Federal prosecutor to take over Lemon Creek case

by Art Joyce

The new year started off right for Marilyn Burgoon, the Slocan Valley citizen who launched a private prosecution against Executive Flight Centre and the Province of BC in the Lemon Creek case. She received a fax from federal prosecutor Todd Gerhart stating that the Public Prosecutor’s Office intends to “intervene to take conduct of this prosecution,” and will announce an early court date to that end. Burgoon says January 25 was proposed but has yet to be confirmed. However, she says the decision could be a “double-edged sword.”

“We know they’re going to intervene but what we don’t know is whether they’ll actually proceed with prosecution or simply stay the charges. Given the new government, and the new Minister of Fisheries is a First Nations person, Hunter Tootoo, I’m hopeful. My legal adviser has said there’s lots of public support for this case.”

Burgoon is referring to lawyer Lilina Lysenko, who has been her legal counsel. Lysenko says that most private prosecutions taken over by the Public Prosecutor’s Office aren’t environmental cases, since this is typically a government responsibility. “Most private prosecutions don’t involve environmental offences. Most of them are a little bit more personal, so frequently the Crown will step in and stay the charges because they don’t perceive a public interest in proceeding. We’re hoping this case will be different because it’s the result of an environmental catastrophe happening in the valley and they’ll agree it’s in the public interest to proceed with charges.”

Andrew Gage, a lawyer with West Coast Environmental Law, says he too is encouraged by the public prosecutor’s decision. Although there’s no way of knowing what will happen until the court date, the new federal government has been sending positive signals about its intention to take a more firm stance on environmental issues. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took the unprecedented step of making available to the public his ministerial mandates for the various departments as part of his stated commitment to make government more transparent. Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna, for example, has been directed to lead a national initiative to reduce carbon initiatives and to put a price on carbon. But given the Harper government’s decade of gutting environmental legislation, there’s plenty to do. Both Burgoon and Gage are encouraged by the Marine Harvest fish farm case initiated by Alexandra Morton, which was taken over and successfully prosecuted by federal prosecutor Gerhart.

“We’ve said for some time that the ideal way forward is for the federal government to take over this case and carry it forward. It could be good news or bad news. I think it is hopeful in the sense that we have a government that has indicated it will take a more proactive environmental approach,” said Burgoon.

Burgoon has been supported in her case by West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL) and by a crowd-funding campaign. “Without them I don’t think I could have done this much,” she says. “When you’re in competition for fundraising with people who are raising money for children with leukemia and things like that, it’s hard. If I could have raised enough money through crowd-funding, I probably would never have asked the federal government to intervene, given the risk they might drop it.”

And there’s still more the public can do to ensure the Lemon Creek prosecution proceeds, says Burgoon. She asks that supporters visit the WCEL website and sign the Defend BC petition demanding that the federal government pursue this case. She’s also seeking the support of newly elected South Okanagan-West Kootenay MP Dick Cannings, a bird biologist by profession.

“We’re just asking people to follow up to say, now that you’re intervening, please proceed with charges to the full extent of the law. Letters of support are helpful. Letters and emails take very little time but are effective in helping get justice; it does push the process forward.”

For more information visit: http://wcel.org/resources/environmental-law-alert/demand-justice-lemon-creek
Cultivating cannabis entrepreneurs: Women Grow launches Kootenay Region chapter

by Jan McMurray

The launch of the Kootenay Region chapter of ‘Women Grow’ on January 7 at the Hume Hotel in Nelson was a high point for the cannabis industry in the Kootenays.

“Women Grow is here to connect, educate, inspire and empower the cannabis entrepreneurs of the Kootenay region,” said Kaleigh Herald, chapter chair, in her opening remarks at the event.

Herald explained that Women Grow is a-for-profit organization that began in Denver, Colorado in 2014, during Colorado’s first year of legalization. Women Grow now has 33 chapters in the US and three in Canada (Vancouver, Toronto and the Kootenay Region). The organization supports the success of women in the cannabis industry by hosting meetings, seminars and networking events. Although the organization focuses on supporting women in the industry, men are always welcome.

“The cannabis industry currently has more female CEOs than any other industry in America, ever,” said Herald. “This is a modern industry, in a modern world. Let’s build this empire on grounds that are equally represented from all user groups.”

The event featured four guest speakers. The first was Jim Leslie of the Kootenays Medicine Tree dispensary in Nelson and Grand Forks, speaking about the legal ‘grey area’ where cannabis often seems to fall.

“The war on drugs is ridiculous,” Leslie declared, speaking from his experience as a border guard for fourteen years prior to his career in the cannabis field. “The only way ahead is to regulate all drugs – to cut down on organized crime and to benefit from the tax revenues.”

Although dispensaries are illegal, and police have shut some down and arrested the people involved (i.e., Holy Smoke Culture Shop in Nelson), still many are open. Leslie pointed out that the City of Vancouver issues business licences for dispensaries, going against federal law. He is looking forward to the industry “emerging from the grey” in Canada under Justin Trudeau.

The second guest speaker was Brynn Jones of JW Mariucartelics Inc. in Kelowna. The company produces and distributes food products and hair and skin products made from the hemp plant, which is rich in cannabinoids and minerals, and contains all 20 essential fatty acids. The products do not contain THC and are completely legal.

Jones called hemp “an amazing plant” that can also be used to make plastics, fibre board, ‘hempcrete,’ textiles and paper. He said the hemp plant was “a great commodity” throughout history, but started to be strictly regulated in the early 1990s.

“With Trudeau’s election promises, hemp has the opportunity to regain its place in the world,” he said, painting a picture of a sustainable, reliable, natural green industry providing lots of jobs. “It’s a shining beacon for change.”

Darrin Fiddler, also of JW Mariucartelics, was the third speaker. An activist who wants to change the world, Fiddler said that hemp is the answer he’s been looking for. “Hemp is more than just a healthy food,” he said. It can replace all petroleum products, and all the GMO canola plants covering the Canadian prairies. Paper, cardboard, clothing, and even cars can be made from hemp, he said. Fiddler thinks it is unwise to wait and see what the new government comes up with for legalization, and called for people to be proactive. “We are the ones responsible for making sure this goes in the right direction,” he said. “Let’s talk to our municipal councillors, MLAs, MPs. We have to dispel the Reefer Madness lies. We have the knowledge and the power and we have to make the best use of it.”

The final speaker, Jennifer Peel, has applied for a licence under the Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR) brought in by the Harper government. She and her husband began the application process two years ago, and their application is now in the final review stage. They have built a 10,000-square-foot facility near Kelowna for the operation, called Plan C Biopharmaceuticals. However, with the new government’s plans for the MMPR unknown, they are unsure of how their business venture will turn out.

Passionate about economic development, Peel says she embarked on the MMPR journey because of the employment potential for BC. “We need a viable, long-lasting economy and we can do that through medical marijuana,” she said, and then added, “We need an industry that will create jobs that you wouldn’t imagine.”

