Pattie Adam steps down as chair and trustee of School District 10

by Jan McMurray

Pattie Adam has resigned from the board of education of School District 10 Arrow Lakes due to her failing health. “It was the hardest decision I ever had to make, but my doctor and the people around me told me I didn’t have a choice anymore,” said Adam in an interview, “I’m now focusing on making sure I get well.” Adam served on the board for 13 years, holding the position of chair for the last 11 years. When Trustee Lora Lee Breckle announced Adam’s resignation at the SD10 Education Partnership Committee meeting on October 13, Superintendent Terry Taylor commented that Adam was “an amazing dedicated trustee.” “I’m passionate about education and wanting to do the right thing for the kids in my community,” said Adam. “I don’t regret a single minute of my time on the board.” Before becoming a trustee, Adam was an involved parent for years, sitting on the Parent Advisory Council at Nakusp Elementary and Nakusp Secondary. “Going through the issues with my own kids and as a parent on PAC, I realized that being a trustee was a place I could make a difference,” she said. She feels her biggest accomplishment as trustee was involving students more at the board level. “The year after I got on the board, we started involving students in the Committee of the Whole and other committee meetings. I’m really proud of that,” she said. Adam would go to Nakusp Secondary and Lucerne and encourage the students to get involved. “Some years were better than others for student involvement, but it was so worth it to see students grow from the experience and feel like an integral part of the decision making process at SD10.” Recently, an NSS student told Adam that being a student representative at the Committee of the Whole table was “a huge asset in her educational journey.” The most frustrating part of the job was “the whole political nature of it,” she said. “It felt like we were taking steps backwards instead of forwards many, many times — just trying to fight for our piece of the pie.” Adam is very proud of School District 10 and sees only good things for the future. “A district of our size offers students such a wonderful opportunity!” Superintendent Terry Taylor is a true gift to our community. The direction we’re taking is wonderful. I am positive that beautiful things are going to continue to happen in the district.” At its October 27 meeting, the board of education will elect a chair to replace Adam for the remainder of the one-year term, which ends at the board’s December meeting. The chair is elected annually at the December meeting, so the 2016 chair will be chosen then. The bi-election for the Central Zone (Nakusp) trustee is expected to take place in January 2016.

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The highlight of this year’s Oktoberfest in Slocan was the helicopter ride by High Terrain Helicopters of Nelson, Herg’s Village of Slocan CÔO Michelle Gordon and her son take a ride. Oktoberfest was celebrated in Slocan on October 10 as a fundraiser for the curling club.
Funding possibilities expand for basin businesses
Columbia Basin Trust announces new $2-million Impact Investment Fund

Businesses in the Columbia Basin that need financial support but aren’t able to secure conventional financing may now be able to find help through Columbia Basin Trust’s new Impact Investment Fund. The $2-million fund is administered by Community Futures.

The fund is intended to support business opportunities that are high risk and may not offer adequate financial returns to an investor, but will benefit Basin residents and communities in other ways. For example, it may create jobs, address a community need, help the environment or support arts and culture.

“We will continue to invest in opportunities that give the income we need to provide programs and services to the Basin,” said Neil Minch, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. “However, sometimes an opportunity doesn’t fit our standard financial requirements, nor is eligible for a grant – and yet deserves to be supported for other reasons. The Impact Investment Fund gives us the ability to help these businesses strengthen and grow.”

This fund is one of the outcomes of the “Our Trust, Our Future” engagement process. From September 2014 to February 2015, the Trust connected with 3,000 Basin residents to get ideas on how it could better support their priorities.

All types of businesses can apply directly to Community Futures, including for profits, non-profits, social enterprises, First Nations businesses and start-ups. The business must be located in the Basin, and

invasive plant species proscribe glyphosate herbicide
by Art Joyce
Monasato’s Roundup may be coming to a village near you.

At a presentation to the Village of Sicamous council meeting of September 14, the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CRISS) offered its services to treat infestations of Japanese knotweed in the village. According to CRISS Executive Director Jennifer Vogel, although other, more immediate threats had been tried to eradicate knotweed, the most effective treatment – with a 95 percent success rate – is the Monsanto herbicide glyphosate, commercially known as Roundup. The group’s mandate covers all of the RDCK and Area A & B of the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. CRISS is “currently coordinating treatments on behalf of a variety of stakeholders throughout our region to control invasive knotweed and other priority species along their right of ways,” says Vogel.

This raised red flags with one resident present at the meeting, who expressed concerns about the potential health implications of using this powerful herbicide.

Such concerns are not unfounded. In March 2018, the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) reclassified glyphosate as a Class 2A Probable Carcinogen. As reported in The Lancet Oncology journal, 17 experts from 11 countries at the IARC conference in Lyon, France supported this conclusion. The panel was led by Aaron Blair, an internationally renowned epidemiologist and the author of more than 450 scientific papers, who spent 30 years at the National Cancer Institute. According to a report by Andrew Cocker in the September 2015 issue of the Voice magazine, in that year there were scientific grounds for declaring that glyphosate “definitely causes cancer.” A single study of farmers in Iowa and North Carolina with conclusive results prevented this rating.

A groundbreaking report published September 14 by the Organic Consumers Association revealed that contractor labs used by Monsanto have falsified studies it used to claim its safety as far back as the 1970s.

Following the announcement of the WHO’s reclassification of glyphosate as a Class 2A Possible Carcinogen, several communities have begun steps to ban or curtail glyphosate use and associated GMO crops.

Glyphosate’s ecotoxicity (toxicity to living cells) is well established by independent studies. It has also been found to be potentially genotoxic, meaning it can cause chromosomal damage. Other studies point to its effect as an endocrine disrupting chemical (EDC), “another carcinogenic mechanism that underlies serious, and probable, independent cancer development amongst other health problems.” A European Union study reported that glyphosate has caused IQ loss and intellectual disability, autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, childhood and adulthood obesity. “Whole foods – whole people – whole societies... male infertility, and mortality.”

According to The Lancet report, glyphosate is used more than 750 different products for agriculture, forestry, urban, and home applications. Its use has increased sharply with the global development of glyphosate-resistant GMO crops. Glyphosate has been detected in air, dust, drainage and in food. It is now the leading herbicide worldwide, with around 650,000 tonnes of glyphosate products used in 2011 alone, and has also been found throughout the food chain.

Monasato claims that glyphosate binds to soil and degrades quickly, so that it does not pose the risk of groundwater leaching or long-term contamination. This claim too has been challenged. CRISS’s own report, Glyphosate: A Review of Mode of Action, Environmental Fate, Toxicology and Recent Literature, says that pesticides can be “pulled out of the air by precipitation events.” A study cited by CRISS looked at glyphosate compositions in air and rain in the agricultural areas of Mississippi and Iowa and detected glyphosate “in 60 percent and 50 percent of the air samples,” and noted that it “can be transferred from terrestrial environments to aquatic environments as solutes at particle-traded forms (i.e., bound to the soil). This transfer typically occurs as a result of run-off or spray drift.”

The Harper’s magazine report noted a long history of links between Monasato and government regulatory agencies, starting with President Clinton’s executive order creating the National Invasive Species Council in 1999. “Among the founding members of the council’s advisory committee was NeleRoy E. Jackson, a product development manager and weed scientist for Monsanto who had helped to develop Roundup formulations specifically for... eradicating invasive.” Across North America, invasive species agencies now use glyphosate as their herbicide of choice.

The BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) uses glyphosate as an invasive species control method on Crown land. According to FLNRO spokesperson Greg Belch,” None of the ministry’s glyphosate treatments in 2015 were... close to or within municipal boundaries in the West Kootenay. As per Section 64 (1) of the Integrated Pest Management regulations, FLNRO is required to notify “landowners with property contiguous to a treatment site,” so the location of the treatment, the targeted invasive plant species, the date and time of treatment, the herbicide proposed for use, precautions to minimize exposure to the herbicide being applied... and a contact telephone number for the agency undertaking the treatment to answer specific questions or address complaints.

The ministry’s Pest Management Plan is for Crown land only, leaving regional and municipal governments to set their own standards regarding herbicide use. According to the RDCK’s Manager of Environmental Services Uli Wolf, the RDCK has no specific policy or treatment program for invasive species. “I am not aware that we do actually do anything more than mowing or extracting. I couldn’t say with 100 percent certainty that somebody isn’t using it.” The RDCK is only responsible for grounds maintenance at Regional District-owned facilities such as transfer stations, community halls, landfills, water treatment plants, leisure facilities, and fire halls.

When it comes to safety, both FLNRO and CRISS defer to Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). PMRA’s official stance is that it “only allows registration of products for which there is rigorous data demonstrating safety.”

It has yet to respond to the new IARC classification of glyphosate.

One way to work diligently to minimize the environmental, economical and social impacts of invasive species within our region,” says Jennifer Vogel of the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society. “The CRISS supports our partners in utilizing current best management practices and integrated pest management techniques, which may include the use of herbicides registered in Canada under the Pest Control Products Act and Regulations.”

For the full report, visit the author’s blog at www.cheapexper1.wordpress.com.
Kaslo's new recycling depot causes headaches for business

by Jan McMurray

With the re-location of Kaslo’s recycling depot to the transfer station on October 19, businesses find themselves in a bind to recycle their cardboard.

At a meeting on October 11, Kaslo’s Village council met with the Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce board.

In a report to council, Village of Kaslo CAA Neil Smith writes: “Front office staff has received insufficient phone calls from the public regarding the move and the local commercial sector over the loss of 247 access to an RDCK dedicated cardboard collection bin... Business cardboard waste will increase, for the short term at least, present three to four of Kaslo's larger businesses with a considerable storage and/ or disposal problem and inconvenience for a variety of other businesses.”

The Kaslo transfer station and recycling depot is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday from 10 am to 3 pm. When the recycling depot is closed, Kaslo’s Community Park Public Works yard, it was accessible to 247.

“Businesses now have to drive to the transfer station during business hours to recycle their cardboard, or wait until Sunday,” said Chamber Manager Dan Lomena, who is an assistant to the report. “This is very inconvenient, particularly for businesses that are owned and operated by a single person. They’ll have to close shop while they do a recycling run, line someone to do it, or do it on their day off on Sunday – if Sunday even is a day off for them.”

Hunter also points out that the new bins at the recycling depot are much smaller than the old ones and have narrow slots to slide cardboard through. “Our businesses are used to bundling lots of cardboard together, but the new bins won’t take the bundles,” she says. “They’ll have to slide through one lot at a time.”

When the report was at the Public Works yard, there was a cardboard-only bin. The new front load bins are for co-mingled materials. The entire RDCK area now has the new front load bins – they increase collection efficiency, as recyclable materials are compacted directly and multiple sites are serviced on a single route.

Hunter says Waste Management, contracted by the RDCK to collect the cardboard, has offered to collect recyclables directly from businesses for $170 per pick-up. “The RDCK put out a press release saying the new recycling depot would save taxpayers $200,000. Homeowners will save this money, but the amount this will cost businesses is well in excess of that,” Hunter said.

The Chamber is asking its members to write letters to the Village about the adverse effects of the loss of the 247 cardboard bin at the Public Works yard.

Kaslo has Tuesday embandle pickup of recyclables through the Multi-Materials BC (MBC) program, but MBC’s mandate from the provincial government is to provide commercial recycling service to residences only, not businesses.

In his report to Kaslo council, CAA Smith acknowledges that the Village asked for the relocation of the recycling depot because it was competing with the MBC cardboard program. However, the Village also asked the RDCK to retain the cardboard and glass bins at the Public Works yard for the commercial sector, and it was turned down.

