Village of Slocan writes minister over mill shutdown

by Art Joyce

Slocan Mayor Madeleine Perriere has written to BC Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thomson expressing concern over the shutdown of the mill operated by Springer Creek Forest Products.

“Like many rural BC communities, Slocan is dependent on a single natural resource industry which is experiencing major changes during the current period of economic uncertainty,” she writes. In 2011, the mill is providing 58 percent of the Village’s tax base. In efforts to decrease dependency on the mill, Village council has agreed to reduce Springer Creek’s taxes by five percent for 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Slocan council met with mill manager Ralph Tomlin on May 11 to discuss the second closure of the mill in recent years. Tomlin said that although the hog fuel burner had been partially dismantled in 2008, due to poor markets, it had to be re-started recently to burn waste from mill manufacturing. The overall combination of low lumber prices, high exchange rates and low timber supply has been devastating.

In her letter to Minister Thomson, Mayor Perriere explains that the mill’s efforts to capitalize on the supply has been devastating.

“Even the close proximity of the Zellstoff Celgar pulp mill in Castlegar has been of no help since it is well supplied with fibre and is using small dimension logs for pulp. This led to Springer Creek having to burn hog fuel at a loss. ‘The super mills up north are very low cost producers and we’re a high cost producer, so it’s pretty tough to compete,’ says Tomlin. ‘The hog fuel is the straw that broke the camel’s back.’

The mayor notes in her letter that the federal government program known as the Green Transformation Program, initiated in October 2009, has resulted in a windfall for Celgar but ultimately only harmed the situation in Slocan.

“The hog fuel is the straw that broke the camel’s back.”

The program administered through Natural Resources Canada provided $57.7 million to Celgar for projects. Fortis BC is only prepared to pay 4.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, says Mayor Perriere. A minimum of 11 cents per kilowatt-hour is needed for Springer Creek to make a business case for a bio-energy plant. Tomlin adds that with hydro rates as low as they are in BC, the only way green energy works is if it’s subsidized. Ironically, some BC wood pellet manufacturers are having to export to bio-fuel plants in Europe.

“We’re blessed and cursed in this province by having cheap energy and that stands in the way of a true green energy policy,” says Tomlin. “If you go to places in Europe where they’re paying 25 cents per kilowatt they’ve got lots of incentive to switch to green energy sources.”

Mayor Perriere says the situation was exacerbated by the decision of the federal government in recent years to accede to the wishes of the American Softwood Coalition to reduce the timber supply by 50 percent. This supply was allocated to community forest licenses and BC Timber Sales. Although BC Timber Sales is moving ahead with low quality, high expense timber harvesting in community watersheds such as Slocan Park and Perry Ridge, the mayor claims the agency has failed to produce enough timber supply to keep mills like Springer Creek viable.

The community is awaiting the results of an economic sustainability study commissioned last year to see what other options for industry may be explored. One possibility being considered by council is a micro-hydro project with Selkirk Power.

Mayor Perriere closes her appeal to Minister Thomson by stating that “the future of natural resource-based communities is challenging the Village of Slocan on how to best support their populations and Village council would appreciate your ministry addressing some of the inequities that are facing many resource-based communities in BC.”

So far no response has been received but MP Alex Atamanenko and MLA Kateřina Conroy have indicated a willingness to meet with council and offer assistance.
Perry Ridge fundraising in full force while logging continues

by Jan McMurray

Fundraising for legal expenses and research involved in efforts to protect Perry Ridge is in full force.

On Saturday, June 11, “the mother of all yard sales” will take place at Passmore Hall from 10 am to 5 pm. Chili tacos, baked goods, coffee, tea and beverages will be served all day.

Chili tacos, baked goods, coffee, tea and beverages will be served all day.

The Fish & Wildlife Compensation (FWCP) seeks proposals from qualified consultants to develop two detailed habitat restoration prescriptions on conservation properties in the West Kootenay.

To receive a complete proposal package email the FWCP:
beth.woodbridge@bchydro.com

Proposal deadline: June 17, 2011.

The FWCP works on behalf of its program partners BC Hydro, the Province of B.C. and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. To learn more visit www.fwcp.ca

FINANCE YOUR FUTURE

Thinking about going back to school but need some help financially?

If you’re active in your community, you may qualify for a College Community Service Award.

