bike. This was not the first time the Village had received a report of a close call on this trail. Furthermore, two Village bylaws prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on any trails within Village boundaries.

Council met with the group in favour of multi-use on the trail on September 15 to tell them council could not support a multi-use designation on the rail trail within Village boundaries, but would support their efforts to find an alternate trail for motorized off-road vehicles.

Mayor Hamling explained to the group that council has a responsibility to take reasonable care to ensure safety of people using Village property. Council must protect the Village from liability and must consider the well-being of the community as a whole.

Her meeting notes state: “Council and staff have done their research and due diligence and consulted various agencies and it is the opinion of council that the trail is not wide enough to support multi-use without danger to pedestrian traffic and is not complaint with recognized trail design specifications.”

Dig Garden Centre

FALL SALE!

A great time to plant and get a deal doing it!

Concrete Statues and Fountains
20% off

Ceramic Outdoor Pottery
30% off

Fruit Trees and Fruit Bushes
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Select Trees, Shrubs, Perennials up to 50% off

Giftware, Wall Art, Gnomes, Fairy* Save the taxes until Sept 30*

Fall Garden Prep: peat moss • manure • grass seed • rakes • pruners • frost cloth Tues – Sat 9:30 am - 5:30 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm; Closed Mondays
At Playmor Junction, turn left behind the Credit Union 250.359.5926 • Check out our Facebook page for great ideas
The Sloman Valley's reputation as a sleepy backwater got a black eye this summer with a wave of business break-ins and vandalism. In July and August, Winslow saw two break-ins at the Mini-Mart and Post Office and Home Hardware. A number of cheques were stolen from the Post Office. The hardware store lost several thousand dollars worth of outdoor equipment and suffered damage to its safe. The surveillance camera was also stolen. Then on the weekend of September 12, vandalism struck businesses all along Broadway Avenue in Nakusp, causing more damage but no thefts.

From there the crime wave spread up the valley, with a failed attempt at a break-in at the New Denver Liquor Store. In Nakusp the Hut Drive-In was hit twice, once in July and once in August, availing mostly in vandalism. The cash till was completely smashed and the clean-up required the business to close for a day. "The most recent one was the end of August, they actually cut our phone line, so that was a pain, because we had to get TELUS to reconnect our line," says Hut owner Chris Wiltzius.

The Winslow Home Hardware break-in occurred August 27, the same night the Hut was hit. Sometime during the early morning hours, a thief or thieves broke in through one of the doors at the rear of the building. They stole all the hunting supplies—hunting clothes, cordless phones, memory sticks, knives and ammunition. They also broke into the outside storage unit using the store's tools but didn't take anything. It appears the thief or thieves were looking for the surveillance system to disable it and then found the safe. Next they used one of the store's angle grinders to try to break into the safe. When owner Darren McCoy arrived the next morning, the damaged safe was found outside. Trailer cameras normally used for hunting as well as the surveillance camera and computer mainframe were taken as well, eliminating video evidence. The phone lines were cut, a pattern shared by all the other break-ins.

"This looks like a professional job to me," says McCoy. "Who knows how long they were in there—the damage they did to the safe was substantial. I think they were going to take it somewhere else to work on it but maybe something spooked them. The neighbour's dogs were all going crazy around 2:30 in the morning but people just thought it was bears so no one got up to look."

"It was quite prolific; they left no trace," agrees Winslow Mini-Mart manager Peter Kim. "They cut the power and the phone from outside the building first. I think they probably tried to cut the power because I have a big stretch mark on the front door."

The Sloman Valley detachment commander Constable Brenda Butler says some cheques from the Post Office have begun to surface in other BC communities. However, the RCMP do not see a connection between the various burglaries and break-ins. A recent break-in occurred in the Trout Lake area where some fuel was stolen from a business; the forensic evidence is currently being processed. These files are all under active investigation.

"It may not be today or tomorrow but property taken in break-ins has turned up—we had some taken in 2014 that's turned up," says Bench. "With the crime reduction program here we're going to require our repeat offenders. When we go after these people we do find stolen property in their residences."

The old saying applies here: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Benchard advises business owners to have up-to-date security and surveillance systems, including hidden cameras. Don't let anyone know where the information is stored. If all possible have it under lock and key in a concealed place. Storing surveillance data in an off-site location is recommended. Uploading to the 'cloud' is fine as long as you have good quality cameras—the data collected is only as good as the equipment used. It needs to have the capacity to provide clear images of faces. Both homes and businesses should have nighttime lights, surveillance cameras and an alarm system.

"If you leave town, let a neighbour know. It's always good to have a buddy system so you can watch out for each other."

Businesses or individuals hoping to recover stolen goods are encouraged to contact the Sloman Lake detachment office in New Denver to see if the material has been recovered. Anyone with information about break-ins is encouraged to come forward. If you're not comfortable talking directly to police, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). All information received is confidential and will be used to further police investigation.

Raising money-smart kids

much to share on the topic of spoil. Nutrient Resilience, with Sherry Tolman, December 3. Sherry has worked with supported child development for many years and has recently joined the West Kootenay Infant Development team. She will share her knowledge and experience on self-regulation and how to raise emotionally resilient children.

The series aims to offer parents access to professionals with current information, in an informal setting where they can share with other families to help build a sense of community and network of support.

The free sessions take place at the StrongStart Centre at Winslow School from 10 am—noon. Childminding and snacks for the children are provided.

For more information, please contact the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, the Sloman Valley Early Childhood Community Advisory Council, and Networks for New Parents. Call Penny 250 272 7065 or Alison 250 359 4607 to register.
Kootenay Sufferfest sees more international racers this year

by Jan McMurray

The Kootenay Sufferfest event on the Labour Day weekend in Kaslo, New Denver and Nakusp this year was another huge success.

Race Director Janis Neufeld reports a spike in international participation. “Some people from New Zealand found Sufferfest online and came just for the race,” she said. “There were racers from Australia, Europe, and more from the US than ever before.”

The highlight of the weekend was when 16-year-old Tai Huyen from Calgary, legally blind, crossed the finish line of the Nakusp duathlon on Monday. “There was not a dry eye in the crowd,” she said. “Everyone rushed to the line and cheered him in. It was one of those heart-wrenching moments.”

Huyen completed the 5K run, 20K bike and 5K run course without a guide. He got to know the course well by pre-riding it. “He was so determined there was no stopping him!” said Neufeld. The youngest participant in the Nakusp duathlon, he was given a gold medal for First Overall Youth.

The biggest sufferfest happening on the 50K Milford Mountain Marathon on Saturday. “The snow was coming down sideways at the top. It was cold, rainy, windy and snowy — you couldn’t even see the beautiful views — but the racers loved it!” said Janis. This race has been used for the Loonie Toonie race in the past, but in the opposite direction. “It’s a great route.” It’s hard — it lives up to the Sufferfest name — but the views of Kootenay Lake are beautiful.”