Peel acknowledged that marijuana has been an important – and illegal – part of the regional economy for a long time, and now that it’s legal, the products have development potential.

“A woman in the audience commented, ‘If we can take out oil, we can stop wars. Let’s not stop at medicine and food. We need peace on earth. Let’s re-evaluate everything.’”

Women Grow will be hosting monthly events. For more information, email kootenay@womengrow.com.

CBT increases funding to Community Initiatives and Affected Areas programs

by Jan McMurray

The Columbia Basin Trust has announced a 15 percent increase in funding to the Community Initiatives and Affected Areas grant programs. For the next five years from 2016 to 2021, a total of $4.2 million per year will be distributed among Basin communities, up from $3.6 million per year.

These programs started in 1998, and are the Trust’s longest-running grant programs designed to help address the needs of Basin communities. The Trust distributes funds to local government and First Nation partners once a year, and communities then use various methods – from local council decisions to votes from residents – to decide which projects will receive grants.

The Villages of Kaslo, New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and Salmo, which received $31,500 in 2015/16, will now receive $36,225. The Village of Nakusp will now receive a total of $120,015 ($108,239 in Affected Areas funding and $11,776 in Community Initiatives funding) up from $114,530.

Area D’s new allocation is $114,530 ($89,317 in Affected Areas funding and $25,213 in Community Initiatives funding), up from $99,592.

Area H will now have $71,407 in Community Initiatives funding to distribute, up from $62,093.

Area K’s allocation is $147,965 ($118,205 in Affected Areas funding and $29,760 in Community Initiatives funding), up from $128,865.

All municipalities and areas receive Community Initiatives funding, while the communities and areas around the Arrow, Kinbasket, Duncan and Kootenai reservoirs that were most affected by the construction of the Treaty dams also receive Affected Areas funding. In the RDCK, recipients of the Affected Areas funding include the Village of Nakusp, and Areas D (North Kootenay), H (Duncan), I (Duncan) and K (Lower Arrow) and J (Upper Arrow). Other Basin communities that received the Affected Areas funding on top of the Community Initiatives funding include the City of Revelstoke ($404,269), the Town of Golden ($325,562), the Village of Valemount ($260,950), the Kitimats Council ($144,800), the Shuswap Band ($36,225), and certain communities in the Regional Districts of East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary.

The new five-year commitment totals over $21 million.
by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

On December 14, Slocan council voted to make public the Springer Creek Micro Hydro Feasibility/Viability Study written by Jack Allingham, a hydro project consultant hired by the Village of Slocan.

In the report, Allingham says the Village “is close to making a decision” about whether to go ahead with the proposed Springer Creek microhydro project.

“There are still unknowns at this point that prevent a definite ‘go’ or ‘no go’ decision,” said Mayor Jessica Lum. “Factors such as permitting, financing and business development all play a role. Each of these factors involve processes that take time. If anything significant happens to move us closer to a decision, absolutely, we will communicate this with the public. I have no doubt that there will be many opportunities to engage with the community as the project evolves and progresses. In fact, it will be critical to do so in order to ensure that we create the best project possible.”

In his report, Allingham commended the work of Mike Walsh of SNT Engineering, the lead professional on this project since its start. Allingham said Walsh “has conducted business in a professional, competent and cost-effective manner and given the Village of Slocan good value.” He also said the current projected costs and revenue seem realistic.

The project cost is now estimated at $3,640,000, up from $3.1 million in 2014. Revenue is currently expected to be $294,000, with operating costs of $79,000, leaving $215,000 for debt servicing and profit. Allingham called the projected return on investment “marginal” but said the Village believes the project will provide a “range of benefits for the community and ... is worthy of external funding. Sufficient grant funding would make the project viable.”

External funding of $1.6 million to $2.5 million is essential, he said. If the Village obtained $1.6 million in grants, still the “economics are very tight.” The Village would probably have difficulty getting loans from the private sector unless it obtains more than $1.6 million in grants. Funding above $1.6 million would allow a “financial cushion.”

With $1.6 million in grants, the net yearly revenue for the Village is estimated at $96,000. With $2.5 million in grants, the net yearly revenue is estimated at $155,000.

Before making the decision on whether or not to go ahead, the Village must complete the water licence, complete agreements with Fortis and BC Hydro, and verify capital cost estimates. Allingham says it could cost as much as $100,000 for these essential tasks. The water licence needs to be “in place as soon as possible.” The licence has been held up because the Village is still negotiating with the Province about fish flows. The Village has proposed that winter flows remaining in Springer Creek be 10 percent of the MAD (Mean Annual Discharge). The Ministry is suggesting this be increased to 20 percent of the MAD — which would reduce the project’s annual projected revenue by $75,000.

A Fortis Interconnect Agreement and BC Hydro Energy Purchase Agreement also need to be completed. Only BC Hydro can buy the power, so Fortis will have to determine how much it will cost to upgrade its equipment in order to wheel the power over its lines to the BC Hydro lines. This agreement with Fortis will “establish the operating parameters of the power house and the power requirements as it enters the BC Hydro grid.” Both the Village and BC Hydro will need to be involved in preparing the agreement with Fortis.

Allingham said the Village has two choices in how to verify the cost estimates for the project: hiring a different engineering firm (than Walsh’s SNT Engineering) to confirm the current cost estimate or using a project delivery method that provides contractor’s costs early in the design.

Allingham recommended that the Village staff operate the microhydro plant if the project goes ahead. He suggested that the City of Nelson or Fortis could be contracted to make monthly visits for the first year and for on-call maintenance and outage services.

Until the Village makes a decision, Allingham said, “it makes sense to continue actual water flow readings [on Springer Creek] to give an additional level of comfort that the hypothetical flows continue to correlate to actual flows.”

Allingham’s report concludes, “Once the revenue stream, capital costs and external funding are confirmed, the Village can decide if its revenue goals will be met and if the project is a Go!”

by Jan McMurray

People from the Nakusp area go to the polls this Saturday, January 16, to vote for a school trustee to represent School District 10’s central zone.

The polling station will be located in the Nakusp Elementary School gym and will be open 8 am to 8 pm. Residents of the area from Summit Lake to Nakusp to Arrow Park to Galena Bay to Trout Lake are eligible to vote.

Three candidates are running for the seat: Guy Duchaine, Denise Perry, and Melissa Teindl. We asked each of them: why should people vote for you on January 16?

Guy Duchaine: I have a lot to bring to the table. At the school district, I have been a teacher and the guidelines, and makes sure everything goes as planned, while the superintendent does the day-to-day work. I have experience sitting on boards and on the Village council, and I have also worked as a general manager, which is like the superintendent’s job. As a general manager of VSA, I did the day-to-day work and realized how boards can be restrictive although necessary. Because of my experience on Village council, I understand meeting procedures and local government protocols. Also, as “the new guy,” I would bring a fresh perspective. I would be quite an asset to the board.

