WAM: second round of public consultation underway

by Jan McMurray

The Ministry of Environment is inviting British Columbians to comment for a second time on its plans to renew BC’s water laws. The second round of public consultation began on December 17, following the release of the policy proposal on a new Water Sustainability Act.

Local post office employees face cuts to hours

by Jan McMurray

Canada Post is proposing cuts that would affect part-time employees at post offices in New Denver, Nakusp, Slocan and Kaslo. Overall, the cuts would affect 72 employees in 44 rural post offices in BC and Yukon.

The cuts involve reductions in part-time employees’ hours. In New Denver, one part-timer faces a reduction of four hours per week. In Nakusp, one part-timer is looking at a reduction of six hours per week. In Kaslo, all three of the office’s part-time employees face reductions totalling 10 hours per week. Slocan’s part-time employee may lose three hours per week.

The cuts could come into effect as early as February 1, reports Carolyn Elliott, Vice-President of the BC/Yukon branch of the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA), the union representing the affected workers. The cuts “cannot help but negatively impact your postal service by creating an immediate reduction in service levels and extended customer wait times, as well as taking wages out of your community,” says CPAA BC/Yukon President Barb Lincoln.

There will be no change to the hours of operation at these offices. Colleen Frick, Canada Post Corporation media spokesperson, said in an interview: “The average customer will not see any change. We want to be manned fully during busy hours.” However, Elliott says the workers’ union is concerned that customers will notice a difference. “CPAA workers serve the counter, so less personnel to do that will result in lines for customers. We sort the mail, so these cuts will delay the delivery of mail. Also, we don’t feel the corporation has assessed the merits of each office individually—they are looking for hours reductions whether they are warranted or not. We are concerned that this is purely a cost cutting opportunity.”

MP Alex Atamanenko, in a letter to Canada Post on this issue, states: “It is simply not fair that Canada Post strives to cut costs on the backs of our rural communities.”

Canada Post has scheduled a consultation with CPAA on the proposal for January 17.

She is happy that agricultural water reserves are now being recommended, but notes that drinking water/irrigation water reserves for the public are not mentioned.

Maxey points out that a policy proposal is very different from legislation. “This is just a policy recommendation to government. It doesn’t mean the draft legislation will look anything like the policy. I suggest asking for a third round of consultation specifically on the draft legislation. I am going to ask again for a referendum on the legislation after it is drafted.”

The Valley Voice is 100% locally owned.
Power surge causes damage and prolonged outage in New Denver area

by Jan McMurray

It seems that New Denver/Silverton area residents got the worst of a power surge and outage on January 7 that affected 2,867 BC Hydro customers in New Denver, Silverton, Sandoz, Rosspery, Summit Lake, Nakusp, Burton, and Faquier.

Several residents have reported damage to their electrical appliances and equipment, including refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, washers and dryers, computer equipment, geothermal heat pumps, thermostats and surge protectors. To file a claim for your damaged equipment, call BC Hydro Customer Service at 1-800-224-9376.

New Denver residents have reported seeing spectacular flashes of light coming from hydro equipment at the New Denver substation and from a hydro pole near the recycling depot on Friday morning at about 7:20 am, when the power went out.

New Denver Fire Chief Leonard Casey reported that the fire department was called out to a New Denver home at the time of the outage because a surge protector melted and shot flames across the floor. In his own home, the surge protector on the breaker panel melted and burned some wires in the electrical panel. “There was definitely the potential for house fires – there were lots of close calls from the reports I’m getting,” he commented.

BC Hydro spokesperson Jennifer Walker-Larsen said the cause of the outage was a tree contacting the transmission line approximately one kilometre west of New Denver near the golf course. “The contact caused some damage to the New Denver substation and associated equipment, as well as to several lightning arrestors on the New Denver distribution system,” she said. “The equipment was repaired and the arrestors replaced.”

She said BC Hydro line crews from Vernon received the trouble call and confirmed the tree contact during their inspection. Crews isolated the damaged section of transmission line, and were able to restore service to the Nakusp substation by 10:45 am. Service was not restored to the New Denver substation until 4:30 pm, when the damage was repaired.

Telsus spokesperson Shawn Hall reported that Telsus surge protectors were destroyed in the incident. “Our surge protectors did their job and protected our equipment. The power surge did not damage any telephone equipment, just the surge protectors,” he said. “It’s important to have protection,” he added, suggesting that people purchase the more advanced power bars that switch off in the event of a power surge.

Telus has battery and generator back-up so that there is still telephone service when the power is out. However, cordless phones will not work during power outages because they require AC power, so Hall recommends that everyone have a corded phone on hand. Also worth noting is that Telus back-up batteries can run out of power in prolonged outages, which is what happened in Rosebery during the January 7 incident. When the batteries ran out, crews hooked up a diesel generator, but there was no phone service for about two hours because poor road conditions delayed the arrival of the generator.

BC Hydro electricians had been working at the New Denver substation in the days leading up to the Friday outage. Walker-Larsen said they were installing a state-of-the-art circuit breaker on a distribution circuit, and that this work was not related to the outage.

The New Denver area experienced an overnight power outage over the holidays, from 11:11 pm on January 1 to 2:25 am on January 2. Walker-Larsen said BC Hydro believes this overnight outage was caused by an animal contacting their equipment.

Kaslo Trailblazers bridge light-up sets festive mood

submitted by Kaslo Trailblazers

A full moon tracing shadows on freshly fallen snow, tea light lanterns glowing softly from the Trailblazers bridge and Christmas lights sparkling over the Kaslo River. This is what approximately 80 Kaslo residents enjoyed on the shortest day of the year when they came out to socialize with their neighbours and friends at the Kaslo Trailblazers’ third annual winter solstice event. Thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers, the trail from the highway to the bridge was cleared and sanded, the fire pits and tiki lanterns were lit and the hot chocolate was ready to be served to the first friends beginning to arrive at about 4 pm. While the adults socialized, the kids enjoyed sliding on the hillside or playing hide-and-seek around the trees in the moonlight. The Kaslo Trailblazers are pleased to sponsor this free annual winter solstice event and would like to thank all volunteers, members, financial supporters and community partners for making Kaslo so fantastic a place to live.
BC Liberals and NDP offer motley crew of leadership candidates

by Art Joyce

At a time of unprecedented political chaos in BC, the province’s two leading parties are scrambling to fill a vacuum in their leadership. The BC NDP have three official candidates and the Liberals five. But the tactics for supporting these potential leaders differ greatly.

The BC NDP are currently on a membership drive to sign up as many supporters as possible, so that members can vote for their choice of party leader on May 28. One BC NDP consultant told us his clients would make sure they keep 50 members to be in good standing for 90 days prior to a leadership vote. Three generations of Nelson-Creston NDP MLAs lent their efforts to signing up new members on the streets of Nelson last week. Current MLA Michelle Mungall, the recently retired Corky Evans, and veteran MLA, Lorne Nicolson were pounding the pavement, clipboards in hand.

“If you want to vote on April 17 in the federal election or in the leadership election, you have to be a paid-up member by January 17,” says Mungall. “So we’re giving people every opportunity to sign up and have their voice count. It’s the only way to be sure you can vote.”