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is offering $2,000 for up to 22 Basin residents planning on attending college after a hiatus of at least one year from high school. Planned study must be full-time in a recognized undergraduate program leading to a degree, diploma or certificate at College of the Rockies, Selkirk College or the University of the Fraser Valley. Full award eligibility criteria, the application form and guidelines can be found at www.cbt.org/ccsas.

Application deadline is June 17, 2011.

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A washout that put up to 15 cm (about six inches) of water on the road closed Highway 31A on Monday, May 23.

by Jan McMurray

The New Denver-Kaslo highway was closed for most of the day on Monday of the May long weekend due to a washout just east of Retallack.

At about 11 am, water started flooding the highway. Ministry of Transportation spokesperson Jeff Knight reported that a mudslide had come down into a tributary of Kaslo River, and this backed water onto four sections of the highway within a 100-metre stretch. The water was approximately 150 millimetres (about six inches) deep.

Sections of the shoulders on both sides of the highway washed away and the paved surface was undermined in several locations.

No vehicles were affected.

The road was closed until about 6–9 pm on Monday evening, then open to single lane alternating traffic. Both lanes opened up on Wednesday.

Washout closes Highway 31A on May 23, 2011

Regional Agriculture Plan

Join us for an evening of discussion

Representatives from Brynne Consulting will present the recommendations in the Regional Agriculture Plan

Monday, June 6
7-9 pm
Silverton Gallery

The Valley Voice June 1, 2011
New West Kootenay music festival crashes on lift-off

by Art Joyce

A new music festival for the West Kootenay called Bassfest has had an abortive beginning. Promoter and musician Jay Wikid has had to cancel the event, which was to be held near Salmo. Ticket holders have been directed to the Bassfest Facebook page that a portion – but not all – of their money will be refunded at the point of sale.

“The Bassfest team is very, very sad to announce that due to beginning, Promoter and musician Jay Wikid has had to cancel the event, which was to be held near Salmo. Ticket holders have been directed to the Bassfest Facebook page that a portion – but not all – of their money will be refunded at the point of sale.”

A lack of advance planning seems to have been the major factor. The land chosen for the event is within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), explains Dawn Attorp, RDCK General Manager of Corporate Administration. No approval was received from the Agricultural Land Commission for non-farm use on the property. Further, Attorp says an application for a noise exemption application under the RDCK noise control bylaw was only filed two days before the event. A minimum of four weeks is generally required to process such an application.

“We do work with people if not within the timeframe but two or three days is just not reasonable,” says Attorp.

The organizer also did not make arrangements with Interior Health (IH) for sanitation and water at the event. Shaun Malakoe, IH Team Leader for Environmental Health, says he only heard of the event through a vendor that had applied for a license to operate at the site. All such mass gathering events must go through Malakoe’s office for approval to ensure proper water supply and sanitation for public health. Despite being willing to assist, he was unsuccessful in his efforts to contact Wikid.

Although the RDCK currently has no bylaw for mass gatherings, it does have authority over zoning. Zoning plays a major role in residents’ property purchasing decisions within the Regional District, explains Attorp, offering them reassurance as to what types of land uses are permitted nearby.

Bassfest’s Facebook page has both defendents and accusers of its promoter. Many are unhappy that only $40 of the $60 ticket price will be refunded at ticket outlets. Wikid claims there that tickets purchased online will be fully refunded.

“We are aware that the festival industry in the West Kootenay is a significant economic driver and there are a number of festivals that go through the proper approval processes and are very well attended, successful events,” says Attorp. “I believe Bassfest could be in that category as well with advanced planning.”

The Valley Voice was unable to contact Wikid before press time.

For more information visit www.facebook.com/event. php?id=14755945530897.

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Mountain Caribou Plan gets satisfactory rating by progress board

by Jan McMurray

The 2010/11 report on government’s implementation of the Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan was recently submitted by the progress board. The progress board has representation from the environmental, recreational (snowmobile and heli-skiing), and forestry sectors.

“The progress board expressed qualified satisfaction with the performance by government delivering the Mountain Caribou Recovery Implementation Plan (MCRIP),” states the report. It goes on to say that “…MCRIP was endorsed as a package of complimentary management actions which need implementation as a package. Failure to deliver a well balanced and adequately funded program of activities will erode public confidence in the board support…” The progress board expects to see government support for the MCRIP through adequate resourcing (e.g., operational and staff budgets) and ‘political will.’