Kaslo council has written a letter to the RDCK, asking them to reorganize recycling services in Kaslo to be consistent with the service enjoyed by Nelson and the Slocan Valley. In Nelson, RDCK staff decided to leave a cardboard-only bin at the Lakeside Depot. “The sheer volume of cardboard deposited at Lakeside Drive has been out of control,” Hunter said.

The Village’s contractor has been asked to tip in on Nelson on Fridays.

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by Jan McMurray

Kaslo Forest Road is open all the way up to the boundary of Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park.

Thanks to the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) and Forest District Manager, CL Logging, the logging road has been repaired and has been open since mid-August, allowing for access to the park, other backcountry operators, and 20 percent of the community forest’s harvesting area.

“The majority of the road was in pretty good shape, but where there were concerns, there were substantial concerns,” said Bill Kestell, KDCFS manager. “The community forest spent upward of $250,000 on the project.”

The road was repaired and re-organized and cost to about $150,000, as reported at a public meeting held by KDCFS on April 2.

Although the community forest planned to harvest 30/00 cubic metres (or 50,000 cubic metres if hemlock prices were good) from six cutblocks up Kaslo Creek this fall, the KDCFS board has decided instead to sell the cutting permit.

“There was no point to this season because of the poor log markets, and the road was a big project, so this is a way to get some money back in the Kestells,” said Kestell.

Selling the cutting permit is “the same as timber sale, basically, so whoever is the successful bidder will pay the cost and all the expenses and the proceeds go to the volume,” he explained.

The cutting permit sale plan has been advertised, with bids due in early November. Kestell said this was “something new for the board and the board thought about it a lot before deciding what to do.”

Kaslo Creek Road, which runs from South Fork outside of Kaslo to the park boundary, is 18 kilometres long. KDCFS has a road permit for the first 13 kilometres, and has applied for a road permit for the final five kilometres. “That means that all of the road maintenance issues are the responsibility of KDCFS from here on, but we think it’s a risk well worth taking. The community is really in favour of this project, and there will be more wood back at some point in time,” said Kestell.

The road has been closed since 2008, blocking access to the park, other backcountry recreation opportunities, and 30 percent of the KDCFS harvest area. KDCFS representatives, with the support of Kaslo council and the Area D director, had discussions with various ministries over the years about cost sharing arrangements to repair the road, but these were unsuccessful.

The road permit gives KDCFS ownership of the road.” The terms of the Crew hired for repair work at MAX mill site in Trout Lake

by Jan McMurray

A crew has been hired to do some maintenance and upgrade work at the MAX mill in Trout Lake.

Discovery Ventures Inc. is the new owner of the mill. The company also owns the Wilca Mine above Silverton, accessed via Red Mountain Road. Billing the project the WilmaMAX, Discovery Ventures longer-term plan is to truck ore mined from the Wilca to the MAX mill for processing.

The MAX mill, camps and offices have been in care and maintenance since the end of 2011. The new crew’s scope of work initially includes repairing and rewiring some of the structures. “Other tasks include repairs and basic modifications to some of the machinery, as preparation for larger modifications that may be completed in the future,” states a press release issued by the company.

The company is pleased to announce that it is deploying a work crew to commence repairs and maintenance to the mill and its facilities,” said Dan Osmunski, Chief Executive Officer of Discovery.

Discovery Ventures Inc. is a gold, copper and silver mining company focused on the exploration and development of its WilmaMAX Project. The company has four mineral properties in BC: Discovery’s newly acquired MAX milling facility is located 135 km north of the Wilma project site.

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The looming crisis of climate change

The only thing offering any chance of averting an apocalyptic future – and of getting through what’s already coming with our humanity intact – is the kind of radically transformative social and political movement that has altered the course of history in the past. A movement like those that have made possible what was previously unthinkable, from abolition of slavery to civil rights.

To those who disparage the strategy of disrupting the fossil fuel industry and the institutions that support it too extreme, business as usual is extreme. Just ask a scientist. The building is burning. The innocents – the poor, the oppressed, the children, your own children – are inside. And the Petro state is spraying fuel, not water, on the flames. That’s more than extreme. It’s homicidal.

It’s psychopathic. It’s insane.

Yvonne James
Nakusp

Mayor Hamling addresses rail trail issue

On behalf of the council of the Village of Nakusp, I would like to assure our residents that we have listened to both sides of the motorized vs. non-motorized issues and concerns of the rail trail. This includes the petition, phone calls, e-mails, presentation by the Inclusvive Rail Trail Committee and comments from a large segment of the community. This subject has been one that we have received an unprecedented amount of input on and unfortunately, has caused a division in the community.

Council’s first priority has to be safety of the trail and potential liability. We have consulted several agencies and have taken the concerns very seriously. In the end, we had to make a decision based on safety and liability.

We have offered to work with the committee to find an alternate route and we will be putting funding into the budget to improve the trail as requested by many members of the public.

Karen Hamling, Mayor
Village of Nakusp

BC as a sister state to Alaska

It’s not a new concept. Nelson, for example, is a sister city to Sitkaau in Japan and developing a similar relation with Sandpoint Idaho.

When Alaska Governor Bill Walker suggested a ramping up of oil production to pay for the costs of remediation associated with climate change, it was as though he had taken a cue from Premier Christy Clark.

BC’s targets for CO2 reduction will be difficult to achieve given the trend is currently off course. Add in to that the development of a new fossil fuel industry (LNG) in the hope it will generate cash and fossil based jobs... the connection is obvious.

The collective wisdom of Mr. Walker and Ms. Clark suggest a relationship that warrants being formalized by our province becoming a ‘sister state’ to Alaska. I would encourage all citizens of BC to petition their respective MLAs. Our collective wisdom could then provide real leadership as to how the global climate really works. The logic, of course, is that if we produce and sell enough fossil fuels, the cost of climate change becomes affordable. What’s not to understand?

Ron Robinson
Nelson

Paying the climate change invoice

Well before the industrial revolution, renewable energy was the norm, including woodland management and small-scale development. When fossil fuels and nuclear power hit the scene, cost was the controlling factor in driving those non-renewable energy sources forward.

We now understand that our global concept of cost was ill-informed. Since the industrial revolution, we have been invoiced for the real cost of non-renewable fossil energy. That invoice is climate change – we just did not understand the fine print.

As a local and global society, we need leaders willing to legislate policies to pay off that debt, with a strong commitment downward non-carbon-based energy sources. The choices have been evident for some time – the leadership has not. That has to change.

Amanda Bath
Kaslo

Recycling solutions

I read with interest two articles in your September 23 issue about recycling: ‘Nakusp and Kaslo grapple with glass recycling’ and ‘RDCK board, Sept 17: MMBC recycling program still frozen’.

Taking the recycling bull by the horns is proving to be difficult for our over-populated, multi-layered levels of local West Kootenay regional municipal governments.

For decades, the simple task to start organizing a proper system to mitigate environmental impact and lower the cost of our waste stream has not amounted to much more than expensive taxpayer funded meetings and slick RDCK radio ads. Hundreds of hours with Nelson councillors and RDCK folk, all as I understand it, paid extra to attend waste management meetings. With no end in sight.

The recent Valley Voice article, ‘Nakusp and Kaslo grapple with glass recycling’ is a case in point.

Glass is a highly refined, useful product, useful product. Kaslo/ Nakusp/ Nelson political folk could try to think outside the truck it, dig hole and bury it box. Forget beguile to our corporate garbage man, Multi-Material BC (MMBC) to start curbside pick-up for glass. Create jobs with this highly refined sand glass. Cruss it, wash it, make patio bricks, asphalt or sand for local cement company. Simple. Trucking glass to Salmo costs millions. In a couple of years, the cost of setting up glass crushing, washing and other infrastructure is returned, yet any bulk the garbage and grocery corporations would be encouraged to invest with local entrepreneurs and the current glass recycling problem is creating local Jobs.

Perhaps some of the wealth from Nakusp/ Kaslo community forest corporations could team up with some of the millions from Columbia Basin Trust corporation and set up glass recycling/ composting between the two communities?

At the same time, a small mall could be considered to add value to some of the incredibly rare old growth that is being clear cut by these community forest timber licenses.

Adding value and jobs to some of the planet’s last old growth spruce, cedar and fir should be a priority for community owned forest license but it seems the opposite is taking place in the West Kootenay.

The current drought that is devastating our common water supply and wreaking havoc on Kootenay Lake’s enhanced kookanee fish stocks will hopefully help local corporate and political power brokers see beyond their pay cheques.

Tom Prior
Nelson

The Valley Voice
Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0
Phone: 250-358-7218 Fax: 250-358-7793 E-Mail: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca Website: www.valleyvoice.ca

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Sister states for the valleys
Squeaky wheels get oiled

More than 500 FortisBC customers in the lower Skeena Valley (part of our greater valley) chose RF-OFF for their smart meters in the last weeks. More, who still don’t want the risk of a smart meter at all, are currently threatened with disconnection (those who have put up signs or locked to indicate this). For these (obviously many!) people, after the card which everyone got in their mailbox in August, a second standardized advisory notice stating that customers had ‘the right of an RF-OFF or RF-smart meter, nothing else, cannot come’ in the mail from the Matt Mason in Kelowna.

Then, after Costa, hired per meter, to install RF ON only smart meters finished installing what they could install without deferring customers wishes, FortisBC, from a Mark Warren in Kelowna, sent ‘send’s send’ in the mail a third and final notice that disconnection will happen if customers don’t choose to lock RF-OFF in 13 days. Personally, I got one of these with the disconnection date of September 30, dated the 15th and I suppose sent then, but I didn’t pick it up until the 21st or so. It was the only ultimatum notification I got (ie. no phone call or email). Oh dear. What about other folks who were other than me at checking their mail and who therefore might not get their final notification until too late?

The important thing is that we respond. So I responded to their card in late August, with information about how it wasn’t a good idea; and, to their second letter with more facts and figures; and then very very badly to Warren’s final notice. “Despite our attempts” theirs begins, and so, in reply, easily enough “Despite our attempts” too. We certainly have not agreed to accepting an RF-OFF smart meter, but are forced to do it “under duress.”

Another important thing to mention is that FortisBC has a legal commitment to honouring RF-OFF “indefinitely” which means you can request that the two microwave radiation transmitters be shut off anytime, and also that they will, upon request, make an appointment for when they come to take away your old meter and put on the new one. (I requested this a part of my reply to their final notice). The least they can do! Most of us have paid, property, huge sums over the decades to their company without questioning. Well, at least the meter readers should get their jobs back and being there when Fortis changes meters is meaningless too, as measurements can then at this time be taken. Finally, with the health problem of smart meters only, for the unspeakable time, RF – microwave radiation - the same that powers a cell phone – in a proven hazard and should not be circling into our homes and around the neighbourhoods 24/7. It’s a matter of degree and duration of exposure and unlike your wifi or cell phone, you can’t turn off your smart meter yourself. But hey, corporations aren’t people. Squeak on.

Open letter to the person who scooped my tree

You found a freshly fallen fir tree nicely placed parallel to the logging road. I guess you thought it was easy pickings and decided to take it home. I wonder if you paused to consider how the tree came to be there, tip, prone, branches and debris cleared from the road. Well I was a little shocked to come back and find nothing but a pile of sawdust. It would be easy to be outraged, but that probably wouldn’t do any good. I also recently found a tree left hung up near the road, potentially very dangerous. So I’m going to make a few assumptions, 10 years of collecting firewood and nothing like this has ever happened to me before. I guess you’re new to the area and maybe even new to firewooding, so here goes.

