Installation of wireless smart meters to begin this summer

by Jan McMurray

BC Hydro has been mandated by the Clean Energy Act to replace the meters on the outside of all its customers’ homes and businesses with wireless ‘smart meters’ by the end of 2012. FortisBC is not far behind BC Hydro, with plans to install smart meters in 2013-2014.

BC Hydro’s recently released ‘Smart Metering and Infrastructure Program Business Case,’ posted at www.bchydro.com, provides details about the program.

Smart meters are digital meters that track how much power is used and when it is used. The meters send the power consumption data to the utility, eliminating the need for human meter readers for billing purposes.

Customers will also be able to read their own power consumption data. They will be able to do this in two different ways – on BC Hydro’s PowerSense website, which will provide hourly data within 24 hours; or on an in-home display, which customers will be able to purchase if they so choose, and which will provide real-time data.

The data only tells customers how much electricity is being used when – it does not track the energy use of individual appliances. The idea is that with the data, people will be able to make educated guesses on what causes high energy use in their households, resulting in energy conservation.

Smart meters also open the door to a ‘time-of-use’ rate structure, making electricity more expensive during peak times. BC Hydro plans to keep the current rate structure until the installation of the meters is complete. After 2012, it is expected that the company will apply to the BC Utilities Commission to introduce time-of-use rates.

The company says it will engage customers in the design of any new rate structures.

Energy conservation is important because the demand for power is growing – by as much as 40 percent over the next 20 years, according to the business case. “If capacity doesn’t meet demand, the whole system collapses,” said Gary Murphy, chief project officer for the smart metering program at BC Hydro, in a telephone interview.

It is expected that smart metering will help reduce the growing demand for energy by encouraging conservation. Time-of-use rates is expected to result in a reduction in peak period demand for electricity, which the business case states “can reduce the amount of capacity BC Hydro needs in the system, thus potentially deferring the need to build more generation, transmission, and distribution assets.”

Although BC Hydro has outlined many benefits of the smart meter program in the business case – reduced electricity theft (which is occurring mainly due to marijuana grow operations), streamlined power outage procedures, and the modernization of the electricity system – many people have concerns with the new wireless technology.

In some jurisdictions where smart meter programs have already been introduced, mostly in the US, there have been several issues, including interference with other electrical appliances, higher utility bills, health problems, and privacy and security concerns. A document prepared by the EMR Health Alliance (www.emrabc.ca) states: “At least 18 cities and three counties have demanded a halt to the Smart Meter program, following a groundswell of protest over privacy and health concerns.”

BC Hydro claims it has learned from these experiences. “Some utilities were adopters of early smart metering technology which had limited capabilities and ultimately had to be replaced. BC Hydro is taking advantage of the fact that metering technology has stabilized,” states the business case.

“By adopting smart meters after learning from the experience of other utilities, BC Hydro has the advantage of knowing what factors contribute to successful implementation and benefit realization.”

As far as health concerns go, in jurisdictions where smart meters have already been installed, some people have reported headaches, difficulty sleeping, dizziness, nausea and vomiting, heart palpitations and other symptoms that are associated with sensitivity to radio frequency radiation.

Gary Murphy of BC Hydro’s smart metering program said, “We are aware that some people have some significant concerns about radio frequency and we are committed to addressing these. We will work with customers on a case-by-case basis. We are very open to having that dialogue and coming up with a mutually agreeable solution.”

Opting out of the program, however, “won’t be a likely scenario – there are probably better solutions and we’ll work with those folks who have those concerns.”

Murphy said that there is “clearly a difference” between a cell tower and smart meters, which transmit at a lower frequency very briefly several times a day, for a total of less than a minute per day.

An opportunity to learn more about the smart metering program is coming up on March 30, when BC Hydro will be hosting an open house on its ‘Integrated Resource Plan,’ a 20-year plan that describes how BC Hydro proposes to meet future growth, at the Castlegar and District Community Complex, 6-9 pm.
Regional district directors urge EAO to stop Glacier-Howser project

submitted by WestKootenayEcoSociety

The West Kootenay EcoSociety applauds RDCK Directors Andy Shadrack, Ramona Faust and Regional District of East Kootenay Director Geri Willkie for speaking out in the best interests of the people and places they represent by requesting that the provincial government abandon the environmental review of the controversial Glacier-Howser private power project.

On February 7 an open letter was sent by the three directors to the CEO of BC Hydro, CEO of Fortis BC, President of AXOR, Chair and CEO of the BC Utilities Commission, BC Minister of Energy, BC Minister of Environment and local MLAs and MPs with a plea to “make common sense prevail” with regard to the proposed power project.

The letter highlights crucial social, economic and technical concerns related to the Glacier-Howser proposal that have not been addressed despite persistent attempts by both elected officials and the public. The viability of the transmission line – 92 kilometres stretching from West to East Kootenay through the Purcell Mountains – has been challenged by retired professional power system engineer Brent Hancock. Hancock is signatory to the letter, and has submitted his evaluation to the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).

Director Andy Shadrack noted that even AXOR admitted in writing that the project is not needed. “Further, not only does the Glacier-Howser project attempt to reinforce the power system in the Cranbrook area where there is already an existing hydro dam that could have generated power to it.”

In 2009 the Mayors of Invermere and Radium Hot Springs signed a petition at the Regional District of East Kootenay board opposing the Glacier-Howser project on the grounds that “the proposed transmission line will impact local weather systems, create a flood of geochemical waste, and the power that would be generated is not required in the Upper Columbia Valley.”

Shadrack states that “there is no mechanism for decisions of the EAO to be referenced to the BC Supreme Court as is the case for decisions made by the BC Utilities Commission. Further, on the largest proposed projects of its kind in this region, the 100 megawatt private hydro project has raised considerable controversy due to proposed negative impacts to the mountains, the lakes and the wildlife. People want someone to ‘step forward and address the technical and engineering questions we have before any further environmental assessment proceeds.’”

The letter goes on to ask how the province can support another megawatt project if the one proposed is abandoned and the EAO “was told to push ahead.”

CASH FOR COLLEGE

Youth Community Service Award

Columbia Basin Trust is offering up to 45 Basin graduates $2,000 each. This award is based on community volunteer service, not on academic achievement, and is designed to assist students with post-secondary education or training.

All Basin students who will graduate with a Ministry of Education recognized graduation diploma are eligible for the award. Applications can be picked up at local high schools or downloaded from www.cbt.org/cyca.

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2011, to be considered.

by Art Joyce

Springer Creek to salvage from Rosebeye log dump

Springer Creek Forest Products has engaged the services of Underwater Logging, a local wood salvage contractor, to salvage logs from Slocan Lake at the former Rosebery log dump. Operations are expected to get underway in early March with a crew of five, in addition to trucking and milling jobs.

“Rosebery operated as a log dump for decades, and there’s always a certain percentage of logs that sink,” says General Manager Ralph Tomlin.

“There’s never been any attempt to save the logs at the Rosebery site or keep them out of the water so we think they can make a go of it.”

This will be a sonar operation, with no divers. Using sonar, they can get a good picture of where the loggraphe is and which logs are on top. There will be points further out in the lake where it won’t be feasible due to extreme depths. Wood-decay fungi tend not to survive in deep water due to the lack of oxygen, so the wood should be well preserved. We will need to be additional drying done at the mill due to the moisture content.

Tomlin suspects the salvage will mostly be hemlock since it’s the most water-soluble. He estimates roughly 30 percent of the wood milled at Slocan is hemlock, with the remaining spruce, lodgepole pine and cedar.

“Unfortunately, hemlock is one of the less desirable species right now. In Western Canada, almost all the hemlock – mostly it’s spruce and fir. There are some areas in the US that frame with hemlock, but it’s a low-end market.”

Most hemlock stays in Canada, with only about 20 percent going to China. Its best use is for pressure-treated wood products such as foundation and deckening material. Tomlin says this is used often in house foundations on the prairies instead of concrete. The Springer Creek mill does not have any chemical treatment facilities for producing pressure-treated wood. “We use it in a hybrid way – every tree we recover from the bottom of the lake is one we don’t have to cut off the mountains.”

Local post office employees receive notice of cuts in hours

by Jan McMurray

Effective February 28, hours of part-time employees at local post offices will be reduced.

Notices of the cuts in hours were received by part-time employees in Nakusp, New Denver, Slocan and Kaslo during the week of February 21. Six hours will be cut in both Nakusp and Kaslo, four hours in New Denver and three hours in Slocan.

Although the changes do not affect the opening hours of the post offices, customers will likely notice slower mail service, says Barb Lincoln, president of the BC/Yukon branch of the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA), the union representing the affected employees. “Service at the counter will take priority over mail sorting, so the mail will be slower,” she said.

Canada Post consulted with CPAA about the cuts in hours, but there’s still “no discussion of the issues,” says Lincoln, “because the union has filed a grievance because they do not feel the consultation process was meaningful.”

“Normally when there are proposed changes, we want employees to be given a chance to be consulted,” she said.

Canada Post spokesperson Colleen Tomlin says they heard the concerns of the employees are already applying. “We’re seeing that people are not mailing letters like they used to,” she said.

Traditional business like they used to. Our traditional business

Lot B N. Needles Road, Edgewood $245,000

Large family home only 1/2 block to lake, park, store, post office & Credit Union. Home has a new roof, but need of some updating & TLC. A large, unfinished family room off the dining room awaits your ideas. Level 1/2 acre lot with a mini orchard. MLS K194086

Lot 21 Granby Drive, Edgewood $239,000

Immaculate one owner home on level 1/2 acre lot. 3 bed rooms, 1 1/2 baths, fully finished basement, 200 amp service, newer roof, carport, garage & workshop. Short walk to lake, store, & post office. MLS K192254

Lot B N. Needles Road, Edgewood $215,000

Large family home only 1/2 block to lake, park, store, post office & Credit Union. Home has a new roof, but need of some updating & TLC. A large, unfinished family room off the dining room awaits your ideas. Level 1/2 acre lot with a mini orchard. MLS K194086

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209 Kilarney Crescent, Edgewood $215,000

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Local post office employees receive notice of cuts in hours
MP Peter Julian hosts panel on European free trade agreement

by Art Joyce

If you thought North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was a bad deal, then you should see what European leaders have in store for you next. That was the message from NDP MP Peter Julian, federal trade critic, at a presentation in Nelson last Wednesday (February 15). Under the EC Treaty, the EU has 11 to more than 100 people. He was referring to the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) currently being negotiated by Julian Soltis-Jutaitė, MP for Soutern Interior Alex Atamanenko and MLA Michelle Mungall, hosted by the Nelson chapter of the Council of Canadians.