The Liberals by contrast are already generating some controversy in their leadership race. Candidate Christy Clark has come under fire on the Internet for comments she made when running as an independent in December, when she said for the Agricultural Land Reserve and an “area that is mostly determined by higher levels of government than the local community.”

Kootenay has committed to developing a plan for agriculture for our region that also supports a secure food supply for area residents. Bryne Consulting was hired to create that plan. Part of our work in doing so was to travel to nine communities and hear what area residents think about farming and food access here. Each meeting had significantly more than three people in it and the conversations were full, passionate and productive.

We heard that given the small parcels of land available in much of the region, high value crops are important for the farmer to make a go of it. We heard that one of the key strategies for furthering agricultural development in the Kootenay is to move to local markets, where farmers can sell their produce at higher prices than they would on the Open Farm Door.

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Canada Inc.

So now that Mr. Campbell has more, or less, privatized BC, maybe we should continue the job, slice through the hypocrisy of modern government and privatize it, incorporate it.

Let’s sell it off. No more taxes, no more ugly elections, no mon- sily, incompetent and untrustworthy political parties or politicians. We’ll sell shares and no longer endure the illusions of democracy.

Canada Inc. After all, the economy is our highest priority. Buy enough shares and you can have your place in Cabinet (or rather, the board room). The Prime Minister (or rather, CEO) is relieved of unwarranted public scrutiny and is only accountable to the board. Good business practices are the only constraints.

Obviously, the board has to have healthy consumptive masses to realize the broadest profits to discharge its responsibilities to its shareholders. There will be great savings of efficiency.

Don’t worry – it will all trickle down. God bless us.

Perry Bauer
Kaslo

Supporting local agriculture is important

Thank you for the detailed report on the RDCK Agricultural Plan in your December 15, 2010 issue. I operate Tulaberry Farm, a certified organic farm in Passmore, selling your December 15, 2010 issue. I expect better from our elected representatives. I am told that supporting local agriculture is important. We want officials to be creative and strong in protecting the quality and sustainability of our food supply. They need to consider the easy and the difficult options. For instance, a small tax increase to hire technical support for local food production may be a smart move – if the alternative is high-priced imports from countries with lower standards.

You are what you eat!

Judi Morton
Passmore

Developing a relationship with God

Over the past couple of months, John Perkins has written several letters to the Valley Voice expressing his atheistic view. After much reading, I have decided that his letters require a response. As interesting as a debate would be, it would also be folly to argue each point because the existence of God is not determined by debate. Either God exists or He doesn’t. Since John has shared the conclusion of his spiritual search, I also wish to share mine.

John stated that reading the Bible through three times was part of his spiritual search. I have also read the Bible through many times but have come to a different conclusion regarding the existence of God. While reading the Gospel of John as open-mindedly as I could, I discovered that God designed me to know Him personally. I have a rich, full and meaningful life, but my desire to run my own life created an irreconcilable gap in that relationship. This gap was so great that the only solution was for Jesus Christ to step out of eternity into time to rescue me. In the ultimate demonstration of love, Jesus died for me and now offers me forgiveness, a restored personal relationship with Him, and a certain hope for life after death.

Is that an amazing convinced of the truth of this, it took me a number of years to finally relinquish control and to invite Him into my life. At that moment I became spiritually alive and began to understand God's ways as never before. That was 45 years ago; my chief regret was that I waited so long. God has been faithful over these years and I look forward to what lies ahead for me beyond life here on earth. I can't think of anything more important in this life than reserving a room in Heaven.

Daryl Henke
Fauquier

Obituary for the Rule of Law

Rule of Law born June 15, 1215, died December 13, 2010.

It is with sadness and the deepest of regrets that we announce the death of the Rule of Law in the area of consumer products. Born in England with the Magna Carta, the Rule of Law immigrated to Canada and flourished. She influenced courts and politicians alike. Despite the odd setback, everyone thought she was alive and well. Her influence seemed to be widespread, supported by Canadians from coast to coast who enjoyed the protection from state excess that she provided. At times great fanfare accompanied efforts to ensure that she would live among us forever. Most notable of these efforts was the Canadian Bill of Rights in 1960, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982.

In retrospect, it is clear that the environment that led to Her death was the complicity of the very citizens she was so diligent in protecting. We so believed that she would be among us forever that we were not watching to see that she was in danger. Sadly, the danger struck quickly. With the exception of brave Liberals in the senate, all four parties in the House recognized the Consumer Product Safety Bill (C-36) through Parliament in record time. The Rule of Law was blind-sided by the Bill, and despite efforts to revive Her, she was declared dead by the senate on December 13, 2010.

With Her passing, the state can now take control over private property in the area of consumer products, and in some cases keep the property, without any court supervision of any kind. This can be and was expected, so that the rest of us will not know families being destroyed by unchecked state discretion. State discretion without independent court supervision (see the definition of “tyranny” in any dictionary) is anathema to the Rule of Law, and led to her demise.

The family, the grieving citizens of Canada, request that we not attend any funeral services, donations be given to those groups seeking to preserve the few fundamental freedoms that, although under attack, are still on the endangered species list.

Shawn Buckley
Natural Health Products Protection Association

Weather station will benefit all who use Nakusp airport

I’d like to correct some inaccuracies in an article called “Airport to be fitted with weather cam,” which appeared in the December 22 Arrow Lakes News.

First, the article stated that the camera is being purchased by the Arrow Lakes Hospital. In fact, neither the Arrow Lakes Hospital nor the HHA contributed. The equipment was purchased by the Arrow Lakes Hospital Auxiliary and the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation.

Second, the article stated that the equipment was “primarily meant to bolster their heli-techno-geeks capabilities.” Not so – while it may be of assistance to helicopters, it is hoped to foster fixed-wing evacuations, which are far less expensive.

Third, “the camera will be hooked up and broadcast online to places like the Village website and Nav Can.” The equipment is designed to be compatible with Navigation Canada. Anyone can access the information by logging onto the Navigation Canada website.

Here is some background. For many years, our local physicians in Nakusp have had serious concerns relating to inadequate access to med-evac. Several requests for med-evac have been denied due to a lack of knowledge of local weather conditions.

In October, the Arrow Lakes Hospital Auxiliary and Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation were approached by Dr. Connelly, who asked that we fund $6,000 for a feasibility study to be conducted by Searidge Technologies, a company with a record of installing weather stations both nationally and internationally. The request was approved and cost shared equally by the two foundations.

The report was received in November and met the expectations. The Auxiliary and the Foundation agreed to share the additional $49,470 cost to purchase the weather station. Canadian Mountain Holidays has agreed to install and maintain the equipment at their cost. As the station will be located on property owned and managed by the Village, they have been approached to include the equipment in their insurance policy. It has evolved into a cooperative venture that will enhance flying safety and opportunity not only for med-evac but for all who use the local airport.

Over the years, the Auxiliary and Foundation have each been able to donate several hundred thousand dollars to the hospital and other health-related endeavours.

This has only been possible due to the continued generosity and support of our communities. We feel that it is important that our supporters are made aware of the extent of their donations.

