NACFOR Summit Lake logging operations expected to start soon

by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp Community Forest (NACFOR) is hoping to start operations in the Summit Lake area this month. NACFOR Project Manager Frances Swan reports that they will likely start plowing this week in preparation for road construction.

NACFOR’s open house in May last year attracted quite a crowd of people with concern about the Summit Lake logging plans, as the area is important habitat for the blue-listed western toad. A petition opposing the logging has been available in Nakusp and New Denver since the open house, and has amassed over 300 signatures.

Eloise Charet, member of the group organizing the petition, sees irony in the fact that several ministries and agencies are “trying to help the toads” while the Ministry of Forests “is giving out tenures in toad habitat.” The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has invested at least $190,000 in ‘toad tunnels’ at Summit Lake to reduce mortality of the toads as they cross the highway between their breeding ground at the lake and their upland forest habitat. An annual Toadfest is held every summer, where people carry the toads safely across the road in buckets. The event is coordinated by the Minx-listed western toad. A

An annual Toadfest is held every summer, where people carry the toads safely across the road in buckets. The event is coordinated by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, with support from BC Parks, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Columbia Basin Trust.

“A thousand people come to Toadfest every year and it’s growing,” said Charet. “Logging brings short-term profit, but ecotourism is the future for our area and Toadfest is part of that. It brings in a lot of business.” Charet added that the group would like to see the expansion of Summit Lake Provincial Park to protect the toads’ forest habitat.

NACFOR is planning to build 2.7 kilometres of temporary road, and harvest a volume of about 18,000 cubic metres from seven small cutblocks, four to nine hectares in size, in western toad habitat on the west side of the lake – between the Summit Lake Forest Service Road highway access and the Bird Creek drainage. Frances Swan said they plan to harvest about half of the blocks in winter 2016, providing snowpack is sufficient. Harvesting in winter while the toads are hibernating is deemed to be the best time to minimize impacts on the toads.

The biggest concern expressed at the NACFOR open house last year was the lack of research on the toads’ forest habitat in the Summit Lake area. Although research has been ongoing since 2010 on the breeding sites at the lake, and on road mortality and the efficacy of the toad tunnels, research on the forest habitat did not begin until fall 2014.

In fall 2014, NACFOR contributed $10,000 to toad specialist Jakob Dulisse could begin studying the toads’ forest habitat at Summit Lake. Using radio telemetry, he was able to follow five radio-tagged adult toads to their hibernation sites in the forest.

Swan reports that in 2015, NACFOR contributed another $10,000 and provided field support towards continuing the research on the forest habitat. This resulted in the identification of habitat features that will be protected during harvesting, as well as a draft best management practices document for operating in western toad habitat, which NACFOR intends to follow.

“This has been a good opportunity to do some research and develop some best practices,” said Swan. “We’ve been working very well with the ministry – it’s been really positive.”

The research team, including Dulisse; Irene Manley, wildlife biologist with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources; Thomas Hill, field technician; and Jakob Dulisse; Irene Manley, wildlife biologist with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources; Thomas Hill, field technician; and the ecological assessment team, has recommended as best management practices, so NACFOR will log half of the blocks this winter and then do some monitoring before finalizing plans for the remaining blocks.

Barb Chwachka and Sheila Anderson are Nakusp Citizens of the Year

Barb Chwachka and Sheila Anderson are Nakusp Citizens of the Year Club is busy with the Nakusp Wine Festival in April. Tickets are on sale now at Barton Insurance.

Barb Chwachka is the founder and chair of the Nakusp & Area Community Trails Society and a founding member of the Nakusp Paddling Club. From 2003 to 2009, she sat on the board of the Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services Society. She founded the Halcyon Community Home Redevelopment Committee in 2002, which later became the Halcyon Assisted Living Society.

Sheila Anderson has given very generously of her time to the Halcyon Community Home Redevelopment Committee in 2002, which later became the Halcyon Assisted Living Society. Sheila Anderson has given very generously of her time to the Launch Club, where she sells day passes and warmly welcomes visitors. She donates the stipend the club gives her to PALS, BEAKS and other organizations.

Sheila Anderson gets a bouquet of flowers from Nakusp Rotary President Harry Ellens, in recognition of her achievement as Nakusp Citizen of the Year.

Barb Chwachka will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Nakusp Rotary Club, in recognition of her work with many community organizations over the years.
Passmore abattoir still seeking new owners
by Art Joyce

Alex Berland and Judi Morton, owners of Passmore Poultry Pluckers, are still seeking someone to take over their business. They have not listed the poultry abattoir service in 2011 but are now reaching retirement age and unable to continue.

Far more than merely a business succession story, Berland believes it’s a critical element of Slocan Valley farming infrastructure. That’s why he hasn’t listed the business outside the region – Berland is appealing to locals to step forward. Last year the call went out that 2015 would be their last season of operation.

“There was one in Cranbrook and as soon as it was sold the new owners moved it to Alberta,” he says. “And if this leaves the valley I’m not sure if we’ll ever be able to get it back. We want to do everything possible to keep the unit in the area.”

Several people have looked at the business to date, and there is a group of Slocan Valley residents interested in forming a co-op to buy it, but there have been no offers yet.

The abattoir supports about 70 producers bringing in 4,000-5,000 chickens per week, about 11 tons annually. The business has all the necessary licenses for poultry but not for red meat, although the necessary licenses for the new owners get over the learning curve as quickly as possible. That’s all we want to get out of it, what we put into it.”

The abattoir’s catchment area is from Kaslo to Fruitvale, Salmo and Trail; east to Rosland; west to Burton, the Slocan Valley and north to Nakusp; the regulations require a maximum two-hour transport distance, considered the maximum for humane transport of poultry.

The abattoir is somewhat seasonal, operating approximately twice weekly between June and October. “During the past two decades we’ve seen agriculture run down and degraded in this province and across the country,” says Berland. “It’s going to take a long time to rebuild. People have a lot more awareness of food issues now as well as the effects of climate change. We think it’s vital to sustain this infrastructure; if it goes elsewhere I don’t know if we’ll get it back.”

By press time there was no news from Slocan Valley residents who have expressed interest in the business. Those interested in the business can contact Berland at aberland@telus.net.

CRSA resumes searches: don’t call a 900 number

A Slocan Valley man has been charged with animal cruelty for the fourth time, following a BC SPCA seizure of 29 animals from a property near Winlaw on January 28.

Crown charged Jason Joseph (John) Vieira with three counts of animal cruelty under the Criminal Code of Canada just days after a team of BC SPCA constables took Vieira’s animals into custody and presented their evidence to Crown. Nine sheep, seven goats, four horses, five large-breed dogs, two puppies, one cow and one rooster in various states of distress were rescued by the SPCA officers. The carcasses of dead horses, a bull and a goat were also found on the property.

Marcie Moriarty, chief prevention and enforcement officer for the BC SPCA, says Vieira has been the focus of several SPCA investigations during recent years and has three previous animal cruelty convictions. He has also been charged four times with breaching conditions of his sentence, the most recent charge coming yesterday for violating a ban on owning animals.

“Mr. Vieira has received various fines, some jail time, and bans on owning animals in his past convictions. It is our hope that if he is convicted in this most recent case, he receives a substantial jail sentence and a lifetime ban on owning animals, as clearly the previous convictions have not deterred him sufficiently,” she said.

Moriarty says the 29 animals seized on January 28 were being kept in overcrowded and inadequate conditions and were underweight and suffering from a range of medical issues, including parasites, abscesses, heart problems, infections, overgrown nails, dental issues, and eye injuries.

The livestock are now being cared for at fostering facilities in the Salmo Valley and the dogs and puppies are in the care of the Kelowna SPCA, where they are on a protective hold and will receive ongoing veterinary care before going up for adoption at a later date.

The BC SPCA investigates more than 10,000 cases of animal cruelty each year and is funded primarily by public donations. Initial estimates for medical care and special diets needed by the underweight animals come to approximately $20,000. If you can help, the BC SPCA would be grateful for donations at spca.bc.ca/medicalemergency.

The BC SPCA would also appreciate donations of high-quality hay for the livestock. If you can help, please contact Bob Andrew, manager, BC SPCA Nelson Branch, 250-352-7178, nelson@spca.bc.ca.

BATS IN MINES

Most low airflow mines (particularly in the W. Kootenay) are used by bats for winter hibernation. To maintain this habitat, secured metal gates over mine openings can keep people out for safety but let bats through. Buildings, rock crevices and snags are also bat-habitu.

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription

Only $10-$30
Send Cheque to: Valley Voice
Box 70 New Denver, BC V0G 1B0

Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, in partnership with Columbia Springs Trust, invites individuals of all artistic disciplines and arts, culture and heritage groups in the Columbia Basin to apply for project funding.

Deadline for applications is March 4, 2016, depending on the program.

Program brochures and application forms are available online at www.basinculture.com

by Jan McMurray

BC Timber Sales is in the early planning stages of logging operations in the Glacier Creek watershed in the Lan喔-Duncan, an area with a history of contentious logging issues.

Proposals for development in this area have historically met with fierce opposition – the Jumbo Glacier resort and AXOR’s independent power project are two high-profile examples. On January 26, three local residents met with BC Timber Sales officials to discuss their concerns with developing logging plans. “Our primary concerns,” said Jumbo Wild! activist K.L. Kivi, “are about the cumulative impacts of all the different developments in the Central Purcells. We’d like a moratorium on resource extraction in the area until the Jumbo Glacier Resort issue is resolved.” According to the notes from the meeting, “BCTS representatives also share some concern for how land use decisions appear to be made and agree that it’s not obvious that cumulative impacts are fully considered.” However, in regards to BC Timber Sales development, they said BCTS ensures “comprehensive consideration of all values – wildlife, fish, recreation, terrain, etc. – and the effects imposed by all development at any given site.”