Julian sees CETA as yet another in a long line of trade agreements that amount to a corporate bill of rights. Like NAFTA and the inter-provincial TILA agreement, they aim at eliminating local hire/purchase policies, environmental regulations, labour protections, and any other provincially or municipally-deemed ‘trade barriers.’ Under TILA, for example, a municipality that favours local contractors over a global multinational corporation can be sued for up to $5 million. Citing NAFTA regulations, forestry giant Abitibi-Bowater sued the province of Newfoundland for $300 million when it closed its last mill there and the government seized its assets. The case concluded with $130 million in costs, which by law go to the corporation, despite a contract that required it to keep at least one mill in the province running.

“It’s a profound disrespect for democracy,” says Julian. “The time and expense that municipalities in the Kootenays will have to use to acquire contracts will be beyond what many can afford.”

Julian pointed out that CETA has worrisome implications for healthcare as well. Intellectual property provisions in the agreement would have a negative effect on access to generic drugs. According to studies done at economics faculties at the University of Toronto and University of Calgary, it could add $1.5 billion in Canadian healthcare costs; $250 million in BC alone. “For families in New Denver, we’re talking about half of those costs passed on to individuals or their healthcare plan,” says Julian. “The Harper government didn’t even do their homework to find out what this agreement would cost us. The softwood lumber deal cost Canadians $1.2 billion and 50,000 lost jobs – and counting.”

Another implication of CETA is the possibility of bulk water sales. Mungall says, “The BC government’s Water Modernization Act is the first step in that direction. “If water is opened for sale to international corporations we lose control as a public,” she explains. “We no longer have a say over our waterways.”

Changes to New Denver schedule

In order to meet the growing demand for energy, FortisBC plans to put out Calls for Power over the next 20 years, in order to meet the growing demand for energy, FortisBC plans to put out Calls for Power over the next 20 years, starting with a separate application to the BC Utilities Commission for approval later this year, with the decision expected by the end of 2011.

Mark Warren, Director of Customer Service, presented a high-level overview of the ISP at the Castlegar meeting. The ISP is “a balanced framework for the future” to ensure that FortisBC will be able to meet its customers’ electricity needs for decades to come. The bottom line for FortisBC customers is that they should be on their bills of between five and eight percent per year for the next five years.

Warren explained that in 1985, there were 100,000 FortisBC customers. In 2040, there will be an estimated 180,000 customers. “With 80% growth over that time, there is a challenge there,” he said.

The company forecast its overall load growth over the next 20 years, and found it will need more energy to meet the growth. Further, the company plans to do their homework to find out what this agreement is a done deal; people are waking up to what’s being done. We’ve been fortunate; there’s obviously been a bureaucratic with a conscience leaking documents,” notes Julian. “Otherwise there’s been little transparency in the negotiations so far. The government has come to see from behind closed doors to discuss what will irrevocably change this country.”

Julian says if there is a federal election this year the NDP will be making CETA a major campaign issue. Meanwhile Julian is crossing the country to inform Canadians about the implications of the agreement.

FortisBC plans include smart meters and Calls for Power

by Jan McMurray

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by Jan McMurray

In order to meet the growing demand for energy, FortisBC plans to put out Calls for Power like BC Hydro does, and to encourage conservation through a smart metering program.

These two initiatives are part of FortisBC’s System Plan (ISP), which was presented to the public at an open house on February 10 in Castlegar. The ISP will be submitted to the BC Utilities Commission for approval later this year, with the decision expected by the end of 2011.

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Where are the fish? I am very concerned about the absence of fish out in Kootenay Lake near Kaslo. In a lake as massive as this and in a town as small as this, where are the fish? Every elder tells us that just 30 years ago, anyone could catch a Rainbow with just a cast from the shoreline. Not anymore. In fact, out in a boat with all the gear, out all day, one fish is a big glory for any fishermen. I wonder?! Is it the poo and brown algae that reduce the fish population here in town?

Ian Ferrera
Kasco

Give credit where credit is due

Recently, we brought approximately 30 young adults to New Denver for a weekend experience to see a new riding area. The group, made up of males aging from 13-67 years old, loved the area. The folks at the Valhalla Inn made this a wonderful experience for this entire group. Thank you to Joan, Albrecht and all the staff.

To the local business in New Denver, we appreciate your support. As everyone in our group belongs to the BCSPF and the ARBC snowmobile associations and several area snowmobile clubs, there was a lot of local support. Again, kudos to the Valhalla Inn and the businesses in New Denver.

I was disappointed by a local snowmobiler from Kaslo, who complained about our riding tactics and stated that clearly we have ruined HIS trails. I think as a group of semi-talented riders who are responsible, we were respectful of the area. I doubt the trail we utilized on February 5 had ever seen that many riders in a single day. Further, it will snow again to cover the tracks we made.

As we contributed approximately $12,000 to the community of New Denver over the course of a few days, you would think we would also be appreciated.

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

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 libellous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances. Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.

Sad about Targa
My heartfelt condolences to the idea of holding Targa races on the Kaslo/Nakusp roads.
I thought we were trying to keep the area quiet and peaceful. I thought we were trying to get people to move themselves by their heart and lung action, by their muscle and joint movements, to improve their health. Of course, more money is spent by people moving themselves in a ton or two of metal, glass and plastic. Even more money is spent on physicians, hospitals, X-ray machines, MRI machines, etc., which are all overburdened (and underfunded) because of such lifestyle aberrations.

When you have free time, be glad not to be in charge of machines or computers, but take the time and be in charge of your own health by moving your body in the myriad ways our many joints allow us to move: walk, run, jump, swim, paddle, surf; exercise in the many different ways that are being promoted these days. Dance!

Instead of Targa races, let’s have ‘Tango Nakusp’ on local dance floors. Let’s have ‘hot yoga’ at the hotspots. Let’s have canoe races on the lake. Let’s have kite competitions on the lakeshore. Let’s have floor gymnastics. Let’s restate the ‘Pony Express’ as we used to have between Edgewood and Nakusp. Let your imaginations soar!

Arthritis is caused mostly by lack of non-repetitive joint movements. Back problems arise mostly from occupations in the sitting position. Move and rest now and then, but MOVE!

Richard Eichemauer
Faquier

OPINION

Comments on Faquier

Faquier is going through an interesting period. Years of success have now been torn apart from a modern ‘money first’ approach.

Paul Peterson as our Area K director has likely observed some of the consequences and has offered his limited time and advice as well as his authorized funds to Edgewood, Faquier and Burton. Ed McGinnis sees that the situation is vulnerable and feels that he has a chance to exploit it, that is, both Peterson and the hall.

The board of the Faquier Community Club receives annual property tax revenue at a rate agreed upon by residents of the area who are a minimum of 18 years old. In years past we received a share of the BC Hydro grant in lieu of taxes. About 50 percent of the money was given to the hall and 50 percent to the Volunteer Fire Brigade to maintain their truck and equipment, etc. The hall did not have entitlement to the money, hence in some years all the funds went to build the fire truck replacement fund.

In years prior to 2005 the hall had a ‘healthy’ bank account. This was brought about by 1) all volunteers; 2) taxes and grants; and 3) hall uses being rentals. In 2005 the board made a change. The kitchen renewal was due. This change resulted in increased revenue, but this mainly went to groups who had interests outside of the hall. As far as ‘biting’ the taxpayer, or RECC for extra funds, the board can only plead.

If our accounts indicate an error in our records then I find this justification for regular external reviews. I have a problem trying to visualize how money spent to upgrade the hall should be shown as an asset. We do not record grants – we budget them to be left to tax assessment. Our books show cash revenue, cash spent, and cash in our bank account and/or bank investments.

Frank Poirier
Faquier

Open letter to Minister of Natural Resource Operations

As you can see from the enclosed article, Valley Voice, 09-02-11, we have a very successful Keep Jumbo Wild rally with over 200 keener showing up. The rest of the Jumbo Wild supporters couldn’t resist hitting the slopes in perfect sunshine and powder. I was happy to see a number of young adults to whom some of us ‘elders’ will gladly hand the torch.

There was never a break in the crowd at our table where we (the West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild) had maps and background information. Other groups from the West Kootenay that had tables were the Valhalla Wilderness Society and the West Kootenay EcoSociety. And from the East Kootenay came the Wildsight personnel sending regrets. Please make no mistake that any of these groups are NDP supporters – NO each group is a supporter of its own. Of course, we support anyone’s attempt to help Keep Jumbo Wild!

And now we have Mother Nature helping us in the form of devastating avalanches that have buried the site of the proposed resort village and real estate development on both sides of the valley. Please do not be misled when the proponents say they will take care of the avalanche safety problem by buying them before they descend. I live less than a kilometer away from six avalanche chutes that highways bombs to keep the traffic safe. The first thing that happens is the area between the gates are cleared of vehicles and the gates are closed. Then the bombs are dropped, which cause all the snow, ice and forest debris to come crashing down their paths to end in exactly the same places they would end if they had not been bombed. Later, the dorers and trucks work for many hours clearing two lanes for traffic through the lower portions of the avalanches.

Thank you for staying with YES Jumbo Wild, NO Jumbo Resort.

Rovena Eloise (for West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild) and Artega

Party rhetorics

I often have a response in my head to many of the letters to the Valley Voice. In one particular, “Open letter to Stephen Hill” February 9, 2011, got my fingers to keyboard.