The winner was Andrew Brish, a Canadian who also won the Idaho Peak Mountain Marathon on July 26.

Another new event that was a huge success was the Corporate Challenge in Nakusp on Monday. Six teams entered this short duathlon course (2K run, 10K bike, 2K run). The Hometown Honeys from Homegrown Market & Juice Bar in Nakusp came on top, winning a $900 mountain bike from Shore’s Bike and Ski. “There was lots of buzz around the Corporate Challenge — it’s going to catch,” said Neufeld. “We’ll see two to three times the number of entrants next year.”

So heads up to the businesses and organizations in the Nakusp, New Denver and Kaslo areas — get training!

The start and finish areas were in different locations in both Kaslo and New Denver this year, and Neufeld was very pleased with them. In Kaslo, races started and ended at the legger sports grounds instead of Water St. and in New Denver, at the recycling depot instead of Centennial Park. The change in New Denver was requested by the Ministry of Transportation, who wanted racers making as few highway crossings as possible. Although organizers were unhappy about having to move at first, they ended up happy with the recycling depot. “We transformed it into a beautiful venue,” said Neufeld. “It eliminated highway crossings so reduced the number of volunteers needed, gave a great vantage point for announcing and timing, and simplified the whole course.”

Sufferfest has grown over its six years to hold events throughout the year. In addition to its signature event, the society hosts the Idaho Peak Mountain Marathon, the Mother’s Day Fun Run, the Burton Triathlon during Burton Daze in June, and the Nakusp Road Bike Weekend. This winter, the society will hold a Winter Triathlon at Summit Lake for the first time. This will involve snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and downhill skiing for teams and individuals.

Helpful Hints to Help You Feel Better, Naturally
Acupuncture by Lyne and others, vitamin with stress management, prevents the out of rack sales. For quality supplements and improved health and wellness contact Dr. Diane Draper, Naturopractic Physician of Back in Balance in Castlegar, 250-334-4401

Community is invited to the...
7th Annual HARVEST FESTIVAL
At Lucasien School
Friday, October 2 from 9am-1pm
Come and celebrate the Fall Bountiful in the School Garden and Greenhouse (times for best floral decoration, Indian sunflower, best canned good, best jam, prettiest eggs, largest and strangest vegetables, best vase, best design, best gift creation (loaves here) and best ‘will down the hutt’)
Dress our and enjoy live music, square dancing, apple jerky, pumpkins 8-10%/kg, cab over country and simple powered smoothies!
This event welcomes all South Okanogan community members to celebrate the harvest together at Lucasien School and offer free lunch for all who participate
End in or to volunteer, please contact Julia 387 2785 or lucasien.school@gmail.com or school@lucasien.ca

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Studio Connexion Gallery features encaustics

Studio Connexion Gallery hosts Louise Ducharme for its last show of the regular season. With this year’s theme being ‘diversity’, curator Anne Beliveau has chosen encaustics with an abstract flavour to close 2015. The exhibition titled ‘From the Molting Pot’ opens September 23 and runs through October 10 (Thanksgiving weekend). The artist will attend the opening reception Friday September 25 from 5-8 pm.

After visiting Ducharme’s new studio in New Denver, Beliveau was taken by the many possibilities and invited the artist to create a series especially for the gallery. Louise uses multimedia with the main component being beeswax. She discovered encaustics as an art form while searching online for new ideas to introduce to her art students and has worked full time exploring and creating with encaustics. Louise has exhibited in Revelstoke, Kelowna, Nelson and New Denver. She also has given workshops and demonstrations.

The ancient art form of encaustics, which can be traced as far back as the fifth century BCE, is making a comeback. Artists love them — usually enjoy the texture, the natural sheen and the fragrance of the beeswax. This newly created series will dazzle you.

The gallery is located in the heart of Nakusp at 203 Fifth Avenue NW. Regular hours are 11 to 4, Tuesday to Saturday or by appointment to suit your busy schedule. You can reach the gallery at 250-265-3586 or 250-8588. Regular postings can be found on www.facebook.com/studioconnexion.
COMMITTEE

Celebrate Thanksgiving with your WHOLE family

submitted
You may have been wondering: did I miss the fall Locavores’ Feast?
(aka the 100 Mile Potluck), at the Valkian Whole Community Centre?
No, it’s just a little later than usual. This year RARTS (the Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society) has decided to do things a little differently. The idea is, you’ll probably like to share Thanksgiving dinner with your entire extended family — but no one’s house is that big! On Saturday October 10 that problem will be solved: you can dine with your Whole family in the Valkian Whole’s beautiful spacious dining room.
If you have never been to this event, you will discover that it is a true celebration of community and abundance. The food is astounding, the energy inspirational. It’s a great opportunity to be with friends old and new. One regular attendee says, “My son has come to this dinner for his whole life, and for him it is just as important as Christmas!”
Doors open at 5 pm, dinner is at 6. Admission is by donation and a generous potluck item sourced from as many local ingredients as possible.
RARTS also wants to extend the idea of family even further, and encourages everyone to share some of their harvest at the Slocan Food Bank at WE Graham.
Please bring storable veggies and fruit and even a sample of your home canning (if you can bear to part with it).
If you want to become a member of RARTS, memberships will be available at the door.
The Valkian Whole is at 3762 Little Slocan River Road. There may be some surprises yet to come: for more information go to www.valkianwhole.com.

Bereavement Journal program offered in Silverton
submitted
An eight-week Bereavement Journal program will be held on Thursdays (1-4 pm) at Hand and Soul Wellness Centre in Silverton, from October 1 to November 19. It is sponsored by the New Denver Hospice Society, funded by CBT Community Initiatives, and is modeled after the successful program developed by Susan Brethall of Victoria Hospice Society. Facilitators Sue Miskeutta, M.A. (Silverton) and Alice Watson, M.A. (Borden) will provide a safe, supportive, and confidential space for participants to explore their grief and to discover a healing journey which cultivates compassion and acceptance for the array of intense feelings and confusing thoughts experienced through loss.
The program is open to anyone who is going through a grieving process after losing someone close to them, whether the loss is recent or in the distant past. We will explore grief through writing exercises (journaling), college and other simple art processes. Participants will come to understand and normalize their grief experiences and will learn hands-on skills for dealing with life after losing a loved one.