Denise Perry: I’ve got 25+ years in public education as a teacher, principal, director of instruction, and the last 10 years as superintendent, and the last six as superintendent/secretary-treasurer, so I know and understand public education, in terms of both education and operations and systems. Sitting on the board of education would be one way to still be involved in public education and give back to my community. We have great students and incredible staff in SD10. I would be looking forward to working with the students and staff, and the home, the school and the community. It takes all of us focused on children to enhance our educational opportunities. When my daughter and I moved here, we were committed to being a part of this area and this community. We bought a home here and this is where we want to be. My daughter is in high school here. I am now semi-retired, working part-time providing consultant services to seven school divisions in Alberta to assist school divisions in Alberta to assist in implementing changes within the Alberta public education system.

Melissa Teindl: This vote is about our children, our youth, and our future. If elected, I will work hard to have my voice heard. I will work hard to make sure that classrooms are equipped with the best possible resources to ensure that our children have access to enriched learning opportunities. I will work hard to still negotiate with the Province about fish flows. The Village has proposed that winter flows remaining in Springer Creek be 10 percent of the MAD (Mean Annual Discharge). The Ministry is suggesting this be increased to 20 percent of the MAD — which would reduce the project’s annual projected revenue by $75,000.

A Fortis Interconnect Agreement and BC Hydro Energy Purchase Agreement also need to be completed. Only BC Hydro can buy the power, so Fortis will have to determine how much it will cost to upgrade its equipment in order to wheel the power over its lines to the BC Hydro lines. This agreement with Fortis will “establish the operating parameters of the power house and the power requirements as it enters the BC Hydro grid.” Both the Village and BC Hydro will need to be involved in preparing the agreement with Fortis.

Allingham said the Village has two choices in how to verify the cost estimates for the project: hiring a different engineering firm (than Walsh’s SNT Engineering) to confirm the current cost estimate or using a project delivery method that provides contractor’s costs early in the design.

Allingham recommended that the Village staff operate the microhydro plant if the project goes ahead. He suggested that if the City of Nelson or Fortis could be contracted to make
Voices from the Valleys

Good news re: Grohman

I would like to thank everyone who spoke out against the so-called Grohman Narrows Channel Improvement Project. I thought it was great that people did this and I hope the government does listen.

Rod Retzlaff
Glade

Stop attacking cottonwoods

Could we please stop attacking cottonwoods? My garden’s littered with broken branches like trees. How about some respect for our beautiful cottonwoods? My garden’s littered with broken branches. The statement that healthy cottonwoods are hazardous is ridiculous, made by someone who makes a living cutting down trees. Fox guarding chickens?

Canada has lots of prairies – very suitable habitat for people who don’t like trees. Show respect for our beautiful woodland, please.

Eleanor Quirk
New Denver

Urgent: Justice needed for Lemon Creek

We urgently need your help to remind Canada’s Justice Minister that we need justice for Lemon Creek! To announce whether it will pursue the case, we need justice for Lemon Creek!

Please take a minute to express your hope that the federal government will pursue justice for Lemon Creek and take this case forward. You can email the Canadian Attorney General, the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, at mcu@justice.gc.ca (individual emails or letters often have the biggest impact), or you can use DefendBC.ca’s online form to send an email. To use the online form, go to http://defendbc.ca/demand-justice-for-lemon-creek/

Marilyn Burgson
Perry Ridge

Simple negotiating tactics needed in Canadian climate strategy

Negotiations are difficult by nature. Managing negotiations between 195 countries is nearly impossible. This was the dilemma facing the negotiators of the Paris climate summit. To solve it they brought in a unique management strategy.

The trick to getting through over-complicated negotiations comes from the Zulu people of South Africa, called “induba.” Instead of repeating stated positions, each party is encouraged to speak personally, and state the “red lines” they are unwilling to cross. While telling others their hard limits, they must provide solutions to find common grounds.

Including everyone and allowing every hostile country to speak, achieved a remarkable breakthrough,” writes The Guardian. An historic first, the agreement was adopted without objection.

As Ottawa now turns to reaching a detailed national climate strategy with the provinces by early March while also moving toward a North American agreement, it would be well to utilize this effective strategy that brought consensus to vastly different nations. After all, we may be a diverse population, but we are one Canada.

Yvonne James
Nakusp

Peter de Groot

In October of 2014, Peter de Groot was fatally shot by police in Sicamous. In November of the same year, the RCMP staged a public meeting to present their side of the story. Only they didn’t. The Province’s Independent Investigations Office had been tasked with investigating the actions that led up to the shooting. They were to decide what the real story was. The RCMP’s line was that they couldn’t give out any information to the public as the case was being investigated by the IIO. When the IIO was complete, only then, was the RCMP able to publicly comment. So far, this is the story. It has now been almost 500 days since the investigation by the IIO was complete. At this rate, we can expect the IIO to finish the investigation some time in the next three years after they started. Only then will we hear the police’s side of the story. Somehow, it seems to me that the public is being shortchanged with this procedure. The provincial government set up the IIO in response to many complaints that police investigating police in serious cases where the police themselves might be complicit was a situation not in the public interest. This is probably true, but I also don’t think the glacial pace of investigations by the IIO is the answer.

Jamie Barber
Silverton

Hats off to solar projects

I do not claim to be an expert but write in response to Max Yanke’s letter entitled ‘Solar panels on schools a greenwash.’ We installed our backyard solar system (eight 300-watt panels) in December 2014 and hooked into the FortisBC grid on April 2, 2015. Between December 2005 and December 2014 our household reduced off-the-grid consumption by approximately 47 percent through adoption of various conservation measures.

In 2015, we further reduced our off-the-grid power consumption from 6,216 kWh in 2006 to 1,865 kWh – a 70 percent reduction over the decade. This increase from a 47 percent reduction in 2014 to 70 percent in 2015 was primarily achieved by selling FortisBC 1,016 kWh of solar produced power through their net metering program. Further reducing our household power consumption by approximately 25 percent can hardly be described as “greenwash.”

During our first June to August billing period, we sold FortisBC back the equivalent of 97.2 percent of what we consumed from them, from August to October 63.7 percent, and October to December 20.8 percent. We were lucky and had no snow, or people visiting our daughter in Prince George December 21-30, and somewhat surprisingly, to us, when we came back FortisBC had sold us 12 kWh in our absence and we had sold them the same 12 kWh of solar produced power. Net zero in the Kootenays during the shortest days of the year – approximately 12 percent of our consumption when we were home in the winter.

What the FortisBC and BC Hydro net metering residential programs allow their customers to do is offset summer solar production against winter consumption. And as for suggesting that our hydro dams provide “clean green water power,” let me state that flooding the Arrow and Duncan Valleys and further flooding the Peace by building Site C is not an act of “greenness.” The Columbia River was once the greatest salmon-bearing river in North America, but due to damming for hydro power, it only carries 10 percent of the fish capacity it once had. So hats off to Lucerne School and Nelson Hydro for undertaking generation of power on-site through solar production. We need to ramp up alternative energy production not plop ploth it, while at the same time learning to reduce our overall energy consumption as well.