Kivi points out that one of the reasons AXOR’s proposed independent power project was rejected in 2012 was that Glacier Creek was shown to be habitat for the blue-listed bull trout. In response to the residents’ concerns about fish habitat, BCTS representatives explained that “stream protection measures are required by regulation and will be implemented as a minimum.”

Kivi adds that the area is also home to grizzlies, harlequin ducks, and many other species. “The potential environmental impacts of logging in this area are multiple, including loss of habitat, situation of Glacier Creek, and loss of genetic diversity in trees,” she said.

The Glacier Creek Forest Service Road provides access to world-class recreational areas, including Monica Meadows, the Macbeth Icefield, and Jumbo Pass. “People familiar with the recreational values of the area question why anyone would choose to log in such an active recreational area,” said Kivi. “Logging trucks, heavy equipment and recreationalists are a potentially hazardous mix, particularly on such a narrow and precipitous road.”

BCTS assured that it will “conduct a full evaluation of the road and will undertake the investments necessary to ensure a safe co-existence with all traffic types.”

Della Peterson of BC Timber Sales noted that the recreation sites are accessible thanks to the road built by the forestry industry. “It does not seem logical that the industry who made so much possible in this drainage would now be expected to vacate. The economic model to support this is also not workable,” the meeting notes say.

The residents were alerted to the logging plans when Glacier Creek landowner Gabriela Grabowsky received notification from the Forest Service that a number of cutblocks were proposed in her watershed. The notification gave a deadline of February 8 for comments. BCTS representatives explained at the meeting that they will continue to respond to comments and concerns past February 8. Although they only send out notifications to landowners and tenure holders in the area, they welcome dialogue with the public as well.

A ministry spokesperson reported that BC Timber Sales staff is currently developing the cutblocks. The exact number of cutblocks and sizes will be confirmed in 2017 with the intent to auction the timber sale licences in 2018.

To comment on this proposal, contact Planning Forester Sean Simmon sean.simmon@gov.bc.ca or Woodlands Supervisor Della Peterson della.peterson@gov.bc.ca. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations’ Recreation Officer for the Kootenay-Boundary District is Justin Dexter justin.dexter@gov.bc.ca.
Kaslo and New Denver nominated Most Rider-Friendly Community

As a local business owner and taxpayer in the RDCK I would like to counter any negative publicity toward motorcycle tourism and take advantage of this opportunity to promote and encourage motorcycle tourism in the Kootenays.

Kaslo, New Denver, and Fruitvale have all been nominated for the title of Canada’s Most Rider-Friendly Community. Here is a chance for one of our small towns to win $35,000 towards positive marketing to help the local economy.

This shows that there is just as much support for motorcycles as against. A key long-term challenge is implementing an effective economic response to climate change. Political leaders have recently recognized and unfortunately been tone deaf to the reality of climate change and its economic impact, talking about the economy as if it’s an entity unto itself. It’s not. It’s someone talking about their income and not their expenses. For example, the real economic cost of dwindling water supplies available for California agriculture is just now being felt in the increasing cost of food. This is especially true for the most disadvantaged.

All countries need to integrate the implications of global warming into their macroeconomic frameworks. Energy pricing is at the heart of this. The IMF (according to Christine Lagarde, IMF Managing Director) has projected global energy subsidies at $5.3 trillion for 2015, or 6.5 percent of global GDP, a massive economic distortion. The most recent Canadian government handed out about a billion dollars a year in tax breaks to oil, coal and gas companies.

We all need to change the way we price energy right. A BC-appointed Climate Leadership Team recommended last fall that BC should raise its carbon tax by $10 increments to $51.90/tonne by 2030, while dropping the provincial sales tax and providing some “competitiveness adjustments” for the trade-exposed industrial sector. Nancy Olewiler, a panel member and economist from SFU, said the overall impact on the BC economy would be fairly modest, especially compared with the recent volatility in commodity markets.

Environmental economist David Sawyer calculates that just achieving Ottawa’s pre-Paris target (30 percent below 2005 emissions by 2030) would require a tax of $180/tonne of CO2 in 15 years. Canada has endorsed a 1.5°C limit on global warming, but the efforts and ambitions of the federal government are vastly inadequate to achieve even a 2°C goal. When the Paris Agreement opens for signatures on April 22, Canada must be prepared with an ambitious GHG emission reduction target and a concrete climate action plan that clearly establishes the federal leadership role and defines expectations for federal, provincial, and territorial action.

We all need to change the way we price energy for the sake of the generations that follow. The BC government must listen to their panel of experts, lead by the example of the Paris Agreement and put an ever-increasing price on carbon pollution.

I urge you to do your own research, write to your MLA, MP and Federal Liberal Cabinet ministers so our elected representatives know your educated opinion. Imagine the effect of MPs and MLA’s received 10,000 or even 100,000 emails and letters.

No hunting/ trespassing
One kilometre north of New Denver on Sunday afternoon January 24, a person was hunting and running his cougar hounds across my property without my permission. There is a very disturbing pattern evolving here, and I don’t want to go through an incident such as what happened last year when a hunting party tracked and hunted down a young female cougar on my property, leaving two orphaned kittens that later were put down by conservation officers. These events were deliberate acts of irresponsibility. The readers can judge for themselves the ethics of cougar hunting. Tracking and hunting on private property without consent is a bad idea.

FortisBC and BC Hydro have infringed upon basic democratic rights!

Supplying households with electricity cannot be used as a threat or blackmail to extract more money!

In a real democracy, everyone should have the choice to have a smart meter or not. We have all been harassed or bullied. FortisBC and BC Hydro customers opted out for health risks, privacy concerns and violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Yes, we are bathed in wireless radio, telephone and internet signals.

Anti smart meter ‘rebels’ get unfairly whacked in the wallet

Canadians got forced to adopt smart meters, which is a grievous violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms confirms our right to live in our home, our refuge, free of invasion.

In a real democracy, everyone should have the choice to have a smart meter or not. We have all been harassed or bullied. FortisBC and BC Hydro customers opted out for health risks, privacy concerns and violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Yes, we are bathed in wireless radio, telephone and internet signals.
The point is, we should not be forced to take smart meters. The government, of course, insists that FortisBC and BC Hydro are not overcharging customers.

On July 18, 2013, Energy Minister Bill Bennett made the following statement by way of press release announcing BC Hydro’s Meter Choices Program: “As we have said, nobody will be forced to take a smart meter. I believe that this is a fair and reasonable solution for all British Columbians.

Well said, Mr. Bennett and why did you say in February 2015 that nobody will be forced to take smart meters? Did you say in February 2015 that reasonable solution for all British Columbians.

The point is, we should not be forced to take smart meters. The government, of course, insists that FortisBC and BC Hydro are not overcharging customers.

The unjustified fee increase for the radio-off version should be voided.

Karin Leja
Winlaw

Solar fantasy

It’s time to stop the bleed of public money into solar projects by greenwashing people picking our pockets. Solar belongs in the sun. I don’t need the proof of science or improved regulations to substantiate what I already know: it’s safer to be hard-wired.

Nelson has two solar demonstration systems, installing $50,000 in grants in December.

The online public data from the Nakusp shows solar will make an average of about $32/kWh in December.

Years of solar data for the West Kootenay shows solar will make an average of about $32/kWh in December.

The recent $50,000 grant for your local school solar system is a perfect example of greenwashing waste.

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The online public data from the Nakusp shows solar will make an average of about $32/kWh in December.

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Solar belongs where the sun really shines and they make power day and night all winter. In December, that would power the city water intake for $150,000. The solar panels make power for a day and a half. The solar panels make power.

For the Revealed Systems, wasting over 26-82 cm by 2100. Of the century depending on how the oceans have acidified, the Sun and the aspect of so much carbon dioxide must be altering the transparency of the air and causing the less transparent air to act as a blanket, which in turn could cause the earth to become heated to an extent that people have never before known. His article was extremely thorough and predicted that a doubling of carbon dioxide in the air would cause earth temperature to rise between five and six degrees Celsius. The accuracy of his predictions was verified by computer modeling in the 1960s. In spite of a tremendous mass of data that verifies the steady accumulation of greenhouse gases, the media representation of corporations interests have for years denied that we need to change our ways to accommodate reality.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 2013 report cited in The Guardian Weekly in April 2013 included the following major points:

• Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are now at levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years.

• Global temperatures are likely to rise by 0.3°C to 4.8°C by the end of the century depending on how much greenhouse gas emissions.

• Sea levels are expected to rise a further 26-82 cm by 2100.

• The oceans were acidified, having absorbed about a third of the carbon dioxide emitted.

The solution is the absolute necessity of what people are waiting for the fact that the land, water, and atmosphere are all parts of our environment that demand our understanding and care. The Earth is not a playground; it is our life-sustain system.

I am reminded of something my father told me when I was a boy: “The Earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.”

But let’s take a look at a simple thing we could do to help the planet.

Land is logged for many reasons ranging from development to highway construction, but mainly to produce logs for the timber market. Meanwhile, the bared land left behind bakes in the sun from loss of protective vegetation, water from soil is evaporated and heat is reflected back into the atmosphere. The recent $50,000 grant for your local school solar system is a perfect example of greenwashing waste.

Nelson has two solar demonstration systems, installation $50,000 in grants in December.

The online public data from the Nakusp shows solar will make an average of about $32/kWh in December.

Solar belongs where the sun really shines and they make power day and night all winter. In December, that would power the city water intake for $150,000. The solar panels make power for a day and a half. The solar panels make power.