Management actions include habitat protection (protection caribou habitat from logging and road building), recreation (managing snowmobiling and heli-skiing activities for the protection of caribou habitat), predator management, prey management, and augmentation (boosing caribou numbers in threatened herds with animals transplanted from elsewhere).

The report states that habitat protection measures (no logging or road building in critical caribou habitat) met expectations for 2010/11. However, the board would like more information on exemptions granted to mining companies and heli-skiing companies, where road building and logging has been allowed in caribou habitat for mineral exploration and to clear areas for heli-pads. Also, the board wants more information on government’s work to come up with ways to mitigate impacts of the MCRIP on the forestry industry.

Although the board feels that progress is good as far as closing sensitive areas to snowmobiling is concerned, they call for more enforcement resources in the report. “…government needs to provide sufficient financial resources and qualified staff to actively and effectively enforce the closures.”

Also, the board would like to see a re-evaluation of the Central Selkirk area to see if more closures would be appropriate. In the Central Selkirk area, there have been closures only in the Silver Cup Ridge and Hamling Lakes areas.

With heli-skiing, the board acknowledges in the report that considerable measures have been taken, but says they are “not comfortable with the availability of information on the management of this sector.”

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT is the most controversial part of the MCRIP. One of the science team’s recommendations in the plan is to shoot wolves from helicopters where caribou numbers are very low (less than 50 animals) and where wolf predation will likely lead to extirpation of these herds before other longer-term management actions, such as habitat protection, are realized. This recommendation has not been carried out to date – no wolves have been shot from helicopters as part of the MCRIP.

Rather, the management of wolf populations is taking place through amendments to hunting and trapping regulations. In much of BC, the season on wolves extends from August 1 through to June 15 and there is no limit on the number that can be killed.

The progress board states in the report that they expect government “to consider more effective measures such as an aerial wolf removal program,” but recognizes that “government will need to know the level of support that this type of decision will receive from the progress board.” The report says that some members of the progress board feel that predator management actions to date have lacked a clear rationale, while others feel that habitat protection measures have to be ramped up before there is support for wolf kills.

The progress board calls for improved communication on any plans for predator management, consistent reporting of all wolf kills (hunting, trapping and control actions), and an assessment on the effectiveness of amended trapping and hunting regulations.

Efforts to reduce moose populations by allowing more hunting permits has indicated that reducing moose can reduce wolves. The progress board feels that “this ‘socially accepted’ method of reducing wolf numbers should be fully implemented where this tool will have the greatest benefit within the mountain caribou recovery area.”

On augmentation, the progress board is encouraged with the progress government has made on transplanting caribou to the South Purcell herd, although they also express some disappointment on how slowly this is going.

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If Kaslo were to host BassFest somewhere where THERE ARE NO neighbours, guess what, you might actually MAKE some money! What a novel idea. It seems as if the town councils would rather bring back the bush parties of the '90s, where everyone drives out into the middle of nowhere, gets drunk around a campfire, then drives home at 3 am, resulting in fatalities, rather than have all kids from all towns in one spot until late the next morning with an ambulance on hand in case anything should go awry.

Jesse Bird
Cooper Creek

Kasco Suffer Fest

I think Suffer Fest is one of the best race events in the Kootenays.

I participated in the event last October by running the 25-km trail. It was the fastest that I had ever run and only the second trail run of my life. Previously 10 km had been my limit. Training for the race was the most fun. I am fortunate to live near Kaslo, where I can join in with the Kaslo Runners. This group was formed last year by a relative newcomer to the area, Jan Lampimaki. Jan moved to Kaslo with her partner Shon and their five lovely energetic children. I will be forever grateful that this dynamic couple has chosen to call Kaslo their home.

Janis is our energetic coach. She volunteers hours of her time to provide running clinics six times a week. She greets the runners with a big smile no matter the weather, and you can’t help grinning back. Her expert coaching has pushed me beyond what I ever thought we can easily cause one spot until late the next morning with 3% or the 35% globally affected technology.

This same crazy situation here in rural Dan Nicholson

By working together, our community is succeeding in keeping Kaslo a socially and economically vibrant community. Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce

Open letter to RDCK

Thank you so much for raining the weekend of thousands of people. Because of you, Bassfest was cancelled and we lost another night’s work. In the '90s, local teens built a sturdy bike jump to launch their BMX bikes into the lagoon. Our fun lasted about three days (with a few more) before the lagoon’s manager found a “cease and desist” notice stapled to the ramp. In the ‘90s it was a regular occurrence to have the RDCK put out the beach bonfires on May Days. Now it seems that parties with live entertainment are under the gun.

