The four BC Southern Interior candidates answered a steady stream of questions posed by community members at the All Candidates meeting in Silverton on April 13.

Below, we have paraphrased what each candidate had to say about five of the issues discussed at the meeting.

Climate Change

Alex Atamanenko (NDP): We will take the $2 billion in subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, and put $1 billion into renewable energy projects and $500 million into jobs and the green energy economy, and there will still be some left over. Our climate change bill was killed in the senate, so there was no discussion on the bill. Ours is the first country that had senators kill the bill.

Stephen Hill (Conservative): How do we deal with the infrastructure set up to deal with the fossil fuel industry and shift to green? We started the process in 2007 by cutting subsidies. Wood is what we can do for a green industry in the St. Lawrence and need a businessperson to look for those results.

Bryan Hunt (Green): We will implement what scientists are suggesting. I am here because of the way the previous two governments have handled this. The Conservatives are cutting fossil fuel subsidies over time, but it’s easy to just stop.

Shan Lavell (Liberal): I would love to have an electric car right now, but I was raised on Exxon. We have to love to have an electric car right now, but we have to cut our consumption.

We are energy pigs and we need to reduce our consumption.

We are energy pigs and we need to reduce our consumption.

Peacekeeping

Canadian journalists say we have given $130 billion to multinational corporations over the years. They will trickle down. But it doesn’t work. We need to put in place a system that’s not working. I have been working for the last two years with 26 groups on poverty. We pump money into these agencies year after year. The poverty business is something you can never get out of, no matter how much you put in. I have worked with politicians and this system and it’s broken. We can lift everyone out of poverty in this country.

The problem is we don’t have the right people doing it.

continued on page 3
The Arrow Lakes Historical Society members wish to thank all of you for your support in the CBT Initiatives funding - this will further our aims to complete our goal. We are now waiting for the final plans before putting an ad in for bids to do the construction. As much as possible, all labour and materials will be obtained locally.

Lucerne School student Lena Day was recognized for her award-winning poem at the Royal Canadian Legion West Kootenay Zone Meet, April 17, in Nakusp. Neil Jarvis, poppy chairman of the West Kootenay Legion, displays her poem as John Gates, poppy chairman of the Slocan branch, looks on. The Legion holds the Literary and Poster Contest annually to foster the tradition of Remembrance amongst Canadians.

A Lucerne student wins award for peace poem

by Jan McMurray

Lucerne School grade 5 student, Lena Day, won the provincial award for her poem in this year’s Royal Canadian Legion Literary and Poster Contest. Lena’s poem was first judged by Slocan Legion members, then by West Kootenay Zone Legion members, before advancing to the provincial level. Her achievement was recognized at the West Kootenay Spring Zone Meet, held in Nakusp April 15-17.

Here is her poem, entitled ‘Peace’:

Peace is as beautiful as a single white dove
Peace is about happiness, joy and love
Peace is an amazing, wonderful sight
The need to fight
Peace is when no brother, sister or child
Peace is when the last drop of blood is shed
Peace is when there is nothing horrid left to be said
Peace is when there is no need left to frown
Peace is when the last weapon is put down
Peace is when every last weapon is put down
Peace is when there is no need to frown
Peace is when there is no need left to be said

The change will result in more money for Nakusp and Area H (Slocan Valley), less for Area K (Arrow Lakes) and Area D (North Kootenay Lake), and makes no difference to Slocan, Silverton, New Denver and Kaslo. Starting this year, these four municipalities have benefited from CBT’s new policy that no community will receive less than $30,000.

Nakusp received $18,401 this year, and would have received $20,815 with a population only formula. Area H received $53,224 this year and would have received $58,989 under the new formula.

There is no community that will receive less than $30,000.

Area K received $25,251 this year, and would have received $24,584. Area D received $22,579 and would have received $20,828.

This change does not impact the Affected Areas funding, distributed to communities most impacted by the Columbia River Treaty dams.

The Peace poem is entitled ‘Peace’ and won the provincial award for Lena Day, a Lucerne School grade 5 student, at the Royal Canadian Legion West Kootenay Zone Meet, April 17, in Nakusp.

**An Application for FortisBC Inc.**

**FOR Approval of a Residential Inclining Block Rate**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PROCEEDING CONFERENCE**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 10, 2011
**Time:** 1:00 pm
**Location:** Delta Grand Okanagan, 1310 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

**THE APPLICATION**

On March 31, 2011, FortisBC filed its Residential Inclining Block (RIB) Rate application (Application) with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission), pursuant to subsections 58 and 61 of the Utilities Commission Act.

On October 19, 2010, the Commission issued Order G-156-10, which directed FortisBC to develop a plan for introducing residential inclining block rates that also incorporate a lower Basic Charge (Customer Charge) in the immediate future and to file a RIB rate application with the Commission no later than March 31, 2010. The Application proposes to implement a default mandatory RIB rate for FortisBC’s residential customers. The RIB rate is composed of a Customer Charge and two rate blocks separated by a threshold level of consumption of 1,600 kWh per two-month billing period. The Block 1 and Block 2 rates are set such that 95 percent of customers will experience annual bill impacts of less than 10 percent.

**THE REGULATORY PROCESS**

A Procedural Conference will be held at the Delta Grand Okanagan, in the City of Kelowna, on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 10, 2011, to discuss procedural matters related to the Application.

**PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE APPLICATION**

The Application is available for inspection at the following locations:

FortisBC Inc. Suite 100, 7060 Springford Road Kelowna, BC V1Y 7V7 Telephone: 1-866-436-7847

The Application is also available for viewing on the following web sites:

http://www.fortisbc.com

http://www.bcu.com

**REGISTRATION TO PARTICIPATE**

Those who expect to actively participate in the review process or processes should register as Interveners with the Commission. Interveners will receive copies of the Application, all correspondence and filed documents. Those not expecting to actively participate should register with the Commission as Interested Parties and will receive a copy of the Application’s summary, all Orders issued, and the Commission’s Decision.

Interveners and Interested Parties should inform the Commission Secretary, in writing, by May 4, 2011 of their intention to become Interveners or Interested Parties, and their intention to attend the Procedural Conference.

All submissions and/or correspondence received from active participants or the public relating to the Application will be placed on the public record and posted to the Commission’s web site.

**PARTICIPANT ASSISTANCE/COST AWARDS**

Any party intending to apply for a Participant Assistance/Cost Award is advised to review the Commission’s Guidelines with respect to the requirements for eligibility. The Participant Assistance/Cost Award Guidelines may be obtained by writing to the Commission Secretary, or online at http://www.bcu.com/Documents/Guidelines/2010/DOC_5014_G-72-07_PAAC_2007_Guidelines.pdf

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information, please contact Ms. Erica Hamilton, Commission Secretary as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700
B.C. Toll Free: 1-800-466-1385
Facsimile: (604) 660-1162
Email: Commission.Secretary@bcu.com
Mountain biking tenured offered with conditions

continued from page 1

BC Southern Interior candidates square off in Silverton

by Jan McMurray

Shan Lavell (Liberal): Community development involves all levels of government to be at the table together, looking at options and establishing priorities as a riding or as communities.

One size fits all should not be imposed. There is incredible leadership in this riding – community development type programs can take some time to come up with some cohesive plans that build bridges for the population.

Stephen Hill (Conservative): We all want the same thing. We all live in this area, and it has the worst job situation. Which candidate is going to deliver the best? As soon as I won the candidacy, I knocked on doors. I got the in. Now, I have the mill re-opened. So I created a venture capital pool and transferred ownership of the mill to the local communities and general public as well. Specifically, the focus will be on hiring and spending locally. Any trail development from now on must also conform to strict approval processes and will provide social service.

He advised that this would be issuing a press release in the coming weeks that will outline his plans.

“I am looking forward to helping develop mountain biking in a manner that people can be proud of,” McIntosh said.

BC Southern Interior candidates at a glance

by Jan McMurray

Shan Lavell, Liberal believes that strengthening our social safety net has to be our first priority. “When I hear jobs, jobs, I know that unless we have the other one in the water – affordable housing and childcare options – we won’t go there.” Lavell said the Liberal platform has “incredible depth” with its national poverty strategy, a national childcare program, and environment and sustainable practices. We also want to bring in new industry. Telecommuting is good – it gets cars off the road. There are very few candidates.

Alex Atamanenko (NDP): This is an appropriate time to bring this question forward, when we’re heading into provincial and municipal elections. Let’s pinpoint each party and get them all to say how we can keep the environment intact and can make people can live so they can live here. We have people in Victoria looking at dots on maps. I have networked with local mayors to find out what I can do to work on this issue.

The question of the economy is not a simple one. One of the problems in our region is the draconian policies of this provincial government, which has cut and slashed and often wound up taking jobs from our communities. You can’t just say I’m going to create jobs. First we have to preserve the jobs we have. An organic apples storage business was going to be lost. I made sure we kept 30 full-time jobs going. I have been writing letters to the head of Canada Post to make sure they don’t further cut jobs in the region. These are some of the things I work on. It’s difficult when there is no affordable housing or childcare policies, and that’s what we have to be working on also.

who is going to deliver the best?”

Alex Atamanenko, NDP has been our MP for two terms and feels there is still a lot to do. He said that he and his staff work hard to get results for constituents.

He is concerned about the Conservative government’s direction on foreign policy and corporate rights. He said the Canadian Food Bank made 58 recommendations to decrease poverty, and the Conservative government has not done even one of them. “We all represent our leaders. Stephen, you can’t run away from Stephen,” he said, pointing out that Prime Minister Harper keeps tight controls on his MP.