Celebrate water with British Columbia Rivers Day
submitted
The community is invited to celebrate the Slocan and Kootenay Rivers with a brunch, educational presentation and a field trip to the newly formed regional park by the Slocan River in Crescent Valley. The event will take place on BC Rivers Day, Sunday, September 27 at the Crescent Valley Community Hall from noon to 4 pm.
Lesley Anderson will present The Geological History of the Slocan and Kootenay River Basins. Many of you will know Anderson from her 35 years as an instructor at Selkirk College and her continued education courses in the community.
Thousands of British Columbians celebrate BC Rivers Day on the last Sunday in September each year, making it Canada’s largest river appreciation event. Recreational clubs, conservation organizations, community groups, schools, and local governments host events across the province to generate public awareness about waterways. Planned events celebrate the cultural, ecological, historical, aesthetic and recreational values of rivers.

Kootenay Carshare Cooperative
carsharecoop.ca

FOOD SPECIALS

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CASTLEGAR CARDLOCK
Major construction on our new Bulk Petroleum & Cardlock facility in Castlegar is complete. We are now preparing to begin operating the Cardlock, and taking credit applications for consumer and commercial Cardlock accounts. We will provide clear and dry regulated gasoline and diesel fuel. You can find more information by visiting our website at www.slocanvalleycoop.ca

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

SEPT - OCT
Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu
25 26 27 28 29 30 1
Prices effective Sept 25 - Oct 1, 2015 - While supplies last
Sun 8 AM - 9 PM * Mon - Sat 6 AM - 9 PM

The Slocan River winds through the Valley in Spring.
Slocan Owl Walk grand opening October 2

submitted

If you saw a picture of a Western screech-owl, you might expect a cheeky little creature underneath that reads, “Owl I need in you.”

In many ways the Western screech-owl looks like a quintessential owl but it is far from ordinary. With fewer than 500 in Canada (subspecies aberti), the owl is considered an endangered species.

The Slocan Valley Fall Fair was held at Winlaw Hall. This year’s event was a resounding success in its 16th year, with more than 65 exhibitors and 40 vendors.

Competition and fun escalate each year. This year, there were 600 entries — displays of the entrants’ best flowers arrangements, potatoes, baking, pumpkin pies, all manner of wares and wonderful fruits and vegetables, and a beautiful crafts table. Tables were full to overflowing with tomatoes (over 65 entries alone), potatoes and pumpkins (largest one weighing in at 1.352 grams), spurring some of the most spirited rivalries.

A noticeable change this year was the increased number of kids’ entries, with one side of the hall full of decorated veggies, collections of everything from bottle caps to vintage miniature motorcycles and special rocks. Lego creations — with a wonderful one depicting the fall fair itself — and decorated cakes featured strongly in the children’s area. Kids were also entertained by carving cucumbers, strolling in the pie eating contest, and admiring the huge pumpkins.

The weather was perfect – not too hot, not too cold and no rain — and made a perfect time for visiting, eating, listening to wonderful music, and supporting local vendors, who offered everything from wood-fired pizza to pies and potatoes.

The grand aggregate winners this year were: Top Female - Carolyn Hadow; Top Male - Patrick Squires; Under 5 - Charlie Potter, 5 to 8 years - Gwendolyn Pinhey, and 9 to 12 years - Jasmine Perley.

Pumpkin winners were: First place - Colleen Stooshnoff at 161 lbs; Second place - Bernie Kostadin at 123.5 lbs; Third place - Axelle Stooshnoff at 120 lbs; and the smallest at 33 lbs belonging to Simon Nemieux.

Environmental initiatives program and provides visitors with eight educational panels about the Western screech-owl and its habitat.

A committee of community volunteers and two councillors applied for a Community and Employment Partnership grant through the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation to further the project. The grant addresses the province’s rapidly changing labour market, equipping hired participants with the skills they need to be first in line for jobs in BC’s diverse economy.

Tai Chi classes start up in Slocan Park in October

submitted by Daphne Fields

Thinking about staying flexible and strong indefinitely? The internal martial art of Tai Chi Chuan can work its lovely way into your busy schedule and make this possible.

Tai Chi is for people of all ages who know the value of routine and hard work, and the benefit of meditation and stretching in their lives. So if you’re physically capable and want to focus on a weekly practice for this upcoming school year, you can gain this precious life-ally ready to serve you always.

The Tai Chi Daphne Fields will teach this year is a set of 54 moves that takes five to six minutes. Making room for it in your daily routine will send life-affirming Qi energy coursing throughout your whole system — slow, bone and marrow. Its practice induces deep breathing and an immersion in the alpha wave brain state, which means that thoughts settle, and you emerge from the net refreshed.

Also, if you’re into helping others as well as yourself, you can learn techniques that can assist in preventing back trouble, regulating blood pressure, toning or strengthening lung capacity, liver, kidney function — aiding specific and general healing. Tai Chi, with its light touch to Chinese traditional Qi Gong, will make you more useful to your friends and community.

The class will be held on Tuesdays starting October 27 from 7:30-8:30 pm at Slocan Park Hall. There will also be a class on Wednesdays if firefighters are interested. Contact: valhallataichi@gmail.com to help get this group happening. See ad on this page – not for ‘grounded’, white for ‘uplifting’, and the middle way of yellow for ‘confidence’ - which pretty much defines Tai Chi.
Whole School welcomes new teachers and offers a full-time kindergarten program

submitted

This September, the Whole School welcomes two new full-time teachers – Roxanne Mackay, who is trained in permaculture, natural building and visual arts, and Eli Goddiss, experienced in teaching outdoor and artistic programs, including drama, writing and wilderness survival. They join principal Annith Lang, Rose Hodawitz, a certified teacher and educational assistant, and Josie Corrigan, the school’s co-ordinator. As a result, the Whole School now offers a full-time kindergarten program.

“We’re thrilled to have such an incredible team this year,” says Tara Harvey, chair of the board. “We’ve created a classroom experience with lots of support that links outdoor education with our in-class learning.”

Roxanne Mackay has been an educator since 2009 and is passionate about rural, multi-age classroom education. Her knowledge of attachment theory and the Circle of Courage are a huge asset to the Whole School. She believes in the importance of relevant, hands-on learning experiences for children in schools – from making a community garden to building a cob bench. Her hope is to integrate physical, experiential learning into The Whole School program.

Eli Goddiss has over a decade of experience teaching students in diverse settings, including schools and outdoor youth programs. Sharing wilderness survival skills and fostering leadership, he has been actively involved in wider community endeavours through the Capitol Theatre, 4 Cats Arts Studio, and writing for the Nelson Star and Houses and Home Magazine.

Annith Lang continues to bring her expertise to The Whole School as principal using the Circle of Courage model, a positive youth development model based on the universal principles that to be emotionally healthy, all youth need a sense of competence, connection, character and contribution.

The Whole School combines attachment theory and the Circle of Courage with multi-age, small classroom sizes to support each student to excel at their own pace, and we have never turned a family away for lack of funds,” said Lang. The school has a vision of sharing the Circle of Courage philosophy with other related child and youth groups in our community. It strives to create a nurturing and safe environment to enable learning and has chosen to ban all WiFi and cordless phone signals at the school.