1. A fallen tree belongs to someone.
2. Always clean up your mess from the road.
4. I really didn’t have any idea what I was doing when I began collecting firewood and it is only because a few kind people had the decency to show me how to stay safe that I still have ten fingers and toes and am still alive. Falling trees does take skill and the best way to learn is to do it over and over again with someone experienced. Please stay safe out there, we are very lucky to live in a place where we can glass standing dead trees. We all tie this together, let’s follow some kind of code. These simple rules can’t be that hard. If you don’t know what you’re doing, find someone who does.

Joe Varemskich
Hills

 Realtors needs a plan

According to information on the Wes Kootenay Ecosystem website, Glaciers Resorts Ltd. recently released a proposed revision to the Jumbo Resort Master Plan. The revision reduces the number of beds from 6,500 to 3,977, thereby avoiding the need for a new environmental assessment certificate. The proposed project lost its environmental certificate in June when the Minister of Environment ruled that the project had not substantially started before the October 12, 2014, deadline. B.C. law requires the EAO conduct a review of all ski resorts of more than 2,000 beds. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations reviews all ski resort proposals. The Master Development Agreement signed by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations in 2012 allows the developer to bring proposed revisions to the ministry, so a new agreement may not be required, though the revised plan will be subject to the Ministry’s review and will require consultation with First Nations.

According to reporting by Steve Holmes of the Columbia Valley Pioneer, “Among the 1,597 total beds are 24 bed and breakfast beds; 819 condominiums; 180 duplexes; 180 hotel beds; and 450 single-family chalet beds. The statistics also include 296 employee bed units.

“Several other buildings are also outlined in the plans, including various service buildings and utility buildings amenities such as a place of worship, a Firehall, a convention centre, a society building, an interpretive centre, at least four day lodges and a teahouse on top of one of the resorts’ glaciers.”

The Kootenay News announced on October 5 that it has filed an application with the Ministry of Environment in appeal of the B.C. Court of Appeal’s August 6 decision, which found that BC’s approval of a Master Development Agreement for the Jumbo Resort did not violate the Ktunaxa’s Charter right of free exercise of their religion and that BC’s consultation with the Ktunaxa was reasonable. The West Kootenay Ecosystem had its Jumbo day in court on July 15. In legal representations Jason Gest and Judith Harman presented the case that the government abused its discretion by creating a municipality with no residents. The Ecosystem says the Province offered a scary defense, saying simply that the legislature passed a revision to allow municipalities with no people, and the minister was acting on that authority. “The Province did not rebut our principal arguments, and did not give Judge Grace Cho much to support. They will be shared with the RCM, as well.”

Ligo, a retired registered nurse and hospital nursing co-ordinator, launched the petition after calling a community meeting in New Denver. “A petition provides a simple of people who recognize a problem that needs to be corrected,” says Ligo. “We were mainly focused on signatures from regional residents, but we also allowed some tourists to sign, so to show that noise is a concern to them. There was no lack of tourists wanting to sign.”

We believe the noise from a high-powered jet takes its toll on visitors. Motorcycles in summer degrades the pleasant atmosphere of our towns. Most people who come here are looking for peace and quiet amid a natural setting, but
SLOCAN VALLEY

Waterfront discussion hosted by Slocan council

by Barbara Carrey Makuki

A meeting about Slocan’s waterfront brought approximately 30 citizens to the Silvery Slocan Hall on October 5. The meeting was a Committee of the Whole meeting of council. Mayor Jessica Lynn opened the meeting and said that although council does not yet have a waterfront plan, the Village might still act on some of the ideas shared at the meeting.

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presents Bessie Wapp and Friends in concert

Sunday, October 25, 7:30 pm at the Silvertone Memorial Hall, $18 at the door
Folk, Blues, Traditional, Eastern European, and Jazz
Doors Open at 7 pm
Bessie Wapp - lead vocals/accordion
Kiyoo Elkuf - sax/ vocals
Jesse Lee - bass/vocals
Marvin Walker - drums/vocals

Columbia Basin trust

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TFY

The Valley Voice | October 21, 2015

Waterfront discussion hosted by Slocan council

by Barbara Carrey Makuki

A meeting about Slocan’s waterfront brought approximately 30 citizens to the Silvery Slocan Hall on October 5. The meeting was a Committee of the Whole meeting of council. Mayor Jessica Lynn opened the meeting and said that although council does not yet have a waterfront plan, the Village might still act on some of the ideas shared at the meeting.

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The Valley Voice | October 21, 2015
Fibroptic internet option on the table for Lucerne School

by Jan McMurray

A new option for the Lucerne School internet upgrade was presented at the Education Partnership Committee meeting (formally called Community Committee) on October 13. Patrick Martin, IT Manager, presented this new option, which would replace the previous wireless internet running to each classroom to accommodate 8-10 computers in each room.

This is the third option before the School District 10 Board of Education. The other two options were presented in September. The first is to upgrade the existing wired system, using copper wires to provide for 8-10 computers in each classroom. This option is estimated to cost $57,994. The second option is to install fiber optic cable, where students can use mobile devices throughout the school. This option is estimated at $31,252.

Martin said that the fiber optic option is still being designed, so the costs are not yet available. However, he figures the costs will probably come out to be very similar to the wired option ($57,994). The fiber optic option requires fewer hours of labour and much less copper wire and conduit per student, making it cheaper overall.

School District 10 Arrow Lakes report

by Jan McMurray

School District 10 Superintendent Terry Taylor reported on the many exciting district initiatives at the Education Partnership Committee meeting on October 13. This committee was formerly called the Committee of the Whole.

• The installation of 144 solar panels at Lucerne and 48 panels at Nakusp Elementary will get underway this fall.

• Six students from Nakusp Secondary and Lucerne will work alongside an electrical engineer, and the district electrician and some community members to gain hands-on learning about electrical grids and solar energy. The students will also gain some certification.

• Superintendent Terry Taylor will meet with RDCK Area K Director Paul Peterson and RDCK staff next week regarding the application to exclude the Faquier School property from the ALR (Agricultural Land Reserve). This meeting will inform an upcoming evening public meeting in Faquier.

• Taylor reported that there were many positives from the recent ‘Next Generation Network’ (NGN) wireless internet upgrade at Nakusp Secondary, Nakusp Elementary, Button Elementary, and Edgewood Elementary. The NGN upgrade, happening at schools province-wide, was supposed to happen in SD10 in August, but was delayed due to upgrading to a new, busier school start up time. There have also been problems with ‘MyEdBC,’ the new student information system. This has led to challenges for our IT staff,” said Taylor. The school experienced some computer problems at Lucerne School were resolved within two days of Trustee Rayn Butt-Grau informing them about it at the board meeting September 29.

• The district is piloting the new Science 10 curriculum and exam. The exam will allow for discussion among students, and will ask them to perform tasks rather than answer multiple choice questions. SD10 teachers will assist with grading and assessing the exam, and with moving the new curriculum forward. This year, grade 10 science students at Lucerne and NSS will be graded on their school mark only—the exam won’t affect their science grade this year.

LESS lunch program is a hit

by Katrine Campbell

Built on the success of the hot soup lunch it has been running for several years, Lucerne School has expanded the program to three days a week with a variety of meals.

LESS, and in particular Home Ec teacher Patrice Sebben, has partnered with the Healthy Communities Society and Fann to School to offer the meals to students, teachers and any interested parents.

Thursday is soup and bread day, at a cost of $2. Tuesdays and Wednesdays will feature a hot entree and salad bar, for $5. Two Parent Advisory Committee members (PAC) parents, Karin Dedd and Colleen Magnier, will cook Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sebben’s foods class, now called ‘Café Connections,’ will create Wednesday lunches in part of their lesson planning, being grown from the school greenhouse and garden.

Meals will be built around as much locally produced food as possible, with an emphasis on vegetables. Menus will go out to parents in advance, so they can pre-order lunch for their kids on any or all days each week.

Volunteer leaders are welcome, and will be treated to lunch. Contact Paula Sandrud at 358-2774 if you want to help.

The heart of compassionate communication

submitted

Would you like to build health based, collaborative relationships in your family, work and community? Learn the ‘Compassionate Communication’ process and ‘Seven Keys to Co-creation’ in this six-week course held in Revelstoke. Each class builds on the previous one through group discussion to express you authentically with compassion and self-responsibility; listen with empathy whilst contrast, even when hearing judgment; give yourself compassionate self-soothing when self awareness.

We will explore how to transform the pitfalls of speaking from blame, defensiveness, anger, or resentment; follow manufacturers’ instructions to not hold wireless devices against the body and to turn them off when not in use.

When asked how the teachers feel, Bockle said the board had received some letters from the teachers and she hopes to hear more from them on the issue.

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Kaslo Library celebrates 95 years: 1920 – 2015

submitted

On December 18, 1920, the Kaslo Public Library Association (PLA) was officially incorporated and the first library was housed in the government building. By 1924, it moved to a small room on the top floor of City Hall. Miss C. M. Fawcett was the volunteer librarian from 1920 until her death in 1938. From then, library history is a mystery until C. K. Morison, Public Library Commissioner, visited Kaslo in 1953 and "rolled up the steep stairs leading to the top room of... City Hall, [to find] a faithful and gracious library lady still holding the fort." After this visit, the Kaslo PLA informed, moved to a larger room on the main floor in City Hall, and received provincial and local government funding for the first time, making it possible to purchase books. The 1954 year-end report notes that 3,444 items were borrowed.

The library was mostly volunteer-run until 1971. New provincial standards introduced in the 1960s and updated in 1975 required PLA to meet requirements regarding collection size, staff wages, staff training, library size, and hours of operation. Joan Matthews was the first librarian to complete the provincial Community Librarian training in 1971. The big challenge for the PLA was to meet the minimum size requirement of 1,300 sq ft. Requirements aside, reports complained that the library was too small!

More than 6,500 books filled the 350 sq ft. Kaslo Public Library, and all the furniture had to be piled in one corner for story time! Many volunteers, chiefly a very active

Logger training program offered this fall in Nakusp, New Denver, Kaslo

by Jan McCrum

People interested in getting practical training at a logger have an opportunity this fall. An 11-week Logger Training Initiative Program is being offered through the Selkirk College campuses in Nakusp and Kaslo from November 1 to January 16. The program is free to eligible participants.

The Logger Training Initiative includes five weeks of certification programs in the classroom in Nakusp, Kaslo and New Denver, and six weeks of practical, hands-on training in both conventional ground operations and cable logging operations.

We worked closely with the Nakusp and Kaslo Community Forests and with local logging contractors to develop this program," said Gregg Neelin, manager of community education and workplace training at Selkirk College.

Neelin says the support from the local logging community was outstanding, and ensures that the program will give participants the skills they need to be job ready in the local forestry industry.

We surveyed 15 local logging contractors a year ago, and there will be about 80-100 logging jobs available in the next two to three years as people retire out," said Neelin.

After earning several certificates in skills such as Chainsaw Safety, Logging Rigging, GPS, Navigation

Columbine Basin trust

OPEN HOUSE

You're Invited

The Trust has renewed its strategic priorities based on the input received through our Our Trust, Our Future engagement process. Drop by one of our offices and learn about what we'll be working on over the next five years and how we'll support communities into the future.