Mike George
Chair, Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation

The Valley Voice

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

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material. Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms. The family, the grieving citizens of Canada, request that we not attend any funeral services, donations be given to those groups seeking to preserve the few fundamental freedoms that, although under attack, are still on the endangered species list.

Shawn Buckley
Natural Health Products Protection Association
LETTERS

Is it the water in Nakusp?

I’ll say this for John Perkins: he’s got stamina. Is it the water in Nakusp, or does he import some sort of elixir? As a general rule, people who have chosen to cross swords with my intellectual habits have begged off, or have been expunged. They’ve realized that I spent some very dedicated and appreciative time with the social sciences before I discovered the greater wisdom of philosophy, theology, and the Catholic Church, which, in spite of its numerous failings in its personnel, is still the best deal in town for those who really want to live life to the full. Mr. Perkins can read about some of these adventures in my blog, the Kootenay Ranger, now halfway through its second year on the internet. And if he will name his ancient English university, I might send a snide note to his chancellor.

Mr. Perkins, it would be quite instructive to today’s lesson should be fairly short, so I’ll deal with only two of Mr. Perkins’ manifold gaffes.

The first, the sentence “People who hear voices nowadays catechism and confirmation classes, found his dramas of great use in the certain amount of passion because I an idiot of the critic. I say this with a Christ as the Son of God, nor the problems with the reality of Jesus texts, that dear old William had no plain evidence of his manifold gaffes.

The second, the sentence “People who hear voices nowadays is history. We all watched them fall the story of the death of Wild Bill Hickock. Tom would have John White

Remembering Tom Elgie

I’m sure that many Valley Voice readers knew songwriter/musician Tom Elgie. Tom passed away in Neepawa, Manitoba at 9:15 pm on December 15, 2010, a victim of a rare form of heart cancer. His life-mate Susi and granddaughter Lavender, age 14, now have to manage the large acreage of back country where they raise horses, without Tom. As they head into the long cold Manitoba winter to grieve, I say that the miracle of spring will revive their spirits and strengthen them for the hard tasks ahead.

I met Tom back in the early ‘70s when we were both young touring songwriters/musicians on Vancouver Island. We played the same lounges, coffeehouses, bars, restaurants and halls. At Coombs we played at the Coombs Country Opera, and later we were both involved with the establishment of the Coombs Bluegrass Festival. It was Tom, along with Myrna Koodrin and Randy Kewen formed Luke Jackson and the Outriders and were among CATS’ first clients. Susi worked at CATS and ran the booking agency part of the business. Years later she told me, “I never in my wildest dreams would ever believe that Tom Elgie and I would become a couple.”

Tom and Susi fell in love 21 years ago when Tom was visiting Silverton from Vancouver where he was involved in the movie business. We all gathered up at Joe Trozzo’s, Randy, Myra, me and maybe even David Haslebacher, there was a huge gang of us, and everyone played music. Susi lived down the valley in Vallican at the time, so we phoned her to ask her to come. Her truck was broken down so someone would have to go get her. Tom and I hopped into my van, picked her up and brought her to the party. The rest is history. We watched them fall in love right before our eyes!

Tom eventually moved onto...
New Denver council, December 14: OCP and zoning amendments to go to public hearing
by Michael Dorsey

- Council gave the zoning and OCP bylaw amendments two readings, and directed staff to set a date for the required public hearing before third reading and final adoption.
- Council directed staff to prepare a building bylaw that reflects the provisions of the RDCK building bylaw. Mayor Wright noted that the amended RDCK building bylaw had been adopted by the RDCK board.
- Councillor Banka reported that the Heritage Advisory Committee had met with the Kyowakai Society to discuss the transfer of administration to the Village. Administrator Gordon reported meeting with Claudia Jappy to discuss the society’s finances.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER NOTICE
Subject to Section 166 of the Community Charter, the Council of the Village of New Denver invites public consultation in the preparation of the Village’s 2011 Five Year Financial Plan. Council welcomes public input from residents of the Village with regards to items of concern they would like to see addressed in the budget. Please submit your comments to the Village of New Denver Municipal Office by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2011. Village of New Denver Municipal Office, 115 Slocan Avenue, P.O. Box 40, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0, Phone: 250-358-2316 Email: newdenver@netidea.com

New Denver council, December 14: OCP and zoning amendments to go to public hearing
by Michael Dorsey

- Council received the final drafts of the Statements of Significance for the Nikkei Centre and the Silvery Slocan Museum. They made minor changes to content and grammar, then approved adoption.
- Mayor Wright reported that the New Denver post office was facing a cut from seven hours per week to three hours per week. Council was informed this would not affect service to the public, and took no action.
- Public Works and Water reported that the Green Creek pump was now fully operational.
- Reporting on RDCK news, Mayor Wright informed council that John Kettle was the new chair and Hilary Elliott the new vice chair. He showed council the handmade gavel set he received as a retirement gift. He also noted that the Resource Recovery Plan was approved, and reported that the West Waste Region will contract with the Central Waste Region to accept its waste at the Ootschena landfill. The Central Waste Region includes Kootenay Lake communities of Meadow Creek, Kaslo, Ainsworth, Nelson and Salmo, which have used the landfill in Salmo in the past. The West Waste Region, including Arrow Lakes and Slocan Valley communities, will benefit from the additional tipping fees generated from Central Waste Region at Ootschena. Wright reported that the RDCK was predicting a substantial tax decrease in 2011 because of this arrangement.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BYLAW NO. 654, 2010 AND BYLAW NO. 655, 2010

Pursuant to Sections 890 and 892 of the Local Government Act, a public hearing will be held to consider the following bylaws of the Village of New Denver: “Village of New Denver Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 654, 2010” and “Village of New Denver Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 655, 2010”.

The purpose of Bylaw 654 is to amend the Official Community Plan to reflect the changes required under the Local Government Act and Climate Action Charter, and to reflect changes brought about through the public consultation process as follows:

1. Amend Section 1 through Section 3 to reflect recommendations made in the Village of New Denver Sustainability Plan for the protection of water quality to ensure the health and resilience of the village’s water supply and ecosystem.
2. Amend Section 4 – Residential to allow secondary suites in single family dwellings and to allow an accessory residence in Residential Zones, provided they conform to minimum health and safety requirements and regulations set out in the Zoning Bylaw.
3. Amend Section 8 – Park Spaces to address the reduction of invasive plant species.
4. Amend Section 9 – Public Utilities and Services to explore options for the drilling of a third drinking water well.
5. Insert New Section 12 – Climate Change to reflect the recommendations and requirements under the Local Government Act and Climate Action Charter.

The purpose of Bylaw 655 is to amend the permitted usage in R1 Single Family Residential and R2 Two Family Residential to allow for the use of “Accessory Residences” and to establish the regulations governing them as follows:

6. Amend Section 3 – Definitions to provide a definition for an “Accessory Residence”.
7. Insert Section 4.18 – Accessory Residence to establish regulations for an “Accessory Residence”.
8. Amend Sections 6.1 – 7.2 and Section 15 to reflect regulations for “Accessory Residence” size, buildings per parcel and parking requirements.