Atamanenko said that everything in the NDP budget is costed out. The NDP will hire doctors and nurses, and bring in a national childcare program. They will create jobs. Canada is doing well and we want the same thing.

the local communities and general public can be proud of,” McIntosh said.
Musing on the election...

We’re into an election. Stephen Harper’s minority Conservative government has been found to be in contempt of parliament, by Peter Miliken, the Liberal Speaker of the House of Commons. What does this mean? It depends on who you talk to.

Many pundits have opined that it’s not unexpected given the political outlook of the Speaker. Those same pundits are quick to point out that this is the kind of issue that makes governmets look wobbly and incompetent.

It is worth noting that government has been found in contempt for withholding documents that reveal the true costs of their law-and-order agenda. It also worth noting that this is the first time in Canadian history that this has happened. Generally, minority governments don’t try to conceal documents of this nature.

I don’t know about you, but I’d like to know how much more it’s going to cost me, as a taxpayer, to lock up my friends and neighbours for victimless non-violent crimes. Crime is down across the country, unless you believe the mantra that more is going on, it’s just not being reported. I suggest that very few of us fail to report serious crimes to our local police.

It concerns me when my Prime Minister refuses to tell me how much all this is going to cost me. It gives me a sneaking suspicion that he’s not leveling with me about the cost of those fighter jets, either.

I’ve always liked the idea of a strong military. My Grandfather and my uncle were both veterans. But I really like the idea of taking care of our veterans when they get back from the war. I don’t like the idea of veterans lining up at the food bank, because they can’t make ends meet. I like peacekeepers, and think that we should have more than 70 of them. I don’t think that we need a military that supports aggression.

I also like the idea of paying less money in usury to the credit card companies. It’s hard to always pay off the credit cards at the end of the month. A lot of my friends and neighbours can’t do it every time. How much more are the credit card companies stealing from families in interest every month?

I don’t like having to pay for things that used to be exempt. I’m not impressed that the Conservative government in Ottawa bribed the Liberal government in Victoria with 1.6 billion tax-dollars to shove this thing down my throat. Or that the Liberal ‘opposition’ aided and abetted them in this. I kinda like the idea that an NDP government would forgive us that money if we reject the HST in our upcoming referendum, even as I realize that the NDP is unlikely to form the government and will likely never have to. Still, there’s no point in voting for the Conservatives or the Liberals, if you don’t like the HST. There’s no point in voting for the Liberals in either of the constituencies that we serve, unless you really want them to get the $2 subsidy that goes with your vote. They’ve got about as much chance of getting elected as the Greens. Probably less, here in the Kootenays.

I really liked Jim Abbott. He was a good MP that accomplished a lot for his constituency, but I get the feeling that his heart wasn’t in it for the last few years. He was first elected to reform parliament, to give us an elected senate and more referendums. It must be heartbreaking to watch your leader stack the senate, and then concentrate more and more power in his office.

I’m not sure that David Wilks is a man of the same character. I haven’t met him, and I’ve certainly heard nothing in terms of wanting more democracy in this nature.

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

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter “LETTER TO THE EDITOR.” Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Opinions expressed in published letters are the author and not necessarily those of the Valley Voice.

Get smart

We should take a page from Quebec’s voting trends. They vote strategically to gain the most for their province, to the point of blackmail, constantly benefiting that province extremely well financially.

We on the other hand constantly away our opportunities by voting for a party that will never obtain power in Ottawa and therefore renders the West a pygmy that is pitifully impotent to legitimate prosperity here.

Why do we not collectively vote for the winning side to make this area important to Ottawa – to think SMART, putting our ideology aside to see what that may bring to this wonderful region.

Gail Toop Rosebery

Peace Tax Trust Fund

Buried under a pile of papers on my desk is a plastic package from Revenue Canada. As I prepare to submit my income taxes I have been reflecting on how these dollars will be spent. At present, roughly nine percent of our income tax dollars are directed to the military. If you object to war, that’s a hard fact to swallow.

In the context of rising militarism and ecological devastation, I want to dedicate my money and my time to creative, constructive, peaceful solutions. I cannot, in good conscience, allow my tax dollars to fund the military. For the past several years I have deposited the military portion of my taxes into Consience Canada’s Peace Tax Trust Fund. I invite you to consider doing likewise. More information about how this can be accomplished, including a 2010 Peace Tax Return, is available from Consience Canada: www.consciencecanada.ca.

Anna Kirkpatrick

Edgewood fuel reduction project

I have been employed on the fuel reduction project at Edgewood. We saw the overall fuel load reduced by the debris collected by community members on our slab piles. Even as we worked, boards with nails and branches were added to the huge piles. One dumper was reluctantly deterred. Where did that load end up?

The comments we received were: “You guys can clean it up.” “Everyone else does it.” “What is I supposed to do with it?”

We were preparing a forest fuel break around the town. Initially, I considered the protection from forest fires reaching the community. Ironically, the fuel break may serve to protect the outskirts from the fire hazard of the debris piles. Not all the cost-offs will burn. The bricks, cement, plastic and metal will serve to remind us of the thoughtless actions of many years.

Problems need solutions. As the pupils view this disgrace from the schoolyard, is the lesson learned one of disrespect? Why not demonstrate how to be a steward of the earth and restore our responsibility? Doing nothing is tacit approval.

If prunings and woody debris are a disposal issue, perhaps the community members could arrange for a chipper to spend a few days here. That action is conceivably more viable than a community-owned chipper. Leaves and used potting soil should be composted.

The way of the best is top down. What do you pack in? Would you want other peoples’ discards left in your house?

Some of our crew members were from out of the area and worked tirelessly to beautify and protect our town. I was embarrassed at the mindless conduct of the residents defacing the beauty of their backyards.

Call the RAPP line to report polluters. If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem.

Lies Wood

Edgewood Our lives and freedoms are strictly controlled

Stephen Harper has determined that he wants to spend billions of dollars to build prisons and to fight a war on drugs that is unwinnable.

He calls them “unreported crimes” – what can unreported crimes be but violent acts? In a truly free country to determine for oneself what one’s life is nothing but a personal right.

You can find an excellent argument for this by Lysander Spooner in the 19th century. It is more relevant today than ever. You can read this at www.lysanderspoon.org/VicesAreNotCrimes.htm.

Our lives and freedoms are strictly controlled. The government has never worked, continues to be costly, and perpetuates the progress toward a police state. Over 50 percent of Canadians are in favour of some form of legalization of cannabis.

Yet under threat from the Americans to close the border, our government continues with this anti-freedom policy. This is an affront on taxpayers and the individual right of citizens in a supposedly free country to determine for themselves how they should live.

The history of the prohibition of cannabis essentially began with Harry Anslinger. The story is a ‘must read’ for anyone wanting to make an informed opinion about this issue and to have a serious look at how corrupt large corporate power has shaped our world through manipulation and lies. You can find this story at www.drugwarwarrant.com/articles/why-is-marijuana-legal.

Canada has always followed the US example and that is why it is illegal here. Alcohol is far more dangerous than cannabis; however, it is the drug of the...
continued from page 4

majority while cannabis is a drug of a minority.

We are now at the point where our lives and freedoms are strictly controlled by large corporate interests. Drug companies do not want people using cannabis. What drug companies want are people taking pharmaceutical drugs that have side effects creating the need for other drugs and to perpetuate health problems in the interest of profit. People should have the right to determine for themselves if they wish to purchase natural medicines (herbs) or alternative health care for themselves and to procure these products and services from whomever they wish. At what point have we ceased to be free individuals and have become total subjects of the state?

Ed Nixon Winlaw

Vote swapping with a difference

I have attended two All Candidates meetings in BC Streamer Interior; one as an observer and one as a stand- in for the Green Party candidate, Bryan Hunt. It is apparent that many voters are disillusioned with the fact that Elizabeth May was excluded from the TV debates. Here is a suggestion. If you are a Green-leaning New Democrat or a Green-leaning Conservative, even a Green-leaning Liberal, go out and find someone from the opposite side of the political fence and make a pledge to each other to vote Green in 2011.

It is so very obvious that the situation in Ottawa is broken and both NDP MP Alex Atanaseanu and Conservative candidate Stephen Hill are admitting that in public. My father was a life-long Conservative voter who considered himself as a child that in a democracy it was your duty to defend everyone’s right to free speech, especially those you disagree with, because if you did not do so you may no longer be living in a democracy.

Earlier in the campaign I spoke in a radio interview about how disgusted I was that the only female leader of a political party was excluded from the TV debates, and as a stand-in I pointed out to the voters that not one leader of the other political parties came to Elizabeth May’s defence.

At age 85 my father, having voted Conservative since he was 21, voted Green. Tired of the candidate choices before him he had decided not to vote, but in 2006 after a short while, AECL ordered the reactor ordered back into operation. The 52-year-old reactor had had several shutdowns in previous years for repairs and upgrades. At this time it was leaking heavy water – containing radioactive tritium in large quantities – more than the previous year, when the leak had mysteriously disappeared without being fixed. In addition, the reactor had been running without the emergency backup cooling pumps. The pumps had been seasonally dismantled, required for over twenty years, in contravention of the reactor’s operating licence. (Basically the same situation that caused the nightmare at the Japanese Fukushima Daiichi Reactors.)

The Harper government, on the other hand, felt that thousands of patients worldwide were denied needed medical isotopes for radiation cancer treatments and diagnostic purposes. And that the crown corporation, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd (AECL) was deprived of $10 million annually which it used to sell its isotopes. Harper the hero helping the medical community. He’s hoping Canadians won’t notice the $30 billion (nearly doubled from the original $16 billion estimate) he wants to invest in F-35 jets to replace the Canadair. In fact Harper was so financially incompetent that he was unable to sell his nuclear dreams.