Andy Shadrack
Kaslo
Reversing our use of fossil energy

About five years ago I came across a site on YouTube about thorium. It was talking about a thorium nuclear reactor experiment in 1965 that was running for about five years at Oakridge, Tennessee. Then it was cancelled for political reasons.

Since then, I have been following more thorium. In the last two months, they have been snowballing. There are graduating nuclear science students that are finding out about thorium reactors now, after not hearing anything about it in class. There is interest in China, India, Norway and other countries. China is spending $200 billion on nuclear reactors, in general, and also starting a thorium one.

The US Navy is working on using nuclear power to generate fuel for their aircrafts from seawater. They already have the means to extract the carbon dioxide and hydrogen. Evidently the carbon dioxide can be extracted easier from seawater than from air.

It seems that nuclear science and technology have come a long way to where there is the possibility of actually reversing our use of fossil energy.

There have been a number of technological schemes for fixing our carbon dioxide problem in the atmosphere. They are downright scary but I have seen one on YouTube that I might believe in.

Biochar and nuclear are both actions for Jumbo’s wild entities will morph now know as common identity names get their way, the vocabulary for what we particularly know.” Wendell Berry. "A sense of place can only be maintained long enough to be a foundation for the deeper underlying problem of reversing our use of fossil energy.

It seems that nuclear science and technology have come a long way to where there is the possibility of actually reversing our use of fossil energy.

There have been a number of technological schemes for fixing our carbon dioxide problem in the atmosphere. They are downright scary but I have seen one on YouTube that I might believe in.

Biochar and nuclear are both actions

Frank Nixon

Wild Jumbo’s landscape and nomenclature

Currently, there is a controversy being passionately engaged in by various writers of the English language on both sides of the Atlantic over the influence of dictionaries’ contents – specifically on youth – or – is it that youth is influencing the contents of new dictionaries? Simply put, in order for new dictionaries to not replace them, we need a youth – or – is it that youth is influencing the vocabulary for what we particularly know.” Wendell Berry. "A sense of place can only be maintained long enough to be a foundation for the deeper underlying problem of reversing our use of fossil energy.

It seems that nuclear science and technology have come a long way to where there is the possibility of actually reversing our use of fossil energy.

There have been a number of technological schemes for fixing our carbon dioxide problem in the atmosphere. They are downright scary but I have seen one on YouTube that I might believe in.

Biochar and nuclear are both actions
New cross-country ski trails in Hills

Mountain culture: Lucerne students research the meaning

In addition, Nakusp Elementary School students from the grade six class will be conducting interviews with interested residents from Nakusp and area over the next few weeks. Interview results will be shared at a Mountain Culture Conference in early February, where students from around the region will gather to share their creative expressions on mountain culture, and learn and discuss results from interviews conducted across the region. Several other classes in the West Kootenay are participating, including public school and college students. This research project will empower Lucerne students to represent their community, and to learn about other communities in the basin.

For more information about the Exploring Mountain Culture research project, please contact Nadine Raymonds, researcher with RD1 (nadine@skelk.ca).
Silverton Winter Blues Boogie – 24 years and going strong

January 13, 2016

The Valley Voice

These versatile musicians have been rocking the Kootenays for 25 years...
Unplug & Play returns to North Slocan Lake

submitted
Do you remember the first annual Unplug & Play Week for the New Denver area in January 2015? Well, it’s happening again. Mark your calendars and join the fun in the North Slocan Valley January 23-29.

Unplug & Play is a week to focus on turning away from the digital and enjoying the world around us… unplugged. It’s a reminder of all the great ways we can keep active year round.

Some of this year’s Unplug & Play activities will include a Kitchen Party Sing Along at the Apple Tree Café, fun events at the school, special party sing along at the Apple Tree, drama boot camp at Lucerne School for students to keep track of how much they unplugged and how much they played throughout the week.

Remember, this is only the beginning. There are great ways to unplugged and play all year round!

Promised proudly by the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley with sponsorship from Lucerne PAC and funding from Rec Commission #6, the Outlet Youth Centre and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy.

Slocan Lake Christmas Bird Count results

submitted
The Slocan Lake Christmas Bird Count took place on December 30, 2015 under cold but clear conditions. Twenty-one people braved the -8˚ weather to walk a total of 35 km in Hills, Sandon, Red Mountain and points in between. Thirty-nine species were observed with one more recorded during the three days before and after bird count day.

The following species and numbers were observed: Canada Goose (36), Common Goldeneye (2), Bufflehead (2), Hooded Merganser (2), Common Merganser (2), Ruffed Grouse (1), Boreal Owl (2), Bald Eagle (8), Black Tern (8), Red-backed Chickadee (17), Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (3), Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (1), Townsend’s Solitaire (2), American Robin (12), Varied Thrush (7), Bohemian Waxwing (9), Song Sparrow (19), Oregon Junco (4), Common Redpoll (147), Pine Siskin (320), American Goldfinch (10), Evening Grosbeak (36), Pine Grosbeak (93) and Grey Catbird (1). A Hairy Woodpecker (1) was also observed during Christmas week.

Thanks to all of the people who participated and donated their energy to this count. The results are submitted to Bird Studies Canada and the National Audubon Society. The latter maintains the massive database of Christmas Bird Counts going back to 1900, the year of the first count.

Oily Business; book launch at the Nelson Library

submitted
It takes one to know one, and novelist Chris Dawson knows the business and its characters. The former senior communications strategist for Petco Canada set out to shed light on the issues of oil sands and the environment through fiction – and be entertaining about it. Dawson launches his new novel Oily Business on Tuesday, January 19 at 7 pm at the Nelson Public Library.

The inciting incident in Oily Business is a helicopter crash that strands an oil-sands spin-doctor and a leading environmentalist together in the wilderness. As industry spokesperson Keith Weston and anti-tar-sands activist Gerry Culver await rescue, they are forced to confront one another and their own beliefs.

While Dawson allows that “there is some of myself in Keith Weston,” all of the characters are amalgams of people he’s met and attitudes he’s encountered. When Dawson first began working in the industry he thought he might be able to make a difference “from the inside” in how petrochemical production is communicated, but discovered that at the end of the day, it’s a business. Disenchanted, Dawson moved to the Kootenays, where he now works as a fly fishing guide.

Initially, Dawson set out to write a serious book about the industry, with a resume that includes numerous magazine articles (including awards for nature writing), two nonfiction books, and stints as a senior writer for nature writing), two nonfiction books, and stints as a senior writer for the Calgary Herald and as press secretary to an Alberta cabinet minister, it seemed a logical fit. But a fictional approach offered an opportunity to be provocative – even satirical – and to marry his environmental writing with his oilpatch writing. The result is Oily Business.

“I hope the book resonates with readers on many different levels,” he says.

Dawson will read from the book and answer questions about the novel and his experience in the industry. Copies of the book will be for sale. Doors open at 6:30.