I attended Bassfest, held near Kaslo last year, and had a blast—amazing music and awesome people from every corner of the Kootenays. I saw none of the usual big-name performers. Why? Because we’re Kaslo and we’re cool with everybody, and just having fun. It’s a great experience to recognize and clearly state our support for the arts community and groups that have been working particularly hard in the last year to promote those interests in our community.

Thank you to the Kaslo Trailblazers Nordic & Mountain Bike Clubs, spearheaded by Jan Lampimaki and supported by numerous volunteers, for publishing the first comprehensive Kaslo and Area Trail Guidebook. It is a valuable resource for both locals and visitors alike who enjoy getting out and taking advantage of the outstanding running and hiking trails that surround us. Thank you to the Kaslo Trailblazers Nordic & Mountain Bike Clubs, in cooperation with the Kaslo Trailblazers Society, for the work they are doing to establish the Mount Buchanan Wilderness Recreation Area.

Thank you to Kaslo Suffer Fest, its organizers and sponsors. This exciting trail running and mountain bike race event is putting Kaslo on the map and drawing tourists into the area in the shoulder season.

By working together, our community is succeeding in keeping Kaslo a socially and economically vibrant community.

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continued from page 4

who sustained facial damage. Their baby survived the accident miraculously.

A couple of years ago we had a similar accident in about the same place with a fatality and possibly others seriously injured or worse. This time the road was probably icy. A lumber truck ran into a Forest Service pickup, causing it to head-on. This caused the driver of the pickup to have his leg cut off and before the ambulance could arrive, he had bled to death. There was a passenger with him in the truck who was also injured in the accident. We arrived as we were trying to clear the highway — there was lumber all over the area. We waited about 10 to 15 minutes before we could proceed home.

Last fall, a friend of our son was hit head-on by a chip truck as he was driving from Kelowna to Vancouver. He survived, but sustained a crushed pelvis with both legs crushed.

Also several years ago a chip truck turned into the northbound lane on a straight road which was extremely dry at the time. The driver obviously fell asleep at the wheel. Thankfully no one else was involved.

The drivers are always trying to make up time because of their tight schedules that their employers have on them. It is wrong for them to be under the pressure of keeping these prescribed schedules that require them to drive at unsafe speeds. I'm sure many times they cannot be heard but it can be assumed they are in the background among their other work. Some deputies seem to blend together and sound like a shrill whistle. Other times they cannot be heard but it can be assumed they are in the background. Among their other work. Some deputies seem to blend together and sound like a shrill whistle. Other times they cannot be heard but it can be assumed they are in the background. Among their other work. Some deputies seem to blend together and sound like a shrill whistle. Other times they cannot be heard but it can be assumed they are in the background.

Recreational development of Crown land near the Back Road community

Under the banner of fitness and public access to Crown land, a group of recreational enthusiasts have been very busy raising, naming and signing most of the trails south of the Village of Kaslo. Recently, the enthusiasts have connected all these various trail networks up with directional signage and are now selling a guidebook of these trails to help fund Nordic trails on Mt. Buchanan.

I was very shocked to discover last week that some of these trails being advertised in the guidebook are on a website run along two sides of my private property boundary, very close to my water well (5 metres) and weave through my Back Road neighbourhood on trails local residents use to visit one another.

It was further troubling to find out that the trails built for the interface work last year were now part of the trail systems being promoted. Last year, the residents along the Back Road were promised by the proponents that the interface trails were not going to lead to more traffic, that these temporary trails would be deactivated and that they were needed only for worker access and safety.

It is further disturbing that some of the same people who heard how Back Roaders felt about increased traffic near their water wells are now publishing projects that could mislead the public, purposefully. The people who heard how Back Roaders felt about increased traffic near their water wells are now publishing projects that could mislead the public.

Heads up! Alcated Lucent, its leading provider of telecommunications equipment states on its website, that the company has shown we can expect 18X more smart phones and 30X more wireless traffic. This is hard to believe but this company is listed on a US stock exchange so it is illegal for them to make statements that could mislead the investing public, as this one certainly could.