In countries the US wants to take over. Oh don’t worry, it won’t be with your child with the back of its head resting on the ground as the F-35 passes over. But it will be someone’s child, and the official, dismissive words “collateral damage” will fully capture the scene, don’t they?

Don’t focus on the billions he intends to devote to criminalizing and locking up a lot more people. Give a note of hope to those of this country, carefully following the failed US method. And who remembers that Harper left politics with a Legal and Work for the National Commons Coalition (LWW) to found the concept of a national health care system? Give Harper a majority and kiss goodbye to medical aid as we know it.

Climbing back into Harper’s frame, I ask whose economy is he talking about anyway? Increasing corporate profits do not help the rest of us if their tax rates are always being cut. Are we comfortable with CEOs awarding themselves millions of dollars while their workers struggle to make ends meet?

Ethics are very important. What is the use of a government we cannot trust, one for whom only corporate profits do not help the rest of us? The corporate economy counts? It is human beings who need to be free and supported by government, not some simplistic concept of a market which always seems to favour the ultra-rich.

I want a government which faces up to the responsibilities of saving our environment against green energy, which handles the tar sands with due care, stops exporting asbestos, deals with the issues of drug addiction and crime in a facts-based, intelligent fashion, retains as government services anything of supreme importance to people, and fight for the gap between rich and poor. Harper supports peace not war, and, last but not least, really is open, honest and generally works for the common good.

So, no, Mr. Harper, the economy is not the only important thing; the type of country that Canada becomes is very important too.

Keith Newbery Slocan

Open letter to Premier Christy Clark

Congratulations on becoming the Premier of British Columbia. Our Association members are encouraged by your words that you intend to represent the people of British Columbia.

We are enclosing a box of background documents, including letters and petitions that clearly support your government’s policy that the appropriate protection for families, who live at the base of this unique fragile mountain, is to protect the remaining intact area as a protected area.

Protection of Perry Ridge has the support of Maude Barlow, United Nations’ first woman to the President of the United Nations General Assembly, and Dr. Robert Sandford, EPCOR Chair of the Canadian Partnership Initiative in support of United Nations ‘Water for Life’ Decade.

Over the past two decades Perry Ridge Water Users Association (PRWUA) has been working to protect the water quality of the CPC (CNSC), was fired by Stephen Harper’s government in 2009. The CNSC, an independent quasi-judicial agency, responsible for the safety of all major nuclear facilities in Canada, and cannot be overtaken by politicians – except by somebody as irresponsible and democracy-disregarding as Stephen Harper.

He and her expert scientific staff concluded in 2009 that the reactor was unsafe to stay in operation. The 52-year-old reactor had had several shutdowns in previous years for repairs and upgrades. At this time it was leaking heavy water – containing radioactive tritium in large quantities – more than the previous year, when the leak had mysteriously disappeared without being fixed. In addition, the reactor had been running without the emergency backup cooling pumps. The pumps had been seasonally dismantled, required for over twenty years, in contravention of the reactor’s operating licence. (Basically the same situation that caused the nightmare at the Japanese Fukushima Daiichi Reactors.)

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So, no, Mr. Harper, the economy is not the only important thing; the type of country that Canada becomes is very important too.

Keith Newbery Slocan
A regular meeting of the new Area H North TV Society board was held immediately after the AGM Wednesday, March 9 at the Hidden Garden Gallery. A good deal of discussion took place around a number of issues, including the current and ongoing equipment upgrade, the need for maintenance of the wooden transmitting tower, the possibility of changing to digital signals and the possibility of adding another channel or more to the current service provided.

The new board is very interested in any and all feedback from the community regarding this current service as well as possible changes in the future. New members are also welcome. Please contact any board member with your thoughts and suggestions.

Silvery Slocan Historical Society calls for volunteers

The Silvery Slocan Historical Society (SSHS) held its annual general meeting at the Hidden Garden Gallery on the evening of March 23. One of the topics for discussion included the need for new volunteers to replace board members needing a break after many years of hard work.

The five current members of the board were all present: President Webb Cummings, Secretary/Treasurer Agnes Emery, and regular board members Gordon Butt, Colin Moss and Michael Brown. Also attending was Claudia Jupp, the society’s bookkeeper.

The financial report showed that the society is in good financial shape for the coming season. Webb Cummings presented the society’s report and informed the society that it would be his last one. There was no election of officers and the board remains the same.

Cummings, after over 20 years, wishes to retire but was unable to do so because one would step forward to take over.

The Valley Voice April 20, 2011

SLOCAN VALLEY

discusses service upgrades

The annual election of officers at the AGM was handled by Webb Cummings. A new board was elected with Peter Routlton as the new president, Dave Everest as the new secretary/treasurer and Rod Farnsworth as a new director.

The board has a minimum membership at the moment and needs new members.

After the AGM a brief regular meeting was held. An application is in for a summer student. Progress on the Molloy Hughes and Bank of Montreal exhibits was discussed. Plagues in recognition of the Makortoff and Peterson family donations are ready for mounting.

Also discussed was what would happen to the Museum and the artifacts if the Society should fold.

Kootenay Slocan Lions recognize valley volunteers

The Kootenay Lions Club will be erecting benches like this to recognize Valley volunteers.

The Lions Club is soliciting nominations of those worthy of recognition from all community groups in the valley as well as from private citizens. A selection committee comprised of Lions Club members and other interested citizens will choose the volunteers and/or organizations to be recognized each year. Some possible examples of volunteerism to be honoured might be from the fields of arts, culture, education, recreation, emergency services, environmental protection, support for children, youth or seniors, community-minded businesses, and valley pioneers. Deadline for nominations is May 27.

Anyone interested in serving on the selection committee, submitting a nomination or for more information, contact Don Munro at 250-226-7855 or Norm Essery at 250-226-7745 or mail to Kootenay Slocan Lions, Site 18, Comp 8, RR#1, Winlaw, BC V0G 2B0.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

NOTICE – ARBOR DAY

The Village of New Denver is holding an Arbor Day on Thursday, April 28, 2011. We will pick up all yard and pruning waste that is placed at the curb by 8 am. Please ensure that all branches are bundled and tied and all garden refuse (leaves, etc.) is bagged. Absolutely no household garbage or construction material will be picked up. Thank you for your cooperation.

FrontCounter BC Cranbrook has accepted an application made by Silverton Transport Ltd. of Silverton BC (Box 70, VOI 2BO, Attention Stuart Nelson, Ph. (250) 358-2360), on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations (MNRO), Kootenay Region, for a Licence of Occupation and Notice of Work and Reclamation Program for the purpose of sand and gravel extraction situated on Provincial Crown land approx. 11 km. South of Silverton BC (within mapsheet 82F083 in DL 8428, KD accessed from Highway 6, point of reference 470226.61E 5524095.30N, zone 11).

The MNRO File Number that has been established for this application is 4405124 (lands) and 1630554 (mines). Written comments concerning this application should be directed to the Natural Resource Officer at FrontCounter BC, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook, BC, V1C 7G1 or email to: AuthorizingAgency.Cranbrook@gov.bc.ca.

The Notice of Work and Reclamation Program can be viewed at Service BC in Kaslo, Nelson and Trail. Comments will be received by FrontCounter BC until May 20, 2011. FrontCounter BC may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please refer to our website: http://www.arfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp Search by File Number: (insert lands file number) for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the FOI Advisor at the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations regional office.

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Nakusp council: community groups can’t afford arena fees

by Art Joyce

Nakusp Rotary Club president George Harding appeared as a delegation to discuss rental fees for the auditorium. Harding noted that Nakusp Rotary is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and is the only club in Nakusp that has raised the $125,000 to build the Nakusp Public Arena. Harding added that Rotary has been one of the groups that in the past have contributed to arena improvements. He said Rotary and other non-profit groups are “in a precarious position where we’re struggling financially with fees for the use of the auditorium.” Community groups such as the Mirror Theatre and the high school drama class have had to pay to use the auditorium for rehearsals and are unable to bear the cost. The Rotary-sponsored Citizen of the Year event has had to be moved back to the Legion hall, said Harding. Meanwhile, groups such as the Arrow Lakes Arts Council have had to scale back concert events to fit the Bonnington Centre also due to costs.

Councillor Hughes wanted to know what these community groups would consider affordable rates. Mayor Hamling said she sympathized but that the tax base is barely sufficient to cover the $1.5 million that must be paid to BC Hydro for the 300-unit building.

Mayor Hamling reported from the physician’s recruitment committee that Dr. Jennifer Cochrane will be filling in from May 16 to the end of August. “We haven’t had much luck at this point in getting anyone permanently; a lot of them don’t want to be doing the on-call.” She has had discussions with IHA about the possibility of relieving the situation by bringing in a nurse practitioner. She said IHA is amenable to Nakusp keeping its acute care beds and a 24/7 ER.

The mayor noted that this year’s provincial Strategic Community Investment Fund grant to the Village was only $199,000, when it had been $340,000 in previous years. Upon investigation with Minister Naslund and Natural Resource Operations, prescription is done although it must be submitted to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for approval. There will be an open house for public comment on the prescription at the BC Hydro offices from 4-6 pm on April 28.