Holly Bender-Love
Certified Pet Groomer
1-877-503-2288 / 250-369-6228
SERVICES
- Mobile Pet Grooming
- Pet Sitting
- Call, email or text to book

PACKRAT ANNIE’S
GREAT SELECTION
USED BOOKS
NEW & USED VINYL & CDs
Open Sun: 11:30-4:30 Kootenay St, Nelson 250-351-4722

You’re at home here – CO-OP

FOOD SPECIALS

ORGANIC Green Onions
Packaged Fresh 2 PK $1.69

ORGANIC Tomatoes
Each 6 oz - 1 PK $2.99

Vine Tomatoes
PER LB $3.59

Red Peppers
PER LB $2.14

Peaches
PER LB $1.49

Yellow Onions
Packaged 2 LB $1.49

Simply Natural Salsa
470 ml $4.99

Red Hot Sauce
384 ml $1.99

- Introducing Jimmy Dean Breakfast Sandwiches -

JAN
Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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

Prices effective Jan 15, 2016 - While supplies last
Sun 8 AM - 9 PM * Mon - Sat 6 AM - 9 PM

Oily Business: book launch at the Nelson Library

submitted

It takes one to know one, and novelist Chris Dawson knows the business and its characters. The former senior communications strategist for Petco Canada set out to shed light on the issues of oil sands and the environment through fiction – and be entertaining about it. Dawson launches his new novel Oily Business on Tuesday, January 19 at 7 pm at the Nelson Public Library.

The inciting incident in Oily Business is a helicopter crash that strands an oil-sands spin-doctor and a leading environmentalist together in the wilderness. As industry spokesperson Keith Weston and anti-tar-sands activist Gerry Culver await rescue, they are forced to confront one another and their own beliefs.

While Dawson allows that “there is some of myself in Keith Weston,” all of the characters are amalgams of people he’s met and attitudes he’s encountered. When Dawson first began working in the industry he thought he might be able to make a difference “from the inside” in how petrochemical production is communicated, but discovered that at the end of the day, it’s a business. Disenchanted, Dawson moved to the Kootenays, where he now works as a fly fishing guide.

Initially, Dawson set out to write a serious book about the industry, with a resume that includes numerous magazine articles (including awards for nature writing), two nonfiction books, and stints as a senior writer for the Calgary Herald and as press secretary to an Alberta cabinet minister, it seemed a logical fit. But a fictional approach offered an opportunity to be provocative – even satirical – and to marry his environmental writing with his oilpatch writing. The result is Oily Business.

“I hope the book resonates with readers on many different levels,” he says.

Dawson will read from the book and answer questions about the novel and his experience in the industry. Copies of the book will be for sale. Doors open at 6:30.
SLUGS close busy 2015, open 2016 with AGM

The Slocan Lake Garden Society (SLUGS) marked its 25th year with many activities in and upgrades to the Kohan Garden. We had the pleasure of hosting BC Lt. Governor Judith Guichon in the spring; we also facilitated five weddings, three memorials, and our July anniversary celebration of traditional and contemporary arts. We thank the Silverton Gallery Society, CKCA, Recreation Commission #6, and the participating artists and guests for supporting this memorable event.

Maintaining and enhancing the beautiful Kohan Garden site for public enjoyment requires many volunteer hands and many hours, as well as financial support. The fall, holiday lighting and spring work parties, fuelled by delicious Soup du Jour lunches, were well attended by loyal community volunteers. Kohan employees Susan Yurychuk and the late Natasha Weiss, along with weekly volunteers, maintained the planting beds; mowing was done by volunteer Steven Getty and by Lawrence Martin and the Village crew.

We all grieve the accidental death of Natasha, our deeply dedicated gardener. In cooperation with her family, we are planning the installation of a memorial bench in the Garden this spring.

This year’s Kohan Garden improvements included new service area plantings, irrigation and compost bins, new pond pumps, electrical lines and outlet, and additional bed mulch. These were made possible by Community Initiatives grants from the Villages of New Denver and Silverton and Area H, as well as by community support of SLUGS fundraising activities.

The Society is looking forward to sharing our new Kohan Guide and our two new logos, created with the professional assistance of Nikita Boroumand and Roni Jurgensen. Attractive Kohan Garden billed caps with the Gingko logo will be available for purchase at our 2016 Friday Market booth.

- The AGM will be held at the Hidden Garden Gallery on Sunday, January 17 at 2 pm. This is a great opportunity for interested gardeners and Kohan Garden supporters to meet, share and learn how to become involved with local gardening projects.

The Healthy Community Society’s presentation of its extraordinary local food and growing programs and a Kohan Garden photo show will follow a very short business meeting and discussion of 2016 plans. The SLUGS welcomes your support and ideas, and invites you to buy a $5 membership, which entitles you to discounts at several regional garden supply stores. Refreshments and door prizes will be offered. We hope you will consider joining the society for fun and rewarding activities in 2016.
After three and a half years of service, the Friends of Kootenay Lake has become an official society. Since its inception in 2012 the society has devoted its efforts to improve the health and stewardship of Kootenay Lake through monitoring, habitat restoration, capacity building and the empowerment of local communities and stakeholders. The society has delivered many successful projects and events around the many lake communities, which have inspired folks to be true stewards of this vast and integral body of water.

The Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society thanks all our volunteers and members that have supported, shown interest and given their time to volunteer for our important projects and events. We would also like to thank our committed Steering Committee David Reid, Sangita Sudan, Heather Leschied, Martin Carver, Ryan Van der Marel, Greg Utzig and the Lake Advisory Board for their countless hours of guidance and direction. Moreover, we could not have accomplished our efforts without the contributions of our many partners: the EcoSociety, Wildsight, Kootenay Lake Partnership, and funders Columbia Basin Trust, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, BC Hydro, City of Nelson, Village of Kaslo, Columbia Power Co-op, Environment Canada Mountain Equipment Co-op, Columbia Power, City of Nelson, and the contributions of our many

Every lakeside community member has a role to play in protecting the lake’s immense value. If you care about Kootenay Lake and want to preserve its natural values for generations to come, you can check out our website and sign up for our eNews, for events and actions taking place over the next few months, or you can contact us with specific questions about our programs.

Cheetah sighting investigation continues

by Jan McMurray

The December 17 cheetah sighting on Hwy 3A near Crawford Bay is still under investigation by the BC Conservation Officer Service and the Creston RCMP.

Joe Caravetta, Kootenay region inspector for the Conservation Officer Service, reported that there have been no confirmed sightings of the cheetah since December 17. “We’re not sure if the animal is still out there, but we’re investigating at present,” said Caravetta. “We’ve been in contact with people of interest and have followed up on many of the tips the public has provided, but we can’t divulge any information at this time.”

Caravetta said they are aware of former Kaslo property owners Earl Pfeifer and Carol Plato, who proposed to bring cheetahs to Kaslo and to offer educational programs about this endangered species. In June 2013, Pfeifer held a public meeting in Kaslo to present the proposal. At the time, the couple owned two cheetahs, which were being kept in an Ontario zoo. They applied to the Village of Kaslo for a Temporary Use Permit for their property as a cheetah conservation sanctuary, but the application was denied in May 2014. The couple has since sold their property in Kaslo.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Controlled Alien Species Unit of the British Columbia Conservation Service at 1-877-952-7277 or Crimestoppers.