For more information contact the school at wholeschooll@gmail.com or call 250-226-7737.

COMMUNITY

Winlaw photographers exhibit at KGA

submitted

On September 25 an opening reception will be held at the Kootenay Gallery of Art for two photographic exhibitions.

The East Gallery will feature the work of photographers Jo Brown and Tom Bradley, who live and work in Winlaw. They have formed a creative partnership in which they share a passion for their craft, a fascination with the effect of natural light on their subjects and an interest in the natural world. Brown invites the viewer to imagine themselves as part of the landscape and therefore part of the story, told by the images. Bradley brings a historical perspective, a curiosity as to who may have walked on the narrow streets or passed along the country road many years before.

Brown and Bradley have created a body of work independent of each other yet found that, when exhibited together, another dimension is added to the stories they tell.

In the West Gallery is a very timely exhibition of photographs taken by fantastic forestry firefighters. After every fire season and especially toward the end of this devastating one, people feel a huge sense of gratitude to those who serve on the fireline. Karlie Shawnumuy, Communications Officer for the Southeast Fire Centre, works with the men and women who fight the fires in our local district and encourages them to capture their stories on canvas.

The result are incredible photographs that reflect the level of intensity they face in their efforts to control the often powerful and unpredictable fire events.

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Jo Brown’s photograph ‘Telling Back the Darkness’

The Valley Voice: September 25, 2015
Nakusp and Kaslo grapple with glass recycling

by Jan McMurray

The recycling depot in Nakusp and Kaslo are moving on October 19, but bins for glass will still be available in the villages for now.

As of October 19, Nakusp’s recycling depot will be located at the landfill site and Kaslo’s recycling depot will be located at the transfer station. In addition, bins for glass will still be available at the Nakusp Village office and at the Kaslo Public Works yard.

Residents living inside Village boundaries in Nakusp and Kaslo have curbside recycling pickup under the Multi-Material BC (MMBC) program. Unfortunately, glass is not being picked up at the curbside in either village, so both Village councils want to retain an RDCK glass bin in town or come to an agreement with MMBC for curbside pickup of glass.

At the September 17 RDCK board meeting, the board agreed to leave the glass bin in Nakusp and Kaslo for now. This gives the Villages time to discuss curbside pickup of glass with MMBC, and for the issue to be discussed further at the RDCK’s Joint Resource Recovery Committee meeting on November 18.

During negotiations with MMBC for the curbside recycling program, both Villages understood that glass would not be accepted. However, Alles Langdon of MMBC attended the September 17 RDCK meeting, and explained that glass can indeed be picked up at curbside, as long as it is separated from all other recyclable materials.

Chair Hamling was unhappy to receive this conflicting information at this late date. She has gone through the negotiations with you, and you flat out refused its glass,” she said. “You need to make sure you are listening to people.”

Uli Wolf, General Manager of Environmental Services at the RDCK, suggested that glass be picked up from the RDCK depots under the MMBC program, “We know that curbside pickup is expensive and complicated for glass. We have an established [depot] system that is more effective and cheaper. Everything is in place— it could be rolled out tomorrow. Why not consider that?”

Langdon replied that depots approved under the MMBC program have to collect all materials, not just glass. “We need to keep consistent standards across the province,” he said.

Wolf urged MMBC to be more flexible when coming up with solutions for rural communities. Chair Hamling agreed. “You need to consider that,” she said.

RDCK recycling depots are not part of the MMBC program because the RDCK did not sign up for the service by the deadline in fall 2013. The RDCK board was hesitant to sign on, as the recycling depot service offered by MMBC is inferior to the RDCK service.

Silverton council, September 8: Taxation for PALS under consideration

by Jan McMurray

• RDCK Area K (Arrow Lakes)

Director Paul Peterson attended to ask council to consider asking Silverton residents if they’d like to contribute ten dollars to the Protecting Animal Life Society (PALS) by way of an Alternate Approval Process. PALS provides food, shelter, medical care and love to neglected and homeless pets from Edgewood to Enterprise Creek. Peterson said the tax rate would be $.12/51,000 or $5.40 on a $390,000 home. Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton, Area H North, and Area K residents would all have to agree to the AAP or it won’t go ahead.

Silverton council approved the AAP. So far, Nakusp has also approved it and New Denver has expressed an interest in exploring the issue further.

• Council reaffirmed the stance taken in the 1997 Watershed Protection Policy with respect to proposed or planned logging operations or any other resource development in the Village watershed.

• Councillor Main reported on an August 10 field trip to view proposed cutblocks up Silverton Creek. Interfor, Mountain Water Research, Valhalla Wilderness Society, and Slocan Lake Stewardship Society representatives were all in attendance.

She says in her report: “Because of historical, and proposed, logging activity, Silverton Creek is no longer an intact system, but it retains enough integrity currently to be worthy of any protection we can afford it by maintaining communications with Interfor (and whatever company may succeed them in the future). Any disruptive activity that occurs within the Watershed will eventually affect Silverton’s water supply aquifer.”

She plans to do an in-depth presentation with Margaret Hartley of SSLS at the October council meeting.

• CAO Melissa Miles reported that 20 bokashi kits were purchased for composting, and there was a good response. Council will discuss purchasing more at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

• A select committee to deal with tennis court repairs was struck. Members are Mark Adams, Raysm Butt-Grau and Councillor Yofonoff. The committee will dissolve once repairs are completed.

In view of the heavy water use this summer, council will consider placing water restrictions earlier in future years.

The Boulevard Improvement and Regulation bylaw 490-2015 was given three readings. In the new bylaw, property owners adjacent to boulevards are encouraged to mow the boulevard, whereas in the previous bylaw, they were required to maintain the boulevard in a clean and safe condition at all times.

• The Complaints Policy was renamed the Concerns Policy and was adopted.

• Many concerns have been received about dogs. Village staff will be posting notices regarding dogs in the Valley Voice and on the bulletin boards.

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription

Only $10-$30

Send Cheque or Money Order to: The Valley Voice
Box 70 New Denver, BC
V0G 1S0

A downed power line can be deadly

Electricity is silent and invisible. Treat it with respect, as downed power lines can still be energized and deadly. If you see a downed power line, keep back at least 15 metres. For more information, visit coopsafetyprogram.ca/powerline

A message from the partners of the Coop Safety Program

FORTISBC SAFETY WORKSAFEBC

NOTICE OF EXCLUSION APPLICATION

REGARDING LAND IN THE
AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE

I, The Board of School Trustees School District #10 (Arrow Lakes) of 96th Ave. N.W, Box 340, Nakusp BC V0G 1S0 intend on making an application pursuant to Section 30(1) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act to exclude from the Agricultural Land Reserve the following property which is legally described as

Lot 1 District Lot #1565 Kootenay District Plan 6609 and located at 344 Spruce Street, Fauquier. Any person wishing to express an interest in the application may do so by forwarding their comments in writing to Regional District of Central Kootenay Box 596, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V0L 5R4 by October 17, 2015.