First I think it is important to remember that Alex Atamanenko is remunerated adequately for his hard work in this constituency. Stephen Hill is a private citizen who receives no government remuneration for his work in the constituency. Both hold strong to the principles of a particular political party and work for their community under those respective ideological banners. The banner, the party, feeds rhetoric through these hard-working individuals.

For Will Webster to proclaim the Conservative Party so guilty of this so-called rhetoric while ignoring his own diatribes is a shame. How can he be working hard for some thing up against trade deals and lighting for Canadian pensions.

This is where I am confused. How can he be working for me and my pension if he is against trade deals? I am no simpleton; when I retire I will need both my private personal pension and my CPP in order to look after myself and my loved ones. My personal pension is heavily invested in Canadian companies, Canadian companies that are already showing huge growth in emerging markets. In fact, he believes it or billions of dollars of our pension funds will only bring returns that will allow my savings to grow. Millions of Canadians who own stocks, RRSPs, TFSAs and have pensions should be hopeful that corporations that make up much of our investment savings are allowed to become even healthier.

Believe it or not, billions of dollars of profits made by Canadian companies are reinvested in this country, creating employment and wealth for all of us... Our CPP relies on growth from investments as well.

That’s why I think Alex is just as guilty as Stephen for putting forth half truths and half lies, and because the truth usually falls somewhere between the political factions. I enjoy reading between the lines on both sides.

Fred Fontaine
Silverton

A third alternative for Mr. Retreather

Gunter Retreather’s letter of January 26 (Holy Hypocrisy) condemns both the contamination of religious beliefs and the failure of followers to adhere to them. I can find little to challenge in his statements, except it is important to note that in addition to the many atrocities committed by religion, there have been very many religious people who have been of tremendous help to their fellow humans.

My main point of contention is that Mr. Retreather assumes that only two alternatives exist – orthodox religion or atheism/ materialism. A few hundred years ago, many mechanistic concepts of science (i.e. “the universe runs like... continued on page 5

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

Publisher - DAN NICHOLSON • Editor - JAN MCMURRAY • Food Editor - ANDREW ROHDES
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The Valley Voice February 23, 2011
have only ‘the best government that
we can buy’ (a clock) saved us from the fierce
dictatorship of religious superstition, but we
will always have an option—a system which has
for more in common with the world view of the
day Lama than that of Sir Isaac Newton. Modern
theoretical physics shows that consciousness is
a required part of the universe. In the
McTaggart preconce,
the influence of mind
on matter, and the non-linear nature of
time have all been demonstrated in the
laboratory. It appears that everything in
our universe is far more interactive and
interdependent than we thought.
We have always lived our prosaic
daily lives completely out of our depth
philosophically. The simple fact that
anything exists at all implies an infinity
which none of us can wrap our heads
around. It would be absurd for us to
think that our five senses can detect
that all exists and occurs in our world.
Other dimensions, planes of being,
and indeed sentient beings that are beyond
our ability to sense, or on the fringes
of it, simply have to exist or we live in a
universe that has been curiously
hollowed out.

The inspiration for orthodox
religions originally comes from the
awareness of some mysteries to the
true nature of the universe. Orthodox religion
thoroughly muddles the waters of such
original insights, while mechanistic
concepts totally invalidate them. I believe
that a third alternative – embodying the
new alliance of eastern mysticism and
western physics – is closer to the truth
than the absurdities of fundamentalist
religion or the inadequacies of classical
physics. These object that the survival of
individual consciousness after death
and reincarnation, can no longer be
considered frivolous by serious-minded
people.

Of course this ‘third alternative’ is
also open to hypocrisy and superstitious
thinking, but then what isn’t?

Keith Newbery

continued from page 4

February 23, 2011

The Voice

Editorial

Thanks for the GE bill, Alex

In the first time in Canada’s 15-
year history with genetically
engineered (GE) crops, Parliament
engaged in a real
debate over the issue, thanks to our BC
Southern Interior MP Alex Atanaceku.

Atanaceku’s Bill C-474 would
have required ‘an analysis of potential
harm to export markets be conducted
before the sale of any new genetically
engineered seed is permitted.’

On February 9, 2011 C-474 failed
in a 178 to 98 vote in Canada’s House of
Commons.

Disappointing for sure, as a very
tough time is upon us and it is all for
the sake of corporate profit and big money’s
moves to own and control the world’s food
supply.

Again, we see that Canadians
cannot be confident that parliamentary
government will be at once both
democratic and responsible. Ottawa
proves again with this bill that we really
have only ‘the best government that
money can buy’.

Our government is a shill for
corporations driven solely by the
appetite of their shareholders for greater
quarterly profit. Over and over again,
these companies pursue slack from
Canada’s Conservative and Liberal
parties.

Canada’s National Farmers Union
noted that instead of being at the C-474
vote in Ottawa, most Agriculture
Committee members were actually in
Guelph listening to the President of
Monsson Canada.

Monsson is the leading proponent
of genetically modified seed. Monsson had
lobbied to prevent the Commons debate
from ever occurring.

Genetically engineered food has
won significant global market share
through the ‘buy in’ of massive-scale
agricultural industry and lackness of
governments. Although very profitable
to Monsson and a few others, GE
interference fails in the goal of increasing
yield.

The promise of better crop yield
was to save the world from starvation
but the Union of Concerned Scientists
says that in a nearly 20-year record,
genetically engineered crops have not
increased US yields substantially.

Genetically engineered agriculture
allows for our reckless abuse of air,
water and soil resources and tries to
surmount old bad practices (through costly
biotechnical tinkering). Such genetic
engineering methods and products are
patented for profit.

A better and greener future in
agriculture will be found in continued
diversity. Diversity in agriculture means
multitudes of local small-scale farms
cultivating many varieties of seed.

This is a healthy and sustainable agriculture
that works with nature’s nutrient and
water cycles and not against them.

This is the role of MP Alex
Atanaceku for a very good try. This is
a very tough row to hoe.

dave Cursons

Kaslo council good at wasting
money

If there is one thing the Village of
Kaslo council is good at, it is wasting
money.

In the January 26 edition of the
Village Voice, it was reported that the
council is considering spending $500,800
of taxpayers’ money on improving
the streetlights so they can show us
$1,261 per year.

The expenditures are based on a USE
engineering report that states the village’s
streetlights were installed between 1969
and 1973 and are at the end of their
life. The report says that the usage
is unsafe and the lights should
be replaced with newer technology
fixtures that have dimming capabilities.

The report goes on to say the
streetlights need to be replaced in
the downtown area of Kaslo. The
Village says no, that will be way up.

Open letter to BC Hydro

I am a business customer spending
nearly $1,600 a month on BC Hydro
and a customer for the last 23 years. The
January 7 power outage and considerable
number of surges (brief brownouts
– I counted about eight and a large
subsequent surge about a half hour after
the power returned) have affected my
store operation. There are consequential
damages to at least two and possibly
four of my gas pumps as well as some
computer-related problems ongoing
at the store immediately following
the outage. I have not collected the
invoice yet, but I will be paying the bill shortly.

I stand to lose thousands of dollars
of perishable products every time the
power goes out, not to mention the loss
of business every time those outages
occur, including the consequent loss
of traffic for a period following
outages in some instances, i.e. seasonal
tourism revenue.

In summary, I do think, how growing
up in Winnipeg in the ’60s and ’70s
we hardly experienced a power outage.
Being here in New Denver since

1988 it appears that the consistency
of outages seems not to improve
over the past 23 years. There seem to
be an unusual number of disturbances
in our power supply particularly over
the past few years, whether due to ice,
rain, wind topping trees, or end of
the line equipment, etc., etc. I suspect
poor maintenance, lack of guidelines
for equipment or lack of ability to accurately
route service to your customers out
there ‘in the hinterland.’

Each time a brownout or outage
occurs, I rush from home to relieve
the staff, call off incoming staff where
possible, shut down our store computers,
get the small generator ready to power
up my ice cream freezers, shut the
coolers and freezers off, shut off all
the breakers in my spider-ridden dungeon,
and basically lock up the place.

Then I return home to wait… and
wait… by candlelight and contact staff
on their way to work to update them.
I know if an outage occurs at night and I
call your communication system I am
liable to get the generic “transmission
circuit failure” cause. If I am put on
an update list I will be automatically
woken every hour to advise me of basically
“nothing new.”

I understand you can’t keep us all
happy, but other than a private business
suite, do you think we might suffer from
medical or age-related problems as a result
of consistent mini-outages?

In summary, I want to speak up for
the small businesses that are going full-steam
ahead at the expense of hard-working
Ontario families.” He says
“…smart meters have been nothing but
a tax machine to take more money out
of poor people.”

What’s more, these smart meters
will blanket our neighbourhoods with
generous electromagnetic pulses

designed as an energy-use surveillance
system that the private sector may be
watching. That’s microwave
radiation pulsing in and around every
home and neighbourhood in BC, every
few minutes, 24/7/365 forever!

Our power usage will then be subject to
punishment through increased rates for
using electricity during high demand.

Despite all that, and much to the
chagrin of the hundreds of meters reader
who may soon be out of work, BC
Hydro, and Accenture, are set to begin
smart meter installation this summer and
summer, in a neighbourhood near you….

Don Blakie

Kaslo

Open letter to School District 8
re: Sicamous Valley schools

I am writing this letter in response
to the latest recommendation
by Superintendent Jeff Jones proposing
reconfiguration changes in Winlaw
and Vale Graham.

I have been involved with this
continued on page 6
Condemned to extinction... so might it be for Perry Ridge?

The 1960s of these people – the Sinixt – whose legacy with the salmon had prevailed over 3,500 years, was again in court before us. Not only in the flesh, but in the spirit, as their ancestral inheitual purpose was focused on the preservation of Perry Ridge. Thus, owning no allegiance but to the relationship of the land, ready at any moment to respond in preventive ways to those who would probe exploitation to hurt her. Are not these the first people who huddled themselves between the forest green of whom the magnificent mountain ranges and ventured to sip from their lake’s reservoir the resilient spirit of the Creator?