The above is a synopsis of the proposed bylaw and is not deemed to be an interpretation of the bylaw. Copies of the aforementioned bylaws may be inspected at the Village of New Denver Municipal Office, New Denver, BC, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, from the date of this notice to the 1st day of February, 2011.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator
Slocan council, December 13: PV Park report received

by Jan McMurray

• Reports on the operation of Springer Creek RV Park in 2010 were received. The financial report shows total revenue as $13,583.04 for the season, which is comparable to previous years. Under the heading of 'payable,' the contractor received 75% of revenues and the Village received 25%. The Village’s share was $4,568. Expenses, however, were $3,000 more than the budgeted amount, at $14,335, mostly because of vandalism on the property.

• The weather didn’t cooperate last year, but this year will be perfect for Hockey Day in Winlaw. Slocan Valley Recreation Commission is offering free outdoor women’s lacrosse for the first time. The team will play against each other, as well as against other teams from other areas.

• Council received a proposal from Patricia Dehnel to update Slocan’s OCP at a cost of approximately $20,000. The proposal was forwarded to the OCP committee for their information and comment.

• Council budgeted $30,000 for an OCP review process in 2010, but when they issued a Request for Proposals, proposals came in significantly over budget. Dehnel completed the Age Friendly survey for Slocan in 2010 and is familiar with the village.

• Council agreed to make council members available at no cost to Nicole Laffrenrobe for her Dog Owner Education sessions (no dogs allowed).

• The Village will participate in the Provincial Woodstove Exchange Program. Anyone interested in upgrading their stove should contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 250-226-0008.

Outdoor winter fun for women 55+

submitted by Slocan Valley Recreation Commission

Slocan Valley Recreation is pleased to offer the free outdoor program Winter Women 55+ for the inactive female 55 and older. The program commences on January 15 at 14th at the Slocan Park Hall. Those participating in Winter Women 55+ will get guided instruction on snowshoeing and cross-country skiing as well as a weight training segment. Snowshoes are available, as are some cross-country skis through the Seniors on Bikes and Skis program. The program begins with a fitness assessment being done before adventuring out on snowshoes and builds into six Saturday morning sessions where the group will travel along the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. Well-known seniors fitness instructor Helen Kissinger will be leading the group. As well, there are four mid-week sessions of weight training at which participants develop the muscles needed to pursue the activity. Once confidence is built, the group will reach into a short backcountry at the washrooms and the re-surfacing of dangerous sections of RV Park roads. The Village has applied for a $1,700 Community Tourism Grant for the road improvements. If this is approved, the cost overruns will be partially offset.

A report from the contractor, Gail Morris of Slocan Gardening Concepts, indicates that she would like to renew the contract for two more years. It also includes several recommendations on how revenues could be increased. Council directed staff to enter into negotiations with Morris for a two-year extension to the contract, and to research her recommendations and report back to council.

• Council received a proposal from Patricia Dehnel to update Slocan’s OCP at a cost of approximately $20,000. The proposal was forwarded to the OCP committee for their information and comment.

• Council budgeted $30,000 for an OCP review process in 2010, but when they issued a Request for Proposals, proposals came in significantly over budget. Dehnel completed the Age Friendly survey for Slocan in 2010 and is familiar with the village.

• Council agreed to make council members available at no cost to Nicole Laffrenrobe for her Dog Owner Education sessions (no dogs allowed).

• The Village will participate in the Provincial Woodstove Exchange Program. Anyone interested in upgrading their stove should contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 250-226-0008.

• Council agreed to a two-year renewal of the Licence to Occupy agreement with the Slocan Valley Outriders Association for the lands on Arlington Road.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Bill 27 – Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets Amendment Bylaw to Official Community Plan 1967

5:30 pm, January 27th, 2011
Knox Hall, New Denver

NOTICE is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held at the dates and locations as noted above to receive representations from all persons who deem it in their interest to make representations regarding proposed Amendment Bylaw 2193-1967.

The intent of the proposed amendments is to bring the RDCK into compliance with Bill 27 (Green Communities Statutory Amendment) by inserting Greenhouse Gas Emission Targets, Policy and Objectives into each Official Community Plan (OCP) and Rural Land Use Bylaw (RLUB) as a requirement of Provincial legislation.

The Public Hearing on Bylaw 2193-1967 is to be held by Director Walter Popoff, Electoral Area H as a delegate of the Board.

A copy of the Board resolution making the delegation is available for public inspection along with a copy of Bylaw 2193-1967 as set out in this notice.

Written submissions for or against the proposed amendment(s) can be read, or verbal submissions made, at the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the Hearing, written submissions must be delivered to the Regional District of Central Kootenay, prior to 4:00 pm on the day before the Hearing.

Submissions may be delivered by:

• mail – Regional District of Central Kootenay, Box 590, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4; fax – (250) 352-9300; e-mail – pldprdp@rdck.bc.ca; or by hand to the Nelson address below. Please direct enquiries to Meeri Durand, Planner at (250) 352-8162 or toll-free 1-800-268-7325.

The aforementioned proposed bylaw may be inspected from January 6th, 2011 to January 27th, 2011 both inclusive, on the web: www.rdck.bc.ca and at the locations and times as follows:

Planning Department Office, Regional District of Central Kootenay, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, B.C., between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays, and the Creston Building Office

DATED at Nelson, B.C. this 6th day of January, 2011.

Dawn Attoe

General Manager of Corporate Administration

The Corporation of the Village of Slocan

The Royal Canadian Legion Slocan Valley Branch has submitted an application to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch for a Liquor-Primary Club License. The facility is a private club and will cater to members and guests only.

Village Council is required to consider the liquor licence application and provide comments and recommendations to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch. The application process requires Council to consider the views of residents and receive public comments on the application.

Council will be considering the application at their meeting of February 15, 2011 and will accept written comments on the application up to February 4, 2011. Residents may provide verbal comments on the application at the meeting of February 15, 2011 Regular Meeting of Council starting at 7:00 p.m.
Nakusp council, December 14: Rogers proposed cell tower location questioned

by Jan McMurray

Andrea Coates from Nakusp Minor Hockey attended to ask permission to use the arena parking lot on February 12 for a ‘Hockey Day in Nakusp’ event. Council agreed.

Mike Wrede addressed council about the Rogers cell tower proposed for Zaks Road in Glenbank in Area K. Several people attending the meeting in support of Wrede’s presentation. He explained that he and many others are opposed to the proposed location for the 135-foot tall tower, as it will affect property values in the residential area and will be very visible from the village. He said they had asked Rogers why the company could not place their equipment on the existing Telus tower, as per Industry Canada guidelines, but had not received a satisfactory answer. The citizens feel that if there must be a new tower, it would be better placed where the Telus tower is on Nakusp East Road. “We want Rogers to provide documentation showing why co-location with the Telus tower is not possible. We need all the research to find out why they chose this location,” he said. He added that when New Denver was fighting against the installation of Telus cell equipment, the Village amended its OCP and zoning bylaws to require council permission for such installations.

Council decided to write a letter to Rogers, asking for more information, particularly on the research the company did to determine the location for the tower. Council also directed staff to draft an amendment to the OCP and zoning bylaws similar to New Denver’s for council consideration, as well as to write a letter to Area K Director Paul Peterson, asking him to consider an amendment to the Area K OCP and zoning bylaws.