The Vaillancourt Whole Community Centre seeks its 3rd live-in caretaker in its 44 yr. history.

This is a unique opportunity to live in the hexagonal log Kootenay home (formally known) adjacent to the community centre & its’ 11 acres in Vaillancourt.

The successful candidate will be an organized, resourceful self-starter, with varied maintenance, groundskeeping and plumbing skills, who will take ownership of the care of this Kootenay jewel.

This person will be computer literate and should appreciate the reality of rural living.

This is a 25 hr/month job.
Compensation is in the form of a rent reduction.

Join community minded people, who are contributing to the tradition of the renowned Vaillancourt Whole Community Centre.

Pls send a cover letter & resume in pdf format, (which include 2 professional & 2 rental references with complete contact information) to WholeCaretaker@gmail.com before 4 pm Oct 3/15.

For more information and job description visit www.VaillancourtWhole.com

134457-07/2018
Kaslo and Area Medical Care Society holds first general meeting

by Jan McMurray

About 80 people attended the first general meeting of the Kaslo and Area Medical Care Society held at the Legion hall on September 17. President James Morris opened the meeting with his president’s address. “I am here today because Kaslo is getting an unacceptable raw deal with our healthcare and we need to do something about it,” he said.

Morris explained that most small towns and rural areas in BC and Canada are served by independent physicians with their own practices. These independent physicians work on the fee for service model, where physicians bill the Ministry of Health for the services they provide to their patients. This is how it used to be in Kaslo, as well, until IH started bringing in salaried physicians about ten years ago. Since then, Kaslo has seen “a revolving door of salaried physicians,” said Morris. “Few of us have had a stable doctor/patient relationship.”

Then two years ago, Board号楼 Kaslo’s 24/7 emergency room. “Enough is enough!” he said. “If things are going to improve, we need to take things into our own hands.”

The Kaslo and Area Medical Society is working towards bringing back independent, fee-for-service, resident physicians to Kaslo. The group has leased the land behind the Kaslo Community Pharmacy and is planning to put up a modular clinic there. Treasurer Sandy Cleland explained that the society will raise the funds to get the clinic up and running and will support it financially for the first couple of years until the doctors build up their practices and can take on the expenses of the building. Director Sandy McLeod said the society was aiming to raise $200,000-$300,000 up front, mostly through grants. The amount the society hopes to raise from the community is $60,000, said Clele.

Morris said the society hopes to start with a walk-in clinic in the evenings and on weekends, when the IH clinic is closed. He said these hours were suggested by Dr. Curtis Bell of IH during a meeting society representatives had with him on August 13. At that meeting, Bell also told society reps they wouldn’t be able to use the emergency room at the health centre.

The first question from the floor was about access to the emergency room. Morris said he feels that if the independent clinic is up and running with doctors, “the Ministry of Health and IH would relent” on that issue and permit access to the ER.

Another concern raised was the fear of losing current IH services and even the long-term care facility. “Right now it’s jeopardized,” answered Ward Taylor, local pharmacist, who is not a board member but was acting as a resource person to the board at the meeting. “We’re losing everything – the lab is pretty much going out of business.” He said that independent doctors living in Kaslo would have a vested interest in advocating for services here, “so we’d be far more protected than what it is right now.”

There were also questions about the society’s relationship with the Village council and its Health Care Select Committee. Morris said they have sent letters and had discussions with council and the Select Committee, but feel that “at this time, they are not part of the solution.”

“IF we rely on the way it’s going now, it won’t go any other way,” he said. “IH has a certain view. Services will either remain the same or diminish further. The best way is to try to get everybody together and if council decides it would be beneficial, it would be good for them to join us. We need a united effort to make this happen.”

The society has 277 members. Society board members are: James Morris, president; Jill Braley, secretary; Linda Cole, treasurer; Tony Fryar, membership chair; and Sandy McLeod, director.

Kaslo youth asked to show what inspires them

Submitted

“Inspired” is a series of creative workshops to discover what inspires young people in Kaslo and surrounding area to feel alive and engaged with life.

Youth will be supported and encouraged to delve deep into self exploration and self expression to tell what inspires them through art, film, photography and song.

Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (NLKCSS) received a CBT Youth Grant of $10,000 to develop and deliver a variety of workshops this fall. Photography with Louis Bockner, art with Kelle-Elise Ens with Leam Carlessom, and singing and songwriting with Sean Renman and Jakob Simsek.

Workshops will take place weekly after school from October 1 through to November 20. Participants will have the chance to display their art and photography, perform their songs and debut their short films of inspiration to the community at The Langham on December 4.

The society’s Youth Co-ordinator Shannon Isaac says they could not provide this opportunity without the support of JYH. The Langham Cultural Society and NLKCSS.

In order to have as many youth as possible involved, only one workshop option is available per person. If you have between the ages of 13 - 21 you are invited to sign up soon. Space is limited. Registration deadline is September 24 at 5 pm.

To register for your workshop series please contact Shannon Isaac at 250-353-4162, or email shannon.isaac@nlkcss.org

High coliform level triggers Woodbury ‘boil water’ notice

Submitted

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDKC) has issued a ‘boil water’ notice for users on the Woodbury Village water system. Recent testing showed a total coliform colony count of 110 cfu. The current water quality is now considered poor.

The RDKC and Interior Health recommend that all customers drink boiled water or a safe alternate until further notice. Water intended for drinking, washing fruits and vegetables, making beverages or ice, or brushing teeth should be boiled for one minute. Boiled water should then be refrigerated in a clean, covered container. Customers could also choose to use bottled or distilled water, or water that has been filtered through a well maintained treatment device. Owners of all public facilities must post a ‘boil water’ notice at all sinks or drinking water fountains accessible to the public (alternatively, public facilities are required to turn off the tap). As opportunities arise, they must also advise their clientele verbally of the ‘boil water’ notice.

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The Valley Voice September 23, 2015
Nakusp council, September 14: Low reservoir levels cause concerns

by Jan McMurray

- Mayor Hamling reported that this summer’s low reservoir levels has been the topic of several discussions with BC Hydro. Hamling said that the lake is not a complete disaster for swimmers, but there are also concerns about the operations of the Galena Bay ferry and Interior’s Culterix marine operations. The dockage mechanisms for the new Galena/Shelico ferry do not work when the reservoir level is below 1390 feet. “The wedges that the ferry comes into sink if the water level is under 1390 feet,” she said.

- Larry Price from Interior told Mayor Hamling that reservoir levels below 1390 feet would likely result in the curtailment of all towing activities, impacting Nakusp logging jobs.