The Borealis String Quartet plays at St. Andrew’s United Church in Kaslo on Sunday, January 17 at 7 pm. This is the third visit to Kaslo by an outstanding quartet whose artistic demands that we not only listen, but also become visually engaged with their music.

The concert consists of quartets by Beethoven, Shostakovich, and Dvorak – three contrasting pieces that demonstrate the artistic capabilities of the four musicians. This concert is not to be missed.

Tickets are $22, available at the door on the night of the concert. School-age children are admitted free when accompanied by an adult patron. On Monday, January 18, Borealis will also play for the students at JV Humphries School. This appearance is made possible by a generous grant from the BC Touring Council. For further information contact David Stewart, 250-353-7600 or sjks@kaslo.org.
Nakusp & The Arrow Lakes

Nakusp committee working on sponsoring refugee family

by Jan McMurray

A committee of the Robertson Memorial United Church is working on bringing a refugee family to Nakusp. On January 7, the church council gave the committee the go-ahead to complete the application for refugee sponsorship.

“As a church, and as human beings, we have to do what we can for people in need, whether locally or internationally,” said Hans Sparrboom, committee chair.

Sparrboom said the committee will be holding a public meeting in the near future. He stressed that they are at the beginning of the process and are just starting to gather information. But one thing is clear—a lot of community support will be needed.

Some community members have already offered their support, and Sparrboom says the committee was elated to have a Nakusp homeowner offer his home, including utilities, for up to a year for a refugee family. “That takes off a big chunk from the amount we have to fundraise,” he said.

Church Minister Hilary Bitten explained that just before Christmas 2014, she asked the congregation of the church to think of ways they could help small numbers of people locally and within the wider world. Of the many suggestions that came forward, one was to sponsor a refugee family. The refugee committee of the church was formed in January 2015 to look into sponsorship, but when they found out that the recommended budget to sponsor a family was $50,000, they felt it wasn’t feasible.

With the recent announcement that the federal government will provide $25,000 to refugee sponsor groups, the committee decided it was worth a try. Also, the United Church is a sponsorship agreement holder with the federal government, and can assist the local group throughout the process.

“Next steps are to fill in the application, hold a public meeting, and start fundraising,” said Sparrboom.

$500 REWARD

You are invited to enter our contest to design a new logo for Spectrum Home and Family Care

Entries must be submitted before January 31, 2016

Call or email for details
250-265-3842
spectrumcares@telus.net
or drop in at 412 Broadway St, Nakusp

PINES DOJO children’s bursary. To apply for funding, please contact nsr@gmail.com.

North Kootenay Sport & Recreation Council

Board Members! Do you have ideas of how the local Sport & Recreation groups could be supported? Do you want to help make decisions on what to ask the BC Government to have included in the treaty when talks progress between the US and Canada?

Call for Artists and Venues for ALFA Guild Art Walk 2016

Hard copy can be submitted to ALFA Art Walk c/o Selkirk College, Box 728, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0

Deadline February 15th, 2016, 4:00 pm.
The Valley Voice   January 13, 2016

REWARD – FOR INFORMATION
Regaling who caused the damage to my car at Mount Sentinel School on the evening of December 17, 2015. All calls confidential. Call or email Debbie Bayoff 250-365-4644 bounty@netidea.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

MASSAGE THERAPIES
• Call 358-7218 for details • info valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, Community Futures offers business loans, counseling & training; and delivers the Self Employment program in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakapo@futures.bc.ca.

COMING EVENTS

LOCATIONS FEAST & NIX SLOCAN VALLEY MINUTES. Thank yous and celebrations of our huge renovation project. Saturday, January 23, Vallican Whole Community Centre, doors 5 p.m.; Dinner 6 p.m. See article on the back page of this VV. Please bring generous perishable items and prepare an act and/or be ready to applaud wildly. 3762 Little Slocan S. Rd., www.VallicanWhole.com or Facebook.com/ TheWhole

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
The North Valley Mountain Film Festival is now accepting digital photo and film submissions for its 2016 event. For submission guidelines and event information please contact us at northvalleyfilmfestival@gmail.com or visit our website at northvalleymountainfilmfestival.com


SOREN WILSON JACKS

A great-grandson for Ellen

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

BC, and Stephen and Dianna Rayner of

Call or email Debbie Bayoff 250-365-4644 bounty@netidea.com

Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

Slocan Auto & Truck Repairs
24 hour towing services in New Scone, DC 352-5012

Nakusp Foot Care Nursing care for sore feet 250-265-3024

Your ad could be here for only $19.50 + GST

The Valley Voice January 13, 2016 – Saturday January 29. Challenge yourself and others to turn off your digital devices and play! Participate in a wide variety of unplugged events throughout the week. Look for local posters and online updates. Hosted by the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley.

Another WIDE SPOT in the Road, Sunday, January 17, 2016. Our question to ponder: What’s forgiveness and what’s just letting someone walk on you? Join us at Rory’s on Main in New Denver. Music by Freya starts at 4:45; child-care opens at 4:45 in Youth Centre. Program at 5, light dinner at 6:15. Open to all, no charge. A Wide Spot is a gift from Tumer Zion United Church to our community.

TELLING OUR LIFE STORIES – A guided autobiography program for anyone interested in getting some of their life stories down on paper. Mondays, January 18 - March 14, 10 am - noon at the Slocan Community Library. This is a free program offered by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy. Call Penny at 250-226-7665 to register.

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival is now accepting digital photo and film submissions for its 2016 event. For submission guidelines and event information please contact us at northvalleyfilmfestival@gmail.com or visit our website at northvalleymountainfilmfestival.com


SOREN WILSON JACKS

A great-grandson for Ellen

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

BC, and Stephen and Dianna Rayner of

Call or email Debbie Bayoff 250-365-4644 bounty@netidea.com

Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

Slocan Auto & Truck Repairs
24 hour towing services in New Scone, DC 352-5012

Nakusp Foot Care Nursing care for sore feet 250-265-3024

Your ad could be here for only $19.50 + GST

The Valley Voice January 13, 2016 – Saturday January 29. Challenge yourself and others to turn off your digital devices and play! Participate in a wide variety of unplugged events throughout the week. Look for local posters and online updates. Hosted by the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley.

Another WIDE SPOT in the Road, Sunday, January 17, 2016. Our question to ponder: What’s forgiveness and what’s just letting someone walk on you? Join us at Rory’s on Main in New Denver. Music by Freya starts at 4:45; child-care opens at 4:45 in Youth Centre. Program at 5, light dinner at 6:15. Open to all, no charge. A Wide Spot is a gift from Tumer Zion United Church to our community.