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Open house and light refreshments

Cranbrook office: October 20
Golden office: October 28
Nakusp, Emergency Services Building: October 29
Castlegar office: October 30

Can't make it to one of our Open Houses? Join us for a webinar, October 16.

Register for the webinar at

cbt.org/openhouse2015

1.800.505.8998

Connect with us

The Vale City Library October 21, 2015

BC Coroners Service confirms identity in boating incident

submitted

The BC Coroners Service has confirmed the identity of a man who died following a boating accident on Kootenay Lake near Riondel on October 11.

David Larry Dale Jamieson, aged 30, from Fruitvale, was one of four persons aboard a seven-metre aluminum power boat on Kootenay Lake. About 8 pm, the boat ran into rocks at the base of a steep rock face near the Riondel ferry terminal on the east side of the lake. Jamieson died at the scene as a result of injuries sustained in the collision.

The BC Coroners Service and RCMP continue to investigate this death.

Explore your future at Selkirk College Open House

submitted

Big news to meet face-to-face with Selkirk College staff is very beneficial when it comes making an important decision about your future," says Chernoff. "A vital part of the college’s overall mission is reaching into our communities and creating these opportunities in our home communities. Both high school and mature students have daunting decisions ahead of them when it comes to choosing a school that suits them best. Taking a closer look at what Selkirk College has to offer can help make those obviously cautious, two

There will be important information provided about scholarships and financial aid available to Selkirk students. Understanding the daunting task ahead for those nearing the end of high school, staff will help them fill out college applications, with the $36 registration fee waived for those who apply that night.

Campus tours and free refreshments will be provided. Awesome prizes, including tuition certificates, gift cards and more, will be up for grabs.

The open house will take place on Tuesday, November 4 from 4 pm to 6:30 pm in the main building on the Castlegar Campus. For more information head to www.

Selkirk.ca/open-house

Submissions, streaming media and more, all available with your library card!

Today, the Kaslo library operates as a community association library and 24 volunteers serving a membership of 900 and circulating more than 27,000 items! Local, regional, provincial and federal government programs and initiatives make library services and enhance programs.

On December 18, we invite you to celebrate the 95th anniversary of becoming public library association with us. Watch for details!
New Denver council, October 13: Plan for Hwy 6 repairs to be addressed

by Karine Campbell

• Mayor Ann Bunka reported her activities over the past month.

September 21-25: the Union of BC Municipalities conference and AGM. She attended workshops on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the assistant deputy minister will come to New Denver and work with local governments on a plan for Hwy 6 because “more than paving is needed.”

September 30: the West Kootenay Boundary Hospital District board tour of both the Slocan Community Health Centre in New Denver and the Arrow Lakes Hospital in Nakusp. Plant services manager Jonathan Jinjoo said the SCHC needs a new generator; this request for capital funds will likely go before the board for its 2016-17 budget deliberations.

The WKBR/ED puts out a monthly newsletter, Spotlight, which has more details and information. To read it, go to rick.ca and click on WKBR Hospital District.

October 2-3: the Heritage BC annual conference. She discovered that Jim Mountain of the Heritage Canada National Trust would be touring the Slocan Valley and arranged to give him a tour of the Niklave Intermemorial Memorial Centre; he was “pretty knocked out by it,” she said.

October 15: RDCK board meeting. A delegation from Multi-Material BC (MMBC) told the board the organization has an $80 million budget, there is no expectation of when it will open up for more local governments to sign on. There is no commercial service in rural areas, and glass recycling is not offered through curbside pickup. Since the Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Society submitted

Canadian funerals have traditionally been provided by commercial funeral providers – BC is the only province where it is legal to make non-commercial funeral arrangements. The Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Society, serving the New Denver-Silverton area, is a non-denominational volunteer community service formed to provide information about different types of funeral arrangements, including private funerals. The group does not provide funeral services; however, it can advise people on what is required in planning for their own needs at the time of death.

Because a death in the family is exceedingly stressful, Last Wishes encourages pre-planning. In this way, decisions regarding the disposal of the body of the deceased will have been already thoughtfully considered and written down by the time of death.

sand is stored in an uncovered pile, which results in it getting wet and then freezing. Cost estimates and quotes ranged from $26,500 to over $100,000.

Council approved the purchase of two water pump flow meters. The replacements in both pump houses are part of the approved budget for Water Smart project provides the Village funding of up to $10,000 to improve both flow measurement and data acquisition; the balance of $5,000 comes out of the Village budget. CAO Bruce Woodbury added that CBT provides not only the money, but advice from Water Smart engineers.

Council approved the installation of up to two benches in the lower cemetery. Mel Sager requested the benches, and offered to pay for the purchase and installation. Staff is working to draft a consistent memorial beach policy.

Council will establish a Fire Department Committee to review and develop the department’s policies, procedures and associated contracts. Members will include the mayor, Councillor Nadine Raynolds, the fire chief and one firefighter of his choice, the CAO and the Corporate Office Manager. Councillor Hemming von Krogh asked if he could sit in on meetings; the CAO said yes, all council committee meetings are open to the public to attend.

The Village will advertise the opportunity to lease municipal land east of the old dump site. At present, one acre is leased to Jim Pownall, who has a sawmill on it.

The Village granted a development variance permit for 615 5th Ave (Hwy 31A), to allow an increase of the allowable fence height on the west, north and east boundaries. The property is four feet below the highway grade; increasing the fence height to seven feet would provide a privacy barrier.

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society applied for CBT funding to assist with free public educational programming as part of the 2016 Wild Days project, and asked council to support that application and provide in-kind support by giving the society space in Centennial Park for story-telling events. Council granted the requests.

Staff education: Amanda Murphy was authorized to attend the Disaster Preparedness workshop for municipalities. The Village wants to develop a basic disaster management plan for the Niklave centre.

Lisa McGinn was authorized to attend the Municipal Accounting Information System user conference, to learn about MAIS system features, provide feedback to developers, attend workshops and network with her peers.

Rasmay Butt reported on his attendance at the Public Works conference, listing the courses and workshops he took.

Murphy reported on the Heritage BC conference she attended along with the mayor. She attended two extra workshops, on business models for heritage organization, and fundraising.

CAO Bruce Woodbury drew attention to the fact that it was the staff, not him, who are taking those upgrading opportunities “because I’m keeping succession planning in mind.”

Council received third-quarter reports from Corporate Officer Catherine Allaway, Fire Chief Leonard Casley, and NIMC manager Monako Ito. Ito listed admission statistics showing 2,308 visits which included bus tours, travel writers (five of them international) and school tours.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER
NOTICE – ARBOUR DAY

The Village of New Denver is holding an Arbour Day on Monday October 26, 2015. We will pick up all yard and pruning waste that is placed at the curb by 8 am. Please ensure that all branches are bundled and tied and all garden refuse (leaves, etc.) is bagged. Absolutely no household garbage or construction material will be picked up. Please ensure that all bundles and bags are an acceptable weight. Remember, you only have to lift one bag in comparison to the number our crew will have to lift. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Nakusp writer nominated

by Art Joyce

Nakusp writer Deirdre Dow has been nominated for the Writers’ Trust McClelland and Stewart Journey Prize, Canada’s most prestigious award for a single work of short fiction. The winner, who will be announced at a ceremony in Toronto on November 3, receives $10,000. Each finalist receives $1,000. According to the Writers’ Trust, “Many past winners and nominees have gone on to become some of Canada’s most recognizable names in literature, including Yann Martel, MG Vassanji, Andre Alexis, and Lisa Moore.”

Dore is one of three writers shortlisted for this year’s prize. She was nominated for her short story “The Wise Baby,” originally published in Geist magazine and chosen to be in the Journey Prize Stories Anthology.

Dore is the author of fiction, poetry, and plays. Her work has appeared in literary journals, including Prairie Fire and The Malahat Review, among others. Her story Sapphires Bridge won the Western Magazine Award for Fiction. She holds a degree in psychology from Boston University and an MFA in Creative Writing from UBC, where she completed a collection of short fiction. Originally from New York, she now lives in Nakusp. I took the opportunity to interview Dore in advance of the decision on the Writers’ Trust Prize.

Tell me about your background as a writer — not so much your professional qualifications or the blue ribbons you’ve won but what is it that makes you a writer?

Not counting youthful travel journals, my writing started in earnest with plays. I was living in a remote community, and our local theatre group was casting about for a suitable play. I decided it might be easier to write one to order and so did I. It was silly and fun and I enjoyed the process so much, I kept at it, eventually through folk and for poetics I saw two separate scripts professionally produced, one in Vancouver, and the other in Calgary. Though many of my scripts have never seen stage lights, I kept at it, all the while very involved in community theatre. Judith Thompson, Yvonne Christoph, John Patrick Stanley, among many others, inspired and energized me. From script writing I turned to poetry. With the internet up and running (in spite of dial-up!) I joined poetry forums, read classic poets and contemporary, studied how-to and why-to and eventually started poem poems around for publication, appearing in journals such as from Susan Musgrave at UBC, with various poems being published in Canadian literary journals, as well as a humble chapbook published by dream girl press, Chicago.

It was during completion of a Master’s program at UBC in creative writing that I considered writing short stories. I had already been excited by the form, and wondered if I would find it a fit. Inspired by the great Alice Munro, of course, but also writers like Holley Rubinsky and Lorrie Moore who really amazed me. At UBC I was mentored by the accomplished and generous Lisa Moore.

I note that you have a degree in psychology. Have you worked as a psychotherapist? How much, if at all, does this inform your writing?

The Arrow Lakes District Arts Council presents Ensemble Caprice in ‘Salsa Baroque’
The music of Latin America and Spain
Sunday, Oct. 25, 7:30 pm
at the Bonnington Centre
Tickets at the Bon Marche/ Dollar Store $25 Adults; $20 Seniors; $15 Students (60 & over) (18 & under)
Family 2+2 $50;
Children 6 & under free
Doors open at 7:00 pm
Hostility Hosts: K 2 Rotor Lodge & Selkirk Inn

North Kootenay Sport & Recreation Report

Drop-in Soccer in Slocan: Sundays at 3 pm, all ages and levels welcome. Call Gord at 226-7062 for more information.

Funding for Kids Akido Tuition now available courtesy of White Pines Dojo children’s bursary. To apply for funding, please contact info@whitepinsadojo.com or stop by the dojo to observe a class. More information is available at whitepinsadojo.com.

North Kootenay Sport and Recreation Council are looking for Board Members! Do you have ideas of how the Local Sport & Recreation groups could be supported? Do you want to help better the area with activity? Contact us for more info.

Become a member of the North Kootenay Sport and Recreation Council for grant support, promotion and more! nskrc.ca

Membership would get you rights to advertise your sport and or recreation activity in this report.

Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes
for Writers’ Trust Prize

The Valley Yoke October 21, 2015

Nakusp & the Arrow Lakes
for Writers’ Trust Prize

Though I have never worked in the field, I think my interest in writing about human interactions and basically what makes a person tick, and how that expression is, is a natural extension of that.

Tell me about your Writers’ Trust nominated story, The Wise Baby.

The Wise Baby is a story about a young woman, struggling through a graduate degree in philosophy, trying to come to terms with existential concepts. She is being accosted on all sides by the mundane realities of life — boyfriend troubles, having to wait to make ends meet, a dump condo, and most importantly the needy, down-to-earth neighbours with the baby. To be honest, this story was inspired by my daughter. (Luckily she’s been a fairly good sport about this resemblance.) The baby came from a different memory, other characters and events are pure fiction (if there is such a thing) and these worlds merged into this story.