There are five sites totalling 23 hectares slated for fuel reduction. Two sites are Crown land; one by Nakusp elementary school and two are municipally owned. Two of them are between the hot springs and airport roads near Highway 23; two by the sewage lagoon and industrial park; the railway grade/recreation trail, and the school site. “It’s a fairly low impact treatment we’re prescribing in all areas,” says Nielsen. “There’s been a bit of a term it’s only going to keep going up,” says Nielsen. “There’s been a bit of a backlash because one area has been lightly treated to reduce burning. The school site was treated for density and take out combustibles. But we’re prescribing in all areas,” says Nielsen of True North Forestry says the Arrow Lakes community forest has reached its forest fuel reduction strategy. Jesper Tithecott is a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) trained at the West Coast College of Massage Therapy, practicing for over 10 years now. In addition she has a Bachelor of Kinesiology (Exercise Science) degree from the University of British Columbia. She has completed many short distance races, endurance distance road races, trail races, and triathlons. This family event has something for everyone, even if you’re not a runner. There will be post-race refreshments, awards, and entertainment. The group is up to 25 members. “I figured since I had the experience and I wanted to meet some people, why not offer a running clinic for beginners and those wanting to get back into it,” says Tithecott. “And so began the 10 week 5k run/walk clinic.”

The Nakusp Veterinary clinic will be offering free tattoo identification and PALS will be offering a 25% subsidy on all cats spayed and neutered during the month of April. If you live between Edgewater, Silvertown and Trout Lake, you’re eligible! Call the clinic at 250-265-4442 or PALS at 250-265-3972. PALS is also looking for plant donations for our Mother’s Day Plant Sale, May 16. 

“Nakusp Citizen of the Year Banquet
The Awards ceremony will be at the Legion Hall May 7, 2011 Saturday
The winners are George Harding and Hazel Rossman
Tickets are at Barton Insurance $16.00
There will be a meal served by the Legion Ladies w/ dessert.
Sponsored by the Nakusp & District Rotary Club

To Celebrate the Year of the Cat...
The Nakusp Veterinary Clinic will be offering free tattoo identification and PALS will be offering a 25% subsidy on all cats spayed and neutered during the month of April. If you live between Edgewater, Silvertown and Trout Lake, you’re eligible! Call the clinic at 250-265-4442 or PALS at 250-265-3972. PALS is also looking for plant donations for our Mother’s Day Plant Sale, May 16.

Ida Chong’s office she learned that many municipalities have been complaining about this through the UBCM, and that a second cheque will be issued later this year to bring funding back to normal.

Mayor Hamling said preparations for the Targa auto racing event are proceeding, with plans for viewing areas along the hot springs road to accommodate about 500 people. Some laps will be done around town and racing vehicles will be at the arena for viewing. The mayor further reported that progress is being made on the airport webcam which should be installed in June. She said she has written a letter to BC Hydro stating that council is unhappy with construction for the new wharf being postponed until January 2012.

Councillor Leitch reported that he attended a workshop on carbon credits but that they don’t apply to the community forest. He reported from the hot springs committee that the recent Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis has identified some immediate areas of financial opportunity for the facility.

Councillor Heppner, communicating by teleconference, asked that the BC Hydro smart meter program be brought forward from information. A motion was passed that staff investigate the costs and potential health issues related to the meters.

by Art Joyce

Nakusp is a step closer to completing its forest fuel reduction strategy. Jesper Nielsen of True North Forestry says the prescription is done although it must be submitted to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for approval. There will be an open house for public comment on the prescription at the BC Hydro offices from 4-6 pm on April 28.

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Japanese crisis causes Japanese family to relocate here
by Art Joyce

When the crisis erupted in Japan Yoichi decided to get his wife Misa and his children Jasmine (7), Marin (4), and Luke (14) months, safely out of range of potential radiation fallout. The family was searching for a school in a Vancouver area but it was spring break at the time and no responses were coming in. It was then they came across the Lucerne school website. Katrina Sumrall answered their enquiry and contacted Taeko Miwa, currently in Japan with her family, to arrange accommodation in Miwa’s New Denver home. The Kids have been living about 200 kilometres from the nuclear zone at Fukushuma in Chiba prefecture, close to Tokyo where Yoichi works. Misa’s parents live further south in Kumamoto prefecture.

WE Graham plans outdoor classroom project
by Jan McMurray

WE Graham School is applying for a $14,000 grant from the University of British Columbia to create an outdoor learning environment and intergenerational park in the vacant lot beside the skatepark.

The UBC rural innovation grant is being made available for up to 15 projects that will respond to the need for change in public education in BC. Andre Derias, teacher at WE Graham, made a presentation about the project at a public meeting at the school on April 6. The vision is to transform the Village-owned lot into a park, with benches and tables where students can study, and gardens and a greenhouse so students can learn about growing vegetables. Bats, birds and bird houses and feeders are also part of the plan. The BMX track that is currently on the site would remain, and perhaps be improved. The students would be involved in the planning and set-up as much as possible.

“Learning from a book is not always possible in a multi-age class,” said Derias. “A lot of kids hang out there already, so they might take care of it,” he added.

He said the vision includes seniors and people of all ages gathering in the park, encouraging intergenerational interaction.

UBC is very interested in the project, he reported, and has given the school a $400 grant for a planning committee. WE Graham Community Service Society and Slocan council are both in support of the project.

Nakusp Museum to celebrate centennial of Bonnington launch
submitted by Sharon Montgomery

One hundred years ago on April 24, 1911, a civic holiday was declared in Nakusp. All schools were closed along with all businesses as everyone headed to the lakeside for the huge bonfire burning of the largest sternwheeler to sail the Arrow Lakes, the SS Bonnington. They also supplied free beer for everyone.

At the Nakusp Museum we would like to celebrate the occasion by opening free for the day on Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24.

To be considered qualified in any category, contractors should possess the following minimum requirements:
- An active WCB number and appropriate classification
- Liability Insurance
- Experience, with references

Interested parties should complete an Expression of Interest form available at the SIFCo website at: www.sifco.ca/wp-content/uploads/contractor-ex-interest.pdf

If required, contact SIFCo and we will mail you a form.

Please return completed form by mail to the address below. Complemented forms should be returned to SIFCo by May 20, 2011.

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Three of Vancouver’s brightest musical acts

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e.s.l.

SUNDAY APRIL 24
Silverton Art Gallery
7pm $10
Slocan council, April 11: Council supports school’s project proposal

by Jan McMurray

• Council will provide a letter of support for the school’s project to transform the vacant Village land beside the skatepark and school playing field into an outdoor classroom and intergenerational park. Councillor Lunn is on the project committee “with another hat on” but will represent council as well.

• Joanne Ellis from WE Graham Community Service Society attended to inform council that Slocan Holdings has offered the society eight light standards. She said they were beautiful, old metal standards from Vancouver and are the style that focus downwards. The society would like to install five of them around the skatepark, and may build seating around them. She said they would bring engineered design drawings and plans to council. They would want to light up the park until 11 pm on Friday and Saturday when the youth centre is staffed, and park until 11 pm on Friday and Saturday if the kids ask. Ellis said she would talk to the neighbours about this beforehand.

The society will pay for the engineer and electrical, and the operating costs. Council passed a motion of support and electrician, and the operating costs.

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The society will pay for the engineer and electrical, and the operating costs. Council passed a motion of support and electrician, and the operating costs.

• Staff was authorized to sign the document on the project, which includes a 10 Year Capital Works Plan/ Water Master Plan; leak detection; a Water Smart Ambassador; a residential survey; a water meter pilot program; and water smart planning for the WE Graham School project to develop the vacant land beside the skatepark.

• Acting Corporate Services Manager David Mills provided a report on the two part-time summer positions that council is considering: the Water Smart Ambassador and the Water Front Ambassador. The Water Smart Ambassador, part of the CBT program, will advise residents about ways to conserve water at home. Council had hoped to share a Water Smart Ambassador with Kaslo, but this did not work out. The Water Front Ambassador patrols the beach area to help relieve parking congestion and dog problems. The Village has applied for a Canada Summer Student grant for the Water Front Ambassador. Council must decide whether to hire two people or to combine the two positions into one. With a training session coming up for Water Smart Ambassadors in early May, Mills asked council for direction. Council asked staff to set various parameters for each program position, and to send Mills to the training session so he would be able to train someone if necessary.

• The Slocan Valley Community Complex Society asked council to pass a resolution in support of a referendum on their proposed project, to be held in conjunction with municipal elections this fall. The society has hired a consultant, A. David Watson, to produce a planning document on the project, which includes a swimming pool with the possible addition of a portable ice surface. The society owns land, which could be brought into the Village, subdivided and sold as part of the fundraising for the project. Council decided not to set up a meeting with the society and Area H Director Walter Popoff before making a decision on this.

• Council received an invitation from the Inspector of Mines to comment on an application for mineral exploration up Springer Creek Road. The map indicates that some of the work may take place in the Springer Creek drainage. Council decided to notify the ministry that the Village intends to proceed with a microhydro project on Springer Creek, and that the Village wishes to avoid any possible conflict that may negatively impact on the hydro project.

• As per Community Charter requirements, the CAO reported on the 2010 remuneration and expenses paid to each member of council. Remuneration was $5,000 for the mayor and $3,125 for councillors, for a total of $17,500. Expenses totalled $8,260.10.

• Public Works Supervisor Tim Hill reported that the Village’s sweeper has reached the end of its life. As the Village cannot afford a new one, he has arranged for YRB to sweep the streets at a cost of $88.15 per hour. Hill estimates that the job will take less than a day. A new outhouse is being built in the testing area of the RV park. It can be easily converted to a washroom building with a flush toilet and septic system if desired in future. New animal-proof garbage/recycle bins have been installed in various locations. The first week of May will be clean-up week.