In contradiction of this fact, as in the case of the Sinixt’s ‘extinction,’ their long exile into a mock civilization inevitably exempted these people from the life of the land and left them placed them. Yet with ancestral forces within them, and a corruption of under-hand dealings around them, there they reside – not so far from the Ridge – and saw some of their brothers ready to out-stripe the wilderness before them. Hence, they proclaimed their inherent rights as guardians of the land.

While most of the region’s population implore the force of their objection, there is for me and anyone of earthly communion a similar force of consciousness, not only to resist force but to sustinative support to their station. Degradation of this home among the planets is mainly caused by ignorance of its harmonizing sacredness, and not just by men of greed and indifference.

We must thoroughly grasp the extent with which destiny is now bringing our region’s conscious minds together, fully charged in a virtuous ideology of protecting Perry Ridge and Jumbo Glacier. And all with the steadfast verdict of our conviction that, “We must embrace our earth mother’s sanction now.”

In re-examining the Sinixt as guardians of Perry Ridge from the perspective of a courtroom’s point of view, we may conclude that no such ambition of these first people was to ripen in the shadowed proceedings of the bench. Past proceedings gave way over-supplication where the government stood on the Sinixt issue. Should we be in suspense to the nature of their old and recurring assault: “Are you asking me to cogitate with you, or let you cogitate with me?”

This has been the remarked to which the government finds it convenient in almost all occasions to return. (Except Justice Wilcox, Nov. 4, 2010.) This contemptuous acclamation seems meant to inhibit one’s mind not to reason that these unbarked corpses standing in this courtroom before us are really alive. Will it be to our bewildering disappointment that what takes prececence in the courtroom February 25 is that Justice herself, in the cunning disguise of a lawyer, again and again that these people of a concerted extinction have no right to a say? But perhaps the gift of a higher consciousness to each of us, in the end, is the same.

After all, the judge is an employee of the government; the object of their joint participation – as it seems historically to appear – is to finalize the ruin of these first people.

Trinity De la Falcon Nelson

Smart meters

These are electric meters that can be read remotely on demand at any time by the electric or gas utility. Nelson has had these for more than a year now. A recent posting on a local public forum website suggested these were the fears they have for electromagnetic transmitter energy would endanger our health, and that the electric utility had a new way to gouge the consumer. These fears were charged by the premier, the MLA (in fact multiple MLS) and this newspaper via letters to the editor. It is their unformed perception that a so-called ‘smart’ meter will be a tool to track the consumer, to be a soapbox for their cause that prompts me to address the other view.

Believe smart meters are a GOOD thing! Read on.

Smart meters are extremely low power devices that spend most of their lives turned off waiting for contact with the electric utility. They transmit for seconds per week on command when they are interrogated. Power output is typically I want in the 900 MHz band and much less in the 2.4 GHz band. The frequency is 0.8 watt cell phone operating at 850 MHz, stack to many people’s ears for hours a day, and your cordless phones, baby monitors, security systems, and wireless home and office and cars, etc.

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To compare a smart meter using similar frequencies and power that is transmitting in some cases 24/7. Many people’s ears for hours a day, and any other negative outcomes.

Commerce is an economic good, with the goal of being invested in society. Pricing the value implores the force of their participation – as it seems historically to be surrounded by, and are not a new way for the electric utility to gouge the consumer. They are for everyone’s health as benefit to technology marches on.

Max Yanke Nelson

Water is a commons, not a commodity

A couple of weeks ago, the provincial government’s proposed changes to our Water Act finally received some publicity in the mainstream press. EcoJustice and Council of Canadians both attacked the proposed water markets and water license trading as a ‘privatization’ of water. The government responded with a vague denial of the Living Smart blog. I was dismayed by both sides in this discussion, as the real issue was not being addressed.

As the Living Smart blog post, the government is not privatizing water in the new Water Sustainability Act (WSA) since they do not own the water. Water is a Commons protected by the Crown to be managed in the public interest by the government of the day. What the WSA policy framework IS doing however is commodifying water. And commodification paves the way to privatization of public water infrastructure, among many other negative outcomes.

The Commons or Commodity debate is ongoing around the world. When a government, as the manager of our water, places an economic value on water with a framework for trading and license markets (no matter how limited), this opens the door to commodification. Commodification is not in the public interest as it is socially unjust, placing water use in the hands of those who can pay the most. This is being missed in the ‘privatization’ discussion is that there are many other approaches in the WSA policy framework aside from water markets that also express the government’s shift to the commodification of our water.

The book Eau Canada (pg. 107) and this about the Commons view on water: “The real ‘water crisis’ arises from socially produced scarcity, in which short-term logic of economic growth is converted to the rise of corporate power has converted abundance into scarcity.”

There is a wonderfully useful chart in Eau Canada that breaks down the two sides of the Commons or Commodity debate. If for example water is considered a Commons, then access to water is defined as a human right. If water remains a common good and the terms are limited. The management process is supply and demand, with the market the manager. Problem solving is by the hard path, meaning large scale technology for dams and diversions; privatization of public distribution systems; complicated expensive technologies; water trading and water markets; conservation incentives and metering. These are exactly what WSA proposes!

Contrast this to the Commons ‘soft path’ solutions: conservation as a social responsibility; rainwater, grey water and storm water harvesting; water recycling; municipal and regional district infrastructure; public investment; local, sustainable food production; and I would add the protection and restoration of our waterways.

As Thompson King explains in Water: Miracle of Nature, the absorption ability of soils depends on the cover. “If rainfall does not exceed 0.4 inches per hour,” he explains, “good forest land will continue to absorb and store up to 17 inches of rain, more than 400,000 gallons per acre.” Talk about conservation of our water supplies, not to mention preventing landslides and flooding problems! None of this is addressed in WSA.

Reading the WSA policy framework, it is quite easy to see that the government has adopted a commodification approach to our water. Now it is the job of the public to demand that the government enshrine in the new WSA legislation the values and solutions that are in the public interest – that is, when water is treated as a Commons, not as a commodity.

The public consultation period has already ended as of March 14 (www.livingwatersmart.ca/blog).
Some experiences pass over us like a light rain and others mark us forever. The experience of New Denver resident Eloise Charet and her sister Anna running an orphanage in Cambodia 35 years ago was definitely the latter.

Now French-Canadian production company Productions Tellimag has expressed interest in producing a documentary about their story. Pending budgetary approval, the company plans to take the Charets with them to Cambodia in September.

Charet has been writing a memoir of her time in Cambodia entitled Adieu Cambodia that is nearly completed. While in Cambodia in 1974-75, she and her sister were interviewed for CBS News on the Walter Cronkite show and were featured in various news reports. Together they cared for 55 Cambodian orphans, including infants left at their Canada House orphanage in Pnomh Penh by desperate parents fleeing the advancing armies of the Khmer Rouge. The orphanage was initially funded by Montreal philanthropist Naomi Bronstein, although once there the Charets raised their own funds to cover food and medicine costs.

“There were orphans everywhere because of the war, the cities were so congested with refugees,” Charet recalls. “Because so many people had been killed in the war, half the country was under age 14. There were a million people walking, covered in grey dust – they just looked like ghost people.”

Eloise and Anna Charet spent a total of seven months running their orphanage on the outskirts of Saigon to establish another orphanage.

However, the Viet Cong had already made major incursions from North Vietnam, creating a new exodus of refugees heading south. When Du Nang fell, reports were circulated of an orphanage run by a priest where the children murdered in their beds. The Charets followed the movement of the Viet Cong with pins on a map as the armies moved steadily, quickly south. Every day the bombs fell closer and closer to Saigon. The Charets were there barely a month before they had to be airlifted out.

“When the Air America flights started, people were hanging off the airplane wheels and falling to their deaths,” says Charet. “How could such inhumanity be possible? It was later on that it all sank in. It just hollows you out, empties you.”

About five years ago, the Charets went to a reunion picnic in Quebec for the former orphans. Some of them had networked through a Facebook page called Canada House. It was gratifying after several decades apart to renew contact and tell the grown children their early histories at the orphanage.

“We just cried and cried,” says Anna about the reunion. “The bond we have is so powerful. We were truly fairy godmothers to them. It was the seed of a generation that was lost in Cambodia. They were precious – soul survivors I call them.”

“Your faith in humanity is just shattered by war,” says Charet. “We just cried and cried.”

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Nakusp council, February 8: Council considers fibre optic internet connection

by Art Joyce

A council discussion at its February 8 meeting an estimate from Richard Wake of CBT regarding the proposed fibre optics connection at the Emergency Services building, with an option for connection to the Village office. The plan and design would cost $10,000-$15,000, with CBT prepared to pay 50 percent. Wake said he would also seek other partners who might benefit and can also cost-share, such as RDCK and the BC government. There is a data centre room in the EMS building that would work for its use. Wake worked with the City of Golden, which has its downtown core connected to fibre optic broadband, by far the most safe and secure internet connection available. Councillor Leitch said he didn’t see the benefit of the idea. Councillor Muehlert felt it was best referred to budget discussions. Council voted to have staff prepare a report and recommendations and table any decision regarding budget deliberations.

During her mayor’s report, Mayor Hamling said she was unable to attend the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital advisory meeting. She reported however that concern has been expressed by the board about Interior Health’s proposal to prioritize capital projects based on ability to pay more than a 40 percent cost-share. The mayor said this could create a dangerous precedent, allowing communities to “jump the queue” and creating a two-tier system for the construction of healthcare facilities based on money rather than need. Council voted to send a letter to IH and relevant agencies expressing these concerns.

Several other items were discussed at the meeting. Councillor Leitch reported that the Nakusp Hot Springs cleared over $91,000 during 2010; some of that will be used to pay down the facility’s debt. Appointed to the municipal board were Councillors Leitch and Hughes, Robyn Grant, Hal Ralphson, and Corrine Tessier. Mayor Hamling noted that she attended the Chamber of Commerce AGM, they are working on a 14-panted trail map and are interested in signage as well. The Chamber is seeking increased funding from the Village. The Municipal Council held a Consultative group meeting held January 31 with Corporal Bryson Hill discussed community policing priorities. Concerns expressed

Permaculture workshop garners strong local interest

by Art Joyce

About 30 people attended a free three-hour permaculture workshop hosted by Valente Kraft at her home in Nakusp the afternoon of February 15. The workshop was led by Rob Avis of Verge Permaculture, a Calgary-based company, assisted by Adrian Buckley of Big Sky Permaculture.