- Levels between 1390 and 1395 feet result in severe impacts (prohibiting the safe use of Interior’s large towing vessel), and levels between 1395 and 1410 feet result in moderate impacts (smaller tow, same town). For normal operations, water levels must be above 1410 feet.

- BC Hydro representatives told Hamling that levels have not been below 1390 feet this year, and have mostly been around 1401 feet. The minimum level allowed by the Columbia River Treaty is 1378 feet.

- Mayor Hamling reported on discussions between council and Interior management about the four to six jobs that have been lost or moved out of Nakusp. Unfortunately, discussions did not result in the company changing its restructuring plans. Mayor Hamling has also talked to Interior management about the importance of keeping an office in Nakusp. “It sounds like they will try to have something here,” she said.

- Mayor Hamling reported that the recycling depot, currently at the arena, will be moved to the landfill site in October. Village residents can buy blue bags for their recyclables to be picked up at the curbside once every two weeks, or take their recyclables to the landfill during its hours of operation. At this time, glass containers are not accepted at curbside. Council will be discussing this further with the RDCK and with Multi Material BC.
Author to teach course on writing memoir, history
submitted

Have you ever wanted to turn your family papers into a memoir? Are you interested in writing a history that transcends mere facts to become a fascinating narrative? Do you volunteer for a historical society and feel you have the more skills to write local histories? If so, you should consider signing up for the Walking History—Exploring the Past to the Present, being offered at the Sullick College Learning Centre in Nalnup on October 3 and 4.

Taught by well-known Kootenay author and journalist Sean Arthur Joyce, the course will spend two instructional days covering the basics of historical research and writing technique. Please note: this is not a course in genealogical research. The cost is $150.

"Research skills are the foundation of all well-written histories and family memories," says Joyce. "The irony is that the Internet age has fostered as much misinformation as bona fide information. It’s important to know how to distinguish between the two." Joyce is the author of two local histories: A Perfect Childhood—One Hundred Years of Heritage Homes in Nelson (1997) and Hanging Fire & Hearty Heroes: A Century of Public Transit in Nelson (2000), on that city’s classic heritage homes and streetcars. These books were compiled in large part from research Joyce laid down in his popular Nelson Daily News column, Heritage Real (1996–2000).

Seventy years ago Joyce made a historical discovery that was deeply personal—he discovered he is the grandson of a British Home Child (BHC). Having no knowledge of this aspect of Canadian history, he applied his research skills to develop his next book project, Laying the Children’s Ghosts to Rest: Canada’s Home Children in the West.

The book was published in May 2014 by Rugged Press of Regina and has become the publisher’s fastest-selling title. Following the initial launch in Calgary it hit the Calgary Independent Bookellers’ Top 10 Nonfiction Bestsellers list. A national tour to promote the book followed, with reading dates in 24 communities from Ontario to BC. An estimated four million Canadians are the descendants of BHCs.

"With all the competition out there in the media for audience, it’s more important than ever that historians and nonfiction writers have a strong grasp of storytelling techniques," says Joyce. "Unless you’re writing a textbook, just the facts won’t cut it. People have always responded powerfully to a well told story, whether fictional or nonfictional."

Joyce will teach two components to the course. Day One will feature the Three R’s—Reading, Research and Recall. This component of the course will rely on the author’s experience researching his family history and incorporate it into his latest book. Students will learn the basics of research—how to refine a topic and frame an inquiry. This will include the question of whether sources are primary or secondary, etc. Participants will also learn the importance of contextualization. Joyce will share tips, and techniques of prompting recall of personal and family memories.

Day Two – Using the Techniques of Creative Nonfiction—will explore with students the basic craft of writing. The author will help students understand how to transform historical writing from “just the facts” into narratives that are engaging, personable and immediately relevant. Participants will be encouraged to try out new and unconventional techniques, focusing on character development and even elements of poetic techniques as they will explore both the possibilities and limitations imposed by different writing approaches to history.

Contact Sullick College to register. http://sullick.ca/co/courses/arts/culture/writing/walking-history-exploring-past-present

Thank you...
The Hills Recreation Society would like to extend a hearty and heartfelt thank you to all those who helped make the Hills Garlic Festival a success on September 13th. In particular we would like to thank the following:

• the people of the Village of New Denver, especially the residents of the Orchard, for welcoming the Garlic Festival into Centennial Park again
• the mayor, council, and village staff for their support and assistance
• Mel and Gaye Swanson, campground hosts, for their help throughout the weekend
• all the volunteers from Hills and elsewhere who cheerfully contributed their time and energy
• Kenya Sumall and all the Green Team volunteers for managing waste and recyclables, especially for their efforts in making the composting system a success
• Mountain Station and Gabriel Palanchi Trio for fantastic music, FluDiz the Magician for great family entertainment, and
• Liablies the Clown for bringing joy and smiles throughout the day.
• Jeff Peloso for being our MC throughout the day
• all the growers, craftpeople, and vendors who brought their produce, food, wares, services, and information to the Garlic Festival and who contributed to the Hills Rec Society raffle baskets
• the community at large for supporting the Garlic Festival as a fun event and a fundraiser for the entire community.

Proceeds from the Garlic Festival provide support for the following organizations and projects:
• Hills Community Park tennis court maintenance
• Hills community recreation activities, including ski trail grooming, summer trail maintenance, family picnic, summer youth recreation program, volunteer appreciation dinner, youth education services, and involvement in development of trail corridor for public recreation
• Hills Fire/Community Hall maintenance
• Hills Community Doukhobor Society
• Hills Nordic Ski Club
• Lucerne School programs
• New Denver Early Learning Society and friends
• Summit Lake Ski Hill

Coastest winners: Best Peers–Michael Wicks; Biggest and Heaviest–Bub (both soft and stiff neck varieties)–Rick Callaway and CindyMarcels, Goat River Grow Op

Go to our website hillsgarlicfest.ca

Thank you one and all!! See you next year on September 11!!

Cannons endorsed as one of the Green 18 by GreenPAC

who is best aligned with their political values. They encourage pledges of financial and volunteer support to those candidates’ campaigns.

HGG Food for Thought talk: the History of the Siminx
Virgil Seymour, Arrow Lakes facilitator from the Coeur d’Alene Tribe of the Colville (WA) Reservation, is working on creating connections in his traditional territory to help preserve the History of the Siminx. The Hidden Cedar Gallery invites you to this Food for Thought talk Sunday September 27, 7:30 pm, at Knox Hall in New Denver.