I received notification of the $50,000 grant for your local school solar system is a perfect example of greenwashing waste.

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Strengthening opportunities for youth

submitted

Columbia Basin Trust has announced the formation of a Basin Youth Network. This network will help communities increase activities and opportunities for youth, enabling them to learn new skills, such as leadership, and engage more with each other and their communities.

“We’ve been offering youth-related programs for over 15 years. Building upon these successes, we’re excited to be strengthening community efforts to increase support to youth,” said Lisa Kilpatrick, CBT Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits. “We know youth need a range of opportunities and resources to be happy and engaged in their communities, and we’re committed to working with communities to achieve this.”

The Trust has allocated $4.65 million over three years – $1.55 million annually – to the network. It will build on and incorporate the Trust’s successful Community Directed Youth Funds program. Since 2011, this program has supported communities’ needs to engage in their communities. The Trust’s support of youth will increase through the Basin Youth Network.

School District 10, January 26: New curriculum to be discussed at public meeting

by Jan McMurray

• A discussion of the new K-9 curriculum will take place on Tuesday, February 23 at 7 pm at the Bonnington in Nakusp. Parents, staff, and the public are welcome to the meeting. Jan Unwin, Superintendent of Graduation and Transitions, and Maureen Dockendorf, Superintendent of Early Years, will lead the discussion. Earlier that day, the superintendents will work with teachers on the new K-9 curriculum, which will be implemented in September.

• New trustee for the Central Zone (Nakusp), Melissa Teindl was welcomed to the board. Rhonda Farrell, new trustee for the Eastern Zone (New Denver) was also welcomed, but will not be able to officially sit on the board and vote until after March 1, when she is sworn in. Elections regulations are the reason for the delay.

• Chair Brekke reported on the Nakusp Secondary School PAC and staff, with a deadline for PAC and staff, with a deadline for uploaded examples of student work. The next step will be to upload examples of student work.

MP Richard Cannings ready for business

submitted

MP Richard Cannings says that his two constituency offices are now up and running at full capacity. “It is with pleasure that I and my staff offer our services to the citizens of South Okanagan-West Kootenay,” he said. “After months of anticipation, moving and staffing, I can honestly say that I have indeed compiled a great team of knowledgeable and competent assistants, and I am proud that I have two offices to assist the constituents of my riding.”

The West Kootenay office is at 1695A Columbia Ave., Castlegar, V1N 1J1; 250-365-2792, fax 250-365-2793; Richard.cannings.C2@parl.gc.ca.

The network will also support emerging needs, such job readiness, work experience programming, youth leadership, and others as identified.
Arrow Lakes Hospital emergency room

by Jan McMurray

The planning for renovations at the Arrow Lakes Hospital’s emergency room is finally in the draft IH budget for 2016.

The board identified the renovation project as a priority when touring the Arrow Lakes Hospital in 2012, and has been pushing for the planning stage to be included in the budget ever since. It has not shown up, so finally the board decided to offer it to pay for it themselves.

“We were very disappointed when it wasn’t in the 2015 budget, so we offered $100,000 out of our reserve funds to go towards the planning,” said Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling, who sits on the hospital district board.

“Interior Health finally accepted our offer in January this year, so now they have to let the Ministry of Health know and get approval.”

“I’m overwhelmed with the support from the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board for this project, and I really appreciate that the board has stood behind us on this,” she said.

Hamling explained that the board would like to get the planning done now, even though the funding for the construction phase has not been allocated. “We’d like the plan in place so when the funding becomes available, we can move ahead right away,” she said.

Hamling said she and Nakusp Councillor Ulli Mueller met with Ministry of Health representatives at the UBCM conference in September. From that meeting, she understood that projects under $2 million don’t need approval from the ministry. However, she speculates that IH might want ministerial approval for the planning phase because the construction phase of the project will no doubt be costly.

Every year in January, Interior Health presents the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board with a proposed budget, listing all the capital projects planned for the region’s health facilities for that year.

The cost of the projects is split between the regional hospital district (40 percent) and Interior Health (60 percent). For the Arrow Lakes Hospital planning project, however, the proposed 2016 budget shows the regional hospital district contributing $100,000 and IH zero.

Social sector surprises? Regional survey highlights challenges

submitted

Non-profit leaders, local government representatives, funders, and others interested in the social sector are invited to participate in a free webinar on Thursday, February 11 from 10 to 11 am, where RDI will share details and facilitate discussion on the results of a recent social sector survey. To register, please contact Sharon Stoddart at stoddart@selkirk.ca or 250-365-1392.

With more than 150 social non-profits serving our region, it’s no surprise there is diversity in the characteristics, capacity, and approach to providing social services. If there is one thing they have in common, along with a passion for helping people, the majority of social non-profits are faced with considerable challenges.

“The non-profit sector plays a critical role in the health and well-being of our residents and region,” said Nadine Raynolds, researcher at the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI). “Survey results highlight just how committed these groups are, but also how they need support to keep up with an increasingly complex demand for social services in our communities.”

A recent survey of social non-profits conducted by the RDI describes the characteristics of organizations across our region, indicating that most groups have been in operation for 10 years or more and are registered charities. A wide range of services are provided, from counselling to food security, from parenting programs to palliative care.

“While many groups operate with small budgets and few staff, what they are able to accomplish is extraordinary,” said Rona Park, executive director of the Nelson Community Services Centre and Advisory Committee member for the RDI’s social research project.

Research results show that most organizations have at least one part-time staff person, and many rely on volunteers. The average number of program volunteers is 30, with several groups having 50, 100, or more people volunteering their time. Along with a real need for core funding, recruiting new and younger volunteers was among the top organizational challenges for the 88 organizations who responded to the survey.

While various challenges were highlighted, survey results show that 90 percent of social non-profits are collaborating.

“Groups are working together to ensure the best possible services,” said Gwen Noble, executive director of Community Connections Society of BC, a collaborative organization based in Cranbrook. One survey respondent elaborated “when we work with others there are no limits.”

RDI will be further exploring innovation in the social sector this winter and spring through follow-up interviews and focus groups. The research is a critical step towards enabling evidence-based decision-making by our regions’ colleges, funders, and non-profits in efforts related to strengthening the social sector.

The full report on survey results is available at www.cbrdi.ca/research-areas/applied-research/non-profit-social-sector/.

As part of the research process, RDI developed an inventory of social non-profits across the Columbia Basin Boundary region, available through the RDI’s Digital Basin at cbrdi.ca.
KASLO & DISTRICT

Kaslo council, January 26: Collaborative discussion begins on Village properties

by Jan McMurray

• Council received notes from a January 13 meeting about facilities and infrastructure in the village. CAO Neil Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation showing that the Village owns several buildings and some pieces of land, which are used by local non-profit groups that don’t pay a great deal towards upkeep of the properties. Many groups were represented at the meeting, i.e. Village council and staff, the Chamber of Commerce, NKLCSS, Hospice, the Historical Society, the Library, the Langham, Periwinkle, and the Kaslo Institute. The meeting was facilitated by Kelvin Saldern of CBT. Staff will continue the discussion with CBT and arrange meetings as needed.

• The Committee of the Whole Finance & Budget Committee meeting minutes of January 19 were received.

$18,021 will be budgeted for a buildings asset management project - a strategy for all municipally owned buildings, particularly those in the downtown core: replacement, repair, management, divestiture and funding.

Staff will apply for funding under the new CBT Recreation Program based on the City Hall pocket park concept devised by Laurie Moss.

The City Hall septic renewal will be

budded for in 2016 at a cost of $10,000 from the Community Works (Gas Tax) reserve fund.

Some changes are coming to Fourth Street between Water Street and Front Street. More than half the parking spaces in that block will be lost, and the sidewalk will be widened to allow for benches and landscaping features. There will also be new streetlights here.

The leftover funds in the municipal fire department account will be used by Fire Chief Doug Yee to build a storage shed and purchase fire fighting equipment, chairs, and window blinds for the new fire hall. The tables currently in the training room, obtained from the RDCK, will be moving to the Village Hall.

The RDCK Parks contribution of $10,000 will be used for improvements such as signage and handrails on waterfront trails and Moyie Beach, as per the recommendations of the Municipal Insurance Association. The Kaslo Tennis Club will be directed to apply for a grant-in-aid from the Village for a power washer, and for a Community Development grant to cover the costs of public works labour, material and equipment to install a water connection.

Staff will invite Kaslo property owners who are clients of Aerbah to purchase a business licence if they don’t already have one, indicating there could be ramifications related to utilities and assessment if the use is not known by the relevant authorities.

The Broadband Infrastructure Mapping Project (funding for KIN to map their infrastructure in the area) will be pursued as an RDCK Director priority in 2016. RDCK staff presented an overview of the cemetery mapping online application. Mayor Hewat recognized the contributions of Gail Budy to the project.

• The seniors association would like internet service at the seniors hall. Staff will work with its IT provider to explore the extension of municipal Internet services to the hall.

• CAO Neil Smith reported that the Village had unfortunately been denied funding from the UBCG Gas Tax for the installation of modern electronic locks on Village buildings.

The minutes of January 19 were received. "It’s a small army of 2,500 volunteers thatcomb the province’s backcountry, rappeled into steep ravines and weather the worst of the elements, while leaving behind the comforts of home to go seek and find those who are lost or injured in British Columbia. The provincial government is reaching out to them and we will provide $10 million in one-time funding to help bolster training, administrative support and equipment renewals.

The British Columbia Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) calls this good news. "The ground search and rescue volunteers are known for providing an outstanding hand-of-help to the lost or injured in British Columbia. The provincial government is reaching out to them and will provide $10 million in one-time funding to help bolster training, administrative support and equipment renewals."