How has living in the West Kootenay affected your writing, if at all?
The surrounding landscape.

After leaving the East Coast I lived for several years on a remote island off the coast of BC, then moved to a fairly isolated valley north of Rock Creek. Along with children and animals and forestry work I found an ample amount of time to devote to the practice of writing. May of 2012 I recently moved to Nakusp, drawn here by the beauty of the area and the presence of my son and his wife and children. That was two years ago and so much new to sample, like Tai Chi and piano, mushroom picking and Feldenkreis, art and ‘playdates’ and Sunday family dinners. I have found that writing as a daily exercise has taken a quiet back seat for the time being. I’m thinking I will soon be jolted back into it.

The Arrow Lakes District Arts Council presents Ensemble Caprice

This season’s Concert Series starts on Sunday October 25, with Ensemble Caprice. A baroque orchestra that performs on period instruments including flutes and recorders, baroque guitar, cello and various percussion instruments. The concert’s title is ‘Salsa Baroque,’ the music of Latin America and Spain of the 17th and 18th centuries.

The ensemble was founded by acclaimed recorder soloist Matthias Mante and has become known for its innovative and adventurous approach to an increasingly musical repertoire.

In addition to its series in Montreal, the group tours extensively, giving dozens of concerts mostly for educational institutions in Canada and the USA, but also in Europe and Israel. In Canada, the ensemble can be heard at the Ottawa International Chamber Festival, Early Music Vancouver, Early Music Voices in Calgary, and the Festival International du Domaine Forget.

The New York Times published a lengthy article about the musicians’ innovative and refreshing approach, praising them as ‘imaginative, even powerful, and the playing is top-notch.

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Rural dividend for smaller communities

Funding of up to $75 million to assist communities with transitioning their economies was announced by the premier at the recent Union of BC Municipalities meeting. The “rural dividend” was recommended by the Rural Advisory Council.

Supporting rural community transition and stability, it will be focused on the following: improving building community capacity and quality of life, expanding learning and skill development opportunities, providing capital and training opportunities for rural youth to stay and return to rural communities; encouraging collaboration and partnerships between rural, First Nations, and First Nations.”

The $25-million-per-year pilot program will run from 2016-17 to 2018-19, and only be available to communities outside urban areas with a population of 25,000 or under.

“Rural communities struggling to reinvigorate and diversify their local economies will be supported in building their future and creating their own solutions, based on their community’s values and needs,” says the government’s news release.

The rural dividend will support innovative and ambitious ideas and solutions with potential for the greatest impact on rural communities.

Eligibility criteria and other program details will be finalized by March 2016. Communities must clearly articulate what the funds will be used for and a detailed plan will need to be filled. The application process will be fully operational starting 2016-17.

The funding will be administered by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

The Rural Advisory Council was formed in March 2015. Chaired by Parliamentary Secretary Donna Barnett, the council is comprised of 14 members from rural BC. It meets on a quarterly basis.

Author talks about history of local fruit growing

Fruit ranching in the West Kootenay! Unlikely though it may seem, fruit ranching once played a prominent role in the local economy.

To find out more, join author Joan Lang at Toboomel on Saturday, October 24 at 1 pm. Join us Saturday, October 24 as she talks about this fascinating topic. Tea and other light refreshments will be served in the lovely cabana.

Lang is the author of Lost Orchards, a book that traces the history of fruit growing in the region starting in the early 1900s. The talk is held in conjunction with the exhibit at the Kellogg Museum: Art and History located at 502 Vernon Street. For more information call 352-9813 or visit the event listing on the Touchstones Nelson Facebook page.
Herbal Musings with Colleen Emery

The importance of family meal time

With the relaxed times of summer, a distant memory it seems most of us are operating at a pace that is, often, uncomfortably brisk and takes great energy to maintain. The business of autumn can be overwhelming, the list of to-dos long and seemingly never ending and we often sacrifice what nourishes us for the completion of a ‘necessary’ task.

One part of the regular routine that often gets shelved during busy times is sitting down to a proper family meal. The hurried pace of the busy family can mean different schedules, comings and goings at various times and inevitably standing at the counter at 9 pm eating a bowl of cold cereal after a whirlwind day.

Columbia Power Corporation boosts Selkirk College capital plan

Submitted

With a focus on strengthening a skilled regional workforce, Columbia Power Corporation has invested in Selkirk College’s major capital improvement project.

Earlier this week, Columbia Power President & CEO Frank Wszelaki presented a $30,000 contribution towards a multi-million dollar capital plan that will see major renovations take place at Nelson’s Silver King Campus and the Castlegar Campus. It’s the latest step in a partnership that has been key in providing a regional solution to labour force demands.

“For more than 20 years, Columbia Power has been committed to hiring qualified local workers during the construction of major hydroelectric projects in the West Kootenay,” says Wszelaki. “Many of these workers graduated from Selkirk College, so we have a keen interest in supporting the college as it makes major improvements to ensure trades and technology students have access to training and equipment which reflect current industry standards.”

The proposed improvements for the Silver King Campus include a major renovation and equipment upgrade to the shop areas, the addition of common learning spaces, bringing the facility up to current standards including use of energy efficient heating and lighting, improving the design of the shop spaces, and incorporating spaces for current and future programming.

The capital campaign also includes a redesign of the main student area at the Castlegar Campus, improved student and service spaces, and modern classrooms.

The capital project has received support from Columbia Basin Trust and other community partners in the last two years. The Silver King renovation proposal is currently before the provincial government which will be the primary contributor to the project.

“Partnering with Selkirk College to ensure local trades students have access to modernized equipment was the foundation for Columbia Power’s financial contribution to the college,” says Wszelaki. “In addition, Columbia Power supports the college by offering hands-on field training for students in programs like Recreation Fish & Wildlife, Integrated Environmental Planning, Plant Operator and Engineering. We also take pride in providing annual scholarships and offering summer employment opportunities.”

The Silver King Campus and Castlegar Campus capital improvement project will provide $32 million in upgrades to both facilities.

Find out more about the Columbia Power Corporation at columbia.powernow.org and Selkirk College at selkirk.ca.
Columbia Basin Trust renews strategic priorities

Columbia Basin Trust has updated its Columbia Basin Management Plan for 2016 to 2020, which outlines how it will support Basin residents and communities over the next five years.

“All of our activities are driven by responding to the priorities and needs of Basin residents,” said Greg Deck, chair of CBT’s board of directors. Through extensive discussions, we have heard how we can best support the region and the issues we should focus on, and are now moving ahead with these ideas.”

The Trust will continue to use three methods of supporting communities:

1. It will invest in opportunities that generate financial returns to support its activities.
2. It will offer responsive granting programs that empower residents and communities to take action on issues that are important to them.
3. It will undertake proactive, longer-term initiatives that address specific Basin-wide priorities.

It will also implement a new method, in which it will invest in opportunities where financial return is secondary to other positive community impacts.

“Residents told us that we often make the best use of our resources when we support initiatives that are common across a larger region, such as our affordable housing or broadband initiatives,” said Neil Math, CBT President and Chief Executive Officer. “Economic development, for instance, was a top priority for most of the region, so we’ll be allocating significant resources to finding ways to make an impact in this area.”

The Trust has identified 13 strategic priorities, on which it will focus its efforts over the next five years. These are: affordable housing; agriculture, arts, culture and heritage; broadband; community priorities; early childhood and childhood development; economic development; environment; First Nations relationships; land acquisition; non-profit support; recreation and physical activity; and renewable and alternative energy.

Through the ‘Our Trust, Our Future’ engagement process, about 3,000 residents connected with the Trust to offer ideas on how it can support them and their communities. This input helped the Trust renew its priorities and how it delivers programs and services to the Basin.

These priorities and the four main methods have been formalized in the Columbia Basin Management Plan Strategic Priorities 2016–2020, a document that guides how the Trust works to support communities. Read it online at cbt.org/ebp.

The public is also invited to learn more at open houses to be held in Nakusp on Thursday, October 29 or Castlegar on Friday, October 30, or by joining a webinar. Find details at cbt.org/openhouse.

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Receive up to $1,000 dollars to cover Legal and Appraisal Costs

Heritage Credit Union – serving our communities for over 67 years
Branches serving Castlegar, Slocan Valley & West Boundary

FOOD SPECIALS

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<tr>
<th>Green Onions ORGANIC</th>
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<td>Red Seedless Grapes LARGE - No 1 Grade</td>
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<td>Co-op Gold Pizza Chooses from 4 favourite varieties</td>
<td>455 - 925g</td>
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<td>Co-op Gold Pop Over 13 flavours</td>
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<td>Freybe Pepperoni Original</td>
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<td>Becel Margarine Nature’s Path Cereal</td>
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<td>McCain Potato Wedges Crinkle Cut with Sea Salt</td>
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<td>Baby Peeling Carrots ORGANIC</td>
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Pomona Apple Cidery opens its doors in Burton

by Jan McMurray

A new business is blossoming in Burton, and the Roman goddess of fruit orchards — Pomona — has a hand in it.

The Pomona Cider Mill has just opened its doors, and the reception from the public so far indicates that it will be a very popular area attraction.

Pomona Cider Mill owners Barbara and Alan Ross are from Alberta, and have been spending summers in Burton for many years. They were looking for a business idea because “we love the area and we want to see it more vibrant,” said Barbara.

The ciders are inspired by their apple trees. “We’re Albertans — we plant trees,” said Barbara. “We planted apple trees on our property here in Burton, and then asked ourselves what we were going to do with all the apples!”

Alan says the couple had made cider for fun for their family, and then took a two-week course on cider making in England in 2009. In May this year, they bought a property with a highway frontage in Burton and had the house converted into a cider mill, with a tasting room, production room, commercial kitchen, office, and basement with walk-in cooler. The renovation work was done by Dave McDann and his crew, and other local contractors.

Once the cider is fully open this spring, Classic Apple Cider and Apple Ginger Cider will always be available, with an ever-changing Cider Maker’s Special, like Apple Red Current for example, rolling through.

The couple also plans to have Cider Maker Dinners once a month for up to 20 people in the tasting room, with guest chefs. Deli-style picnic food will be available for sale, as well.

“We want to carry local products in our tasting room. The value added is in the hospitality industry — the tasting and food service — and the bonus is that it’s more enjoyable than mass producing,” said Barbara.

The cider business is definitely a change for Alan, a lawyer, and Barbara, in real estate development. “It’s a learning process for us,” says Barbara. She says they want to hire people in the future, “but we have to learn first before we start telling other people what to do!”

In any case, they are having a lot of fun so far. “Our friends have been so helpful and supportive,” Barbara said.

“Three friends helped us press today — we crushed 7,000 pounds of apples and made 2,300 litres of juice that we will turn into cider.” It takes about three months to make a batch, which is 1,000 litres at Pomona.

The couple is looking for apples. They have two acres of apple trees at their residential property in Burton, and have just planted 250 trees on the Pomona Cider Mill property that won’t be producing till summer of 2019. “Cider is having a huge resurgence in North America, so it’s very hard to get apples,” explained Barbara. They are calling on local people with surplus apples on their trees to contact them; they will pay 12 cents a pound. Crab apples are especially wanted, as they make good cider.

Pomona cider is available for sale at the Nakusp Farmers Market at the old firehall, and at the cider. Give them a call at 403-461-4463 to make an appointment.

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Community Futures offers support to Central Kootenay residents who want to become small business owners through our Self Employment Program. The program has helped more than 1,600 small and home-based businesses start up and run successfully in our region.