• Letter from the Women’s Institute informs council that the WI and the Legion have engaged an engineering firm to conduct a preliminary feasibility study on the Silvery Slocan Hall. The groups are also considering buying a portable commercial kitchen, and would like to have the hall’s septic tank pumped. They asked that $5,000 of the promised $20,000 from the Village for the commercial kitchen be released to pay for the septic tank pumping. Council would like to discuss these projects with the groups first, so asked staff to arrange a meeting.

• CAO Richardson reported that the Sustainability Plan is not complete, and the drafts provided so far “don’t add up to what we need.” The contractor disagrees. The final payment of $9,800 has not been made to the contractor. The ministry is reviewing the report. A consultant with experience doing Sustainability Plans has taken a quick look at the report, and has indicated it would cost $5,000-$25,000 to complete. Richardson reported that there is $20,000 in this year’s budget to complete the plan.

• Councillor Elliott reported on a recent Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC) meeting. Discussion centred around the function of the organization and the slocanvalley.com website. The website needs updating and ongoing monitoring. If the SVEDC takes this on, it would account for virtually all of the organization’s annual budget, so it would be the sole function of the SVEDC. Councillor Elliott said she doubted if people would want their tax dollars to go towards a website, but she wanted to bring this forward for people to consider.

• Bylaw 606, regarding business licences was given three readings. A business in Slocan pays $100 per year for a licence under the bylaw; a home-based business pays $75; a mobile vending business pays $25.
The New Denver community production of Little Shop of Horrors played for two nights to full houses at Lucerne School. The production featured Rowan Tichenor and Sadye Butler doing a fine job in the lead roles, with an impressive performance by Larry Zaileki as the evil dentist and Jeff Pilsner ideally cast as the voice of the plant.

Ty Klassen performed in the Arrow Lakes Arts Council’s Community Concert with a story about chickens entitled “The Ladies & Me.”

About 25 Lucerne School students gathered together at the school April 10-11 to participate in the 30 Hour Famine. They raised roughly $2,000 for World Vision’s educational programs. Student Danika Hammond, key organizer of the annual event, has applied to World Vision to go to Africa as a youth ambassador for two weeks this summer. Only six Canadian students will be chosen.

Lucerne School has a new website, thanks to this group of women. Check it out at www.lucerneelementary.ca.
Nakusp Minor Hockey wraps up season

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp Minor Hockey has had another successful season. The Midget Rep team went to Surrey for the Provincial Championships, March 20-25 and were named the Most Sportsmanlike Team. They tied for third place in the tournament, but ended up fourth after calculations were made. Seven teams participated. “They represented Nakusp Minor Hockey very well. We’re very proud of these boys,” said Rusty Reimer, parent of a Midget Rep player, and Nakusp Minor Hockey coach and president.

The Pee wee team went into the finals first in the league, but lost the final game 3-2 to Nelson. “We thought they’d win the banner, but they were just one goal short. It was a very exciting game,” says Reimer. “They had won all their games and the very final game was the first one they lost in the playoffs. It was a heartbreaker, but they did very well this year.”

Nakusp hosted the Atoms playoffs this year. Reimer reports that the Nakusp team played very well, but they came up short.

The annual Awards Night was held on April 12, with the following results.

Coach of the year: Pee wee House Coach Ken Nichols
Senior Official: Jody Bateman
Junior Official: Nathyn McInnes
Midget Rep: Best All Around - Ryan Bateman; Playmaker - Kris James; Defensive Player - Brody Simpson; Best Goalie - Cam MacPherson; Most Sportsmanlike - Jacob Balske; Most Improved - Dylan Hascarl; Most Dedicated - Mitchel Hascarl.

Midget House: Best All Around - Connor Reimer; Playmaker - Zac Friedenberger; Defensive Player - Tyson Cann; Best Goalie - Josh Rivers; Most Sportsmanlike - AJ Hughes; Most Improved - Brett Mengler; Most Dedicated - Kylie Gardner.

Pee wee House: Best All Around - Logan Hascarl; Playmaker - Dane Bateman; Defensive Player - Ryan MacDonald; Best Goalie - Dugan McInnes; Most Sportsmanlike - Reese McCrae and Hailey Herridge; Most Improved - Austin MacDonald; Most Dedicated - Jordan Deakoff.

Atoms: Best All Around - Adam Volansky; Playmaker - Reid Bateman; Defensive Player - Ryan Roberts; Best Goalie - Brody Herridge; Most Sportsmanlike - Tim Barisoff; Most Improved - Eric Vechta; Most Dedicated - Brody & Jackson Herridge.
New Denver council, April 12: CAO Gordon nominated for award

by Michael Darney

• Mayor Wright announced the nomination of CAO Carol Gordon for the Lieutenant Governor’s Silver Medal for Excellence in Public Administration.

Gordon has been the Village CAO for 21 years, a member of the Local Government Management Association and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. She is responsible for the campaign that led to the federal designation of the Nikkei Centre as a National Historic Site. Working with the Municipal Finance Authority, she wrote and sold the biggest Community Bond in history. Wright reported that when she became CAO in 1990, the Village had $900 in its statutory reserves. That figure is now $400,000, yet property taxes have decreased, thanks to Carol and the councils who have heeded her advice.

Wright commented in his letter to the Selection Committee that “in her role, no one is more worthy of recognition for excellence than Carol Gordon. We trust her.” A blushing CAO then reminded council to stop applauding and get to the busy agenda.

• Representatives from groups applying for CBT Community Initiatives funding made presentations on their projects. Mayor Wright explained that the funding decisions would be made differently this year. Each council member rated the 19 applications from 1 to 19. With this information, CAO Gordon (determined the prioritization of the projects for funding. A total of $40,633.50 was requested, and the Village had $30,000 in CBT funding to distribute – approximately five times greater than last year’s amount.

The results are as follows: Slocan Lake Garden Society (Secure the Shore Project) $2,525; Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (Slocan Lake Water Quality and Environmental Assessment) $2,875; Community Fruit Stewardship Society (Slocan Lake Access & Environmental Protection Program) $1,000; Community Gaming Group (Infrastructure Improvements) $1,400; Hills Nordic Ski Club (Ski for Life) $800; New Denver Silverton Lake Trail Society (Feasibility Study) $1,000; New Denver Rescue Society (FLIR purchase) $2,500; Silverton Community Club (Christmas by the Lake) $725; Silverton Community Club (Phase 2 Management Plan) $1,000; Silverton Community Club (Canada Day Celebration) $500; Healthy Housing Society (North Slocan Ridershare) $1,600; Slocan District Chamber of Commerce (Website & Visitor Guide Project) $1,014.


These results have been forwarded to the RDCK for final approval at an upcoming board meeting.

• Councillor Murphy reported that the greenhouse for the schoolyard has been ordered.

• Mayor Wright reported that the Village has received costs on watercraft for the boat rental proposal, and will pay for the boat’s rental. The Village has received costs on watercraft for the boat rental proposal, and will pay for the boat’s rental. The Village has received costs on watercraft for the boat rental proposal, and will pay for the boat’s rental. The Village has received costs on watercraft for the boat rental proposal, and will pay for the boat’s rental.

• Mayor Wright reported on the Village’s draft budget 2011. Mayor Wright reported on the Village’s draft budget 2011. Mayor Wright reported on the Village’s draft budget 2011. Mayor Wright reported on the Village’s draft budget 2011.

• Mayor Wright reported on the RDCK’s budget for New Denver. In total, New Denver residents will pay $1,705 more than last year, which translates to a $15.26 increase on the tax bill for a $271,000 home. He noted that the three local RDCK services with the highest costs for New Denver residents were refuse, paratransit and the TV Society.

• Councillor Campbell reported there was private interest in rebuiding the Japanese United Church, and they will meet on April 26 to discuss their plans.

• CAO Gordon reported that BC Hydro is still communicating with the Village regarding sending the appropriate persons, and reforming the schedules for their attendance at the April 26 council meeting. Council invited BC Hydro to the meeting after the January 7 power outage that caused damage to residents’ electrical equipment.

• A memo from the CAO informs council that Uli and Joerg Becker have applied to re-zone two of their lots from Residential to Residential Commercial. She recommends that owners of a lot in close proximity to the Beckers’ be contacted to ask if the same re-zoning of a lot at a lower cost is acceptable. She also noted that the Village has a rezone permit for a lot. She stated, “We have made new arrangements to ensure that we are consistent with the Boyne plan. We also have a rezone permit for a lot. We also made new arrangements to ensure that we are consistent with the Boyne plan. We also have a rezone permit for a lot. We also made new arrangements to ensure that we are consistent with the Boyne plan. We also have a rezone permit for a lot. We also made new arrangements to ensure that we are consistent with the Boyne plan.”

• Mayor Wright reported that the Village has received notification from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development that the Village will receive a $173,622 “Small Community Grant” by March 31.

• Council adopted a policy to require all societies, persons or organizations using public property for large or prolonged community events to obtain and provide proof of insurance to the Village.

• Council approved several requests of the May Days Committee for this year’s celebration, which has as its theme “Community for Centennial Park”.

• Council received two letters from residents with concerns about the BC Hydro Smart Meters Program. Council directed staff to write a letter to the Province regarding the cost effectiveness and controversies regarding Smart Meters.

• Council approved May 14-15 and September 14-18 for the West Kootenay Model Club’s float fly events in Centennial Park.

MAX moly mine targets June for start-up submitted by Roca Mines Inc.

Roca Mines Inc. announces that it has advanced its geotechnical work and development planning for the MAX Molybdenum Mine and is targeting June 2011 to restart production.

In addition to rehabilitation and general maintenance at the site, a geotechnical program to survey the existing stope and mapping of other workings has been completed. The preparation of a technical report based on this work is nearing completion and will enhance existing geotechnical monitoring. Data collected to date shows no evidence of instability of the workings or mine access. The monitoring program and amended mine plan will be submitted to BC’s Chief Mines Inspector shortly for a final review.