Correspondence from the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce asks the city to consider amending its bylaws to include a fee for service provided to the Chamber from the Village. In 2010, the Fee for Service Contract was amended to ask the city to contribute an increase in the fee from $6,000 to $8,000. Despite this increase, and an increase in revenue from Chamber membership fees from $3,000 to $10,000, the Chamber anticipates a deficit of $3,500 for 2010. Council agreed to organize a meeting with the Chamber to coincide with a budget meeting.

Recently, the Chamber has announced its PALS Visitor Centre this centre, due to financial constraints.

• A 2010 campground report from the campground manager was received. A few issues with the site were outlined, such as flooding in the washroom on rainy days, danger trees, and security issues. Revenue from camping fees totalled $56,922.38. The Village allocation (50%) was $26,461.19.

• Councillor Hughes reported that Rogers was just asking for a increase in city funding for the Telus tower, to the point of requesting a budget increase in order to provide more grant money to community groups. The Rec Commission has not seen an increase to its budget for nine years. The mayor asked the treasurer to meet the Chamber to coincide with the meeting to discuss benefits for the Chamber.

Economic Development meeting set for January 24

Submitted by Laurie Page

Monday, January 24 is the date set for the fifth meeting of Nakusp and Arrow Lakes Economic Summit, focusing on agriculture. The meeting will be at Legion Hall at 7 pm.

Guest speakers: Abra Brynne: Farm and food consultant Jeremy Lack: Kootenay Local Agricultural Society Corky Evans: former Minister of Agriculture

Whether you eat or grow food, this meeting is for everyone!
January 12, 2011 The Valley Voice

Kaslo hosts Poor No More film and forum

The Kaslo Early Childhood Coalition is partnering with MP Alex Atamanenko (BC Southern Interior) to host a public showing of the acclaimed film Poor No More, featuring Canadian actress and comedian Mary Walsh.

The film will show on Wednesday, January 19 at the Langham Cultural Centre in Kaslo at 7 pm.

The film’s promotion notes: “We were always told, ‘If you work hard, things will get better.’ But while corporations protected their profits, hard-working Canadians’ lives and livelihoods have unravelled. The recession erased jobs and piled up public and private debt, leaving more people poor or insecure.”

Atamanenko and moderator John Cathro will be joined after the film showings by representatives of local government and faith, education, community service, and labour groups in panel presentations and open discussion with the public, to explore what is happening and what can be done to reduce poverty and increase economic justice.

“This evening hopes to explore issues of poverty and what it looks like in our community and region,” said Anne Heard, coordinator of the Kaslo Early Childhood Coalition. Heard has been working with Atamanenko’s office to organize the evening.

“We hope that this film will help spark a conversation about economic well-being in our community and our country,” said Heard. The Kaslo Early Childhood Coalition advocates for strategies and resources to reduce childhood poverty, including living wages, employment opportunities and affordable housing. “Affordable education and health care are also factors in this,” Heard added.

Little change in property assessments this year

submitted by the BC Assessment Authority

Although the total value of BC’s assessment roll has surpassed $1 trillion for the first time in history, most local assessment rolls have seen a decrease this year.

Overall, the Village of Nakusp’s assessment roll decreased from $257 million last year to $250 million this year.

The Village of Nakusp’s assessment roll decreased from $309 million last year to $307 million this year.

The Village of Silverton’s assessment roll decreased from $84.4 million last year to $83.5 million this year.

The assessment roll comprising Nelson’s rural area remained stable at $2.8 billion.

The Village of Kaslo’s assessment roll increased modestly from $184 million last year to $185 million this year. A single family home that was valued at $191,000 for the 2010 assessment roll has remained unchanged for the 2011 roll. The assessment roll for the rural area surrounding Creston and Kaslo, and including the East Shore of Kootenay Lake, remained unchanged from last year at $2.1 billion.

The differences in the assessment roll from one roll year to the next reflect changing market values for many properties but also includes subdivisions, rezoning and new construction.

Property owners who feel that their property assessment does not reflect market value as of July 1, 2010 or see incorrect information on their notice should contact the BC Assessment office indicated on their notice as soon as possible in January.

“Little change in property assessments this year” reads the headline of the article. The article goes on to explain that although the total value of BC’s assessment roll has surpassed $1 trillion for the first time in history, most local assessment rolls have seen a decrease this year. The article provides specific examples of assessment roll changes for different areas, including a decrease in Nelson’s rural area, a stable assessment roll in Kaslo, and a modest increase in Nelson’s rural area surrounding Creston and Kaslo.

The article also includes a note on how property owners who feel that their property assessment does not reflect market value as of July 1, 2010 or see incorrect information on their notice should contact the BC Assessment office indicated on their notice as soon as possible in January.
Transfer of Arrow Lakes water systems celebrated
submitted by RDCK

Representatives of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and BC Hydro met with local residents in Burton on January 5 to celebrate the conversion of four Arrow Lakes community drinking water systems to RDCK services. The transfer project involved utilities in Burton, Edgewood, Fauquier, and West Robson that were constructed and previously operated by BC Hydro.

In a short ceremony, Mark Poweska, director of Generation Operations for BC Hydro and Paul Peterson, RDCK Area K director, thanked staff of both organizations as well as the public for their role in making the transfer project a success.

Following the ceremony, attendees were able to speak with RDCK and BC Hydro staff about the water systems and the conversion process.

As part of the conversion, which was officially completed on January 4, BC Hydro contributed $2 million in capital reserve funding to support future system upgrades. The utility will also pay water rates on behalf of existing eligible customers until their properties transfer by any method to a new owner. Existing customers on payment plans are also eligible to have BC Hydro pay water rates on their behalf if those customers honour their payment plan agreements. BC Hydro will pay water rates on behalf of existing community facilities in perpetuity.

Director Peterson stated the significance of these contributions to the Upper Arrow Lakes area when he said: “I am very pleased that, because of BC Hydro’s future commitments to the water systems, residents of Burton, Edgewood, and Fauquier will collectively save approximately $200,000 per year in water rates.

On January 5, despite the weather, representatives of BC Hydro and the RDCK gathered outside the Burton pumping house to celebrate the transfer of four Arrow Lakes water systems to RDCK ownership.

L to R: Brian Nickurak (Utility Services Manager, RDCK), Alan Pattinson (Business Services Manager, BC Hydro), Christine Boehminger (Project Manager, BC Hydro), Mark Poweska (Director of Generation Operations, BC Hydro), Paul Peterson (Area K Director), Uli Wolf (General Manager of Environmental Services, RDCK), Hillary Elliott (Vice Chair of the RDCK Board of Directors).

COMMUNITY

Hook-it-up Tackle revives Nakusp fishing derby

by Art Joyce

Captain Jack’s Sport and Marine has a fresh young face at the helm. Miranda Dahl is the new owner of Hook-it-up Tackle, which officially opened for business in August. One of her first initiatives will be to revive the Nakusp tradition of the Blue Knuckle fishing derby on January 22-23.