Avis explained that permaculture is a way of designing food-producing landscapes using systems thinking rather than the fragmented way we treat most of our systems are trained by society to use. According to founder Bill Mollison, permaculture is “a philosophy of working with rather than against nature; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than short-cutted and thoughtless labour; and of looking at plants and animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single product system.” As Avis explained, it is about how plants are part of interdependent communities, just as humans are.

With its heavy use of fossil fuels – a finite resource that has passed peak production – current food systems are unsustainable. Every calorie of food purchased at supermarkets requires 10-25 calories of hydrocarbons to produce. Permaculture’s ‘prime directive’ addresses this issue directly: it urges us to: “integrate rather than segregate; and that of our plants by getting our house and garden in order so that they feed and shelter us.” Avis’s said our current approach to housing needs rethinking. Housing developments are designed to flow water away from the property, which then needs to be supplemental watering. Current agricultural practices are depleting valuable topsoil at a dangerous rate. We need gardens that invest 10 calories and produce 100 by using natural systems; they should produce topsoil instead of remove it. Natural systems like forests do this all the time. “Waste is not in nature, it’s in human nature,” said Avis. Principles of natural systems include: systems that are ultimately whole; systems that are ultimately degenerative; can be used as purifiers of septic or grey water.

Permaculture is a way to build our agriculture around them so that nothing is wasted. Industrial systems design out feedback, said Avis. Yet our bodies are feedback systems just as nature is – when our health breaks down it’s telling us something is needed. A smokers compost also generates feedback as to what it needs. The same is true of weeds: often an overgrowth is merely an indicator of a lack of nitrogen or other soil deficiency. “Nine times out of ten we look at the landscape and decide what we want it to be rather than what it wants to be,” explained Avis. “We need to move into regeneration. We can build community through the food systems we create.”

For more information visit www.bergpermaculture.ca.

Viticulture course to be offered at Selkirk College Nakusp

by Art Joyce

Continuing Education (CACE) banner will cover half the tuition of students who can demonstrate financial need. Students interested in this bursary can apply through the college. The CBT has an $800 grant available for those in the region 18 and older. To qualify, the course must be less than six months long and the post-course work to be done should remain within the Columbia Basin. The course cannot lead to self-employment. Students should make an appointment as follows to see one of the Employment Outreach Counsellors at Emergency Services. The Nakusp office is open five days per week and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 3:30 in the New Demon Building. For more information about the course, contact Chris Faint at 250-265-4077. For information about the Arrow Lakes Grape Growers Society, contact Judy Scott at 250-265-3075 or jscestc@telus.net.

Nakusp man arrested for home invasion, assault

submitted by Nakusp RCMP

Nakusp resident James Russell Fraser, 26 years old, was arrested for a home invasion crime on the early morning of February 11 in Nakusp. The victim of the home invasion is a 52-year-old Nakusp man with disabilities who relies on morphine to relieve his pain. He was asleep when the suspect knocked down his door and entered his home with a steel pipe in hand. The victim suffered a broken bone. Property. The man’s name is being withheld, as charges have not yet been laid.

Police have been in touch with NACFOTR (Nakusp Hot Springs) and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. A police officer arrived on April 11 at 3:15 p.m. Several officers found Fraser at a home on P.A.L.S. Drive. He was arrested and taken for processing.

For more information about the case, contact Corporal Hill said he will focus on a foot patrol on the waterfront. The mayor reported that the Nakusp Hot Springs cleared over $91,000 during 2010; some of that will be used to pay down the facility’s debt. Appointed to the municipal board were Councillors Leitch and Hughes, Robyn Grant, Hal Ralphson, and Corrine Tessier. Mayor Hamling noted that she attended the Chamber of Commerce AGM, they are working on a 14-panted trail map and are interested in signage as well. The Chamber is seeking increased funding from the Village. The Municipal Council held a Consultative group meeting held January 31 with Corporal Bryson Hill discussed community policing priorities. Concerns expressed...
Council voted to pass the resolution and send the letter. Council voted to appoint a select committee to review council and tabled action on the Silverton Gallery rental of Memorial Hall as a contribution.

Mayor Everett asked that a copy of the resolution submitted by Peter Roulston be sent the mayor’s letter. At this time Ron Bell asked that a copy of the resolution be included in the annual levy that the Council is considering the use of the Council’s CRTC for the annual permit fees, monthly fees to channel/station providers, occasional emergency staircase pending a full assessment of the building.

Councillor Bell reported that the Village is considering the use of the CRTC for the annual permit fees, monthly fees to channel/station providers, occasional

By compacting plastic recyclables they have been able to market the plastic. Many residents have been circulated and comment from the society. Some of these costs are just $34 per year with the monthly fees delivered, with content and cost as prime considerations.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay allows a portion of tax dollars to cover the many real costs of operating the society. Some of these costs are annual permit fees, monthly fees to channel/station providers, occasional

The committee facility reported that it is tabling action on the Silverton Garden emergency staircase pending a full assessment of the building.

Council issued a request to have the Village be responsible for producing the annual volunteer appreciation awards. Mayor Everett stated the current “rickety old ladder is an accident waiting to happen.” During question period Kathy Provan questioned where the unit would be stored and whether operators would need to be licensed. The mayor agreed to work with the Friends to investigate.

CFO Elaine Rogers obtained a $5,000 grant for restoration of vegetation cut in the village by BC Hydro to maintain its power lines. A $2,000 coupon was also received from the BC Hydro ReLeaf program, redeemable at participating nurseries.

Council voted to support a select committee to review council and tabled action on the Silverton Gallery rental of Memorial Hall as a contribution. The mayor agreed to work with the Friends to investigate.

During question period Ron Bell reported that the Area H TV Society serves North Slocan Valley residents and businesses have expressed concern about safety. Mayor Everett said extensive talks were held with the Ministry of Highways that resulted in getting the bridge fixed.

Councillor Johnson reported on the Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce AGM, noting that thanks to the helpful the club a letter offering to waive the rental of Memorial Hall as a contribution. Council Member Main brought forward her concern regarding the CRTC’s decision to allow internet “metering” that would raise usage costs and could ultimately choke out smaller ISP providers. She further reported that the Slocan Lake Chamber of Commerce has been prepared to assist in moving them.

We came tuned to the air in communications may be because Village representative Councillor Barber has so far been unable to attend SCC meetings. Mayor Everett reported that the event may not happen this year; he is willing to negotiate with the club.

Council discussed its interest in participating in the woodstove swap-out program sponsored by the Province and RDCK. The program provides a $350 rebate for homeowners replacing pre-1994 woodstoves with EPA-located units; of that amount, municipalities pay $100. Councillor Johnson suggested increasing the Village’s contribution by another $100 “so we actually get a few people doing it.” Councillor Main added that residents and businesses have been allocated to repair and expand the bocce pits.

Mayor Everett explained that it wasn’t a “done deal” but wondered if the club would be willing to consider moving the event out of the park, because the Village would like to keep that carpark open during Canada Day weekend if possible. He added that public works manager Leonard Casley is proposing a new location for the bocce pits by the creek and that the Village is prepared to assist in moving them.

Crosswalks were discussed but the mayor doesn’t recommend them because statistically more people are injured or killed on crosswalks. The Village is considering the use of automated speed boards.
Nakusp Rotary Dinner Theatre cures the February blues

by Jan McMurray

If you thought your family was dysfunctional, you probably felt a lot better about it after watching Mirror Theatre’s hilarious production of Larceny and Old Lace at this year’s Nakusp Rotary Dinner Theatre, held February 18 and 19 at the arena auditorium.

After a delicious roast beef dinner buffet catered by Cut-Rite Meats, the audience was entertained by the antics of the zany Peabody family in Larceny and Old Lace.

The two aunts, Millie (Rachel Wyss) and Gertie (Rhonda Palmer) are twittering old ladies who rob casinos and bring the booty back home for crazy Uncle Charlie (Dan Nicholson) to bury. Uncle Charlie thinks he’s a pirate, and Old Lace entertained by the antics of the Peabody family.

Meanwhile, Mordred, in his fantastic robber costume, is waiting for Harold, with the aunts. Of course, he insists on putting the wheels in motion to have him committed. The FBI arrests Mordred for the robbery, and contacts Judge Taylor (Hans Sparrelboom) to have him committed.

While all this is going on, the community bus driver (Alan Niquidet, dressed as a taxi driver) tells him he could have bought the community bus with the fare. Harold can get away, the taxi driver tells him. By the time Harold finds the aunts’ stash, Harold is waiting for Harold, with the aunts. Of course, he insists on putting the wheels in motion to have him committed. The FBI arrests Mordred for the robbery, and contacts Judge Taylor (Hans Sparrelboom) to have him committed. The FBI arrests Mordred for the robbery, and contacts Judge Taylor (Hans Sparrelboom) to have him committed.

Nakusp Rotary Dinner Theatre was an evening full of laughs and great fun. Special thanks to Colin Cunningham for ‘tweaking,’ above and beyond the call of duty.
World Dance show and youth camp coming in March
submitted by Shauna Robertson

A series of world dance events is coming to the Slocan Valley.
March 12 starts the week of dance with the fantastic production of ‘Into the Mystic’ at Winlaw Hall. It will be a night full of exquisite dancers and amazing musicians in a theatrical world dance production that embodies mythologies, traditions and lore from cultures around the world.

Following the dance production will be a live world music infusion with Jimmy from Wassabi Collective, Adrian from Terradactagon, Jesse Lee from the What Now and more. Also playing will be DJ Papa Roots.

This gala show will feature the five dance instructors in Bellydance, Modern, African, Latin and Folk Fusion, who will subsequently teach the Youth World Dance Camp at Slocan Park Hall from March 14-18. With support from the Slocan Valley Arts Council (SVAC), one scholarship is available for the dance camp.