In parallel with the activities described above, the company has been working with its various contractors to establish mobilization dates for critical path work in April. These tasks include stope development and long-hole production drilling prior to restarting production. Contractors are reorganizing staffing and management for the mill and other operations at site. The mining industry is currently extremely competitive for services and personnel and the company is pleased that its contractors and staff are able to deliver in a timely fashion.

Management’s goal to restart production at the MAX molybdenum mine and to advance its permitted 1,000-tonne-per-day expansion plans will reduce unit costs and preserve the opportunity to produce concentrates in an appreciating price environment. Molybdenum oxide currently trades at approximately US$17 per pound.
LEAVING MY FOUND EDEN: A POETOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: RON L. ZHENG

APRIL 22, 2011 - JUNE 5, 2011. THE LANGLEHAM ART GALLERY. THURSDAY - SATURDAY FROM 10:00PM TO 4:00PM. WWW.POETOGRAPHY.ORG. THE LANGLEHAM CULTURAL SOCIETY 447 A AVENUE, KASLO, BC. 2010 TEL 250 353 2061 WWW.THELANGHAM.CA. LANGLEHAM.NET.IDEA.COM

POETOGRAPHY MERGES TRADITIONAL JAPANESE AND CHINESE CULTURES WITH CONTEMPORARY WESTERN CULTURE. SINCE ANCIENT TIMES IN CHINA IT HAS BEEN COMMON TO APPLY POETRY IN A DECORATIVE FASHION TO BLACK INK PAINTINGS. IN A SIMILAR MANNER, POETOGRAPHY COMBINES POETRY WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGERY TO CREATE A DYNAMIC TENSION THAT INFUSES NEW MEANINGS INTO THE WORDS AND IMAGES.

ALL POETOGRAPHY IMAGES ARE PHOTOGRAPHED ON BLACK AND WHITE FILM AND PRINTED ON CANVAS. EACH IMAGE DISPLAYS THE PRECISION, SPONTANEITY AND DELICACY OF THE BRUSH STROKES IN CHINESE BLACK INK PAINTINGS. THE POEMS ARE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TANKA, COMPOSED BY THE ARTIST. LIKE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE TANKA, EACH POEM CONSISTS OF FIVE LINES WITH A SYLLABLE PATTERN OF 5-7-5-7-7. THE FORM OF THESE POETOGRAPHY POEMS IS TRADITIONAL, BUT THE NARRATIVE DEPICT MOMENTS FROM CONTEMPORARY WESTERN LIFE.

"LEAVING MY FOUND EDEN" IS A POETOGRAPHY COLLECTION I CREATED AFTER HAVING TO LEAVE MY ADOPTED HOME, MY FOUND EDEN. LEAVING THE PLACE YOU LOVE IS ALWAYS HARD, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE CALLED IT HOME FOR OVER HALF YOUR LIFE. IT IS EVEN MORE PAINFUL, WHEN THE PERSON YOU LOVE IS STILL THERE. A RELATIONSHIP CAN BE TOLD AS A SERIES OF FLEETING MOMENTS: OF HAPPINESS AND SADNESS, OF SMILES AND TEARS, OF HOPE AND DESPAIR. THE POETOGRAPHY PIECES ARE SNAPSHOTS CAPTURING THE PASSIONS AND ANGUISH OF SHARING A LIFE WITH ANOTHER. MY WORK BRIDGES LOVE AND HATE, REMEMBERING AND FORGOTTING, MOVEMENT AND STILLNESS. I AM HOPEFUL THAT MY POETOGRAPHY IS ABLE TO TOUCH SOME PART OF EVERYONE'S HEART.

"The show is stark, simple, engaging and fairly romantic. Through them Zheng explores love, loss, life in the city and an opportunity for the audience to pause and reflect. Each poem draws the audience within close proximity of the subjects and the poet's thoughts."

"... visually captures the spirit of traditional Chinese black ink paintings."

— Prince Rupert Daily News

"Not only is this a celebration of the Asian culture, but it [Mr. Zheng's Poetography] also educates people about issues relating to Asian and Pacific Islander Americans."

— The Poly Post

"Mr. Zheng draws upon his diverse cultural experience in each of the traditions to skillfully weave the very best of black and white photography and English-language poetry into beautiful tapestries, visual stories that reach the souls of people with a wide range of backgrounds."

— Shuswap News

"Zheng has crafted a poignant display... — all who have experienced love and loss can relate to his creations."

— Out In Jersey Magazine

"What is clearly evident in the works is the rage, agony and heartbreak Zheng has felt."

— Bay Area Reporter

ALSO BY RON L. ZHENG A NEW BOOK FROM LITERARY ROAD PRESS

"LEAVING MY FOUND EDEN" PRINT EDITION: AVAILABLE AT [LITERARY ROAD PRESS] HTTP://LITERARYROAD.COM/

"LEAVING MY FOUND EDEN" "SEVEN 1/2 AND ONE" KINDLE EDITION: AVAILABLE AT [AMAZON.COM] HTTP://AMAZON.COM/
Singer-songwriter Christa Couture submitted by Christa Couture

When Christa Couture last played at the Silverton Gallery, it was part of a songwriter circle with Coco Love Alcorn and Ian Sherwood. It’s been three years since that night but Couture is finally returning to the Silverton Gallery – this time with two other of Vancouver’s brightest musical acts in tow. Sunday April 24, 7 pm, Tickets $10 at the door. Joining Couture on tour is electro-cellist Cris Derksen and chamber-pop quartet ESL. Since she was last in town, Couture released her second full-length album The Wedding Singer and The Undertaker which won Best Folk Acoustic Album from the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards and hit the Top 10 on CBC Radio 3.

As ever, her songwriting continues to explore her personal experiences with charm, grace and heart-on-sleeve intensity. Her gorgeously intimate voice balances tough vulnerability with sophisticated folk stylings. A rising star on the Canadian classical/jazz/folk/pop/ electronic scenes, cellist Cris Derksen is known for captivating solo performances building layers of sound into often surprisingly slamming dance music. On her debut solo effort, the 13 tracks range from classically oriented, multi-tracked soundscapes (We Danced – Movement I & II) to upbeat party bums inspired by her half-Cree ancestry (Pome pome, but) and hybridized pieces that sound made for climactic moments in art or cinema. As a side player Cris has performed with hip hop star Kwesta West, Veda Hill, Tanya Tagaq, Kinnie Starr, Rae Spoon and Ian and E Coyote. ESL performs uniquely orchestrated songs inspired by everything from Polish cabaret to Neil Young to the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards.

COMMUNITY
returns to Silverton with guests submitted by Self Design High

For the second year in a row, Self Design High is hosting a TEDx event, the latest in a series of TEDx events at Self Design Capital, TED is an evening of presentations on a particular theme from a host of diverse perspectives. This year’s event boasts a rich roster of Nelson area speakers including Brent Cameron, Rosalyn Grady, Robyn Sheppard, Fred Rosenberg, Gary Okenden and Marcelle Edwards and more! The theme is Through the Crucible. Our idea is that real change in the world is a process that encounters moments of transformation when what we think we know is shattered to make way for something new. In these times of accelerated change – weather, politics, culture, technology, work – we can choose to participate in an emerging global transformation by bringing awareness to how real change occurs. We can bear witness to what must die in order to transform and rise again in the world as possibility.

TEDx event at the Capitol to feature cutting-edge ideas will draw on their personal experiences as they share the inspirations and resolutions to be awake and engaged in life.

The Capitol Theatre has room for over 400 participants – our only requirement is that you stay for the duration of the event. There will be breaks, refreshments and even artistic activities for all to participate in if they choose. Our event is free and we are grateful for any donations that folks (whoever they may be) choose to contribute to the cost of the venue. Please join us for an evening of inspiration. For more information visit www.selfdesignhigh.org or phone 250-354-1300.

Cultural Centre. For more information call Selkirk College 265-4077 or drop info@selfdesignhigh.org or phone 250-354-1300.

Cultural Centre.
Seven candidates run for five seats on Kaslo & District Community Forest Society board

by Jan McMurray

Seven candidates are running for five seats on the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society board. The election will be held at the society’s AGM on April 21 at 7 pm at Lighthouse Park.

At an All Candidates Meeting on April 14, the seven contenders introduced themselves and answered questions from the public.

Chris Webster has been on the board for a year, having stepped in when a seat became vacant last year. He feels the ‘community’ part of ‘community forest’ has long been forgotten, and is on the board to try to ensure the community gets “a fair shake.”

At last year’s AGM, the resolution that passed, submitted by Bruce Freeman, stated that an annual dividend would be paid to the community. The amount is $3/m3 for all wood cut, with the exception of cedar ($5/m3).

This year, Freeman has submitted a resolution that changes the community dividend amount to $22/m3 for all species of wood. He has also put forward a second resolution that amends the community forest’s financial agreement with CPNLK.

The board of directors has submitted a resolution that bases the community dividend on profits rather than a per cubic metre amount. The resolution states that a minimum of 15% of profits extended in the year will be committed to community disbursements, and an equal amount will be deposited in the legacy fund.

When you go to profit, it’s entirely discretionary. It takes away all the control that a community has over its own community dividend on profits. “What’s being forced on us is to do is go after cutblocks that are on high grade and we have a lot of timber that is not high grade. If we are faced with getting cutblocks that are on high grade and we can’t make money on it, we are still forced to pay that money to the community whether we are making money or not. That’s part of our long-term strategy is we have to be sustainable,” he said.