Miranda’s father Gerry Dahl is a recent Silverton resident and although she grew up on Vancouver Island she spent what she calls “an unforgettable time” here between ages 11-13. While on the Island she did coastal fishing for salmon, and spent many summers fishing at Trout Lake. After completing high school Miranda worked as a cook at the Trout Lake molybdenum mine. After being moving on from the mine she heard through a friend that the tackle business was coming up for sale.

“Living off the land is a growing interest and that’s what really got me sparked. I’m eager for knowledge, I want to learn from people who have been fishing here their entire lives.”

Thanks to the Community Futures program, Dahl is learning the necessary business skills to run the tackle shop at the tender age of 23. Her family provided moral support when she made the decision to purchase Captain Jack’s Sport and Marine.

Dahl plans to offer both fishing and hunting supplies, and is promoting at-Kootenay Fly Company and Three Lions Pub. There will be prizes from derby sponsors Lyman Lures, Kootenay Fly Company and Three Lions Pub. Saturday night there will be specials

Community by cell phone or VHF radio is important throughout the weekend to ensure the release of underwater fish.

The entry fee is $20 with no boat entry fee. The first prize will be 50 percent of total fees, second prize 30 percent, and third prize 20 percent. There will be prizes from derby sponsors Lyman Lures, Kootenay Fly Company and Three Lions Pub. Dahl is interested in hearing from other businesses interested in sponsoring the derby.

For more information contact Miranda at 250-265-0005.
Twelve-Piece R&B band headlines Silverton Winter Blues Boogie

submitted by Dick Callison

Do you yearn to experience large, full-sound, seasoned professional bands in a spacious dance venue? On Saturday, February 5, three battle-tested groups will serve up three long-hours of classic tunes to please your dancing feet in a space that the heritage Silverton Memorial Hall. Dancers should come prepared to shimmy till the wee hours with visitors and guests at this great gathering in our small town with the big Attitude.
S$15 tickets are advance only, and are available at: The Apple Tree and Cottonwood Kitchen and Urban Deli in Nakusp. Out of area travelers can reserve tickets and obtain a lodging list by contacting Dick and Barbara at 250-358-7765 or email yeomansb@netidea.com. Snacks and a wide variety of beverages will be offered, and all profits go to the Slocan Lake Early Learning preschool program. Don’t miss a beat. The joy and excitement starts when the doors open at 8:30, and music begins at 9 pm. You must be nineteen or older to attend.

Find out why the oldest Winter Blues party in Southern BC has sold out for the past 12 years. Come to Silverton Hall and Feel the Heat!

Annual Christmas bird count held in the Arrow Lakes

submitted by Ruth Bumpas

In spite of wind and falling snow, 11 birders braved the elements on December 29 to count birds for the Fauquier-Burton-Needles 32nd annual Christmas Bird Count. Seven other birders stayed indoors and watched for birds coming to their bird-feeders. This event is part of the ongoing Audubon Society and Bird Studies Canada research that is now over a century old.

During Fauquier’s one-day count, 35 different species of birds were found. Almost all participants saw Steller’s jays, northern flickers, ravens and black-capped chickadees. Along the lakeshore were plenty of mallards, common goldeneye and common mergansers. Bald eagles were also frequently seen by most parties of birders, as well as common ravens and American crows. The most surprising find was swans by most parties of birders, as well as goldeneyes and common mergansers. Bald eagles were also frequently seen by most parties of birders, as well as common ravens and American crows. The most surprising find was swans by most parties of birders, as well as goldeneyes and common mergansers.

For the past 18 years, enthusiastic supporters from Southern BC, Alberta, Washington State and Idaho have filled the dance floor in the acoustically superb venue on the shores of beautiful Slocan Lake. The irresistible boogie beat, the heritage hall, the scenic setting, and the frenetic crowd make this the most memorable dance event of the winter.

For you diehards, the final set of the evening will be the Rockin’ Rhythm Blues Review, a 12-piece monster that will rattle the rafters and shake the shingles of the recently restored heritage Silverton Memorial Hall. Dancers should come prepared to shuffle till the wee hours with visitors and guests at this great gathering in our small town with the big Attitude.

Walk for Alzheimer’s to be held in Nelson Community Complex

submitted by Marilyn Boxwell

How many of us are aware already that over 70,000 British Columbians are living with the devastating brain disorder called Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia? A call is being issued to join forces in supporting the Alzheimer Society of BC by registering today to participate in the annual Investors Group ‘Walk for Memories’ which takes place the third Saturday in September. Your support helps to spread the word, and every dollar donated will make a difference.

For more information including details of how to register, go to www.walkformemories.com or call the West Kootenay Alzheimer Society Resource Centre at 250-352-6788 or toll-free 1-877-452-6788.
Don't Forget to Have Fun!

Hockey builds character!

Minor Hockey Week Celebrates our young players!

Paul Peterson, RDCK director, Area K

Hockey builds character!

Play for the love of the game!

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Nakusp • 250-265-4615

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Happy Hockey Week!


MINOR HOCKEY WEEK


January 12, 2011  The Valley Voice

Kaslo Mohawk 250-353-2205 405-4th St. • Kaslo

Thanks to all the parents, coaches and kids for keeping Minor Hockey alive in our community!

Minor Hockey builds character!

The Village of Kaslo celebrates our young hockey players during Minor Hockey Week, 2011!

Eric's Meat Market Salutes our National Winter Sport during Minor Hockey Week, 2011! 425 Front • Kaslo • 353-2436


Nakusp goes for Kraft Hockeyville 2011 title
by Jan McMurray

Will Nakusp be crowned Kraft Hockeyville 2011 and win $100,000 for arena upgrades and an NHL pre-season game in Nakusp, broadcast live by CBC?

Well, the website says the winning ‘Kraft Hockeyville 2011’ will be a community with tons of spirit and a fierce passion for hockey. That sure sounds like Nakusp.

Andrea Coates, fundraising manager for Nakusp Minor Hockey, has nominated Nakusp for the Kraft Hockeyville title, and is getting the whole community involved.

She is doing a fantastic job – Nakusp is already way ahead of other nominated communities in terms of the number of stories and photos submitted.

The first thing people should do to support Nakusp’s nomination is to go to www.krafthockeyville.ca and submit a story and photo about hockey in Nakusp. Stories should be 500 words or less, and must be accompanied by one to three photos. Stories and photos can alternatively be mailed to Kraft Hockeyville, 205 Wellington Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5V 3G7. The deadline for stories is January 30. Stories will be judged on community spirit, passion for hockey, and originality.

Nakusp businesses are getting involved by decorating their windows in Coates’ ‘Paint the Town Red’ campaign (red and white are the Kraft Hockeyville colours), and local graphic design company On the Marks is printing ‘Nakusp is Kraft Hockeyville 2011’ T-shirts. Video footage of the town done up like Hockeyville will be posted online.

A ‘Rally in the Valley’ is in the works for January 21, featuring a Midget Rep hockey game at the arena, with junior and senior novice players (ages 4-7) scrimmaging during the intermission. Spectators are asked to wear red and white, paint their faces, and bring noisemakers to support the Nakusp nomination for Hockeyville. KBS Radio will be on site to cover the rally. Coates is still looking for someone to videotape this event.