TELLING OUR LIFE STORIES – A guided autobiography program for anyone interested in getting some of their life stories down on paper. Mondays, January 18 - March 14, 10 am - noon at the Slocan Community Library. This is a free program offered by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy. Call Penny at 250-226-7665 to register.

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival is now accepting digital photo and film submissions for its 2016 event. For submission guidelines and event information please contact us at northvalleyfilmfestival@gmail.com or visit our website at northvalleymountainfilmfestival.com


SOREN WILSON JACKS

A great-grandson for Ellen

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

BC, and Stephen and Dianna Rayner of

Call or email Debbie Bayoff 250-365-4644 bounty@netidea.com

Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

Slocan Auto & Truck Repairs
24 hour towing services in New Scone, DC 352-5012

Nakusp Foot Care Nursing care for sore feet 250-265-3024

Your ad could be here for only $19.50 + GST

The Valley Voice January 13, 2016 – Saturday January 29. Challenge yourself and others to turn off your digital devices and play! Participate in a wide variety of unplugged events throughout the week. Look for local posters and online updates. Hosted by the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley.

Another WIDE SPOT in the Road, Sunday, January 17, 2016. Our question to ponder: What’s forgiveness and what’s just letting someone walk on you? Join us at Rory’s on Main in New Denver. Music by Freya starts at 4:45; child-care opens at 4:45 in Youth Centre. Program at 5, light dinner at 6:15. Open to all, no charge. A Wide Spot is a gift from Tumer Zion United Church to our community.

TELLING OUR LIFE STORIES – A guided autobiography program for anyone interested in getting some of their life stories down on paper. Mondays, January 18 - March 14, 10 am - noon at the Slocan Community Library. This is a free program offered by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy. Call Penny at 250-226-7665 to register.

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival is now accepting digital photo and film submissions for its 2016 event. For submission guidelines and event information please contact us at northvalleyfilmfestival@gmail.com or visit our website at northvalleymountainfilmfestival.com


SOREN WILSON JACKS

A great-grandson for Ellen

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

BC, and Stephen and Dianna Rayner of

Call or email Debbie Bayoff 250-365-4644 bounty@netidea.com

Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

Slocan Auto & Truck Repairs
24 hour towing services in New Scone, DC 352-5012

Nakusp Foot Care Nursing care for sore feet 250-265-3024

Your ad could be here for only $19.50 + GST

The Valley Voice January 13, 2016 – Saturday January 29. Challenge yourself and others to turn off your digital devices and play! Participate in a wide variety of unplugged events throughout the week. Look for local posters and online updates. Hosted by the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley.

Another WIDE SPOT in the Road, Sunday, January 17, 2016. Our question to ponder: What’s forgiveness and what’s just letting someone walk on you? Join us at Rory’s on Main in New Denver. Music by Freya starts at 4:45; child-care opens at 4:45 in Youth Centre. Program at 5, light dinner at 6:15. Open to all, no charge. A Wide Spot is a gift from Tumer Zion United Church to our community.

TELLING OUR LIFE STORIES – A guided autobiography program for anyone interested in getting some of their life stories down on paper. Mondays, January 18 - March 14, 10 am - noon at the Slocan Community Library. This is a free program offered by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy. Call Penny at 250-226-7665 to register.

1 OR 2 BEDROOM HOUSE 1 km north of New Denver, easy access, $700 + Utilities available Feb. 1 $350 358-7721.

BEAUTIFUL 40 KOHAN 2 ACRE ARTISAN HOME on kohans near Biglow Bay New in New Denver. House features: Open concept living area, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, washer/dryer, hardwood flooring throughout the main level, workshop, workshop, one block from a 40 foot away from the lake. Please watch the Youtube video and see what was done when building a home for sale, however we made a plan (to sell). Please visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydTzP4qgbwQ.

Do you like to rent a place in New Denver or Silverton, close to the lake, but in as far past summer, we are open to possibilities from Red Mt Rd up to Hills. Please contact us, by email at markjeffreys@yahoo.com or by phone at (801) 910-1532, if you have or know of an availability suitable for two adults and a little girl. We look forward to being back!

I'M LOOKING FOR A RIDE from New Denver to Vancouver and back some time in Jan-Feb. Will share gas. Please call Andrew Rhodes 250-358-7985 or email dawson1968@dialglobal.com.

For the right downhill of the Ski Base Building is a Keytone.

HAIR

AHA’S Hair Needs OPEN YEAR-ROUND

358-7769

FRESH FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by Darlaine Green Across Ventures

Weddings & Everyday Flowers

Delivery available 250-265-1379

greenacres@live.ca • www.greenacresnakusp.ca

SEWING

CAROLINE'S MADE TO MEASURE

Sewing - upholstery • Fabric

Carol Heidema • Owner

250-358-2771
carolesmadetomeasure@gmail.com

1351 Victoria St, Silverton.

Next Valley Voice Deadline: January 22, 2016

January 13, 2016 The Valley Voice
Human rights films help make hope possible

Amnesty International Nelson presents the 16th annual Human Rights Film Festival on January 29-30 at the Shantibhula Music and Performance Hall at Selkirk College (10th St.) in Nelson. This volunteer-run festival features eye-opening, must-see films that offer both inspiration and information.

“We invite people to come and learn from – and celebrate the remarkable work of these talented filmmakers, who brave threats and danger to capture moving stories about human rights abuse, resistance, and triumph,” said George Chandler, a local Amnesty volunteer.

The festival kicks off on Friday evening at 7 pm with The Abominable Crime, a documentary that explores the culture of homophobia in Jamaica through the eyes of gay and lesbian Jamaicans, and The Highway of Tears, a documentary that tells the story of three unconventional social workers united by a common vision that transcends the antagonisms between their countries. These women from Jordan, Israel, and Occupied Palestinian Territories are forcing to choose between their homeland and information.

The film offers a kaleidoscopic and visceral experience of their struggle.

These films have the power to take us away from our own lives, and to awaken our curiosity and concern about the human condition,” said Chandler. “As well, they communicate inspiration that helps to make hope possible, rather than despair convincing.”

Films will also be shown in other venues. Highway of Tears, Castlegar January 28, 7 pm at the Mir Centre, Selkirk College, Casablanca Calling at the Langham in Kaslo Friday, January 29 at 7:30 pm; and two films in Rossland on Sunday, January 31 at the Seven Summits Learning Centre.
Greg Deck retires, CBT’s new chair is Rick Jensen of Cranbrook

Greg Deck has retired from his position as chair of the Columbia Basin Trust board of directors. Deck, the mayor of Jumbo Glacier Resort Municipality, has been on the board counter so consumers can’t access them without the assistance of a certified dispenser. These new rules will not take effect until July 1 so stakeholders and the public have time to review the changes and come into compliance with the new standards. Pesticide vendors and service providers had previously asked for a significant amount of notification to prepare for the upcoming changes.

Commercial properties will require a pesticide user non-service licence which will cost $250 per year. However, homeowners will be able to take a free online course and exam to earn a certificate to use pesticides on landscaped areas of their property. Alternatively, commercial and residential property owners can choose to hire a licensed service company.