The Valley Voice September 23, 2015
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Buddy’s Pizza, Kasko: Award-winning, hand-tossed artisan pizza, 250-353-2526.
NEW: The SLOAN VALLEY RIDESHARE PROGRAM sponsored by The Healthy Community Society. For more information check community-connect.ca.
THE FAMILY OF BRENDA MAYSON are having a tea to celebrate her 100th Birthday. The tea is Oct. 11, 2015 from 2:00-4:00 pm at Salmon Arm Elks Hall and Park 1960 12th ST, Salmon Arm. Good wishes only please.

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The Valley Voice • September 23, 2015
ST. ANTHONY’S CHRISTMAS FLEA MARKET • Saturday, November 28, Bonaparte Hill, 10 am-2 pm. Contact Bec Severson 358-7771 to book your table. $25/table.
The SLOAN VALLEY Community Arm Council is holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday September 30 at the Paseronne Community Hall (436 Old Passmore Road). We will start at 7 pm. Pete Vogtlander will give us an inside look at his award-winning steam sculptures with the AGM to follow. Further details can be found at sloanvalleyarm.ca.

CRAFT FAIR
CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY • CRAFT FAIRE Sun., Nov. 22, 10am to 3pm Slocan Valley Legion Hall in Slocan. Vendors book your table now! Phone 250-355-2722 for application. Look forward to seeing you there.

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MOBILE HOME PADS available, first three months paid off free. Located in quiet, clean mobile home park in scenic Nakusp, only three minutes to the hospital, golfing, boat launch, town and beach. Storage available. Info: nakuspmobilehomeap.com

 library.

FALL ARRIVALS ARE AT STILL EAGLE. Most of our supplies will have been received. Check them out at 476 Baker St. EICHO, our new eco-boutique across the street.

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2004 DODGE NEON SX 2.0 - Great condition, runs well. Located at 250-353-6074.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
THINKING OF STARTING, buyout or expanding your own business? If so, call Community Futures office to discuss financing, consulting, training, and deliver the Small Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes. Persons with business management at 250-353-6074 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.ca.

ARE YOU AN ASPIRING ENTREPRENEUR? Call Community Futures to learn about the free Business Plan workshop open to anyone! And if you’re eligible, you may also qualify for the Small Employment program where you will receive ongoing business training and coaching and onward financial support while you start your business. To learn more call 250-353-6074 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.ca.

CLASSIFIED ADS
COMING EVENTS
THE BIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY’s AGM will be at 1:00 pm on Nov. 7 at the Gallery, 805 Kastner, New Denver. All are invited to attend.
OKTOBERFEST – SLOCAN CURLING CLUB Fundraiser, Saturday October 10, 2015, 3 pm mid-lunch at the Slocan Curling Club and Lager Sport Grounds in Slocan. Silent Auction & Music all day. Door Prize. Beer Gardens with delicious traditional Bavarian & More. Come fly with us between 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm in the village of Slocan. Sozo person gets you a 15 minute flight with our sponsor/ partner- High-Tyra Helicopter of Nelson. Even more sponsorships.

LOCAVORES’ FEAST (100 Mile Potluck), Saturday October 10, Velvick Wharf, Salmo Community Centre A big Thanksgiving dinner to celebrate the local harvest with everyone you consider family! Admission: potluck items to be locally sourced as possible & donation. Door at 5 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. 3702 Little Slocan River Road, www.locavoresus.com

SLOCAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY presents Derya Colak, successful Nezli

author, Sunday, September 27, from 1-2 pm. Derya will introduce her popular crime fiction series set in "Ecoziyan". Lending - 226-7512 for more information about this free event.


MEET CAROLINE WOODWARD, author of Light Years: Memoir of a Modern Lighthouse Keeper. Keepers of the light. Slides and book signing - Wednesday, September 23, 7-9 pm, Nakusp Library. Tuesday September 29, 7pm, Nelson Library (book sales by Other Books). Friday, September 25, 7-9 pm, Bonam Hall, New Denver (book sales by Raven’s Nest). For more information, visit www.harbourspublishing.com

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The Valley Voice • September 23, 2015
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OBITUARIES

It is with very heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Richard Allan (Al) Jones on September 3, 2015 in Kelowna, BC as he lost his fight with cancer.

Al was born September 12, 1948 in Victoria and moved to Zehlers, then Kaslo, where he graduated from high school at age 16. He received his Electronics and Engineering Diploma from BCIT and started his career with Kelly-Deeming Sound Corp in Vancouver. As one of the leadline technicians, they set up and maintained the equipment for live performances from B.C., including The Rolling Stones.

While his love of rock music always stayed with him, he fans moved to Kamloops and worked for General Electric as a Safety Officer in Comox. A 35-year career followed with the provincial government, Ministry of Highways, in which he retired as a Traffic Engineer. As Project Manager locally, his crew completed the stretch of highway between Pritchard and Summerland, as well as the newly completed bypass in Lake Country.

He leaves to mourn his passing his loving wife, Maggie, step-daughter Natasha (Gren) and two-year-old granddaughter Rowan. He is survived by his devoted sons, Penny (Greg) from Kelowna, and Tony (George) from Richmond, and their families. Maggie’s sister, Charmaine, from Sorrento, and family. Al was preceded by his parents Vern and Mildred Jones. He will be greatly missed by his work family at West Kelowna office. Al’s (Morgan) Allan and Herb Kilty from Kaslo will miss their lifelong friend. The family wishes to extend our thanks to the caring staff of Hospice House for their care and assistance. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name, mailed to c/o Margaret (1153 Sunview Place, West Kelowna, BC, V1Z 3J1) to Central Okanagan Hospice House or the SPCA.

A Celebration of Al’s life will be held Saturday, September 12 at the Super 7 West Kelowna Hotel at 1655 Westgate Road, Kelowna, BC from 2-4. Expressions of sympathy may be forwarded to the family at www.robalden.ca.

RICHARD ALLAN JONES
1948-2015

CLASSIFIED ADS

The Valley Voice October 16, 2015

ALAN NEIL BROWN of St.ocan, British Columbia, passed away peacefully on August 27 at the St.ocan Community Health Center in New Denver, BC.

BORN in Nelson, BC, on February 22, 1930, Alan grew up in the small valley community of Wawa, BC.

In his hometown of Stocan, Alan was active in the local community, involved in the St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the local Lions Club and was also active in the local community. He enjoyed playing golf and spending time with his family.

Alan is survived by his brother-in-law, Toller and his sister, Jeanne of Kelowna, and his nieces and nephews, Jamie, Jane, and John. He is also survived by his sister, Joanne Osic of Victoria, BC.

The family would like to thank Dr. Malpas and the team at the Chemotherapy Infusion Unit at Kelowna General Hospital, and the staff at the Chemotherapy Infusion Unit at the St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, and all who provided support and comfort during Alan’s illness. Also, a special thanks to Al’s friends and neighbors for their support and prayers.

Arrangements are under the direction of Thompson Funeral Service. Obituaries may be viewed at www.