On February 12, which is Hockey Day in Canada, Coates has organized a shinny hockey tournament in the arena parking lot with all Minor Hockey players participating. As soon as word got out about this event, other organizations stepped forward to get involved. The curling club will have a mini bonspiel; the figure skating club will hold a Torch Light Parade & Chili Cook-off the night before at Summit Lake Ski Hill.

It seems that it will be tough to beat Nakusp’s community spirit. Nakusp is one of the 200 communities who have nominated for the Kraft Hockeyville sponsors decide who wins. Based on the submitted stories and photos, a panel has to choose the Top 10 – two communities from each of the five regions: Pacific (BC/Yukon), West, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic. The Top Ten will be profiled on CBC TV on Hockey Night in Canada.

Then the online voting starts to determine the Top Five. From March 8 to 13, people can vote either online or by phone. On March 12, the Top Ten will get a bit more air time on CBC’s Hockey Night in Canada. On March 19, the Top Five will be announced. Then another round of voting from March 19 to 21 will determine the winner, to be announced April 2 on Hockey Night in Canada, which will be broadcast live from the Top Five communities.

The winning community will receive a trophy and $100,000 from Kraft Canada to upgrade its home arena. Also, an NHL pre-season hockey game will be hosted in the community’s arena, with a live CBC Hockey Night in Canada broadcast of the game. The remaining four communities from the Top Ten will each receive $25,000.

Coates says some ideas for upgrades to the Nakusp arena include extending the bleachers along the entire length of the ice, and installing a wheelchair lift on the stairs. However, she says the Village, which owns the facility, should be involved in the decision-making, as should the entire community. “I think the entire community should have a say,” said Coates.

Coates has also set up a Facebook page as a way for people to keep in touch. “Just type in ‘Kraft’ and it will pop up,” she says.

所谓的“Kraft Hockeyville”比赛是社区的户外运动用品店，为全家的户外运动用品

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...
**Notes from the RCMP submitted by Kootenay Boundary RCMP**

**Woman snowboarder killed near Retallack**

A 32-year-old woman died near Retallack off the 3000 block of Cote Road on December 29, 2010. The woman's body was located by the Kaslo RCMP and BC Coroners Service. The woman was a resident of Kaslo and was known to be an experienced snowboarder.

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An old saying reminds us that “time is money.” As you get older, it is especially important to think about your financial future. How much will your long-term care costs be? What about the financial burden of long-term care on your family? What happens if you die before you reach age 65? These are all questions that need to be answered to ensure that you have enough money to live the life you want in your retirement years.

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Kaslo council, December 14: Affordable housing strategy to go ahead

by Jan McMurray

The Village will provide a letter of support to the Kaslo Housing Society for the scope of work proposed by Columbia Basin Trust to complete an affordable housing strategy for the municipality, with all matching funding provided by the society and Pine Avenue land provided by the municipality.

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The only newspaper that tells us what is going on in the Kaslo area. The only newspaper that gives us a chance to say what we think.

www.century21kaslo.com

Golf Club requesting permission

The Village will provide a letter of recommendation to council. The letter states that the club lost over $10,000 on operations in 2010, mostly due to a decline in the number of green fees taken in. A bacteria that kills grass has been noted on the greens, especially where there is a lack of sunshine. The club proposed to remove approximately one logging track of trees that are over 100 years old and susceptible to disease, wind and lightning, and to replace them with a more acceptable species.

New recreation area proposed near Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

A new recreation area with trails for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, hiking and running is being proposed for the Mt. Buchanan/ Seven Mile Creek area near Kaslo. All those interested in the proposal are asked to contact the Trailblazers or Kootenay Mountain Sports owners Janis Lampimaki and Shen Neufeld.

Lampimaki, the driving force behind the very successful SufferFest race in Kaslo last fall, is starting up a Nordic ski club, while in Nelson is starting up a mountain bike club.

Nearing a lack of cross-country ski trails in the Kaslo area, Lampimaki started rallying support for establishing a recreation area late last year. When the Trailblazers caught wind of the initiative, they offered to help.

The non-profit clubs have partnered to make a presentation on the proposal to the RDCK board at its January 12 meeting. “I think the community forest will be very supportive because we all have the common mandates to improve recreational opportunities and to benefit the community,” said Lettrari. He will also present the proposal to the RDCK board later this month.

Lettrari said that the hunting, trapping and tree harvesting activities that have traditionally occurred in the area will continue if the tenure for the recreation area is granted. He said that snowmobilers have traditionally used the nearby Empire area for sledding, so this will not conflict with cross-country skiing in the Seven Mile area.

The Seven Mile area is part of Kaslo and District Community Forest Society’s tenure, and Lettrari will be making a presentation on the proposal to the KDCFS board at its January 12 meeting. “I think the community forest will be very supportive because we all have the common mandates to improve recreational opportunities and to benefit the community,” said Lettrari. He will also present the proposal to the RDCK board later this month.

Lettrari said there has been a lot of harvesting activity in the area, which has brought the benefits of logging roads and skid trails that can be used as trails, as well as great views and excellent buckeye/lepry picking.

He says not much new trail building will be necessary, as they plan to use existing logging roads and skid trails. Any new trail building will be done mainly to connect up the existing roads and trails to create loop trails. The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society, the Kootenay Mountain Sports and the Trailblazers and the KDCFS would be working together with the help of the Seven Mile community to make sure things go smoothly for the community.

Donations to the cause, and $35 memberships to the new Nordic Ski Club or Mountain Bike Club are welcome and can be dropped off at Kootenay Mountain Sports on Front Street in Kaslo, or mailed to the Trailblazers, Box 1030, Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0. Cheques can be made payable to the Kaslo Trailblazers.

For more information, contact Silvio Lettrari (353-2960), Janis Lampimaki (353-2041) or Shen Neufeld (353-2245).

Katimavik is back and ready to volunteer

submitted by Julie McCoppenn

On January 5, another Katimavik group arrived in Kaslo. This dynamic group of 11 Katimavik youth are eager to begin volunteering in the community that will be their home for the next three months.

Julie McCoppenn, originally from Ontario, will be heading up the project in Kaslo as the group’s project leader. This is Julie’s second year with Katimavik as a project leader. Still new to Kaslo, Julie is eager to get to know community members and begin working with Katimavik community partners on different projects.

Julie believes that Katimavik challenges and empowers volunteers, while at the same time teaching them about a new region of Canada.

“Katimavik is back and ready to volunteer. This year is all about personal and professional growth, for both the volunteers and I, and I’m excited to get started again.

The 11 youth in Kaslo will be volunteering with several local non-for-profit organizations, including: Kaslo & Area Youth Council, Langham Cultural Society, North Kootenay Lake Community Services, the Kootenay Lake Historical Society, the Victoria Hospital of Kaslo Auxiliary Society, Periwinkle Children’s Centre, JV Humphries School, Village of Kaslo Fire Department, Kaslo infoNet Society and Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society.