“I’ve been seeing the community forest’s 32,000 hectares of loggable forest. You can’t have an RPF and expect that over the next 120 years and therefore it is a sustainable forest. However, he said, “We have been logging the same way since our inception. We have to change our business model. In this economic times, you can’t keep doing it this way. Other companies and BCTS do it differently and make sure that would benefit the community, not just the CEO, whether they were profitable or not. “Part of our long-term strategy is that we can’t have an RPF and expect that over the next 120 years and therefore it is a sustainable forest. However, he said, “We have been logging the same way since our inception. We have to change our business model. In this economic times, you can’t keep doing it this way. Other companies and BCTS do it differently and make sure that would benefit the community, not just the CEO, whether they were profitable or not.”

The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away. At the end, it won’t matter what you came from or on what side of the tracks you lived. It won’t matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant. Even your gender and skin colour will be irrelevance. It will not matter what you bought, but what you built; not what you owned or what you were owed.

What will matter is not what you lived. It won’t matter whether you came from or on what side of the tracks you lived. It won’t matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant. Even your gender and skin colour will be irrelevance. It will not matter what you bought, but what you built; not what you owned or what you were owed. Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and jealousies will finally disappear.

So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans and to-do lists will expire.

There are so many stories and life’s journeys to discuss and share – from financial and wealth planning matters, to health and aging matters and everything in between. What you have probably discovered already is that everything is connected and related and when something happens – good or bad – it can definitely have an impact on the other areas of your life. You see, when it comes to “Life Matters” – it ALL matters.

Our young people are on a quest to seek knowledge as they make their way in the world. Our seniors have experienced so much in life and they want to pass along their wisdom. Next month, I will officially begin my Life Matters column and I hope to share stories and topics of interest to our young people, our seniors – and those of us in between. Then and hence – there is an insightful message that I would like to pass along:

Life is a life that matters – ready or not, someday it will all come to an end. There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days. All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else. Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance. It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed. Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and jealousies will finally disappear.

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Webster supports the board’s resolution. He said he would like to get out of having to contribute money to the community on a per metre basis. “What’s being forced on us is to do is go after cutblocks that are on high grade and we have a lot of timber that is not high grade. If we are faced with getting cutblocks that are on high grade and we can’t make money on it, we are still forced to pay that money to the community whether we are making money or not. That’s part of our long-term strategy is we have to be sustainable,” he said.

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would be cut unless they could make a profit. He later clarified this, saying “some trees would have an RPF to be cut at a loss, but he would be looking for a net profit at the end of the year.”

John Addison said the community forest needs a long-term investment strategy. He wants to see investment in a sustainable infrastructure project and would like to look at value-added opportunities.

There were questions about forest management and profitability. “Do you understand that you can’t keep having high grading forever?” asked one citizen.

Martin called forest management “a balancing act of different values” and said that economics is only a part of it. Hansen agreed. Butt said the forest must be managed, even though money would be lost some years. Webster said diseased blocks and mature stands had to be logged, whether they were profitable or not. “Part of our long-term strategy is that we can’t have an RPF and expect that over the next 120 years and therefore it is a sustainable forest. However, he said, “We have been logging the same way since our inception. We have to change our business model. In these economic times, you can’t keep doing it this way. Other companies and BCTS do it differently and make sure that would benefit the community, not just the CEO, whether they were profitable or not.”

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Kaslo council, April 12: New commercial washroom a go

by Jan McMurray

• The new commercial washroom project is going ahead. Staff is applying for a building permit and the public works forum is putting together a tender document for the project. The new washroom will be hooked up to the sewer system. Tree Consulting’s Scott Wallace indicates in an email that the treatment plant can easily handle the new washroom connection, as the plant is nowhere near its capacity. All costs associated with commercial sewers can be accounted for, and a deposit will be made to the municipality when the washroom is hooked up. The washroom will be built and a washroom operating will be paid for in the future.

• The group is working with the RDCK and the Nature Trust and has applied for funding under the CBT Affected Areas program to reclaim 40 acres of land that has been growing willies. Trenholm says the plan is to make use of the land in several ways, which can be used as cattle feed or mulch.

• Meadow Creek’s greenhouse and garden ready to go this season

by Jan McMurray

The volunteer Lakehead and Beyond Produce group from the Meadow Creek area is moving forward with its project to revitalize agriculture and create jobs in the Lardeau Valley. The group has built a 30’ x 100’ greenhouse and prepared a large garden on a 2.5-acre piece of property across from Drifter’s Restaurant in Meadow Creek. They have also built a fence around the perimeter of the property. "Everything so far is on a donation basis and volunteers," reported Len Trenholm from the group. "I’m so impressed with the volunteer labour we’ve got here. A 77-year-old lady put in 150 hours in a single month. We have volunteers of all ages."

All materials for the post and beam greenhouse were donated, except the plastic covering. “The local mills have been very good in that way,” said Trenholm. The greenhouse is heated with a donated wood stove and donated wood. The group is also in the process of forming a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program. They have made 40 cedar boxes for people to purchase. Program participants will receive a box filled with fresh produce from the garden and greenhouse on a weekly basis during the season. So far, there are about a dozen people signed up for the CSA program, which will begin in June.

The group is working with the RDCK and the Nature Trust and has applied for funding under the CBT Affected Areas program to reclaim 40 acres of land that has been growing willies. Trenholm says the plan is to make use of the land in several ways, which can be used as cattle feed or mulch.

• The group is also interested in utilizing wood waste from the local mills. Trenholm says it could be used to heat the local mills’ dry kilns, with the excess heat running through a greenhouse. It could also be used to make fire logs. "Fire logs burned cleaner than wood, so we believe it would be cheaper and more convenient than buying firewood by the cord," said Trenholm. “We’re putting together a group to develop a business plan on all the wood waste utilization ideas we have.”

The group said they would still like to purchase the Marblehead property for its operations. Last May, a suspicious fire on the property destroyed the two heritage buildings there.

Call Trenholm at 250-399-4379 to sign up for the CSA program, to volunteer, or for more information.

Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism Organization launches new logo and slogan

submitted by Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism Organization

With less than a year left before the commuter trains arrive, the newly-formed Nelson Kootenay Lake (NKL) Destination Tourism Marketing Organization has launched its premier logo and slogan for the region.

"The logo is designed to attract tourists to Nelson, from national and international markets," says Tom Thomson, Chair of the Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism Association Board, "and to build a brand that differentiates our tourism product from others. The tag line, ‘Far Out. For Real.’ really calls attention to our region’s unique topography compared to other regions of British Columbia."

For its operations, the organization is headquartered locally, is a Kootenay Lake’s iconic viewcape, depicting endless mountainous peaks ascending out of a vast, clear lake and recognizes the significance of the lake in connecting our communities.

The tag line, “Far Out. For Real.” builds further on the differentiation of the Nelson Kootenay Lake tourism product from other communities by keying in on the area’s authenticity and distinctness.

“The two phrases build on the historical, artistic and cultural character that is so unique to Nelson,” says Christine Trenholm from the Kootenay Lake Tourism Organization. “‘Far Out.’ is the same term that people can speak to authenticity, nature and an adventure experience that is off-the-beaten path, away from crowds and busy towns. ‘For Real’ can also be taken literally. The region is ‘60s/’70s-ish. ‘For Real’ is 21st Century. Who lives here.”

The brand, created locally, is a genuine and unexpectedly contemporary personality of the area and the people who live here. The two phrases also resonate with a broad demographic. “Far Out” is 60s/70s-ish. “For Real” is 21st century. “And that works in the region’s favor.” Thomson adds, “Considering the wide variety of visitors the Nelson Kootenay Lake area attracts. Visitations of many age groups choose the region for different reasons depending on their level of adventurism, their cultural interests and seasonally-specific pursuits.”

Beyond “Far Out’s” primary communicator are several smaller service-oriented communications. Funky and a step back in time – the phrase can also be taken literally. The region is off the beaten path, away from crowds and an advanced stereotype of Nelson. "For Real," a more contemporary term, also speaks to authenticity, nature and an adventure experience that is off-the-beaten path, away from crowds and busy towns.“Far Out.” is the same term that people can speak to authenticity, nature and an adventure experience that is off-the-beaten path, away from crowds and busy towns.

Thank you Valley Voice

The only newspaper that tells us what is going on in the Kaslo area. The only newspaper that gives us a chance to say what we think about it, free of charge, in voices from the Valleys. Paid advertisement by Jane Lynch in support of the Valley Voice
A MESSAGE FROM LUCIA MANN

TO all my wonderful supporters who have been anxiously awaiting my sequel: THE SICILIAN VEIL. The delay is due to my ongoing support and patience.

LUCIA MANN (Lucy Mancini)

LOOKING FOR THE GRANDDAUGHTER of the Stillingfleet Hill family in the valley; related to Nel or Jo Shane (1978) 355-2864

LUXURY SHETS, summer quilts, bamboo towels and home decor goodies in fresh spring colours. Willow Home Gallery is packed with beautiful things at unbelievable prices. It’s worth the drive to Kaslo 250-355-1933

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

UNEMPLOYED and thinking of starting your own business? Community Futures offers the Self Employment grant, business loans, counselling and training in the Arrow & Slocan Lakes area. For more info leave a message at 265-3674 ext. 201 or email Nakusp@futures.bc.ca

SECOND ANNUAL GARDEN and Nature Fest: May 14th, Twin Rivers Park/ Millennium Walkway. Come out for a festival rich in Treasures: plants, gardens, farming! Local musicians will entertain and great food will make for an edible landscape! 250-399-4439 canada@ca에서 keyboard@ch.com

HILLSD COMMUNITY CO-HOUSING Society Annual Meeting, Sunday May 1 at 1:30 pm, Hills Community Hall. For info call 250-226-7758 or email info.hillsca@gmail.com

READY, SET, LEARN! A free program for parents and pre-schoolers (ages 3 to 5). New special guest events and activities including creative art, science, literacy, numeracy, music and movement, cooking and much more!!! Join us during Strong Start hours from 2 pm to 4 pm Thursdays, April 28, May 5, May 12, May 19. Location: Lucerne School in the Preschool/StrongStart room. To register, call Charlotte Alexander, ECE at 250-358-7766 and leave a message. Sponsored by SD10 & Ministry of Education.