Personal Classifieds

OCTOBER 16, 2015

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The Valley Voice September 23, 2015

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The Valley Voice October 16, 2015
Diana Morita Cole launches memoir of Japanese-American internment

COMMUNITY

by Art Joyce

Nelson author Diana Morita-Cole launched her memoir, Sideways – Memoirs of a Miko, at New Denver’s Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre the afternoon of September 12 to a full house. Many in the audience – both friends and fellow writers – had travelled from Nelson to support her. The memoir tells the story of her family’s confinement in a Japanese-American internment camp during World War II. Morita-Cole was introduced by Ermine Fritz-Erle, whose great-grandparents Fumi Kondo and Kitsuuro Kotjuna were interned in New Denver.

Morita-Cole was still in her mother’s womb when the family was interned but says this is no reason to assume the experience had no effect on her. The family was interned at Tule Lake, northern California in September 1943 and later transferred to Camp Minidoka, Idaho, near their former home at Hood River. Morita-Cole was born at the Minidoka Relocation Center on May 26, 1944. The excerpt she read shows how lingering prejudice against Japanese-Americans deeply affected her school years in the immediate post-war period. She found herself feeling pressure to conform to a mostly white American way of life. Partly for this reason, Cole lost most of her use of the Japanese language, although her mother spoke mostly Japanese while she was growing up. Her father spoke mostly English.

“All the images I saw in my youth were images of successful white people in Hollywood movies, on the television screen, and in the newspapers,” recalls Morita-Cole.

“My family never wanted to call unwanted attention to themselves because they knew that freedom in America was provisional and that at any moment we could be put back into camps again.”

Morita-Cole answered audience questions about the writing of the book. She says it took her five years to complete the memoir, a process she found stressful at times. When asked if she’d write another memoir, she was unsure, given how difficult Sideways was to complete. Morita-Cole was a member of the memoir-writing group hosted by fellow Nelson author Jenny Craig and found the group critique process helped her shape the final manuscript. A first-time author, she said she was surprised at how arduous the editing process alone can be. The publishing process was also fraught with problems, causing her to eventually recruit local bookstores to help with design and layout.

One member of the audience asked whether it was emotionally difficult for her to write this memoir. She answered that it was at times but that there were surprising compensations too, such as in the first chapter with her memory of having baths as a young child with her mother. These were unexpected surprises in the writing process and offered comfort in the recollection of her family’s painful experience of internment.

“What was most comforting was making that trip back into the past where I could remain in the company of my mother, my friends, and my extraordinary mentor William Hohri,” said Morita-Cole. “What was difficult was trying to stay true to one’s memory, to give it life despite my discomfort and the threat of possible embarrassment. Sometimes what seems most unfair is what forms our character and makes us who we are.”

The book employs creative nonfiction techniques through a non-linear flow of childhood memories. Morita-Cole uses sensual details combined with a fine ear for dialogue to bring to life events in her troubled family past. The effect is to place us there as if standing in the room beside these people, feeling their pain and mixed emotions.

For a full interview with Morita-Cole visit the author’s blog at www.chasemuseums31.wordpress.com

Community Futures counsellor Kay Ryan retires

submitted

Rosebery resident Kay Ryan has retired after 25 years of helping entrepreneurs start businesses.

Ryan worked as the Self Employment program co-ordinator when it was first launched at the Community Futures Central Kootenay (CFCK) office in Nelson in 1989. She mentored the entrepreneurs behind successful Nakusp businesses like Merriwell Books, Jennifer Chocolates and hundreds of others in the Arrow and Slocan Lakes area.

In 2013, Ryan moved to Rosebery, where she took on the part-time role as Self Employment counsellor for CFCK in the satellite office in New Denver. She remained in this role until her retirement earlier this summer.

“Kay has had a tremendous impact on the lives of SE program clients who she guided through the planning and launch phases of their businesses,” said program manager Wade Sather. “We’re grateful for her contribution to Community Futures and the local business community.”

Ryan has passed the reins to Marilyn Rivers, who assisted Ryan in offering the program for the past three years. Though retired, Ryan will remain involved with Community Futures Arrow and Slocan Lakes by continuing to offer free business counselling to individuals who are not eligible for the Self Employment program but who require guidance on starting up a new business.

“This is a pleasure to work with entrepreneurs in the community and see their businesses grow and thrive,” Ryan said. “I’m happy to be retiring and staying in the community where I can continue to visit past clients who are now successfully running their businesses and contributing to the rural economy.”

CFCK staff can be contacted through Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Service office which is located within the Community Services building at 205 6th Ave NW in Nakusp, across from the Service BC building. To make an appointment for free business counselling or to learn more about Community Futures services, call 250-265-3674 ext. 204. Community Futures Central Kootenay would like to thank and extend best wishes to Kay Ryan.

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*Lorna Vanderhaeghe vitamin and supplements are designed to empower women to take control of their health

*Enter to win a gift basket of Lorna Vanderhaeghe products"
RCDK Recycling Depot—Hours of Operation

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All waste facilities are CLOSED on Statutory Holidays. • Hours are subject to change without notice.

National Forest Week targets wildland fire prevention

submitted

This year’s theme for National Forest Week September 20 – 26 is ‘Wildland Fire – you can make a difference.’

‘Forestry is a key economic driver supporting families throughout British Columbia,’ says the forestry minister, Steve Thomson. In 2014, forestry provided 60,700 direct jobs and generated $12.4 billion in exports, accounting for 35 percent of all BC goods exported.

Fire is a normal, natural process. Many species of plants, birds, insects and other animals depend on fire for its regenerative properties. Fire helps control insects and the spread of disease and creates forest regeneration, as younger trees replace older trees. Land managers also use prescribed or controlled burns to restore ecosystems, to enhance habitat and improve forage, or to reduce the wildfire risk around communities.

In 2004, the province introduced the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative to help local governments and First Nations reduce wildfire risks around their communities. More than $67 million has gone to 286 communities which have completed community wildfire protection plans and reduced the fuel build-up on more than 78,000 hectares of land. The province is working with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities on the 2016 FireSmart grant program. Fifty grants of up to $10,000 each will be made available to help communities identify and reduce wildfire risks on private land.

Property owners can reduce the wildfire risk on their properties through landscaping and following the tips in the FireSmart Homeowner’s Manual.

The number of human-caused fires remains too high; of the 1,805 wildfires this summer, 545 were caused by humans. Because of the high percentages of human-caused fires that persist year after year, the ministry is reviewing the fines and penalties in place under the Wildfire Act for human-caused fires – and RDCM directives in firefighting.

Twice in August, firefighting operations were shutdown because of drone flying in restricted airspace, putting at risk lives and public safety. In addition to asking Transport Canada to strengthen its regulations around drones, the province says it is looking to see how else it can strengthen the Wildfire Act.