The company takes its responsibilities to its clients just as seriously, aiming for the highest level of safety and preparedness. "Their selflessness is woven into the fabric of their service, their dedication to strengthening them and the tapestry of public safety throughout the province," he said. "Their selflessness is woven into the fabric of their service, their dedication to strengthening them and the tapestry of public safety throughout the province," he said.

Rural Development Institute at Selkirk College, there are approximately 35 current tenure owners and 13 current and future beneficiaries of tenure in the Columbia Basin. "It’s unbelievable how many tenures there are in this area," says Gary Parkstrom, deputy director from New Denver, B.C. “It’s almost to the point where you can’t go anywhere without being on someone’s tenure.”

A local business owner is concerned that some backcountry ski areas in the Kootenays that people can access without snowmobiles are the Kootenay Pass, Whitewater Ski Resort, and the Powder Chutes at Red Boot, including Mt. Brennan, which is in Starrkstrom’s tenure area.

Parkstrom says one of the attractions of Mt. Brennan is its accessibility from Highway 31A, so there’s no need to snowmobile or fly in. “It would be nice to have a chance to talk with Stellar Heli-Skiing and ask them why they need to ski on Mt. Brennan all the time because they can access all kinds of areas we can’t from the highway.”

According to a Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations (FLNRO) spokesperson, replacement tenures “do not go through a public consultation process if there’s no substantial change to the tenure.” Stellar Heli-Skiing has not applied to increase its tenure area or change its purpose.

The ministry spokesperson says extensive public consultation was undertaken when Stellar applied for its original tenure. “The public consultation and referral process with government agencies and First Nations resulted in a substantial reduction of the tenure area under application to mitigate conflicts with public ski touring, snowmobiling, and commercial heli-skiing,” he said. Landrue and Schroeder Creeks to address public concerns around helicopter noise in close proximity to residential areas. “The additional agreements were obtained, or areas were removed, to address overlapping tenure issues. "We never want to stay outside our tenure, that’s why we want Stellar Heli-Skiing communications officer Marcus Garsky. “Where the park abuts our tenure we’re very conscious of that. People can have that backcountry experience on the park side. When it comes to our tenure, it is our tenure, and we work within the area allotted to us. It doesn’t hurt us as well for us when people come into our tenure area and cut up our terrain, whether it’s snowmobilers, skiers, or whatever.”

However, from FLNRO’s perspective, “a Licence of Occupation for Adventure Tourism guiding conveys minimal rights; it is intentionally designed to be non-exclusive to allow for overlapping uses and does not impede public access over the land.”

Garsky says the company has a strong corporate social responsibility charter, based in part on owner Jason Remples’ Kootenay roots. Remples grew up in Meadow Creek and wanted to create work that could support locals and remained close to the region. Garsky adds that the business provides significant spinoff benefits, creating 15 jobs for locals and increasing local exposure to business areas. The company takes its responsibilities to its clients just as seriously, aiming for a heli-skiing experience that adheres to all safety protocols.

Parkstrom skis Mt. Brennan at least four times per year and has done so for 10 years. He says he’s seen a noticeable increase in heli-skiing traffic there over the past two years especially, “and that’s definitely detracted from the experience. In fact, over Christmas break, it’s prime time to go up Mt. Brennan because of good conditions, but we didn’t go. Friends did go and said they’d never seen so many tracks there.”

Garsky says Stellar is open to discussion. “If someone has a problem, we operate out of the Kaslo Hotel, come and see us. That’s what being a ‘classic’ ski company is all about. We continue to pay administrative support and for new or additional training.”

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This investment will build on the $6.3 million that the BC government is already providing each year to cover ground search and rescue operational costs and equipment costs, and the insurance and liability for the members of the 80 groups that donate roughly 100,000 hours of volunteer time.

For more information on the Alternative Support Model, visit www. bcsara.com/projects/support-model.

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The Valley Voice February 10, 2016
Nakusp council, January 25: Water and sewer rates raised

by Katrine Campbell

• Council gave three readings bylaws amending the water and sewer rates. CAO Laurie Taylor reported that budget projections for operating and capital costs over the 2016-2020 five-year financial period showed a projected deficit of $351,633 for sewer and $562,928 for water. The costs for chemicals were $35,302 per single family dwelling.

There will be a five percent discount for bills paid within 30 days, and a 10 percent penalty on all utilities not paid by August 31.

This increase would result in a surplus of $207,700 in the sewer fund, and $87,999 in the water fund, by 2020.

• Director of Recreation and Parks Terry Welsh delivered his report to council, covering the period from November 19 to January 19.

- Hot Springs revenue for the year was $729,090, $8,000 more than the budget forecast. The forecast had estimated the Village would have to pay $721,090, instead there was a profit of $16,000.

- Staff have been maintaining the trails from the municipal campground and along the sports field, to provide walks for residents.

- Work continues on the 2016 capital budget; prep work was completed for the Royston Master Plan.

- After CBT announced its funding program for recreation infrastructure, the Village informed the Trust it will apply for funding for the arena roof.

- Preliminary work on a Request for Proposals to develop the Trails Master Plan is underway, thanks to a CBT grant.

- A steering committee was formed for the caboose project, to fundraise, determine potential sites and to establish a long-term working committee. Welch is working on logistical requirements.

- The Village will partner with the RDCK for Local Government Awareness Week in May. Although there are no Regional District facilities in Nakusp, council will offer tours of the water and sewage treatment plants.

- Council received an update from BC Hydro re: the boat ramp. As of January 21, work started on installation of the final section. Divers were to connect the 22-metre steel rails, which formed the framework for the final piece, to the end of the ramp. The framework was to be filled with gravel, and concrete pads were to be set in place. The work was expected to be finished in early February.

SD10 students travel to Okanagan to learn computer coding

by Art Joyce

For five secondary students from New Denver and Nakusp, it was a rare opportunity for some world-class training in computer coding.

An initiative known as Code Create, hosted by the University of British Columbia (UBC) Okanagan campus, Kelowna, and Lighthouse Labs of Vancouver, drew about 100 students for a one-day session learning code. School District #10 students were accompanied by Michael Mayhal, hands-on learning teacher in the district.

The local group consisted of Arturs Vilkis and Koen Grierson from Nakusp area author Lucia Mann has rewritten her book, Rented Silence. The revised edition is available at Home Hardware in Nakusp and at Amazon.

In the revised Rented Silence, Mann takes readers on a journey spanning seven decades, into the gut-wrenching story of a mother’s untold journey and the unlikely survival of one of her children, and a shocking exposé of South Africa’s very real human trafficking epidemic.

Mann has been nominated for four awards this title.

The point of this story is to raise awareness about modern-day slavery, a problem many people think has somehow been abolished, and to do it through a story that captivates its readers by fusing real-world grit with an engrossing fictional narrative,” explains Mann,佛得岛, designed to introduce students to computer programming.

The long session began with an orientation session by an instructor followed by a series of code problems that had to be solved. Students had their laptops pre-loaded with code, and they downloaded code created by Lighthouse Labs. They were encouraged to edit and make changes to the code, ‘break’ the code, make mistakes and then find a way to fix them. There was a five-to-one ratio of students to mentors, so there was no lack of help for solving problems. The students were given a beginning level although Mayhal says someone with experience would also have enjoyed the challenge.

The group I went with from our district really enjoyed it,” said Mayhal.

As it is right now, computer programming can be useful for pretty much any line of work, Mayhal says. It’s getting so that everything has a computer – even your toaster will be computerised.

Mayhal says it’s not for everybody, but for those with the aptitude this is an excellent opportunity for exposure to computer coding. Generally, having a background in computer coding will be an asset to students wanting to train at post-secondary institutions in computer sciences. A good background in mathematics is also helpful. Surprisingly, an aptitude for languages can also be useful, since computer coding is just another language. Students growing up with more than one language at home thus find they have an edge.

Hour of Code is a one-day event so there won’t be a follow-up until next year, though there is a movement in the school district to get more student courses in programming.

“I’d like to try and get students doing this more. It’s not necessarily just a job skill but having a little bit of computer programming knowledge is helpful.”

Lumenerc, with Wolfgang Kotsch, Cameron Macintosh, and Devyn Carberry from Nakusp Secondary. According to the BC RCMP, Code Create is part of a global initiative known as Hour of Code, designed to introduce students to computer programming.

The BC RCMP Explosives & Forensic Services (E&FS) and the BC RCMP Explosives Task Force (EFT) have rewritten their book, Rented Silence.

The virus does not survive outside of this virus when they fight with other cats, or this virus when they fight with other cats.

What’s in store for Chester? At the end of February.

The stray cat, known as Chester, was found guilty of possession of explosives, and was given a one-year conditional sentence to care for. Although very much a cat lover, Chester was clearly not wild and at indoor life, and enjoys being petted and indoor life, and enjoys being petted and

Nakusp resident Johann Blattning was found guilty of possession of explosives for an unlawful purpose in Nelson court on February 2. He was given a one-year conditional sentence and a five-year prohibition from possessing firearms.

Blattning, in his 30s, was arrested on the morning of Monday, January 29 when officers located what appeared to be dynamite and a blasting cap in his residence at the Canyon mobile home park. The Nakusp RCMP had obtained a search warrant for his residence as a result of an ongoing investigation.

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The new Nakusp boat ramp is now complete and was opened for public use on Friday, February 5. The launch features a concrete ramp that extends to a reservoir elevation of 420.5 metres or 1379.7 feet and a floating walkway.