For more information about Katimavik, visit www.katimavik.org or www.gokatimavik.com.
COMING EVENTS
SLOCAN DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGM - Sunday, January 22, 2011, 3-5 pm at Knox Hall in New Denver. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Come and mingle with your fellow members! Non-members welcome, but you must be a member to participate in the 2011 election. Membership info available from Guest Speaker Deanne Monroe, Basin Business Advisor for West Kootenay Region, on how the Basin Business Advisor Program helps to strengthen businesses and support business owners. www.cbc.org/bba. For Slocan District Chamber of Commerce membership inquiries, please contact Nika Bornsum at nika@netidea.com or 250-358-7276.
Full Moon Ski at Valley View Golf Course

submitted by SVHTS
This year, as well as gromming the 50-kilometre-long Slocan Valley Rail Trail, the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) has been maintaining approximately five kilometres of track around the Valley View Golf Course. On Wednesday, January 19, skiers and winter enthusiasts alike are invited to join SVHTS volunteers for a ski/walk.

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION
PLAYING WITH ART – Kids art with zuu and frangie, street kennedy School. Begins Jan. 19 (Wed.)
LEGENDES & CHILI – Cooking with Lorraine Robinson-Carlstrom. WE Graham School, Slocan Mon. Jan.17
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING FOR SENIORS – Cross-country ski packages are available for those 55+. Please call for details.

ASLCS offers a flexible work environment and a competitive and flexible compensation package. Although this is a casual position, work load may be adjusted to suit the individual needs of the Support Worker. As a seasoned professional you will be required to make recommendations and implement service enhancements.

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Business Analyst will analyze contracts, to become part of the solutions we provide. The Business Analyst will be responsible for developing and maintaining the contracts.
COFFIN, PAULA IDA JOAN
Went to be with her Lord on January 6, 2011 in Pemberton. Paula was born August 16, 1934 in Edmonton, AB. She was the third of five children born to George and Ida Lorraine (Radomski). Paula married William Eric Coffin on April 2, 1953. They had three children: Lorene (John) Dammann of Cranbrook, AB, Bruce (Brenda) Coffin of Pemberton, BC, and Nora (Morne) Curte of Faquier, BC. Eight grandchildren: Jennifer (Shawn), Brent, Jared, Kyle (Kendall), Brinyee, Janell, Chloie, Gracie and great granddaughter Iade. Paula is also survived by two sisters Rose and Annette and other family members and dear friends.

Paula and Bill retired in 1983 and wintered in Yuma, Arizona for ten years. They have spent the last twenty years in Faquier, BC and the last six winters in Pemberton. Paula is remembered for her servant-hood to family and others, gardening, her lovely laugh, her beautiful singing voice, numerous choirs, Red Hatters, her steadfast faith and her love for her husband. Paula will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Celebration of her life and ashes will be scattered at her home in Faquier, BC this spring. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to World Vision.

McWEN, Donald Stewart
Donald Stewart McWen passed away peacefully on January 6 in the Kootenay Valley after a short illness. Don was born on April 2, 1923 in Grafton, Saskatchewan. During his lifetime Frank touched many people’s lives and he will be sadly missed. At his request there will be no memorial service, however the family will be holding a Celebration of Life at a later date.

CLASSIFIED ADS

McWen was predeceased by his parents, sisters and wife Riki and leaves to mourn his loving children, Riki (Ron) Boose of Cranbrook, and Mark of Nelson. He is survived by his cherished grandchildren:

This space could be yours for $11.00 + GST per issue.

To book call Sue: 250-358-2711

To contact 358-2475.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the Kootenay Heritage Trail Society at 1-888-665-7674 or PO Box 22 Winlaw, BC V0G 2J0.

WANTED

WANTED: WINE MAKERS to participate in one of our annual wine judging events. Enter your red, white, fruit or other wines. Judging Day on February 26/11 @ Burton Hall. More details to follow in the papers and on notice boards. Contacts: Brian & Linda Rappe 265-3492. Sponsored by & proceeds to Burton Hall Board.

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NDP energy critic blasts BC Hydro rate increases

compiled by Art Joyce

With a massive spike in electricity rates announced last month by BC Hydro, the BC Liberals’ energy plan is hitting British Columbians in the pocketbook while guaranteeing steep profits for corporations, said New Democrat energy critic John Horgan.

“British Columbians are staring down the barrel of a 50 percent rate increase over a short five-year period, mainly due to an ideologically driven private power agenda architected over the past seven years by the BC Liberals,” said Horgan.

BC Hydro has announced that electricity bills will be going up by an average of $7 per month, or about 10 percent, each year from 2012 to 2014. That means the average household will spend $252 per year more on their electricity bill by 2014. These increases are in addition to the increase of nearly 13 percent planned for 2011 and nearly eight per cent in 2010, totalling more than 50 percent over five years.

Naturally BC Hydro is trying to soften the impact of the increases on energy consumers. So far that seems to be limited mostly to conservation programs. To help low-income households save energy and money, BC Hydro has implemented an Energy Conservation Assistance Program, which provides eligible low-income BC Hydro customers with free home energy evaluations and retrofits. BC Hydro has also distributed free of charge more than 30,000 energy saving kits which include energy-efficient light bulbs, low-flow showerheads and weatherization products.

“We are committed to meeting BC’s growing demand for electricity by modernizing and investing in the province’s electricity system,” said BC Hydro President and CEO Dave Cobb. “We are also taking steps to keep rates affordable by making our operations more efficient and introducing new conservation programs that will help offset rate increases.”

Horgan attributes a significant part of the problem to the secretive deals BC Hydro has been forced to make with independent power producers. For example, the recently completed Clean Power Call resulted in an average purchase price of about $124/MWh. But the utility sells that power for much less: residential customers pay just $72/MWh, and on the open export market the average peak price during the second quarter was only $38/MWh. One industry group estimates the Crown corporation is losing $450 million annually in power sales transactions.

“Many of these contracts are being indexed to inflation, guaranteeing cash flow and big profits to foreign corporations like GE while the people of BC pick up the tab,” said Horgan as he repeated the call to make the details of BC Hydro’s contracts public.

The BC Liberals have exempted FortisBC customers with free home energy evaluations and retrofits. BC Hydro customers with free home energy evaluations and retrofits. BC Hydro has also distributed free of charge more than 30,000 energy saving kits which include energy-efficient light bulbs, low-flow showerheads and weatherization products.

“These investments have significantly softened the impact of the increases on energy consumers. So far that seems to be limited mostly to conservation programs. To help low-income households save energy and money, BC Hydro has implemented an Energy Conservation Assistance Program, which provides eligible low-income BC Hydro customers with free home energy evaluations and retrofits. BC Hydro has also distributed free of charge more than 30,000 energy saving kits which include energy-efficient light bulbs, low-flow showerheads and weatherization products.”

We are committed to meeting BC’s growing demand for electricity by modernizing and investing in the province’s electricity system,” said BC Hydro President and CEO Dave Cobb.

 fortsiscb.com.

FortisBC continues to help customers manage their energy use through its PowerSense program. The PowerSense program provides customers both financial incentives and helpful advice on energy efficient technologies and conservation practices that can reduce electrical bills. Information on FortisBC energy efficiency programs is available at www.fortisbc.com.

For more information call the FortisBC toll free number at 1-866-4FORTIS (1-866-436-7847) or visit the company’s website at www. fortisbc.com.