The Youth World Dance Camp and Into the Mystic World Dance Production are being generously supported by CBT, CKCA and SVAC so that valley residents have these amazing opportunities to appreciate world dance in their community.

Tickets for the March 12 show at Winlaw Hall are available at Jennie's Book Garden or Love of Shiva, $10 for adults in advance, $12 at the door; $8 youth 7-14; children 6 and under free. Register for the Youth World Dance Camp at SoulFireDance.webs.com or call 250-226-0087. The dance camp costs $55.

Blue Moon Café school fundraiser to feature Adham Shaikh
submitted by Slocan Valley Whole School

The Slocan Valley Whole School is proud to present the Blue Moon Café, the annual midwinter fundraiser at Winlaw Hall, held this year on Saturday, March 5, Doors open at 6 pm.

The Blue Moon Café has been successfully chasing those snowy blues away for 12 years running. This year is no exception as we have a fabulous, eclectic mix of local and world performers who are guaranteed to stimulate your senses and get your feet moving.

The evening will commence with a tantalizing Italian dinner (vegetarian and non-wheat option) made by our Whole School chefs extraordinaire, complete with salad, garlic bread, and hot beverage choice. The sultry sounds of the amazing Gemma Luna Trio will provide for the ultimate dining experience. Activities are provided for the children during this portion of the night, so parents are sure to enjoy a satisfying and relaxing meal.

The line-up will proceed to knock your wool socks off. Sonico will be bringing the sounds of Ecuador with traditional and original pieces sure to please; the popular and local recording artist JC Van Bengel will be showcasing his folk indie talent; The Morphreexs will be a live world music infusion with Jimmy from Wassabi Collective, Adrian from Terradactagon, Jesse Lee from the What Now and more. Also playing will be DJ Papa Roots.

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The Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society held its 7th annual ‘Day on the Trail’ on Sunday, February 6, at ‘Swan Lookout’ north of Lemon Creek. Pictured are some of the happy crowd who skied or walked in on the freshly groomed trail to enjoy hot chocolate, hot dogs and conversation by the bonfire. For many, this was the first opportunity to view the new interpretive signage, ‘Prehistoric life and settlement in the Slocan Valley,’ recently installed at the nearby archaeological site.

The first annual Nakusp Winter Carnival held on February 12 was a screaming success, with overwhelming community participation from people of all ages. The event was organized by Nakusp Minor Hockey. The next event to watch for is the announcement of the Top Ten finalists for the Kraft Hockeyville title on March 8. If Nakusp makes it, online voting will start immediately at www.krafthockeyville.ca.
Kaslo's Kootenay Mining Museum

Dave May credits the village's glory

Kaslo's Kootenay Mining Museum founded by Dave May

HERITAGE WEEK

“I found Kaslo was full of the remnants of its former glory as a mining boomtown,” recalls May. “The West Kootenays boasted the greatest concentration of old gold towns in the entire country, and even at 16, my interest in all this former activity was thoroughly piqued...”

Jobs were plentiful in those days, and nearly everyone was a sawmill worker, a logger, or a miner. “Stories of the past were rampant,” May says, “and you could just imagine how these stories conjured up images in the mind of a young teenager.” Many side roads through the area led to fascinating mining sites and camps, many of which were abandoned. “It was just as if the miners had simply walked away,” May remembers.

Coincidentally, enter Teresa MacLanders, who would become May’s bride and whose own family members had migrated to the area around 1910. “Their history and the experiences they recounted just reinforced my newly defined interest in finding out more about the mining history of the Kootenays.” By this time, May’s job was decades later – that history lies on display at the Kootenay Mining Museum, carefully and lovingly crafted into a fascinating display at 402 Front Street, Kaslo. May moved to Kaslo from Balfour – decades later – that history lies on display at the Kootenay Mining Museum, carefully and lovingly crafted into a fascinating display at 402 Front Street, Kaslo. May moved to Kaslo from Balfour in 1900, when he was just 16.

The Village of Kaslo hereby proclaims the week of February 21st to 27th, 2011 as HERITAGE WEEK

Come celebrate with us at the Pie Social and Heritage Tea at the Legion on February 26! Mayor and Council Village of Kaslo

Thanks to our historical societies for preserving our heritage.

Kaslo Building Supply

Thanks to the Kootenay Lake Historical Society

Your efforts to preserve our heritage have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for a superb volunteer effort!

Andy Shadrack
Director Area D

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Andy Shadrack
Director Area D

The Village of Kaslo

端午 is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are.”

– David C McCullough

Thanks for keeping our history alive!

Kaslo Pump

Thanks to the Village of Kaslo

You are a historical society for preserving our rich heritage.

Kaslo would not be the same without our commitment to history.

We know that unless we keep the past in mind, we may lose our future.

Woodbury Resort & Marina

411 Highway 2, Kaslo

(250) 353-7117

Corns and visit the historic Kootenays!

Village of Kaslo

404 Front St, Kaslo, BC

(250) 353-9607

Thanks to the Village of Kaslo

Village of Kaslo

404 Front St, Kaslo, BC

(250) 353-9607

The Village of Kaslo

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– David C McCullough
History of the dredges on the Arrow Lakes

by Bruce Rohn, member of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society

Dredging on the Arrow Lakes spanned over 60 years with the use of two dredges, one with a paddlewheel and one that needed to be towed from place to place. There were three difficult seasons in particular, 1893-94, 1894-95, and 1911-12 when the water levels were high. During the 1893-94 season, construction of several wing dams were placed to help concentrate the flow of water into a main channel. The one at the Narrows at Burton would be reworked over the years until the 1930s. In 1897, the SS Nakusp was stranded here for two months. In 1898, the Narrows below Caribou City were dredged for the first time using a CPR steam shovel. At the wing dams, it was all sand and when you completed the first area that the dredge worked. It was also a plentiful winter hunting ground as the animals would gravitate to the hot waters. So for thousands of years, our local natives inherited the heating of the waters of Nakusp, Hallway, St Leon, Hakoyon and all the other wild springs in between. These spiritual hot spots were traditional ‘cultural landscapes’ for a large population of ancestors in the Arrow Lakes Valley.

Nakusp area hot springs contain deep local history

submitted by Sharon Montgomery, Nakusp Museum Society

The theme for Heritage Week this year is ‘Parks and Cultural Landscapes.’ Take your pick – everywhere you look in this Arrow Lakes Valley is a cultural landscape. The Arrow Lakes Indians valued this resource as a spiritual place to go in the winter and sometimes take their terminally ill for a more peaceful passing. It was also a plentiful winter hunting ground as the animals would gravitate to the hot waters. So for thousands of years, our local natives inherited the heating of the waters of Nakusp, Hallway, St Leon, Hakoyon and all the other wild springs in between. These spiritual hot spots were traditional ‘cultural landscapes’ for a large population of ancestors in the Arrow Lakes Valley.

In 1898, the Narrows below Caribou City were dredged for the first time using a CPR steam shovel. At the wing dams, it was all sand and when you completed the first part was filling in. With the building of the SS Nakusp in 1911 and increased tourist traffic, the Nakusp dredge was not able to maintain the narrow channel and a new dredge, the Sheldrake, was built that measured 71.6 feet by 34.6 feet. Robert McWhirter became the first to pilot the new dredge and the Nakusp and Sheldrake worked together until 1914 when the Nakusp was retired. They had to do some reconstruction of the Sheldrake but afterward the dredge worked to keep the channel at 75 feet wide and 8 feet deep at low water. Tugs needed to be rented to tow the dredge to the different locations. Finally the Dorothy Symons was bought for this work in 1917 and renamed Nakusp. Captain Ed Trimble took on the master’s job when Robert McWhirter retired and worked until 1945. At Cottonwood Point, which jutted out into the narrows below Burton, a major reconstruction of the wing dam and channel was made. The channel was 640 feet long with an average width of 125 feet. It was estimated that in digging this new waterway approximately 60,000 square yards of earth was removed weighing 90,000 tons. At the upper approach to the channel there is a dam 540 feet long, which took four months to dig. This work was done by the Sheldrake dredge.

In 1926–27, the Sheldrake was rebuilt and renamed the Arrow Lakes dredge. When the SS Bennington was retired in 1931, the SS Minis was the only steamer on the through run. She drew the least amount of water and could navigate through most places with the least amount of dredging, but dredging continued for the last years of steamboat travel. A few of the last to run the dredge were Louis Montalbetti, Joe Robazzo and Jarrett Johnson.

When the dredge was retired, it was taken back to the government wharf at Nakusp and sold to Doug Hakeman who took it to Revelstoke to become a museum. However, it was burned and completely destroyed one Halloween night.

Without these folks keeping records and artifacts for the public we wouldn’t have a clue where we came from so therefore we won’t know where we are going, we owe these volunteers a lot.

Paul Peterson

Bon Marché DOLLAR $ DOLLAR
thanks the arrow Lakes Historical Society and the Nakusp Museum for preserving the heritage of our valley!
416 Broadway • 250-285-3644

Heritage Week

February 23, 2011 The Valley Voice

HERITAGE WEEK

Village of New Denver

thanks the Silvery Slocan Historical Society and the Kiyowaraai Society.

What a difference a few decades make.....
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Experience the Ultimate. Stay in one of our Deluxe Premium rooms.
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with funding from Heritage Canada.
Slocan council, February 15: Roller derby teams ask to use tennis courts for practices

by Jan McMurray

• Sandy Smith and Krystal Stevenson, representing Slocan Valley’s new roller derby teams, attended to ask council for the use of the tennis courts for their practices. They would like to re-surface the tennis courts with white concrete paint. This would be beneficial to all users of the surface, they explained, as it would protect the surface from heat damage in the summer and provide insulation for the ice rink in the winter.

Smith said they had asked some companies to quote on the job and would forward the quotes to the Village as soon as they come in. She said the roller derby teams were planning a disco dance fundraiser for the project, and asked that the Village contribute as well.