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250.352.1933 x100  Nelson
250.265.3674 x201  Nakusp
or visit futures.bc.ca
Area Chambers of Commerce work together on West Kootenay Route initiative

The three Chambers of Commerce in the area have been working together since 2013 to promote the area as the "West Kootenay Route." Projects this year included the installation of West Kootenay Route highway signage, a website (westkootenyroute.ca), a new brochure, familiarization tours, and a business plan and marketing plan for the tourism initiative.

"We’re very pleased with the momentum created by this collaboration between the three Chambers," said John Addison, president of the Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce and member of the committee leading the charge on the West Kootenay Tourism Alliance (WKTA), which includes two representatives from each of the Nakusp & District, Kaslo District, and Kaslo & Area Chambers of Commerce.

To raise awareness of the initiative among local people in the tourism business, the WKTA organized familiarization tours in the Nakusp area and the Slocan Valley this fall. People in tourism from the Nakusp, Kaslo and Slocan Valley areas were invited along on the tours.

"We had a great turnout for both the Nakusp and area and Slocan Valley tours," says Jan McMurray, vice-president of the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce and WKTA committee member. "About 15 people came to each, and we were especially pleased to have the Visitor Centre staff from the three Visitor Centres come along on both tours." The WKTA received grants to host the tours. They rented a very comfortable bus from Queens City Charters in Nelson, and hired local businesses to provide coffee and muffins in the morning, and a picnic lunch. In Nakusp, the group walked the Waterfall Walkway, visited the Visitor Centre, Nakusp Museum, McDonald Creek Campground, the hot springs, and the award-winning Kuskanax bridge near the hot springs. In the Slocan Valley, the tour included stops at the Kokan Garden, Naklin Interment Memorial Centre, Slocan waterfront, the Owl Walk in Slocan, the Slocan Valley Rail Trail at Lemon Creek, Lemon Creek Lodge, and the Kootenay Country Craft Distillery.

"We all had a great time, and several people learned of new area attractions," said McMurray. "The tours have really driven home just how much there is to see in the West Kootenay Route Area. A Kaslo and area fam tour is in the works for fall 2016, and we are all looking forward to it!"

The WKTA committee is hoping to hire a marketing team soon to help with the next round of projects on the list: a media kit, digital visitor guide, print visitor guide, website enhancements, and promotional pieces such as passports and postcards. There will be advertising and other marketing opportunities for the individual businesses along the route. Although the initiative is dependent on grant funding at this point, the goal is to become self-sustainable.

The WKTA had its beginnings at a regional tourism workshop hosted by the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce in spring 2013. There was a strong desire for a collaborative tourism effort among participants at the workshop, and a smaller group stayed behind after the workshop to form the working group that became the WKTA.

"Together, we are stronger - we have more to offer our visitors, and we can pool our efforts for a bigger impact," said Peter Welker, chair of the Nakusp & District Chamber and WKTA committee chair.

The first project of the WKTA was a branding project. "We felt strongly that we needed a name for the region and to be very clear about our commonalities," said McMurray. The result was the West Kootenay Route brand, which positions the area as a budget-friendly soft adventure travel route, where visitors have the freedom to follow a path of their own, and where they can learn about the history of the area and experience nature. The ‘West Kootenay Route’ name describes the area’s location, has a casual feel as does the area, and the rhyme makes it easy to remember.

The WKTA’s very excited about this project!" said McMurray. "We feel we’re on to something that will really pay off for our communities."

Slocan Valley businesses invited to free Lunch & Learn sessions

Slocan Valley businesses are invited to attend free ‘Lunch and Learn’ sessions, co-sponsored by the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC) and the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce (SDCC).

Two more sessions are offered this fall. The next one, featuring a speaker from the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST) is scheduled for October 22 at New Denver’s Knox Hall (noon-1 pm) and October 23 at the Threads Guild (11 am-noon) and Crescent Valley Hall (1-2 pm). The topic is: "Start-up business coaching for manufacturing, technology, and industry." Another session, on legal basics for businesses with local lawyer Leon Pigott, will take place on Monday 19 at New Denver’s Knox Hall (noon-1 pm) and November 20 at the Threads Guild (11 am-noon) and Crescent Valley Hall (1-2 pm). The sessions are catered by local restaurants.

The guest speakers at the Lunch and Learn sessions address topics identified by Slocan Valley businesses in a survey conducted in 2013. "We surveyed 75 Slocan Valley businesses in 2013 as part of a Business Retention and Expansion project," explained SVEDC Chair Leah Main. The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute at Selkirk College offered assistance in creating the survey, training the surveyors, and analyzing the data. So we jumped at the chance to do the surveying and gather data to help identify the needs, concerns, and opportunities of existing local businesses.

After receiving the results of the surveys, the SVEDC and SDCC planned a series of Lunch and Learn sessions to address the needs identified by the businesses.

In spring 2015, there were Lunch and Learn sessions about Community Futures programs, workplace training with Greg Needin of Selkirk College, and wage subsidy programs with WorkBC representatives Marilyn Rivers and Bob Wright. This fall, the series kicked off with ‘Managing commercial relations with your financial institution,’ with people from KSCU and Heritage Credit Union.

For more information about the free Lunch and Learn sessions for Slocan Valley businesses, contact Sharon at slocanvalleyjobs@gmail.com.

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Valhalla Inn
New Denver, BC

WINTER HOURS:
Restaurant
Fri, Sat. 5-8 pm
Sat, Sun, Mon. 11:30 am-2 pm
Call to book your events and parties!
250-358-2228 (ext. 0) • Hwy 6 New Denver

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The Kaslo and Area Choose Local Great Gift Giveaway is back

Kootenaycompass.com is being promoted on the Vacation Maps (95,000 copies printed); on counter talkers and window stickers in every participating business; and on the new kootenaycompass.com kiosk at Kaslo, Nelson and New Denver Visitor Centres. A Facebook page is coming soon. For more information, check out kootenaycompass.com. Contact Andy at 250-353-3400 or andy@designontheego.com and Manon at 250-353-2049 or manon@designontheego.com.

New online map for West Kootenay visitors developed by Kaslo couple

by Jan McMurray

A new online map for visitors to the West Kootenay was introduced at the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce general meeting on October 15 by guest speaker, Andy LeCouffe.

LeCouffe and his partner, Manon, from Kaslo, developed the interactive online map - kootenaycompass.com - after getting many requests from their customers. The couple produces the West Kootenay, Nelson and Castlegar Vacation Maps.

Businesses that advertise on one of the Vacation Maps automatically get a listing on kootenaycompass.com. Another option is for businesses to pay $120 per year to be included on the online map only.

Businesses are promoted on the map in several ways. On the main map page, each business has a pin that includes a pop-up box with the business name and contact information, including a link to the business’ website and its kootenaycompass.com info page. The business’ kootenaycompass.com info page has text, photos, website link and video link. This info page can be accessed from the main map or from the “listings” section of kootenaycompass.com, which categorizes businesses into attractions, camping, entertainment, food and drink, lodging, services, shopping, and sports and activities.

The map also includes an information page for each West Kootenay community, including photos and a map. Businesses can be found on the community maps. Links to local tourism websites, the Weather Network website and the Drive BC website are also found on kootenaycompass.com.

“There’s no limit to it,” said LeCouffe. “This engine is built to be flexible. We’re hoping it becomes the ‘go to’ online map for the Kootenays.”

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Andy and Manon
andy@kootenaycompass.com
250-353-3400

The KBS Crew
KASLO BUILDING SUPPLIES

We would like to thank our customers for your continued patronage.
You make Kaslo’s Front street the place to be. Thank you for shopping locally.

Fridays – Seniors Day save 10%
Leon, Russa & staff
422 Front St. Kaslo • BC
250-353-2594

KASLO AUTOMOTIVE
250-353-2645
Downtown Kaslo

The Kaslo Area Cup is once again promoting the ‘Great Gift Giveaway’ in Kaslo and Area D. The Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce is supporting Small Business Month by promoting this campaign.

The ‘Choose Local’ campaign, a committee of several small businesses in Kaslo and area, have joined together to organize this campaign, which was a big hit when it was initiated last year during the Christmas shopping season.

The Kaslo area contains a myriad of locally owned retail shops and restaurants that give us a distinct flair. Whether businesses provide goods or services, small business owners take pride in hiring local people, and many of the benefits of their efforts are passed on to their customers, as well as the community as a whole.

The underlying message of the ‘Choose Local’ campaign is clear. When patrons choose to purchase goods and services from locally owned businesses, a portion of their revenue stays in our area, which strengthens our local economy. Small businesses are vital to the economic development process of Kaslo and area. Let us, the residents of our communities, continue to support our neighbourhood businesses and allow the ‘Choose Local’ theme to resonate in our community throughout the year.

Here is how the Great Gift Giveaway works. Donated prizes will be pooled together into very appealing prize packages. Total amount of prizes depends on participation. Last year, donations included $1,800, and 10 delighted people received amazing prizes.

Starting Friday, November 27, people will enter at participating sponsors. Entries will be collected and the winners drawn at a downtown location on Saturday, December 19. All winners must answer a simple, skill-testing question. All sponsors will be included in print and web advertising and promotion for the event.

Last year, we had lots of positive feedback from shoppers, and it was a great opportunity to thank our customers for their support. It reminded everyone of the importance of spending our dollars locally.

To take part in this year’s event, email thekbalchamber@gmail.com, call Jeff at Kaslo Building Supplies (250-353-7628) or Ruth at Figments (250-353-2506).

You can drop off your donation and $10 cash or cheque at Figments on Front St.

Thank you for supporting Kaslo and area’s local businesses and services.

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Community Futures: 30 years helping businesses be successful

Submitted
Community Futures Central Kootenay is celebrating 30 years of supporting small businesses.

The non-profit offers services that help entrepreneurs to establish and grow their businesses. Some of CF Central Kootenay’s most popular offerings include flexible small business loans, free business counselling and the Self Employment Program. They also manage the Basin Business Advisors Program and Invest Kootenay, while supporting initiatives like the Nelson and Area Economic Development Partnership and Junior Dragons’ Den.

“Most local small business owners have been through our door at one time or another,” said CFCK executive director Andrea Wilkey. “We have a range of programs to support entrepreneurs in all phases of business development, from start up to succession planning or selling their business.”

One of the first programs to be established when CFCK first opened its doors three decades ago was a small business loans program. Since its inception, it has dispersed $32 million in loans to more than 800 businesses. These loans helped create or maintain around 2,800 local jobs.

“Many businesses that would be ineligible for loans from traditional lenders are able to access funds through Community Futures,” Wilkey explained. “We are a formula lender, so when we look at a loan application, we’re interested to see if our funds will have a positive community impact and create jobs.”

Another long-time program of CF Central Kootenay is the Self Employment Program, which teaches entrepreneurial skills to residents who are unemployed or facing barriers to employment. Around 1,600 local businesses have started through that program, many of which are still in operation today.

“I am always amazed by the range of businesses ideas we see coming through,” said Wilkey. “We’ve had everything from people starting restaurants and retail stores, to inventing products, or selling their creative professional services.”

Over the years, CF Central Kootenay has added new programs and services to respond to community needs. Ten years ago, it launched Invest Kootenay to market businesses opportunities. Three years ago it began delivering the Basin Business Advisors program on behalf of Columbia Basin Trust, offering free expert advice to established businesses. And just this year, it announced the Youth Mean Business program for people under 30 who want to start a business.