“We are very happy to see the completion of the boat ramp project,” said Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling. “It is a very important piece of our community. Thank you to BC Hydro for our ramp and Landmark Solutions for their hard work and dedication in building it. I am sure that it will see many happy users. I also want to thank the public for their patience and in particular those community members and businesses who worked hard to ensure that the Blue Knuckle Derby continued and was a success over the last few winters. You make us proud.”

The new boat ramp was a challenge to build due to the length of the ramp and water levels. Project construction began in 2012 when Columbia Basin conditions were wet and Arrow Lakes Reservoir water levels were higher than average. Unfortunately, the wet weather persisted. Despite considerable effort to use alternative techniques such as underwater construction and a coffer dam, the construction crew was limited by winter water levels over the next two years and could only extend the ramp one section at a time.

This winter, the project caught a break on the weather – 2015 was the third driest year on record for the Columbia Basin – and water levels are unusually low. The crew was ready to take advantage of the low water levels and worked hard to successfully complete the project.

The ramp will continue to be owned and operated by the Village and BC Hydro will fund summer maintenance costs. Under BC Hydro’s water licence, the company is responsible for providing boater access to Arrow Lakes Reservoir at Nakusp throughout the summer recreational period.

“We would like to thank Mayor Hamling and the Village of Nakusp for their support throughout all phases of this challenging project and look forward to continuing to work with the Village to ensure the new ramp provides area boaters with safe and improved access to Arrow Lakes Reservoir for many years to come. We would also like to thank the Nakusp Rod and Gun Club, area boaters, and residents for their understanding and patience during the periodic boat ramp closures required for construction,” said Jen Walker-Larsen of BC Hydro.

Harry Anderson was the first person to catch a fish using the newly completed boat launch at Nakusp. He caught the fish Saturday, February 6.

The completed Nakusp boat ramp brings smiles to many faces! L to R: Councillor Ulli Mueller, Rodney Koneman and Hank Scown (Nakusp Rod and Gun Club), Jen Walker-Larsen (BC Hydro), Mayor Karen Hamling, Councillor Bill Tobey, and Harry Anderson.
COMMUNITY

Threads Guild membership now exceeds 100

submitted

Something is happening at the Slocan Valley Threads Guild – more than 100 people have joined or renewed membership! The renovated former one-room schoolhouse, located at 7112 Perry’s Back Road (just off Highway 6, north of Winlaw), is humming with fibre arts activities this winter.

One returning member expressed how much she had missed sitting around the table at the monthly meetings, feeling that she was part of something “so much greater and older than ourselves.” The second half of the months is always stimulating, as each member has an option to show and share their work.

Volunteer programming coordinator Linda Out has been scheduling workshops and members’ days to enable members to share their skills in felting, rug hooking, basketry, quilting, knitting (natural, procion, and acid), knitting (socks, Fair Isle technique) and spinning, for example.

WINTER is also the time to collect and prepare items that will be sold at the annual Yard and Yardage event, to which the public is invited. It will be held this year on Sunday, April 17 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Guild. If you are de-cluttering, we are ready now to accept donations of fabric, yarn and craft supplies. Call Sharon at 226-7703 or Jasmine at 352-7152 to arrange drop-off or pickup.

To learn about the group, programs, meetings, rentals, the library and equipment availability you can visit the website www.slocanvalleythreadsguild.wordpress.com and/or become a member for $10 per year. Members have been getting tantalizing weekly emails containing a full menu of upcoming classes, members’ days and Gab ‘n’ Job sessions.

Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society to host volunteer recognition event

submitted

From serving meals to holding hands, from creating budgets to coaching kids, from hosting meetings to writing press releases – volunteers keep our communities functioning. They do it without a paycheque, coming in early to set up chairs and staying late to sweep the floor. They are the lifeblood of the many and diverse non-profit organizations that serve the Slocan Valley.

This spring, some of those hard working volunteers will be recognized for their contributions at a special event hosted by the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society. The event will take place on Saturday, April 16, the final day of National Volunteer Week 2016.

The event is called ‘Get Your Just Desserts’ and will include refreshments, entertainment and door prizes. The good news is that this is not a fundraiser – it is an appreciation event and there is no charge to participants.

Non-profit groups throughout the valley will be invited to send up to five of their most dedicated volunteers. Sign-up information will be available soon on the website www.slocanvalleylegacy.com. Funding for the evening is being provided in part by CBT and RDCK Area H Director Walter Popoff.

So, if you belong to one of those groups, come give it a shot. Your heart will come give it a shot. Your heart will love you for it.

You can book an appointment with Shelley at 250-777-4342.


Energy Medicine practitioner brings Full Spectrum healings to the Valley

submitted

“Come give it a shot. Your heart will love you for it.”

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“A special felting members’ day was held on January 10 at the Threads Guild, using supplies generously donated by member Helen Pengelly.

Shelley offers a handful of amazing healings to support people in moving forward in their life; soul healing, fibromyalgia, spinal support, and fertility healing are just a few.

To kick off coming to the Valley, Shelley is offering a heart healing to help heal your broken heart, bring you back into relationship with yourself, begin to trust again in your true power, and move forward in loving again.
Call to action: participate in CRTC’s broadband consultation

March and awareness for missing and murdered women

New Slocan Valley Arts Council membership perks

Apply now

Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs (CI/AAP)

Cost of $15, membership in the arts council is ensured until August 2017, an additional eight months.

Membership benefits also include monthly email updates, access to member grants for projects, discounted workshops and feribilities for an artist website profile on our website. Membership forms are also available online at slocanvalleyarts.ca.

If you are ready to update your membership or are interested in participating in a group exhibition for the opening circle and march, which will end at Nelson Community Services common room (on Lake Street in the Community First Health building) for a for the opening circle and march, which will end at Nelson Community Services common room (on Lake Street in the Community First Health building) for a

Backroads tour of the widing Slocan Valley may seem the farthest thing from everyday mind’s in these wintry conditions, but summer will be here before you know it. The Slocan Valley Community Arts Council is reaching out to past, current and new members interested in participating in a group exhibition as part of the annual Columbia Basin Culture Tour this summer, August 13-14.

The Culture Tour is a great opportunity for the general public and the tourism sector to access the vibrant local arts, culture and heritage in our community. Through a self-guided tour format, the public can choose from a number of locations, artist studios, museums and cultural centres to visit over the course of the weekend. For more information on the tour itself, visit cvcultour.com.

In past years, some artists have teamed up to showcase their individual works in groups at one location. This has proven to assist those participating to market their work and assist a wider audience, and has fostered new relationships between artists.

The Slocan Valley Community Arts Council (SVCAC) would like to further this collaborative spirit and is committed to hosting a group exhibition for members in good standing at one or more of our local community halls for the duration of the cultural tour. A small fee to participate would include the costs for the artist/venue registration, as well as rental and any additional promotional costs associated with marketing this exciting group event.

Past, present and new SVAC members are encouraged to take advantage of a limited time offer to update their membership status before the February 26 deadline. For the discounted

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Entrepreneurs, students, academics and makers will be able to work with innovative materials, test out original projects and build upon new, unique ideas and products to market at a new laboratory in Trail.

Known as MIDAS, the laboratory will help create new business opportunities, expand the skill sets of people while increasing the region’s economic viability. It is being financed in part by up to $850,000 over four years from Columbia Basin Trust.

MIDAS stands for Metallurgical Industrial Development Acceleration and Studies, and is being spearheaded by the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST). There are two main parts to the laboratory.

The first is a fab lab, or ‘digital fabrication laboratory,’ intended for rapid prototyping and training in the tools that underpin modern technologies, like the MIDAS Laboratory, which will provide businesses with the high-demand skill set needed to stay competitive.

“The potential for meaningful economic impact is exciting,” said Armen Hayes, MIDAS Program Director. “It will also provide businesses with the opportunity to get prototypes made locally – they have to be made elsewhere now. And it will allow us to train local people on how to use this equipment, which will be a high-demand skill as new technologies change the way manufacturing is being done.”

“Expanding innovation in this sector through our partnership with CKCA.”

At the MIDAS lab, engineering and business students from the University of British Columbia Okanagan learn and apply for funding through the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA), which delivers the Arts, Culture and Heritage Program on behalf of Columbia Basin Trust.

In our region, with our metallurgy expertise, MIDAS will enable us to use materials in new and novel ways that will provide us with a competitive advantage,” said Amber Hayes, MIDAS Project Director. “It will also provide businesses with the opportunity to get prototypes made locally – they have to be made elsewhere now. And it will allow us to train local people on how to use this equipment, which will be a high-demand skill as new technologies change the way manufacturing is being done.”

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The MIDAS lab is currently under construction, with specialized equipment training opportunities available. MIDAS will welcome people in September 2016 to follow the development of the lab and learn more about the technologies, like the MIDAS Facebook page at facebook.com/midaslab.

In addition to KAST and the Trust, MIDAS is supported by Community Futures of Greater Trail, Fenix Advanced Materials, Western Economic Diversification, Selkirk College and the Rural Development Institute, UBC Okanagan, Mitacs, BC Innovation Council, Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust, Lower Columbia Community Development Team Society and the Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation.

MIDAS Lab to expand innovation in the region

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The MIDAS lab is currently under construction, with specialized equipment training opportunities available. MIDAS will welcome people in September 2016 to follow the development of the lab and learn more about the technologies, like the MIDAS Facebook page at facebook.com/midaslab.

In addition to KAST and the Trust, MIDAS is supported by Community Futures of Greater Trail, Fenix Advanced Materials, Western Economic Diversification, Selkirk College and the Rural Development Institute, UBC Okanagan, Mitacs, BC Innovation Council, Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust, Lower Columbia Community Development Team Society and the Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation.

MIDAS Lab to expand innovation in the region

Entrepreneurs, students, academics and makers will be able to work with innovative materials, test out original projects and build upon new, unique ideas and products to market at a new laboratory in Trail.