Many roller derby team members also attended to show their support and enthusiasm. Council will discuss the request at a budget meeting.

• A new resident in Slocan, Andrew Cop, attended to offer some help as a volunteer. The recent unplanned replacement of the filters on the water plant, he said, makes the system more comfortable to use and offer to look at the water system to see if he could identify any opportunities for cost savings. Cop is a qualified millwright, electrician and power engineer.

CAO Jack Richardson explained that the Village is now aware of the life expectancy of the filters, so will be able to plan properly for their replacement. He said he had some concerns about Cop’s offer. “I’m concerned about the public being involved where they shouldn’t be involved,” he said, but encouraged Cop to contact him so he could set up a tour of the plant with the public works foreman. Councillor Elliott suggested he participate in the CBT WaterSmart program underway in Slocan, and Mayor Perriere suggested that he consider joining the OCP committee.

• Council will send a resolution in support of the liquor licence application of the Slocan Legion to the Liquor Control Branch in Victoria. Residents were invited to provide input on the application via the Valley Voice and the Village newsletter. No public input was received. The Legion would like to have the licence to serve alcohol upstairs in the games room, where there will be a shuffleboard, TV and hopefully a pool table. Liquor will still only be served on the main floor of the building during special events, under ‘special occasion’ liquor licences. If the Liquor Control Branch grants the application, the upstairs games room will be open to Legion members and their guests only, and will be run by volunteers.

• Council received a letter from two residents asking permission to have a burger shack in the summer months at the beach. Council noted that they had permitted a mobile popcorn vendor and were more comfortable with a mobile set-up rather than a semi-permanent shack. Council directed staff to contact the proponents, give them council’s comments on their request, and ask them to make a presentation to council.

• Council agreed to enter into a service agreement with the Slocan Community Library group, rather than having them operate as a select committee of council. Under the agreement, the Village will provide the group with $1,000 for 2011. The fee will be negotiated annually. The group will now be responsible for its own financial statements.

• Mayor Perrier will appoint five people to the CBT Community Initiatives Funding selection committee. This committee will be charged with reviewing the grant applications received by the Village of Slocan under this program.

• The OCP committee submitted a report based on its review of Patricia Dehnel’s proposal to update the OCP. The committee would like to see more opportunities for public input than Dehnel provides for in her proposal. They recommended one or two more meetings and would like to see clear avenues for public participation at the meetings. Also, the committee points out that there is no reference to mapping in Dehnel’s proposal, and mapping is necessary. The Village will contact Dehnel to discuss these issues.

• Council gave approval in principal for the development of a Village signature stained glass window. Councilor Elliott noted that the new signatures rooms will come up with a strategy and present it to council for approval. Staff was directed to research possible funding avenues.

• A letter from the Women’s Institute (W1) reminds council of its 2009 promise to place $20,000 in trust for the organization to establish a community garden. The CAO reported that no money was budgeted for the project in 2010. Councillor Lunn acknowledged the agreement with the WI, and said council would like to set aside the funds when the project is ready to go. Council directed staff to ask the W1 for more information.

• A ‘Water Conservation Partnership Agreement’ between the Village and the grades 7/8 class at WE Graham was approved. The agreement identifies participating students as ‘Watersmart Stewards’ for the school and states that the Village will support their water conservation activities. Councillor Elliot noted that some students were considering creating a community garden and watering it with rainwater.

• Staff will meet with the WE Graham Community Service Society to have discussions about a Skatepark Operations Manual, which would include a maintenance schedule.

• Bylaw 604, Untidy and Unsanitary Properties, was prepared to caution levels current bylaw was, tabled to a future meeting. Councilor Elliott asked how the bylaw helps with the abandoned trailers in town. Now that they are boarded up, the safety issue of children playing in the trailers is resolved. The CAO said he has requested information from the Minister of Environment, with the ability to tear down unsightly, abandoned buildings and send the bill to the owner. He said he would bring the information forward to council.

• As council has identified policy development as a priority, the CAO is preparing draft policies for council to vote on. Councillor Lunn presented six draft policies at this meeting; four were approved and two were referred back to staff for revision.

• At the request of the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the Village will send a letter to each leadership candidate with copies to all UBCM members, requesting a policy change regarding the presence of industry in BC drinking watersheds. The letter will also be submitted as input into the Water Act Modernization (Water Sustainability Act) consultation process.

New Denver council, February 8: Purchase of electric truck considered

by Michael Dorsey

• Mayor Wright asked council to address the issue of a Village electric truck. Administrator Gordon had reported that a small hybrid gas/electric vehicle would cost around $47,000, noting that Public Works would like a larger truck. There are two bylaws, Bylaws 654 and 655, were by-laws will be issued to the Village. Mayor Wright also brought to council’s attention the fact that, due to a Supreme Court ruling against the Rosebery Parklands Development Society in a suit brought by Brian and Mary Jane Sykes, the Regional District is now faced with a private dock on the foreshore of RDCK property. This property was sold to RDCK in 1985.

• Council discussed a report to the Village byldck Inspector to determine exactly who has authority over existing docks; what procedures exist for requests for necessary maintenance; and asking how the Ministry of Environment ensures the Village will receive responses for comments as none have been received in the past.

Workshop on raising chickens offered at Vallican Whole celebrated by Jen Barclay

Raising chickens can be a fun way to learn everything you need to know. Topics will include ordering and raising chicks, nutrition, equipment for indoor and outdoor rearing, marketing, preparing to process and more. This event will be of interest to current producers, as well as anyone interested in learning how to raise chickens for their own use or sale.

Admission by donation. Bring your own lunch. Pre-registration at 250-226-7100 appreciated. For more information contact Jen Barclay at 250-729-7765 or tudor.morton@250-226-7100.

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription

Only $10-$30
The Schumann Letters was a moving performance

by Cedra Eichenauer

The afternoon of Sunday, February 6 saw a good turnout at the Bonnington Arts Centre for a performance of The Schumann Letters, presented by three very talented performers. Micheal Kim was the first to come on stage. He took his place at the piano and began with Schumann’s Traumerei; Op. 15, No. 7. After a brief time, he was joined by Colin Fox, who acted as the narrator. He described a street scene from an 1854 winter evening in Germany. It is the last day of Carnival before Lent, and despite the pouring rain, revellers in costume fill the streets. So no one finds it odd that a man is hurrying through the darkness dressed only in a night-dress and slippers. He’s on his way to jump off the bridge into the river. This man was Robert Schumann. As Fox finished this opening scene, Susan Gilmour Bailey came on stage and sang Die Lustoblamme. Fox then took us back in time to the beginning of Schumann’s life, telling about his early childhood and love of music, the death of his father and other cherished family members. The narrative was enhanced by passionate performances on the piano, and heart-felt songs from Bailey. Fox used storytelling, and many direct quotes from letters written by Schumann, his love, his mother, and his wife – Clara, and others, to stitch together the story of Schumann’s difficult courtship and finally, marriage. His story ended on their wedding day, with a quote from Clara’s hand. She said she did not imagine life without Robert. A happy ending, except that we already knew Robert would eventually be committed to an asylum. Kim then took the stage once again, a gentle reminder for those wrapped in hope and wonder. These three artists worked together beautifully, when speaking, playing or singing, their faces were alive with emotion, their voices and music vibrant with feeling. When they were not active performing, they honoured their colleagues with attentive stillness. Schumann’s music and songs created a passionate framework for the stories and letters that made up the narrative. The result was a near real experience of moving through Robert and Clara’s lives.

Slocan Valley seed exchange helps gardeners prepare for spring

submitted by Slocan Valley Recreation

Are you thinking about getting to know your garden in the ground? Are you looking for untreated heritage and/or locally grown seeds that are proven to be successful in the area? The annual Slocan Valley Seed Exchange Day is happening this year at the Slocan Park Hall on Sunday, March 6 from 1-4 pm and is a great opportunity for everyone to get in tune with the season ahead.

The event, which is being organized by Slocan Valley Recreation, continues to be one of the largest seed exchange days in the Kootenays, drawing a wide range of organic growers from around the region. It usually features a large selection of local seed, heritage seed, root stock and cuttings. It also features information updates from groups such as Seeds of Diversity on the ever-increasing challenges being faced by those trying to maintain an organic garden.

Everyone is welcome to come and buy, sell or trade at the event, which has grown like the community it is being held in. From the new gardener just starting to work the soil, to those who have tended their gardens for generations, or those who create a variety of other products from the land around them, it’s a day focused on sharing our wealth. If you’re a large vendor you should be contacting Slocan Valley Recreation as soon as possible to reserve table space.

Admission is by donation with a portion of the proceeds going to the Slocan Valley River Farmers Group. For more information, contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008 or via email at slocanvalleyrec@ckidc.bc.ca.

Popular Slocan Valley Kids’ Zone Buy and Sell event returns

submitted by Slocan Valley Recreation

Slocan Valley Recreation will once again be hosting the annual Kids’ Zone Buy and Sell on Saturday, March 5. This popular event is being held at the Slocan Park Hall and runs from 10 am to 12 noon. Every spring the swap is a great place to get kids cleaning out their closets and cupboards and finding items they’ve outgrown, which may just bring them some pocket cash and cash just in time for spring break.

Just what is the Kids’ Zone Buy and Sell and how does it work? It’s a swap meet where nothing but kids’ stuff is bought and sold. Clothes, games, toys, books and sporting goods are just some of the items that can be bought or sold. Parents are asked to run the tables and make the sales. Parents can assist at the tables if they wish, but primarily we’re encouraging young entrepreneurs to experience how it works.

Of course, all ages are welcome to come and shop. In fact, the event has become so popular that it has been able to hire young families to fill their growing children’s needs at a reasonable cost. Be ready to find lots of great bargains.

The Slocan Park Hall can be found approximately 10 km north on Highway 6 from the Highway 3 junction at Playmoro.

For more information or to register as a premium stall holder for the event, contact the Slocan Valley Recreation office at 226-0008 or via email at slocanvalleyrec@ckidc.bc.ca.