The telecom companies are now busy upgrading and rebuilding their networks to accommodate laptops and smart phones which require stronger signals and a much denser system of transmitters. In Canada, the government’s auction of the 700 MHz spectrum is eagerly awaited as soon as the 800 MHz spectrum is vacated.

The Royal Society of Canada was approached by Health Canada for an independent review of potential health risks associated with radio frequency (RF) exposure, and to address public concerns over the adequacy of their Safety Code 6 dealing with these risks. The Royal Society stated that the electrical modulation of the RF signal was another area of research which has been neglected, and recommended further studies. Among the other things it found was that the eyes of telecom workers was not adequately protected from the thermal cooking effects of RF radiation. The eyes do not have many blood vessels to permit cooling. They recommended lowering the radiation exposure limits of telecom workers to that of the general population. They also found the Safety Code 6 did not have a time duration limit to workers exposure beyond the six minutes it takes to make a radiation reading. It did not take into account that the worker could be exposed for an hour, or all day and every day. None of their recommendations was addressed by Health Canada.

Things have changed a lot since the Royal Society did their review in 1999. Safety Code 6 was antiquated then. Now it is an ancient document whose only purpose is to give industry a stamp of approval for hazardous projects. There should be a moratorium on building cell towers until the research is brought up to date and the recommendations of the independent review by the Royal Society are implemented.

There are other things that should not be ignored. Last November, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health made their list of recommendations. Countries like China readily admit they don’t know the dangers of low level radiation. Their exposure limits are 100 times lower than ours.

Health Canada must do more than let itself be used to approve telecommunications projects.

Ed Nakan

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Best kept secret in New Denver:

There’s a bakery!

Now in our seventh year, Sappho’s Bakery offers you fresh bread, home-style sweets, and pizza.

Breads include multigrain, ancient grains, oat/seed/maple, Alpine, honey garlic, French, Vienna, sourdough, and, on Saturdays, our famous Chunky Cheese (cheddar and smoked gouda — YUM!) Sweets? Cookies, muffins, squares, pies, tarts, cupcakes and our deadly rumballs (real rum, coated with genuine Callebaut chocolate.)

For pizza, we offer one size (12”) with a wide variety of toppings. Call for your favourites!

Sappho’s Bakery is at 309 Kildare in the Orchard, with entrance from the alley (right behind the Nikkei Centre), Open Tuesday through Thursday until 6 pm, Fridays and Saturdays until 8. Last call for pizza is a half-hour before closing.

For any of our delicious offerings, we suggest you order ahead to make sure you get what you want — we sell out fast!

250-358-2119
Silverton council, May 17: Microcell antenna proposed for better cell phone service

by Jan McMurray

- Silverton residents will receive a letter from the Village, inviting comments on the proposed installation of a ‘microcell’ for improved cell service coverage within the town. Mayor Everett reported that a number of residents had approached him regarding poor cell service south of the bridge in Silverton. At the Village’s request, Telus agreed to do a site survey and found that there areas with poor or no signal. Telus is suggesting that a ‘microcell’ be placed on the telephone pole outside the Village office. Mayor Everett said a microcell is a small, round antenna that has very low radiofrequency emissions. He presented council with a letter he had drafted to the Telus proposal, and inviting comments on it. Council agreed that the letter be sent out to residents with the tax notices.
- Councillor Barber reported that he received an email from an engineer in Winlaw, who would like to be involved with the UNBC students coming to Silverton, which he is also involved with. He said Golden, which is also at the end of a line, has a battery pack that provides seven hours of back-up power.
- Councillor Main submitted a written report and gave a verbal report on her attendance at the AKBLG convention. She attended a Strategic Planning workshop, the Local Government Forum and a session on the Columbia River Treaty.

Coco Love Alcorn charms Silverton Gallery audience on new tour

by Art Joyce

Coco Love Alcorn may not be a household name in music yet, but it’s not for any lack of effort. Alcorn, daughter of jazz musician John Alcorn, has built a loyal and enthusiastic following through a combination of inspired songwriting, a warm and charismatic stage presence, and tireless touring. Coco returned to the Silverton Gallery on her latest of many cross-Canada tours on May 18, this time promoting her latest album Play.

Having seen Coco perform here at least three times now, I can say without hesitation that one is unlikely to come away from one of her shows without a warm glow. Coco’s strength lies in a double threat: her amazingly soulful voice, with its precise pitch and vibrato control, and her seemingly effortless ability to spin out songs with a weighty staying power. She’s one of the few among the current bumper crop of singer-songwriters who understands the structure of the popular song well enough to combine catchy melodies with instantly memorable choruses.