Known as MIDAS, the laboratory will help create new business opportunities, expand the skill sets of people while increasing the region’s economic viability. It is being financed in part by up to $850,000 over four years from Columbia Basin Trust.

MIDAS stands for Metallurgical Industrial Development Acceleration and Studies, and is being spearheaded by the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST). There are two main parts to the laboratory.

The first is a fab lab, or ‘digital fabrication laboratory,’ intended for rapid prototyping and training in the tools that underpin modern technologies, like the MIDAS Laboratory, which will provide businesses with the high-demand skill set needed to stay competitive.

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Valley residents showed huge public that a lot of very good work has been done for planning for this a lot of things which may be distance in the valley. They encouraged quadders from the New Denver area to form a club and get involved in the project. The draft plan has been designed to recognize that a lot of very good work has been done for planning for this stretch of trail… particularly the management plan,” says Cathro. “What is interesting is that a lot of the work… has been done and funded by the RDCD.”

The trail is Crown land, he adds, so the Province has a broader jurisdiction on the trail than the Regional District has. “The goal is to get the trail legally authorized,” he says. This authorization would be granted by RSTBC, which wants to ensure “all options for agreement have been explored and we have the right quadders at the table working out the details.”

The group has had two meetings until today, and progress is slow. “We’re at the stage where people at the table are working to get to know each other,” said Cathro. “We’re dealing with ATVers and non-motorized users; it’s an interesting cultural divide. I think they realize these sorts of processes – localized planning around trails – have yielded good results elsewhere.

“The right people at the table can come up with a resilient solution people can look at; that’s the one I get at this table,” said Cathro who says they hope to reach an agreement by late spring or early summer. When the snow melts, the group members will get out on the trail and have a look at it before formalizing a detailed agreement.

Beavin, speaking on behalf of the

Unity Fest to be held July 15-17 by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

Unity Fest organizers and Slocan Proper council have discussed this year’s festival and have settled on the dates. It will be held July 15-17, a week earlier than usual, and will be extended by an extra evening added to the schedule. The festival will start on Friday evening as it did in its first two years.

“We’re looking at running it from 6 pm to midnight on Friday, 10 am to midnight on Saturday, and 10 am to 8 pm on Sunday. Saturday will be ‘Local Day’; vendors will move outside of the fence so that local residents will be able to shop without paying the festival entry fee.

Under consideration for this year is a change in parking areas and entrances, all dependent on permission from the Regional District and from council to permit the changes. Main Street may be reserved for dock users and emergency access to the festival. Entrances may be the new gate in the south fence and the entrance on the east side that was previously used only for hand and equipment access. Council, staff, and festival organizers will meet soon to walk through the site, checking out the new parking and entrance plans and making all safety requirements will be met.

New Denver council, January 26

by Katrine Campbell

• In March 2015 the Village objected to the Ministry of Health’s classification of the Slocan River as “rural remote” based on a much smaller population base than the centre actually serves. Council received an email from the acting Assistant Deputy Minister saying the ministry was “working on refining our framework for the classification of geographies and communities in BC… future iterations of the rural policy paper will provide clarity on the issues you have raised.” Mayor Cathro responds that she was on top of the issue and would continue to press for a change.

• The Village will apply to CBT for $3,000 towards the cost of professional structural assessment of the Bosun Hall. It is owned by the Village and managed by LACE (Lacersun Association for Community Education), which has been fundraising for significant improvements, in addition to the work it has already done. An assessment is needed to help develop realistic cost estimates. The assessment would cost between $6,000 and $8,000. LACE will kick in $2,000.

• Applications for CBT community initiatives funding are available at the Village office and on the website. The deadline is February 27. The money is “intended to foster activities… and projects supported by the community that might not otherwise be undertaken.” All proposals will be reviewed by the Village’s local selections committee at a public meeting at Knox Hall on April 5 at 7 pm. New Denver gets $35,255 this year.

• Slocan Lake RCMP detachment submitted its quarterly crime stats for October through December 2015, with a comparison to the same quarter in 2014. The report covers the three villages and Winlaw, and points in between. Total calls for service were up by two (224 from 222 in 2014) in 2015 vs 692 in 2014. There were four motor vehicle accidents, only one of which involved an injury, and no fatalities. Assaults and threats were up and there was one domestic violence call. Police responded to 11 calls involving alcohol or drugs (two in 2014), and seven mental health related calls. The rest of the calls related to thefts and possession of stolen property. There were no youth-involved incidents.

• A development variance permit for the Valhalla Pure building was granted. The brewery is allowed to relax the minimum length of one parking space from 5.5 to 5.2 m, to accommodate the existing septic system vent.

• A development variance permit application from Sappho’s Bakery was denied. The home-based business occupies 610 sq. ft. of the house, 110 sq. ft. over the limit. Council was concerned that granting the variance could set a precedent.

• Council agreed to provide a letter of support to the Slocan Valley Refugee Coalition.

• The Village will apply for $10,000 from the CBT Water Smart program. The money is to be used to provide two-thirds funding for leak detection, hose timers, hose water meters, and wages for a Water Smart ambassador.

• Up to two Village staffers will be sent to a Risk Management Conference in April. The conference is hosted by the Municipal Insurance Association of BC to share information and best practices.

• Council denied a request from the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society for a grant-in-aid for its volunteer recognition event in Winlaw, as it didn’t want to set a precedent for special treatment for grants. “We’re not the CBT,” said von Krogh. “We don’t have the same pockets.”

• Councilor Heather Fox reported that the Healthy Community Society received a $10,000 donation for the Lane Hayward bursary from her brother, bringing the total to $13,000. The Lucerne School lunch program has up to 40 regular customers, and the food costs are covered by the fees.

• The Regional Park Commission (RPC) and Rec 6 were ratified.

• The regional Strategic Community Energy and Emissions Plan (SCERP) process will take place February 19 in Nelson. This is open to board members, and local government staff.

The Crescent Valley Regional Park Management Plan was passed. It acts as a guidance document.

Chair Karen Hamling will send a letter of support on behalf of the board to the BC Real Estate Foundation to accompany the Community Food Action Initiative multi-year application. The funds will be used to create a food policy council.

Staff will research regional fire service collaboration within the province, and draft a region-wide compensation package for review in September.

The RDCK will express an interest in hosting the Federation of Canadian Municipalities board of directors meeting in March 2018.
Government defers hydro bills to keep BC Hydro, companies operating metal and coal mines will be able to defer a portion of their BC Hydro electricity payments. The amount any mine will be able to defer is capped at the equivalent of up to 25 percent of its electricity costs over two years of the program. As commodity prices recover, the mines will repay the amounts deferred, plus interest.

Low copper and coal prices have put operations at a number of British Columbia mines at risk and some have already been forced to reduce production and employee levels. There are currently eight metal mines and five coal mines operating in the province, employing approximately 7,500 workers.

Each company that chooses to participate in the program will be required to enter into a formal agreement with BC Hydro.

The Nelson teach-in is sponsored by the West Kootenay Community Clinic Society. The society has won Pacific Blue Cross’s 5th anniversary ‘Share the Care’ campaign. The society, based in Nelson, is helping to increase access to emergency dental care for low-income families. Mara Sand, a director for the organization, explained in her video that the $50,000 donation will allow the introduction of satellite clinics so everyone can access care in the Kootenay-Boundary area.

The three-week campaign garnered more than 16,000 votes and as the grand prize winners, the TEETH Clinic will receive the donation from the Pacific Blue Cross Health Foundation for receiving the most votes throughout the video storytelling campaign.

The Foundation arrived at five finalists from a list of 70 organizations it has funded to improve health and wellbeing in BC. Foundation members then asked British Columbians to vote for their favorites in a video storytelling campaign.

Each organization was guaranteed a $5,000 donation for participating, with donations increased to $50,000 and $10,000 for the two videos that received the most votes. The total giveaway adds up to $75,000.
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
THINKING OF STARTING, buying or expanding your own business? If so, call Community Futures to learn about the free Business Plan workshop open to anyone! If you’re eligible, you may also qualify for the Self-Employment program where you will receive ongoing business training and coaching and usually financial support while you start your business. To learn more call 250-367-2134 or 2135 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

SPECIAL EVENTS

CARDS OF THANKS
Dr. Brennan comes to New Denver and Nakusp every week: Monday 2:00-3:00 - New Denver; Tuesday 1:00-2:00 - Nakusp. Appointments can be scheduled by contacting Slocan Community Health Centre on Tuesday Afternoons; Dr. Brennan comes to New Denver and Nakusp every week: Monday 2:00-3:00 - New Denver; Tuesday 1:00-2:00 - Nakusp. Appointments can be scheduled by contacting Slocan Community Health Centre on Tuesday Afternoons; to reserve. BC Gaming rules will apply. The Legion welcomes members & guests.

OPEN SEMINAR: Successful Business Start-Ups: Don’ts and Do’s. Prestige Lakeside Resort & Convention Center. February 20, 2016. Limited seating. Open to all levels of business. All Interested Parties Welcome, Tel: 250-304-8243. Full downloadable registration and agenda package available. Register online at mcleodseminars.com. info@mcleodseminars.com. INTERESTED IN BEING A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER? Volunteering is an enriching experience for you and our patients. You would be required to volunteer a minimum of 3 hours per week. To learn more about volunteering with Community Hospice please contact volunteer coordinator, Karen Forster at 250-358-2313.