“We ran more programs than a lot of people realize,” Wilkey said. “Chances are if you have a business, we have a program that can help you.”

To learn more about Community Futures, visit their website communityfutures.bc.ca, call 250-352-1933 or visit their office at 201-514 Vernon Street (above Casado Post).

Lemon Creek Reiki Master offers courses, treatment

by Art Joyce
Lemon Creek resident Elizabeth Blakely-Toews has been doing “hands-on healing” since 1967 and is offering both instruction and treatment to Slocan Valley residents. Her practice utilizes the techniques of Reiki, a Japanese word that means Universal Energy, is a form of natural medicine developed in 1922 by Japanese Buddhist Mikao Usui, although it has nothing to do with any religion. Since its beginning in Japan, Reiki has been adapted across various cultural traditions and arrived in North America during the 1970s via Reiki Master Hawayo Takata.

Blakely was born and raised in Abbotsford, BC. She says her life changed following Reiki treatment of a soft tissue injury from a car accident she suffered in 1980. “Within a month of daily Reiki application for myself, I had healed my acute soft tissue injuries. I continued to use Reiki repeatedly and became a Reiki practitioner. What a thrill to feel and work with this energy. My awareness and expansion as a spiritual being began to intensify and deepen.”

In 1991, her husband was posted to Israel to work for the UN, and she followed. It was there that she trained to become a Reiki Master – a teacher of Reiki – qualifying in 1992. Blakely taught in Israel for two years, continuing to teach in BC, the Dominican Republic, New York and Ontario.

Blakely’s spiritual and healing interests and practices go beyond Reiki. In 1985, Blakely became a national best-selling author with the publication of The Incredible Ponito – A Cookbook and History, penned under her name Agnes Toews Andrews, establishing Iris Moon Publishing. Over 10,500 copies were sold in a little over a year. She has since written seven other books.

Between 1989-1991 she created and operated The Almater Ark, a spiritual centre in Belleville, Ontario, which has continued to be the business name of her spiritual teaching centre.

During 1993-2000, Blakely created and operated Nehalliston Canyon Retreat near Little Fort in the Monashee Mountains, along with her husband. She claims to have viewed many UFOs there, communicated with nature spirits, healed her ovarian cancer with a diet based on the potato, and adopted a macrobiotic diet. She followed this with a move to Vancouver, then back to Ontario, where she produced a revised edition of The Incredible Ponito, promoting it across Canada to FEI: sales reached 17,500. She hosted a television show in Ontario called Metaphysics: What Are Your Questions?, a live call-in show, until moving to West Vancouver in 2008.

Blakely has been teaching in Nelson and the Slocan Valley since her arrival here a few years ago. “In every session of Reiki I have done, my clients mention there is a healing on some level. Students begin to feel better using Reiki: emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually.

People begin to feel a connection to the divine within them. As one student happily shared, “It was like a light bulb switched on inside my brain and I became more alive.”

Besides instruction in various levels of Reiki, courses on offer from Blakely include: Meditation to Awaken, Yonishing Yoga Plus, Eight Consecutive Weeks of Metaphysical Classes that provide “grounded, fascinating and practical information on how one may raise their consciousness.” Blakely’s passion is to “teach classes that will enhance creativity, clairvoyance, clairaudience, and provide tools to work with after the class so that students may continue to expand their awareness.”

She can be reached at www.irismoonpublishing.com, email Elizabeth_blakely@hotmail.com or by phone at 250-355-2848.
New kiosks at local Visitor Centres

by Jan McMurray

The Visitor Centres in Nakusp, New Denver and Kaslo each have a new kiosk, where visitors can find West Kootenay travel information online. The kiosks are a result of the collaboration between the Nakusp & District, Slocan District, and Kaslo & Area Chambers of Commerce and the Kootenay Lake Historical Society to promote the area as the West Kootenay Route.

Kootenay Co-op hires True Local Coordinator to support farmers and economic development

submitted

The Kootenay Co-op is excited to welcome Nadine Harris BenRabha to the role of True Local Coordinator, a new position intended to support Kootenay farmers and boost the local economy.

Ms. BenRabha comes to the co-op from Kootenay Meadows Farm in Creston, a local supplier of glass-bottled organic milk and cheese. She played a key role in the start-up of her family’s on-farm processing ventures, and has won many hats throughout the business, including a focus on marketing. Nadine brings this firsthand experience to the role of True Local Coordinator along with a track record of passionate advocacy around regional food security.

“I am very excited to join the Kootenay Co-op,” says BenRabha. “Kootenay Meadows Farm has had a special relationship with the co-op from the beginning. The co-op gave us invaluable advice and support long before our processing facility had even broken ground, and played a huge role in giving us the confidence to take the leap. It will be immensely rewarding to help others leverage this special support that the co-op offers, and see how it can help their businesses succeed.”

The co-op created the position of True Local Coordinator to help triple its sales of local products in its new Nelson Commons location. Strengthening local food systems has long been part of the co-op’s mandate. The co-op’s guiding principles state that local growers or processors should receive preferential treatment as suppliers, and the co-op works hard to nurture new and existing local vendors.

In June 2013, the co-op took this commitment to the next level with the creation of its True Local Program. The program was launched in response to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s changes to its definition of ‘local’ which allows retailers to market a product as ‘local’ even if it is sourced from as far as 3,000 kilometers away. The co-op preferred to create the True Local Program that would ensure its member-owners and other customers that their food was being sourced close to home and that their food dollars were being invested locally.

The boundaries for the program are drawn along bioregional lines, west to Cranbrook, east to the Creston Valley, northwest to Nakusp and the Arrow Lakes, northeast from Kaslo to Trout Lake and Johnson’s Landing, and south to the US border.

“Purchasing from True Local suppliers is an investment in the future of our food security and the economy of the surrounding area,” says co-op board president Joe Stetsman. “Co-op members have shown enormous support for the program and over the last year the co-op made payments of more than $2.5 million to local suppliers, including $1.78 million to more than 100 local farmers and food producers.”

BenRabha looks forward to meeting local suppliers and learning how the co-op can partner with them. “This is a brand new position so we have the exciting opportunity to work together to define how the True Local Program and the co-op as a whole can best work to support the local economy,” she says.

The Kootenay Co-op will host a Supplier Event for prospective and current suppliers on November 18, in Nelson. All interested local producers and processors are invited to attend. Please contact nadina@kootenay.coop for more information.
**VISITOR CENTRES GET INCREASED STABLE FUNDING**

Submitted

Good news for small visitor centres in the province: Destination BC will begin a new, three-year base funding model that ensures stable and predictable distribution of funding.

The strategy includes a new minimum base funding of $10,000 annually for the next three years for small and rural community visitor centres, as well as an innovation fund available to assist communities with projects that help them adapt to the changing needs and expectations of visitors, including through the use of technology.

British Columbia’s tourism sector continues to show growth in international overnight visitors, says the tourism ministry.

There were an additional 72,085 visitors in July 2015 compared to 2014 — representing a 9.9 percent increase over July 2014. This brings the total number of visitors to BC in the January to July period up by 228,950, or 8.9 percent, over the same period last year.

The features show increases in several important markets. The number of visitors from BC’s largest international market, the United States, rose 11.6 percent, with an additional 56,182 visitors over July 2014. Other regions showing increases include China (up 5.3 percent), Japan (up 12.5 percent), and India (up 15.6 percent).

BC’s tourism sector and visitor numbers have been strong through the summer, and to ensure that momentum continues into future years, the government has updated its provincial Tourism Strategy, “Gaining the Edge: 2015-2018.”

This strategy maximizes the $90-million annual investment in the tourism sector and, the ministry says, leverages significant provincial investments in transportation infrastructure, BC Parks, recreation sites and trails, culture and heritage, small business support, landmark attractions and hosting programs.

Alignment is a key theme in the strategy, with a focus on maximizing efforts and cross-government investments to develop and enhance BC’s current and future tourism assets. The updated “Gaining the Edge” strategy will ensure better support for increased visitor numbers and tourist spending and enhance long-term competitiveness and sustainability.

As a key sector in the BC Jobs Plan, tourism is an important economic driver in the province. BC’s tourism sector is strong and growing, which is good news in light of fierce global competition for tourists. In 2013, the tourism industry generated $13.9 billion in revenue and a direct contribution to BC’s gross domestic product of $7.3 billion, accounting for four percent of the Province’s total GDP.

Nakusp & District Chamber celebrates Small Business Month

Submitted

As BC marks Small Business Month this October, the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce is celebrating the vital role small businesses play in the Arrow Lakes District.

“Small businesses make up a major part of our business community and play a critical role in driving our local economy and creating jobs,” said Peter Welskerling, president of the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce. “Small Business Month is a great opportunity for our community to celebrate these hard-working businesses that bring great ideas and entrepreneurial spirit to our area.”

As a member of the BC Chamber of Commerce, the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce is part of active advocacy to support small businesses, including the creation of and implementation of BC’s Small Business Accord, cutting red tape by taking thousands of businesses out of the MMC Recycling regulation and working to implement mobile business licences in regions across the province, continued advocacy for lower municipal business taxes.

“Promote and celebrate local small businesses this month by shopping, dining and eating local, and be sure to check out our website at nakusp@arrowlakes.com,” says Welskerling.

Sun Lodge Farms launches crowdfunding campaign

Submitted

The owners of Sun Lodge Farms, just outside Nakusp, have a dream. They want to build a lifelong living community farm for people who have special needs. Making it happen requires a community of active seniors (over 50 years of age) along with young agrarians wishing to farm plots of land.

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Sun Lodge Farms is a unique community-based project that incorporates active seniors and young agrarians in a living community farm setting.

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Bon Marché DOLLAR & DOLLAR
416 Broadway Nakusp 265-3644

The Village of Nakusp
Small Business is the backbone of our local economy. Thank you to all our small business people for your hard work and community-mindedness.
– Nakusp Mayor & Council

The Valley Voice
October 21, 2015
Slocan council, October 13: Microhydro project receives surprise funding

by Barbara Carrady

Chief Financial Officer Colin McCrindle presented the Village quarterly financial report for July to September and said “Things are looking very positive at the moment,” He also noted that the Village had received “an unexpected grant” from the Southern Interior Interior Action Coalition (SIBAC) for $25,000 for the microhydro project. The grant had been successful in obtaining the JCP grant for $64,000 to complete recreation projects. McCrindle said expenses were “within the expected parameters.” The capital Lake Country hydro project needed good, too, Public Works has completed the whitewash and flag pole work. Because of the drought, PW was able to put off the purchase of a new lawn mower until next year. Shoring equipment has been purchased. The water system SCADA upgrade will be more expensive than expected. PW is looking at standing on an estimate, which will be brought to the 2016 budget discussions. Council gave three readings to a bylaw for the recreation project. Plan. Adjustments include allowances for the creation of a $20,000 shelf (to be used at a first to store donations for the Seniors’ Hostel, and a later for Public Works equipment) the SIBAC and JCP grants will be accounted for in the amendment. Patricia Dehnel, planning for the Seniors’ Hostel, reported that the $25,000 received in July from SIBAC would be used to help develop a business model. Jack Allingham, eleven, will deliver the presentation and business model has been created, the Village plans to apply to Columbia Basin Trust for a grant. The Village did not receive a $10,000 grant from the Canada Fund and expects to hear in December whether it will receive a $3.6 million Federal Gas Tax Project Silverton council, October 13: Hwy 6 to get some attention

by Jan McMurray

Chief Financial Officer Colin McCrindle presented a financial report to council. The Village is in good shape financially. Mayor Clarke reported that Silverton was growing, “The building of the Hotel and Kaslo council reps and Aces H Director Walter Popoff met with Ministry of Transportation representatives regarding Hwy 6. They believe a plan is needed. The Kaslo Canada Fund grant and expects to hear in December whether it will receive a $3.6 million Federal Gas Tax Project

the report on the installation of insulation at the home community on the property. The CAO’s report states she feels the new home “would be a substantial upgrade from the existing building, and would improve the esthetics along the highway corridor.”