THE SILVERTON GALLERY presents a Lucerne Writer’s Coffee House on Saturday, April 20 at 6:30 and on Easter weekend enjoy a theatre production ‘Scarmouche Jones’ (by Justin Butcher), performed by student Michael Graham on Saturday, April 23 at 8 pm $15. View one of Montreal’s Fringe Festival top ten shows. On Sunday, April 24 listen to a networking event by Chrisa Couture, Cris Derksen, & E.S.L. Show starts at 7 pm (free).

YOUNG & RISING MOBILE on one acre. W.D.F.S. Woodheat, 10 minutes. References, 250-358-2250.

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FURTHER NORTH

FURTHER NORTH OF THE border, there are...
April 20, 2011 The Valley Voice

They resided in Calgary until 1973, when they retired to Mirror Lake, BC, then to Kaslo in 1991. She moved to Castlewood Village in Castlegar in 2004, and to the Kaslo Extended Care in June 2010. Fondly remembered are the huge family dinners under the apple trees. Mom loved to have her children and grandchildren around her. Summers were busy with lots of company. She often commented that the skies were still warm when the next batch arrived. She took it all in stride.

A Service of Remembrance was held on Sunday, April 17, 2011 at 12:00 Noon from the Kaslo Legion Hall with Mary Johnson in celebrant. Cremation has taken place.

The Kaslo Legion Hall with Mary Johnson as celebrant. Cremation has taken place.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Thompson Funeral Service Ltd. Online condolences may be left at annec@uniserve.com we’re gathering them for John’s memorial.

Nakusp CBT Community Initiatives vote results

by Jan McMurray

Results are in from the Nakusp and area CBT Community Initiatives/ Affected Areas funding vote, held April 17.

All five projects over $10,000 received funding. Four were fully funded, with the fifth place project receiving partial funding. The Nakusp branch of the Royal Canadian legion received $30,000 to upgrade its building (366 votes); the Arrow Lakes Historical Society received $12,500 for its Animal Rescue Project (307 votes); the Arrow Lakes Cultural Learning Centre project (301 votes); the Nakusp Roots Music Society received $30,000 for re-purposeing the ambulance station (226 votes); and the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce received $5,000 for a racking system and billboard signage on the Needles and Galena Bay ferries (212 votes).

The Chamber had requested $30,000.

Seven of ten projects under $10,000 were funded, with the seventh place project receiving partial funding. The Halcyon Assisted Living Society received $9,084.72 (245 votes); the Nakusp Ski Club Association received $5,000 for the Summit Lake Ski Area Tube Park (237 votes); Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services received $7,727.42 for the Nakusp Food Bank & School Breakfast Program (235 votes); the Nakusp Public Library Association received $5,000 for its Nakusp Public Library Shelving Project (223 votes); Nakusp Centennial Golf Club received $10,000 for a golf course irrigation upgrade (185 votes); Nakusp and Area Community Forest received $5,000 for the Wensley Creek Trail Project (142 votes); the Arrow Lakes Grape Growers Society received $3,469 for a grape varietal test plot (73 votes). The Grape Growers had requested $5,000.

Unsuccessful projects include the Food-Farms Community project, the West Kootenay Brain Injury Association and AFKO (Association des Francophones des Kootenays Ouest).
Kootenay-Columbia candidates respond to four questions from the Valley Voice

By Jan McMurray

The Kootenay-Columbia riding includes the Arrow Lakes communities of Nakusp, Burton, Faququier, Edgewood and Trout Lake, and the Larder Lakes communities of Cooper Creek, Meadow Creek and Marblehead.

1) What will you do to see that Nakusp gets an adequate number of doctors? The community currently has one doctor, used to have three to four doctors, and ideally would like six to seven doctors.

Betty Aitchison, Liberal: All parties are well aware of the problem of the shortage of doctors. The Liberals will increase the number of doctors and will have incentives for doctors to practise in rural areas. There is never a silver bullet, but it is important to the Liberals and to all parties to try to find a solution to this.

Brent Bush, Independent: As a resident of a community (Kimberley) that has its fully functioning hospital closed by the BC Liberals, I understand the consequences of declining medical services in rural communities. I fully support incentives designed to attract and keep doctors in small communities. If the government has billions of dollars to keep fighting an unjust war in Afghanistan and spend billions more on expensive weapons systems we don’t need, then surely we have the money to improve rural health care in Canada.

William Green, Green: The Green Party has specific policies to address the shortage of doctors, including one to “Provide student loan forgiveness incentives for graduating doctors, nurses, paramedics and other health care professionals who agree to staff rural facilities and family practice clinics where recruitment is currently a problem.”

Mark Shmigelsky, NDP: Our platform commits to creating 1,200 new doctor positions and 6,000 nurse positions over the next five years, so a re-investment into health care with the idea of addressing shortages and the needs of rural communities. On a personal level, my job as MP would be to work with individual constituents, my staff, councils, and Regional District directors to make sure that gets done.

David Wilks, Conservative: I support the re-negotiation of the Columbia River Treaty. In my job as MP I will work to make sure the treaty brings economic benefits to the Arrow Lakes and Larder Lakes.”

2) Are you in favour of re-negotiating the Columbia River Treaty? Why or why not? What will you do to make sure the treaty brings economic benefits to the Arrow Lakes and Larder Lakes?

Brent Bush, Independent: I am completely in favour of re-negotiating the Columbia River Treaty. I was also deeply involved in Water Use Planning. I don’t think we can be expected to get back everything we gave away. I support Independent MP I will use my political leverage to ensure that the treaty is re-negotiated. These negotiations must include the long-term impact of climate change on the Columbia River Basin and additional benefits for Basin residents.

William Green, Green: In my job I’ll be working hard to prepare for the re-negotiation of the Columbia River Treaty. I was also deeply involved in Water Use Planning. I don’t think we can be expected to get back everything we gave away. I support Independent MP I will use my political leverage to ensure that the treaty is re-negotiated. These negotiations must include the long-term impact of climate change on the Columbia River Basin and additional benefits for Basin residents.

Mark Shmigelsky, NDP: I’m familiar with the history of the treaty and local issues around it because of my background in local government and working with CBT in the past. My job as MP will be to make sure local citizens are consulted and any treaty negotiations are in the best interests of the affected areas and communities. All stakeholders must be involved in the re-negotiation process. I will make sure it works for our communities and the people of the Basin.

David Wilks, Conservative: In 2014, either Canada or the USA can give notice to renegotiate or terminate the CBT. In concert with the CBT provincial, and regional representatives, it is imperative that you have a Member of Parliament in government to be involved. Both Canada and the USA benefit from this treaty. Therefore, I support working toward an extended agreement.

3) If British Columbians reject the HST in the upcoming referendum, how will your party proceed with the “undoing” of this tax and with the issue of the $1.6 billion the Government of Canada has transferred to the Government of BC?

Betty Aitchison, Liberal: That’s something that’s in the works right now. As far as I know, my colleagues in the NDP are not in favour of re-negotiating.

David Wilks, Conservative: The Conservatives and Liberals whipped their MPs to vote in favour of the tax. Not one MP from either party had the courage to defy their Party bosses and say no. Should the tax be defeated, then the BC Liberal Government will have to pay back the government of Canada. Perhaps then their budget projections won’t look so optimistic.

William Green, Green: If British Columbians reject the HST, our party, and I will advocate on behalf of our constituents that the return to the previous separate GST and PST regimes be effected in a way which will minimize the financial burden to taxpayers.

Mark Shmigelsky, NDP: Jack Layton, in Cranbrook, reiterated that we will not claw back the $1.6 billion bequeathed to the Conservative Party by queuing up to want it. Both the Conservatives and Liberals whipped their MPs to vote in favour of the tax. Not one MP from either party had the courage to defy their Party bosses and say no. Should the tax be defeated, then the BC Liberal Government will have to pay back the government of Canada. Perhaps then their budget projections won’t look so optimistic.

4) Natural Resources Canada (EcoENERGY Program) has provided grant funding to some independent power projects in BC. In our area, there are a few proposals for run-of-river hydropower. I work very hard to ensure that IPs, if built, are operated to avoid impacts to fish and their habitat and other environmental impacts. I support the contribution of federal dollars to IPs only when they are clearly ‘green’ with zero or positive net environmental impact.

Mark Shmigelsky, NDP: No, I do not support using federal money to encourage the private sector to have anything to do with IPPs or public water resources. Under the proposed Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) with Europe, the Harper government is building the Canada Fund and the Public Private Partnership fund (PPP) to encourage the private sector to fund public management systems. I say no to the privatization of public drinking water.

William Green, Green: In my work as an aquatic biologist, I work very hard to ensure that IPs, if built, are operated to avoid impacts to fish and their habitat and other environmental impacts. I support the contribution of federal dollars to IPs only when they are clearly ‘green’ with zero or positive net environmental impact.

Mark Shmigelsky, NDP: Vote for...