COMING EVENTS

ENVIRONMENT

ROBERTSON & MCDONALD - REPAIRS & UPGRADES
- welding repairs \ full service & repair \ licensed & registered \ radiator repairs & service \ mobile service available \ friendly service. 24 HOUR TOWING 1007 HWY 23, NAKUSP PH: 265-4577

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Open Monday to Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm. Mon- Sat: 9-5. Your "Bottle Drive" Specialists

ADVERTISE IN THE VALLEY VOICE
It pays!!! • Call 358-7218 for details • email: valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca • NAKUSP GLASS • 200 Broadway Street, NAKUSP PH: 265-4012 • 24 HOUR TOWING 1007 HWY 23, NAKUSP PH: 265-4577

ENVIRONMENT

VALLHALLA WILDERNESS SOCIETY
Box 300 - New Denver BC V0G1G0 email info@vws.org website www.vws.org Since 1974, an environmental, educational charity, working to preserve and protect wilderness and wildlife. Info • membership • donations 250-359-2533

PORTIA FINE ARTS GALLERY
Jim Smith, Owner, 250-358-3263 info@portiafineartsgallery.com

BRENNANT, GAY & MACKENZIE
2212 Main Street, Slocan • 250-355-2357

You're ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

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THE LEGION WELCOMES MEMBERS & GUESTS.

LUNCH, WORKSHOPS and OUTINGS. OPEN TO ALL LEVELS OF BUSINESS. ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WELCOME. For more information call 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@telus.net.

ALFA AUTOMOBILE CLUB
2016 Bordeaux, Automatic. $6,000. 250-358-2206.

SAFETY TRAINING

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ALFA AUTOMOBILE CLUB
2016 Bordeaux, Automatic. $6,000. 250-358-2206.
February 10, 2016  The Valley Voice

SLACON VALLEY THREADS GUILD now collecting donations of fabrics, yarn and craft supplies for Yard and Yardage event Sunday, April 17. Time to call Sharon 226-7033 or Joanne 352-7152 to arrange pickup.

WINLAW WATERFALL COMMITTEE AGM, Tuesday March 8, 7 pm, at the New SIFCo office (Hoodkoef Rd., follow signs). Membership open to residents between Pedro & Slocan Creeks, east of Slocan River.

CONTENTS

- 355 HOUSE, 2 1/2 Rd Rental Unit 750 sq. ft Info: Arrowroot Rotary Villa 250- 265-9865
- MARCH 1ST MOBILE Home for rent in New Denver, 402 7th Avenue $600/ month $330 DD. Non-Smoking Call Barb or Peter at 403-678-6516

FOR SALE


HEALTH

- YOGA IN SILVERTON – THE INWARD JOURNEY: Monday 9-10:30 am; Thursday 4-5:30 pm. Honour your INWARD JOURNEY: Monday 9-10:30
- Kootenay Containers. Sales & Rentals. CONTAINERS AFFORDABLE STEEL SHIPPING 265-1886
- upper level east of Slocan River. Rd., follow signs). Membership open to 7pm, at the NEW SIFCo office (Hoodikoff WINLAW WATERSHED

FOR RENT

- and craft supplies for Yard and Yardage now collecting donations of fabric, yarns & DOORS SAVE MONEY @ PETER'S WINDOWS to find out how.
- ANYWHERE with your dog? We can help. Go TO www.proudofmydog.ca
- DOES YOUR DOG OR PUPPY frustrate you? Would you like to have the dog of your dreams? Would you like to confidently go anywhere with your dog? Call or stop in to help. Go to www.growfriendlydogs.ca to find out how.
- PERSONALIZED DOG CARE – WINLAW. Your dog’s home away from home, no kennels, acres of fenced play area and river swims. Call now to book your dog’s vacation. 1-540-488-6553, www.barbark.com
- INDOOR GARDENING. Mail Order Catalogue. Enjoy the comfort of your home with indoor plants. www.interior-gardening.com
- DOUGLAS FIR PUDL OR FUTURE? You would like to have the dog of your dreams? Would you like to confidently go anywhere with your dog? Call or stop in to help. Go to www.growfriendlydogs.ca to find out how.
- PERSONALIZED DOG CARE – WINLAW. Your dog’s home away from home, no kennels, acres of fenced play area and river swims. Call now to book your dog’s vacation. 1-540-488-6553, www.barbark.com
- INDOOR GARDENING. Mail Order Catalogue. Enjoy the comfort of your home with indoor plants. www.interior-gardening.com
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- GERRY CONWAY – Journeyman carpenter/cabinet builder. 250-265-3163
- SUE MISTRETTA, M.A., offers Online Counselling and Counselling sessions in Silvertown and Winlaw offices. Contact www.hannahsoul.com or 356-2177
- FONTEINERPRISE. Meets every month with all your children and professional service. Call Ed Kostuch at 250-356-3757.

HIGH-SPEED SATELLITE

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OBITUARIES

- DONALD DANIEL LAWRENCE LAW, born in Vancouver, BC on December 16, 1935 died on January 30, 2016 in New Denver, BC. Danny grew up in Kimberley, BC and attended business school and Bible college in Vancouver. He married his love, Joan, in 1960 and they settled in New Denver with their four daughters, Louise, Janice, Heather and Phyllis. He was well known around New Denver and the Slocan Valley as Pastor Danny at the Gospel Light Chapel. He was a dedicated weather observer, calling in the weather to Environment Canada nearly every day for 45 years. Others will remember him as Mr. Law the bus driver and custodian at Lacmee School for over two decades. Danny loved swimming in Slocan Lake and enjoyed many summers at the Island's when he built an A-frame cabin. Danny was committed to the people of Israel, visiting many times over the years and spending countless hours collecting and sending donations to organizations serving causes dear to him. He was a generous and caring man who was always happy to lend a helping hand. He cherished his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who remember a grandpa who always had time for a laugh with them.

Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

Business Classifieds start at $11.00 Call 250-358-7218 for details

Your ad could be here for only $11.00 + GST

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Johnston. He is survived by 2 younger sisters-in-law Betty (Owen) Neill, and Mayes, brother-in-law, Jack Hodges, sisters, Sylvia (Arne) Maki, Julia (Dalton) Mayes, brother-in-law, Jack Hodges, sister-in-law Betty (Owen) Neill, and his eldest daughter Grace (Rick) Maja Johnston. He is survived by 2 younger sisters, Lemmitty Hodges, Aune (Eero) Pontynen, 6 children, Dan (Lynee) Maja, Betty (Richard) Fahlan, Julia (Kent) Hough, Emily Maja (Cyril Gregory), Matt (Barb) Maja, Jodi (Bill) Rendall, 11 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, brother-in-law Harry (Norma) Barden, and many nieces and nephews. Matt moved to BC from Ontario in 1951 with his new family to pursue job opportunities in logging and road construction. Matt was active in the Kinsmen Club, Masonic Order, Boy Scout Leadership and also ran as a Liberal candidate. In 1970, Matt and Helen moved to Kelowna where he taught at Okanagan College. When that ended it was back to logging until he accepted an Instructor position in the Heavy Equipment Operator Program at Malaspina College in Nanaimo which included a two year teaching stint in Indonesia. When that Program was cancelled he worked for the Department of National Defence at Nanoose Bay until his retirement. Matt had high expectations of honesty, good work ethics, family values and high moral standards of everyone he knew. He also enjoyed sharing his passion for creating new projects, fishing, gardening, and crib playing with family and friends. A celebration of Matt’s life will be held in Nakusp from 1-4 pm, April 23, 2016, at the Legion Hall. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of your choice as giving to the community was always an important part of Matt’s life. Matt’s family would like to express their gratitude to the doctors and staff at the Arrow Lakes and Vernon Jubilee Hospitals for their care and comfort of their Dad through this difficult time. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.firstmemorialfuneralkelowna.com. Arrangements entrusted with First Memorial Funeral Services, Kelowna, BC 250-762-2299.

KSCU share profits for 23rd consecutive year submitted
Based on 2015 financial results, the Kootenay Savings Board of Directors has declared a one percent patronage and share dividend, which will see $476,425 in profit shares distributed through the credit union’s member rewards program. “That we are once again able to pay a profit sharing dividend, in what continues to be a challenging economic environment, demonstrates our employees’ commitment to our member experience strategy and shows the loyalty of our membership,” said President and CEO Brent Tremblay.

Dividends are calculated based on amount of interest earned on deposits and amount of interest paid on loans. Member-owners can withdraw up to 20 percent in cash and invest the remainder in an RRSP to earn an instant tax credit. Since 1992, over $360,000 in profit sharing dividends have been paid.

In addition to the member rewards program, the credit union also distributed $360,000 in donations, sponsorships, grants and youth achievement and education awards in 2015, helping fund numerous community projects, programs and initiatives across the Kootenays.

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

**RESTAURANTS**

Slocan Village Market
Groceries, fresh produce, fresh meat, Agency Liquor, organic foods, in-store deli, in-store bakery.
Open: Monday-Friday, 9 am - 8 pm, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am - 7 pm
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**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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Rutabagas
Whole Foods Market
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250-358-7900

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**MEMBERSHIP**

All members of the Kootenay Savings Branches are eligible for membership in the Kootenay Savings Board. Membership is free and membership does not obligate any member to use the credit union’s services.

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Slocan council starts work on 2016 budget
by Barbara Carr Malcahy
At a special meeting January 26, Slocan’s Chief Financial Officer, Colin McClure, gave a preliminary report on the 2015 budget and a draft operating budget for 2016.

A “fantastic year at the campground,” a $10,000 SIBAC grant, higher than anticipated gym revenues, and lower than expected equipment expenses, all contributed to “a good news story” for 2015. McClure said he was “cautiously optimistic” for 2016 as he reviewed the budget and is ready to implement.