September was proclaimed Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Silverton.

Council Member reported on the CUHM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) conference she attended in Fredericton, NB September 9-12.

2013 New Boulevard Improvement and Regulation Bylaw 400, 2015 was adopted.

The Nutrices and Uninsolight Premises Bylaw is in the process of being repealed. The CAO recommended the repeal because accumulation of garbage can be confusing under Silverton’s Garbage Bylaw and waterway issues are covered under provincial legislation.
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The Valley Voice
October 21, 2015

HEALTHY COMMUNITY SOCIETY (AGM): November 9, Luscene School Library, 7 pm. Come find out about our Food Hero concept and help us with our planning! Everyone welcome.

VALHALLA HILLS NORDIC Ski Club AGM, November 15, 2015, Hill Fire Hall. Come for a fun meeting to follow at 7 pm. Trail work in the morning. For more info call 538-3560.

LUCERNE PAC AGM – Luscene School Library, Tuesday, November 3 at 6 pm. Followed by regular meeting.

RED MOUNTAIN INTERNET SOCIETY AGM – November 18, Silverton Fire Hall upstairs room 1 pm.

NEW DENVER-SILVERTON TRAIL SOCIETY AGM – November 18, Silverton Fire Hall upstairs room 1 pm.

HALLOWEEN DANCE: Saturday, October 31 at 7 pm in the Legion Hall, 502 Hamilt St, Stano. Band RUCKUS ROCCUS. Tickets $10 each at Mountain Valley Station or phone 250-355-2672 to reserve. Prizes for costumes. The Legion welcomes members & guests.

TEXAS HOLD’EM Saturday, November 14 6:30pm sharp in the Legion Hall, 502
Kootenay Savings recognized as one of the Kootenays’ best
submitted
Kootenay Savings is honoured to once again receive accolades from the readers of Kootenay Business Magazine for being one of the Kootenays’ best businesses.

The 15th Annual Best of Business Awards invited readers to help select the winners and recognize exceptional businesses throughout the region. By responding to a survey that was published in the January/April issue of the magazine, readers identified businesses that demonstrate a high level of customer service and dedication to excellence.

In the Credit Union category, the Castlegar, Fruitvale and Trail branches all took home Platinum Awards, while the Invermere, Kimberley and Radon Hot Springs branches were recognized with Gold Awards.

In the category of Insurance Company, Kootenay Insurance Services as Crestbrook was awarded Gold, with the Nation office receiving Bronze recognition.

In addition, the magazine ranked Kootenay Savings as 18th in the Kootenays’ Top 50 Companies, a listing of the region’s top companies by revenue, and 30th overall in the Top Kootenay Employers, which lists the top 120 employers based on number of employees.

Kootenay Savings would like to congratulate all the other honorees and thank our entire staff for their hard work, dedication and ongoing commitment to our Member Experience Strategy to ensure we continue to be the best provider of financial services and the best place to work in the communities we serve.

To learn more about Kootenay Business Magazine and all the award winners, visit kootenaybc.ca.

Sabine Burmeister
sabine@halcyonhot springs.com

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Stop trophy hunting: grizzly bears petition launched by Kootenay artists

Submitted

Many people became familiar with photographer Jim Lawrence’s image of the grizzly bear standing on its hind legs and looking through a camera when it went viral and caught the attention of the press. “The photo is like the poster child for a stop the trophy hunt of grizzly bears”, campaign, says filmmaker Miriam Needoba, whose short film “Eyes in the Forest: The Persistence of Jim Lawrence” is on a regional tour of the Kootenays this fall.

“The image encapsulates our love of the wild and watching wildlife. The bear looks like a wildlife photographer mirroring our own fascination, and its marvellous intelligence and curiosity is revealed.”

The image has inspired Lawrence and Needoba to get the public behind them to launch a petition to stop the trophy hunt of grizzly bears in BC, in response to an offer by MLA Michelle Mungall to introduce one in the Legislature.

“You don’t have to be from Zimbabwe to see that the economic value of multitudes of wildlife-watching tourists is far greater than that of one trophy-hunting dentist from America.”

Lawrence and Needoba, while on a regional tour, have also been engaging audiences in a conversation about wildlife and their habitat. Lawrence, whose London Zoological Society report that suggests species populations have halved in the last 40 years. Here in the Kootenays an audience member recalls how 50 years ago he remembers seeing porcupines everywhere, but he has not seen one in recent years.

Large carnivores such as grizzly bears are particularly susceptible to the impacts of human activity, especially through loss of habitat and the obvious difficulties co-existing with humans, and that is not even including the impacts of climate change.

“With so much to contend with already, banning trophy hunting of grizzly bears just seems like one small step in the right direction,” says Needoba.

oppose the trophy hunt. So it shouldn’t be that hard to get enough signatures on this petition to make change. If you oppose the trophy hunt please sign this petition!”

Life in Der Schweiz: Claire Yaremchuk in Zurich

by Claire Yaremchuk

...place I had no idea what I was walking into. That feeling of adventure and freedom, of leaving the comfort of everything I have known and looking out the ground fade away.

By the time I got to Switzerland I had not slept for days and the Rotary Exchange Officer (REO) drove me through Zurich in all its cobbled glory, all I could think about was I was a sleep-deprived dream of meeting my family, cows, and raking grass in the Swiss Alps.

What is Rotary?

Submitted

Rotary International is a volunteer humanitarian organization of like-minded women and men who take an active role in giving back to their communities, their country, and the world, while greatly enriching their personal and professional lives. It is an organization that develops and promotes leadership through the projects and programs undertaken in the local community, the country, and the world.

Rotary International has more than 1.2 million members belonging to 34,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. It’s motto is “Service Above Self”.

The Rotary Club of Nelson became a member club of Rotary International in 1930, 65 years ago. During this time it has been instrumental in the development of the community. In 1988 the Arrowroot Senior Citizens Society was incorporated on the club’s initiative. The Society, with Rear Vt’s support operates the 43 unit Arrowroot Rotary Villa, a senior’s independent housing complex on 7th Avenue NW in Nelson. Plans are underway for the construction of an additional six units at the present site.

Other initiatives, programs and projects carried out annually include Adventures in Forestry, continued support of the Nelson Public Library, and annual wine evenings. The Rotary Student Exchange program, the Rotary Youth Leadership Award program, graduating student scholarships at Nelson Secondary School and the Lacemaker Elementary/Secondary School in New Denver, the annual Community Carol Sing. Citizens of the Year recognition awards and banquet, the construction and equipping of a new food conserving trailer and the development and installation of a waterfront lighting project slated for completion in 2018.

International programs and projects include continued support of the Polio Plus initiative to eradicate polio from the earth, sponsoring a Hungarian student with school supplies and uniforms, and ongoing contributions by members to the Rotary Foundation.

Future projects and initiatives under consideration include a spray park in the Community Park and partnering with other community groups in programs and projects of common interest, and hosting the District 5900 Annual Conference in 2017.

The Nelson club extends an invitation to all who share its vision of local, national and international humanitarian service to see what Rotary is all about. Although the meetings have structure they are very informal and casual. The members meet every second Wednesday at 6:30pm on the second floor of Phase 4 of the Arrowroot Rotary Villa, 206 7th Avenue NW in Nelson. All are welcome to drop in.

For further information on the Rotary Club of Nelson and Rotary International please contact Henry Hennis at 250-255-4917 or by email at henni@kolby.net. Members look forward to hearing from you.

ARROW LAKES CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY - OCTOBER 29, 7:00 PM AT SELKIRK COLLEGE

AGM Agenda Topics: Treasurer’s Report, Election of Executive, appointment of directors, review of 2014/15 ski season and activities, forward planning for upcoming ski season (membership, track setting, trail upgrades).

General Meeting Agenda Topics: Correspondence, New Cross Country BC Registration requirements, discussion on maintaining membership with C.C.B.C., Membership sales, Project works discussions.

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COMMUNITY

WE Graham launches Village Visions community art project

by ArtStirs

If you’re visiting the village of Slocan, pay attention to a colourful new series of banners posted on utility poles along the streets. Your next stop should then be the WE Graham Community School, where a new metal sculpture of an osprey graces the schoolyard. These are all elements of a multi-age student art project known as Village Visions, launched the past, present and future of Slocan. The third component being erected inside the school will feature a wall of clay tiles created by the 60 K-10 students who participated in the project. Village Visions was completed and presented at the school’s end-of-year assembly in June.

“I think they enjoyed getting to know each other more, the older kids getting to know the younger kids,” says project coordinator, teacher Halli Raines. “They were more connected even though they’re different ages. They enjoyed the painting, really every part of it. There was something for everyone.”

Raines obtained an ArtStirs grant of $10,000 for the materials. For the past, students created a clay storytelling mosaic with clay artist Widos Teschow. For the present, they co-created a metal sculpture of an osprey using recycled metal from the decommissioned Slocan mill. Each child got to decorate a feather by creating a sponge stencil to apply the colour and design. Local welder Darren Ireland helped them complete it by shaping the metal feathers and welding the sculpture. Revelstoke painter Tina Lindgaard helped with the banner project for the future component of the project. Students were asked to come up with a vision of how they’d see the village in 50 years and then paint images on the banner. Interestingly, most of the images they produced had to do with wildlife and preserving the environment.

“When you ask what do you want your town to look like, it could have been waterfalls and something, so it’s interesting, they came up with that,” says Raines. “We’re an outdoor school so we have a lot of focus on ecosystems, sustainability and habitat so it ties that all together.”

Raines does art instruction with her K-2 class and tries to incorporate as much art as possible into the curriculum. The project ultimately became a social studies class, as they studied Slocan’s history and visited local Saint Vincent railroad sites. They were able to sit in the reconstructed rail house where they were invited to hear traditional songs and stories as well as a basket weaving demonstration.

Raines said it all tied together nicely, seeing how some things in the village have changed, other things haven’t changed, and how that too is a good thing. It made the kids think about their home and what makes a nice place to live. She says the closure of the mill provoked them to conceive the idea of Village Visions as a way of engaging students in the community’s history and ideas about its future. Raines is applying for another art project grant for the school.

According to the ArtStirs website, the nonprofit organization has a mandate to “promote art and creativity amongst British Columbia’s young people. RDCK exercises its emergency response muscles

The Regional District of Central Kootenay staged a table-top exercise based on a mock train derailment on October 7 to practise its role in emergency response. “This exercise demonstrates the RDCK’s commitment to being as prepared as we possibly can be for emergency events,” said RDCK chair Karen Hamling. “Our public’s safety is our first priority.”

Twelve RDCK staff members and two elected officials took part in the exercise as well as representatives from the RCMP, the Ministry of Environment, CP Rail, emergency social services, and first responders from the Nelson, Balfour, Beatley and T主力军 fire departments. In addition to strengthening partnerships among the agencies involved, the scenario enabled participants to exercise response protocols and procedures, prepare evacuation plans, and develop communications.