Presentation on bear behaviour offered in Slocan Park

submitted by Slocan Valley Recreation

Slocan Valley Recreation is pleased to invite everyone to experience ‘The Bear Necessities’ Thursday, February 24 at 7 pm at Slocan Park Hall. Join the ‘Bear Lady,’ Evelyn Kirkaldy, as she offers a peek into the intimate life of bears and their behaviour through photographs and stories that are guaranteed to amaze, amuse and educate.

Kirkaldy has travelled through bear country from Alaska through Minnesota. Hear about how a grizzly cub came to be known as ‘Bouncer’ and about building an igloo in polar bear country. Or how she spent 10 days in a treehouse surrounded by 16 wild grizzly bears, observing the antics and social interactions of these amazing and highly intelligent creatures.

As an added treat, Kirkaldy has included some of the artwork inspired by her adventures, her passion for bears and the natural world. “With my paintings I try to capture the essence of the landscape, the feeling of living in nature. A forest is not just trees, its a metropolis teeming with wildlife!”

Tips on bear safety in Kootenay bear country will be emphasized and you are encouraged to bring questions. Kirkaldy is the Lower Valley Coordinator for the Slocan Valley Bear Smart Program and an advisor for the Git Bear Smart Society, BC’s pilot program for human/bear conflict management.

Admission by donation will benefit the Kootenay Animal Assistance Program (homes4animals.com). If you are planning to attend please contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 250-226-0008.

Celebrate Heritage Week in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

Everyone is invited to celebrate Heritage Week in Kaslo, the village with over 80 officially designated heritage buildings. A guided tour of Kaslo’s historic buildings will take place on Wednesday, February 23. It starts at the Kaleb Memorial Centre on Victoria St. and includes stops for people to see the renovations that have been underway at the City Hall.

On Saturday, February 26, a Pie Social and Heritage Tea takes place at the Legion from 1 to 3 pm. Sponsored by Columbia Basin Trust, this event includes a lunch prepared by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Admission is by donation, and tax receipts can be issued for donations over $10. Anyone wishing to bring a pie is welcome to drop it off anytime that morning. Non-profit groups are invited to reserve a table at the event by calling Carol at the Village office, 353-2311. The event is in support of City Hall conservation.

What are they building in the blue building in Passmore?

submitted by Christie McPhee

The blue building in Passmore is open to the public once again and there is a lot going on in there. Wee Gallery is having its first art opening, Saturday March 5, from 7-10 pm. The opening will celebrate the many amazing artists and artisans already in the gallery shop, including Karma of Queens Bay, the artist featured in the gallery’s first show. The event will also be a chance to show off the space to interested artists, present the flameworking studio, and showcase the Kootenay Espresso Medics’ machines available for sale.

Wee Gallery will show a different artist on the walls every month and host evening openings for each show with music, refreshments, and Niko’s Bliss coffee.

Christie McPhee, sole proprietor of Stones Throw Glass House and Wee Gallery, has been operating her flameworking studio/supply business from home, deep in the woods of Passmore, since March 2007. She has now moved to the Wee Gallery building and has opened the studio/store to the public, offering beginner lessons, classes, and studio rentals.

Flameworking is an ancient technique of melting glass rods and tubes over a flame to form Hollow and solid objects. The studio is equipped with one torch for flameworking now, and expects to have six by summer. “This will allow us to rent studio space to working glassflowers and students, and to hire instructors for advanced classes where some blowers bring their own torch,” explained McPhee. She is taking bookings for lessons and studio rentals now.

Sharing the space with McPhee is Kootenay Espresso Medics. “No, it’s not a new café, it’s actually our very own espresso machine repair shop,” says McPhee. Previously mobile only, the expanding business needed a storefront location for machines to be dropped off while the medic is out on calls in coffee shops around town.

“After working exclusively on commercial espresso machines for three years, I saw the need for a local repair shop for home espresso machines in the area,” said Kootenay Espresso Medic, Niko Ducharme, a.k.a. Niko Bliss. You might have seen him at festivals, passionately performing the art of barista brewing with vintage restored machinery. Niko services most of the coffee shops and restaurants in the Greater Kootenay area. Now, home users have access to our local espresso machinologist.

For sale at the shop are used and advanced espresso machines and grinders, Evo-Cleaner, a bio-degradable, seat-secure espresso machine cleaner, and Niko’s own Blissford from Oso Negro. Located at 3598 Hwy 6 in Passmore, the studio and gallery are open Wednesday to Saturday, 11-6 and evenings by appointment. Call 250-226-7669 for details.
Kaslo council, February 8: Ministry comments on proposed boundary expansion

by Jan McMurray

• Council received an email from Jeff Nielson of the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development about the Village’s proposal to extend its boundaries to include the airport. Nielson says the ministry generally does not allow for transportation properties such as this, where there are properties in between the Village boundary and the proposed extension. He says it is recommended that the Village approach the ministry and the property owners to determine if they are interested in being brought into the municipality.

Nielson also says he believes the Ministry of Transportation would require that the Village take over Kaslo West Road as part of this extension. This is the road that goes to the transfer station. Currently, Kaslo West Road is under the authority of the Ministry of Transportation and maintained by YRB.

It was not the intention of the Village to purchase the adjoining properties or to assume responsibility for Kaslo West Road, according to the Village’s boundary extension proposal to the West Road, according to the Village’s Transportation and maintained by YRB. under the authority of the Ministry of

• Council received the minutes of a Liquid Waste Management Select Committee (LWMSC) meeting held in January. The committee made five recommendations to council, which were referred to the Development Services Committee for recommendation to council.

Councillors Hewat and Leatherwood stated that the presentations were outside the terms of reference. Councillors Frary and Cormie suggested that the committee’s terms of reference be amended to accommodate the work the design committee is doing.

Council decided to ask the committee to provide a progress report on its work with respect to its terms of reference.

• The five recommendations considered outside the committee’s terms of reference were: that staff review the environmental assessment of the City Hall building should have been completed prior to beginning the renovation work, to determine if there is any asbestos to remove. Council decided to direct staff to inspect for asbestos testing for the City Hall building, and to cost a risk assessment for the building.

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Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation.

As final preparations are being made to complete the Emergency Ward and CT suite additions at the Nelson Hospital, the directors of the Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation has been wrestling with a unique opportunity—“We’re raising some money,” explained director Brian May.

The Foundation Hospital recently completed a 18-month project to raise $1.5 million for a 64-slice Computed Tomographic Scanner. The expected cost was based on estimates provided by IHA equipment purchasing. May also pointed out “that the Salmon Arm Foundation completed their CT fundraising just as we got going and they spent $1.5 million for the same capacity scanner as well as $500,000 for operational assistance. We limited our commitment to $1.5 million.”

In recent meetings the IHA revealed that the General Electric Lightspeed Volumetric CT Scanner will be invoiced $500,000 for operational assistance. We completed their CT fundraising just as was based on estimates provided by IHA.

We completed an 18-month project to raise $3,000 donations toward the CT Scanner package. In the end, Ms. Vesterback has already advised their major suppliers and the fact they chose to buy equipment, to create a contingency fund allowing us to buy other major regional equipment, to create a contingency fund for future projects, or both. Right now we’re excited to think about the opening of the renovated ER complete with the CT suite later this year.

May explained that the Foundation has already advised their major fundraising partners about the windfall and they all envision the opportunities it presents. The Foundation received over 3,000 donations toward the CT Scanner and is typical in fundraising projects of this magnitude, over 30 percent of the funds came from seven major donors.

Completion of the new ER and CT scanner suite are anticipated in the summer of this year with the balance of the project completing in spring 2012.

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YAMAHA
Coping with Transitions program
submitted by Dr. Penny MacCourt

An innovative educational program starting in early March will help caregiving family members from the Nakusp, New Denver and Kaslo areas deal with the loss and grief issues associated with dementia.

“The dementia journey requires ongoing adjustment to many changes over a long period of time that result in feelings of loss,” explains project leader Dr. Penny MacCourt, from the Centre on Aging at University of Victoria.

“Unattended caregiver grief can compound other stressors and increase caregiver distress and negative health consequences.”

Increased access to support will benefit families and may delay the need for placement for their family member with dementia, she says. The program is supported by the Alzheimer Society of B.C.

Interested residents must pre-register for the program by contacting MacCourt toll-free at 1-877-244-0419. She will explain the research project, answer any questions, and provide assessment forms that are required before the first meeting.

The new Coping with Transitions program will connect residents with a skilled registered coach with extensive knowledge and experience in counselling caregivers of people with dementia. Coaching is being offered in both online and telephone group formats, allowing participants to share experiences and to learn from each other, says MacCourt.

The choice of phone or online groups provides convenience, since participants don’t have to leave their homes; and accessibility, which is vital for those living in rural areas. The format also provides participants with choice of location; they can work from anywhere that has a telephone or an internet connection. And they are assured of full anonymity and confidentiality.

“Unattended caregiver grief can unilaterally impact the well-being of the caregiver to the point where it will affect the quality of life of the person with dementia,” says MacCourt.

Interest grows for forestry issues

More tour dates and details will be announced in the coming days. One of the leadership debates will be broadcast via internet video to allow members who are unable to attend to listen in.

The BC New Democratic Party will be electing their next leader through a one-member-one-vote election on April 17.

BC NDP announces leadership debate tour

BC NDP leadership candidates will head out on an eight-stop leadership debate tour in March and April as part of the BC NDP leadership election. The tour will hit Nelson on March 24.

“We’re very excited to be heading out on the road with the candidates for leader of our party,” said Jan O’Brien, BC NDP provincial secretary. “We’ll be stopping in major centres of BC so that every New Democrat and every British Columbia voter will have a chance to meet our candidates.”

The tour stops include Kelowna (March 21), Kamloops (March 22), Nelson (March 24), Qualicum (March 28), Prince George (April 4), Terrace (April 6).

More tour dates and details will be announced in the coming days. One of the leadership debates will be broadcast via internet video to allow members who are unable to attend to listen in.

The BC New Democratic Party will be electing their next leader through a province-wide, one-member-one-vote election on April 17.