McClure said that some of the items on the list were “placeholders,” they wouldn’t be done if there were no grants to off-set expenses. He noted that “if we did end up with a reserve balance” as much as $50,000 in the 2015 budget, this would take care of a lot of the funding requests made. He cautioned council however that Public Works would be responsible for many of these new projects and that the work would have to second to PW’s regular tasks. Unexpected urgent projects, such as a water main break or a huge windstorm, might not leave the department time to work on the new projects.

McClure and council discussed the budget at length but all discussions were preliminary and no decisions were made. McClure will present a draft budget at the February budget meeting, and council will go over the figures line by line.

Mayor Lunn suggested that the new CBT recreation grant, a 70% CBT, 30% municipality cost-share, could be used for these improvements. Councillor Patterson brought up the possibility of using the grant for the curling rink, suggesting it could be used for the “whole structure,” not just an “upgrade.”

Council discussed whether a community development grant could cover expenses for Springer Creek water testing by Passmore Lab. Councillor Perriere suggested that since Springer Creek is a secondary water source for the Village, perhaps the Health Unit would test the water free of charge. Village staff will inquire about this and also whether the Health Unit would test the same things that Passmore Labs tests: turbidity and conductivity.

Council discussed sending representatives to this year’s AKBLG conference in Kimberly and UBCM conference in Victoria. For several years, council has had minimal representation at conferences in order to save money. Last year, only Mayor Lunn went to UBCM. As an RDCK director, her expenses were covered by the RDCK, but a director had to pay more reps, saying that she “would like us to talk to ministers this year.” Councillor Perring said either all the councillors must go or none should. Councillor Van Byen said at least one other councillor besides Lunn should go.

Council was embarrassed to hear that the Village had forgotten to follow up on a grant in aid to the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce last year. The Village had offered the Chamber $1,000 “contingent on the 2015 budget review.” Since the matter had not been reviewed and the Village had not said how often it would contribute to the Chamber, Councillor Perriere suggested that the Village send a cheque for $1,000 with a letter saying that $400 was for last year and $500 for this year.

The Village discussed applying for a Canada Summer Jobs grant to hire one student. Last year the Village’s application was unsuccessful but the Village has been successful in previous years. A request from Public Works for funding for required water verification training was approved.

RCDF announces concrete progress on pool renovations
submitted
Congratulations to the Nelson and District Community Complex (NDCC) Aquatic Centre are now well underway. The majority of demollition work is done, new change room lockers have arrived, tile design and colours have been selected and concrete has been poured, the RDCK has announced.

“Completion of the rebar and form work for the new pool gutters is complete and the first concrete pour was a success,” said Marty Benson, NDCC Recreation Manager.

Concrete specialists Greyback Construction have reshaped angles in the dive tank so the pool meets current aquatic standards for depth and safety to allow the installation of a critical dive platform. They have also removed the original pool main drain from the dive tank and will replace it with two new drains that will be safer for divers and swimmers.

In conjunction with forming the gutters, crews will construct forms and install rebar for structural plasters to support the pool deck and walls. Once all concrete work has been completed, crews will start tiling the pool walls and deck surfaces.

Benson says progress during the next month of the project is critical because concrete work has to be completed before other mechanical system work can begin.

Uncite’s construction management and training team with Trainer Mechanical Contractors and Martech Electrical Systems are responsible for completing the projects.

For more information, please visit the Nelson and District Arts Council website at www.ndac.ca. Nominations and inquiries may be sent to pres@ndac.ca with “Carver Award” in the subject line. The deadline for nominations is April 30.

RCDF adopts parks plans
submitted
Management plans for three RDCK parks – Crescent Valley Beach in the Slocan Valley, and Waterlo Eddy and Pass creek near Castlegar – have been adopted by the RDCK board and are ready to implement.

The management plans will guide the operations, development and stewardship of the parks over the next decade.

Some of the highlights include:

- Crescent Valley Beach - improve parking options; keep the park clean; no dogs on beach; support river sports; environmental stewardship.

- Pass Creek Regional Park: develop the park as a valued community asset; improve the quality of park facilities; protect the park’s natural environment and wildlife habitat; maintain high quality, safe public access to trail connections; support equestrian users.

- Waterlo Eddy Regional Park: improve access for fishermen and boaters; plant an easy-to-read river; value park trails and plan for trail connections; improve signage.

“Never in the history of the RDCK has Crescent Valley Beach had its own management plans. These plans will guide the Park’s long-term development,” said Colin McClure, RDCK Planner.

Crescent Valley Beach is the RDCK’s community complex in Castlegar. For more information, contact the park manager, 250-547-9296.

Want to buy: Cedar and Pine poles
by Brian Major

Thanks to the RDCK’s community complexes in Nelson, Castlegar, Creston and the fitness centre in Salmo, the Village of Slocan has a regional wellness pass that is forecast to take a full 11 months to complete. A precise reopening date will be announced in the later stages of construction.

The RDCK is also now offering a regional wellness pass that allows residents to use community complexes in Nelson, Castlegar, Creston and the fitness centre in Salmo, for a unified price. This includes aquatics, fitness classes, and more. For more information, contact any of the RDCK’s community complexes or the Salmo Recreation Department.

The RDCK will continue to provide regular project updates.

February 10, 2016 The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

by Juliet Anderson and Ecoscape Consulting

Some of the highlights include: 

- improve parking; protect the river; environment and wildlife habitat; improve parking; protect the river; connections; improve signage.

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The RDCK will continue to provide regular project updates.
The senior outdoor education students at Nakusp Secondary were wildly successful at the Vancouver Boat Show this year. “The students performed brilliantly at the show. They exceeded my expectations,” said teacher Dorian Boswell.

Student Cam Olson enjoyed the experience so much that he is considering pursuing a career in business.

This is the third consecutive year that the students in the senior outdoor ed program have had a booth at the boat show in Vancouver. For the first two years, they sold fishing flashers. This year, they sold the flashers plus a new product – the Easy Light Tinder Block and Kit. Ideal for camping and for use in emergencies, the tinder block fits in your back pocket and makes easy work of lighting a fire.

The students’ gross sales at the show this year were $20,600 – double last year’s $10,000 and close to triple 2014’s $7,000. This year’s fish flasher sales were over $15,000 and tinder block sales were about $5,000.

“But the success of the program isn’t measured in dollars, but in how much the students gain from this educational experience,” said Boswell. “The students had to learn how to speak to the public and be good salespeople. By the end of the show, the students had gained a lot of confidence. They knew the sales pitch and were closing sales very efficiently.”

The proceeds of the sales go toward funding the outdoor education program, which includes training in ground Search and Rescue, first aid, traffic control and flagging, WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System), Food Safe, and Avalanche Awareness, as well as the entrepreneurial piece.

In the entrepreneurial part of the program, students learn research and development, marketing, and sales, management, and fabrication skills.

“For four years, we started this course as a pilot program with no budget other than the grants we received from our community. This year, we will be in the black for the first time,” said Boswell. “We have raised enough money this year to purchase materials to manufacture more products for next year, and we anticipate having enough funds to expand the students’ experiences on our trips and to invest in some gear for the Search and Rescue training.”

Boswell says he owes the success of the program to the people and businesses of Nakusp, and to connections in the United States. “Without the support that the students and I have received, this program would not exist,” he said. “I would like to take this chance to thank everyone who has supported this program. On behalf of the senior outdoor ed students and myself, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

On this year’s trip to Vancouver, the students were able to go rock climbing and to Science World, the aquarium, a hockey game and a Chinese ballet. “The students gained not only entrepreneurial experience, but also cultural and cross-curriculum experiences,” said Boswell.

The students have three more events this year to fine-tune their sales skills. They will exhibit at the Kamloops Gun Show (April 23-24) and the Vernon boat show (April 30-May 1), and will compete in the Junior Dragons Den competition. “I’d like to take this opportunity to formally invite some of the junior outdoor education students to share these experiences with the senior class,” said Boswell.

Check out their website at www.nollyflashers.com.

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**Maryse Gallisant née Cagigos (Mézin, France)**

_July 16, 1937 to January 26, 2016_

My love’s life passed to the spirit world due to heart failure after a large stroke January 3, 2016. She had left mitral valve stenosis (narrowing) from a strong childhood infection (mononucleosis) which was compounded by deterioration of her heart’s electrical function (atrial fibrillation), although she was always organically, much raw, no crying and never smoked, used drugs or consumed more than an odd small aperitif.

Dear family, friends and strangers: This is a poem she wrote to her colleagues upon their completion of the Japanese museum (Nikkei Centre) in New Denver, BC March 18, 1994. For me, Maryse exemplified creativity, positivity, sharing and deep faithful love. Fittingly there was always sunshine on her birthday.

_Thank you, my friends_
_We come and go_
_Thunder roll, and the wind blows._
_We run and work_
_We laugh and cry._
_The future is unfolding, the mystery remains._
_I wish you a long journey my friends._
_Be happy and remember => The wise man._
_Looks into space, there is no limits to dimensions._
_Visions, dreams, creation…_.
_Let us enter the unknown._
_Faith, beauty and love._
_Are opening new doors._
_Land of shadow can turn into consciousness._
_Carry on my friends, don’t look back, hold the light in your palm._
_Don’t let it go… Walk in the sky, walk again._
_Take a deep breath and say to yourself: “I am happy to be alive.”_.
_Good luck my friends and thank you for your help, I enjoyed working with you._

Please, if you can, donate to a charity. One of hers was Operation Smile Canada for surgically correcting the cleft lips and palates of the underprivileged in this world 1-888-677-6455.

Garth Hunter, RMT, PO Box 8A, Silverton, BC V0G 2B0 250-358-2364. Please note I am not giving treatments but if necessary may give advice.