Property owners will not be required to have a certificate if they want to use domestic-class pesticides on food gardens or hobby farms, or to control pests such as rodents or carpenter ants that damage buildings. The amendments to the IPMR will also require businesses to give notice when pesticides are used on private property which the public may access. This includes private golf courses, cemeteries and commercial facilities.

The amendments took into account comments received from government, public consultation, input received on the policy intentions paper and the work of the Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides.

The amendments will be part of the provincial government’s cosmetic pesticide regulations, which are expected to be released next month.

Grohman Narrows dredging deemed unfeasible

by Jan McMurray

The dredging of the Grohman Narrows to mitigate against flooding around Kootenay Lake has been deemed unfeasible. After the high-water event and consequent flood damage to properties around Kootenay Lake in 2012, regional leaders asked BC Hydro to investigate the feasibility, costs and benefits to dredging the Narrows.

A project update issued by BC Hydro in December states: “The results of the studies related to the potential improvements at Grohman Narrows indicate that the project would not provide sufficient flood control benefits relative to the costs and potential risks. Based on these conclusions, BC Hydro will not be proceeding to the next phase of the project.”

Three different dredging scenarios were examined: low volume (excavation of 175,000 cubic metres), medium volume (excavation of 325,000 cubic metres), and high volume (excavation of 600,000 cubic metres). It was estimated that costs for the low to high volume excavation scenarios would range from $21 million to $68 million, and freshet peak levels would be reduced by nine inches to two feet.

Nelson wants to rent your art

The City of Nelson is embarking upon an art rental program that will see the City’s indoor public spaces reflecting the creative nature of Nelson. The Cultural Development Committee has announced a call for Nelson and area artists to submit their work to this new program.

Applicants are asked to provide electronic images of their pieces, along with the medium, dimensions, value and artist bio. Larger-sized paintings are recommended due to the nature of the space they will inhabit.

Submissions will be adjudicated by the CDC’s Public Art Working Group. The deadline for submissions is January 15.

The Valley Voice

The Valley Voice is still going strong, thanks to you! Very big thanks to our readers, advertisers, contributors, subscribers and voluntary subscribers.

We ask for your continued support in 2016:

- Consider a voluntary subscription— a contribution towards our cost of delivering the Valley Voice to your mailbox. Suggested amount is $10 - $30.
- Tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in the Valley Voice.
- Advertise with us.
- Keep submitting those letters and articles.

Proud to be producing an independently and locally owned regional community newspaper in the West Kootenay!
Try out for the Youth Talent Slam, January 23 at the Capitol Theatre

submitted

Auditions for Oxygen Art Centre’s second annual Youth Arts Festival Talent Slam take place on Saturday January 23 from 2 – 5 pm at the Capitol Theatre in Nelson. Anyone aged 15-29, performing in any discipline, is welcome to audition for the slam. Singing, dancing, music, acting, comedy, performance art, poetry and spoken word — even short film and animation — can be submitted for selection. Selected talent will receive one-on-one mentorship with professional artists Lucas Myers, Bessie Wapp or Slava Dovale, to develop their acts for the big night! Pre-register for Talent Slam auditions online at www.oxygenartcentre.org.

Oxygen Art Centre’s Youth Arts Festival aims to encourage youth to pursue their artistic talents and interests in a professional and meaningful way that can be celebrated by the community at large through events and as the all-enveloping festival. The first festival was a smashing success, providing young Kootenay artists with a professional show and auditions to try out for, and an opportunity for some to hone their acts with seasoned professionals in the arts. More than 200 people filled the Capitol Theatre for the first Talent Slam, and it was an inspiring and very heartfelt event with many original acts performed for the first time in a professional setting. The Back Stage Lounge provided a creative hang-out space and hosted a collaborative drawing project and an open mic that morphed into a jam session with a dozen musicians including a drummer, several saxophonists, keyboardists, vocalists and the like. Building on this programming the Youth Arts Festival will take place February 13 and 14, and will include workshops and professional development opportunities in the arts.


Nelson Public Library Slocan Valley Outreach continues

3650 Old Passmore Road. Watch for the library’s sandwich board on the highway. For more information, contact 250-352-6333, or library@ncls.nelson.ca.

The Village of Silverton received a $12,000 grant under the age-friendly program, in partnership between the Province and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Local governments were invited to apply, up to $20,000 to help carry out activities that are designed to help seniors stay active, healthy and independent. For the Village of Silverton, the funding encouraged to consider projects that focus on accessibility, elder abuse prevention, dementia and non-medical home support.

Silverton seniors drop-in program resumes

by Jan McMurray

The seniors drop-in program at the Silverton Memorial Hall is back up and running. Every Tuesday and Thursday until the end of March, seniors from the area are invited to drop in at the Silverton Hall anytime between 10 am and 2 pm. Coordinator Julie Fry will be organizing lunches, workshops and outings. Workshop topics will include end-of-life issues, accessing community resources, advance care planning, making healthy choices and staying at home versus assisted living.

A Whole lot happening in Vallican

DEEP THANKS to all the community minded supporters who made our accessibility & energy retrofit renovations possible.

Funders, Suppliers & Traders

Adam & Locors Windows & Doors
BC Rehab
Callie Chatten
Canadian Aeronautical
Christian Duerer
Columbia Basin Trust
Community Infrastructure Fund
Dylan Fielder
Elements Roofing – James Guay
Enabling Accessibility Fund
Community Works Fund
Eric Clough
Dan Armstrong
Garavents Elevators
Gerry Sawkins – Energy Audit
Heritage Credit Union – Wilf Rimmer
Interior Signs
Jessa Koerber
Kate Fox
Kalesnikoffs – Karl Koerber & Corey Scott
Kootenay Coop Country Store
Kootenay Wood Fabric
Lasca Group Engineering – Ted Nunn
Laura Tiberi
Malackey Roof Products – Chris Rand
Maglio Building Centre – Tony Maglio
Marcia Brandy
Miche Forestell – Forest Designs
Mitchell Supply – Dave Ackney
Morison Insulation
Nelson Brewing Company – Tim & Ali 抱
Nelson Home Building Centre – Bob Marsh
Paul Wilkinson
shingle,
Porcupine Wood Products
donated or bid
Paula Uppin & Beth Gilmour
ROCK – Walter Popoff
Lynda LaFluer – CBT
Robin Healey
Searstep Grey
Waste Management
Elkeus

Every person please come to our celebration of thanks & all things local at the January 23, 2016 Locavores’ Feast

Admission – an extra generous potluck item as we want to treat these loyal supporters to a Whole Community Feast!

Info@VallicanWhole.com | VallicanWhole.com | TheWhole

Sincerest apologies if we left anyone off this list – you’re in our hearts!

The Valley Voice January 13, 2016

Vallican Whole

3762 Little Slocan Rd. in Vallican. For more information about the Locavores’ Feast and the Up Close and Intimate performance series, please go www.VallicanWhole.com or Facebook.com/TheWhole.