This was brought home yet again in Wednesday night’s two sets, reprising Coco classics like Where Do the Robots Go When They Die, Compassion, Intellectual Boys and Revolution. Coco was nominated for songwriter of the year at last year’s East Coast Music Awards for Revolution and deservedly so. It’s a good choice to illustrate her ability to combine social conscience with popular songwriting without becoming ponderous or gloomy – not an easy task given the subject matter.

Just as impressive is Coco’s ability to combine her breezy, feel-good tone with deeper themes, probably best illustrated in Intellectual Boys. She may sound lightweight but don’t let her cheerful nature fool you – as the title of her new song Thinking Cup reminds us. Her preoccupation with cycling shows up again on Play with songs like BRC (short for Bike Rider’s Choice), reminding us of earlier songs like Fiori Modena (Coco Love Solo) and I Got a Bicycle (Joyful, 2009). In the age of climate change, she’s gently urging us to get out our human-powered wheels.

Her guitar serves not as a virtuoso instrument but as basic tomlon and rhythmic underpinning, so don’t look for guitar hero stuff here. But with a voice like that, who needs it? Her vocal improvisations are as good as I’ve ever heard, spiraling from scat to hip-hop to deep down soul. Songs from the new album performed in Silverton included Troubadour’s Dream (co-written with Matt Anderson), Best Part of My Day, No Limit, and With You and You, which has been getting airplay on CBC Radio. All the new songs hold up well – clearly her originality remains undiminished.

Coco Love Alcorn is a big enough talent for major label success, but then we wouldn’t get to keep her for ourselves – that’s the joy of the burgeoning Indie music scene. Considering that 50 percent of the artists nominated for Grammy awards this year were Indie artists, it’s a movement that has matured well. Coco’s songs – like fellow Indie artist Dominique Fraissard – are music built to last; a rare phenomenon in this disposable age.

For more information visit www.cocolovealcorn.com or http://chameleonfire1.wordpress.com.
by Art Joyce

The Arrow Lakes Fine Arts (ALFA) Guild has a new slate of shows for their 13th season, with 12 weeks of fascinating art exhibiting at the Selkirk College campus on Broadway Street, Nakusp. ALFA offers opportunities for both professional and emerging artists alike.

“We had three different artists last year sell $1,000 worth of work, so that was exciting – that was the best we’ve done so far,” says Denyse Marshall.

The first exhibition of this season will feature painter Marie BenzaudHenri with Elements of Nature, reflecting the Kootenay landscape through fresh eyes. BenzaudHenri recently moved to Nakusp from South Africa. Her show will run from June 29 to July 17 and allows up to three pieces of work from each artist. The past three years, this show has exhibited up to 70 pieces of artwork. A silent auction will run throughout the exhibition, Local Focus, to be open to ALFA members who wish to exhibit – anyone can become a member for $20. Local Focus runs June 29 to July 17 and allows up to three pieces of work from each artist.

by Lori Benjamin

“The course of love never did run true.” How could it, when Mirror Theatre adds its own brand of chaos to Shakespeare’s comedy of errors, The Midsummer Night’s Dream?

The performance at the Bonnington School was unique, a true community theatre, offering a unique form of entertainment equalled only by school concerts. The audience is drawn not only by the performance, but by watching well-known friends and acquaintances in unlikely roles, frequently showing hidden facets of talent, creativity and humor.

The Midsummer’s cast and crew had the audience in stitches. The already hilarious story line was enhanced and magnified by the troupe’s obvious enjoyment of their presentation. No serious production, this – missed cues, flushed lines and frequent prompts merely added to the farce. Fun from being embarrassed, the actors simply ad-libbed the mishaps into the performance, resulting in them barely able to keep straight faces, let alone the audience.

Solid casting, enchanting sets and props, lighthearted as well as excellent support by prompter Bev McClain and stage hands Theron Watson and Ben Gardner provided cohesion to the show. Costumes were an imaginative mix of traditional and outlandish that somehow worked to add dimension to the familiar characters. Picture Theseus, Duke of Athens, decked out like JR Houston, and Helena in high-topped sneakers!

The play within the play, orchestrated by villagers to entertain Theseus and Hippolyta was a hilarious parody of community theatre, complete with histrionics, melodrama and tardy actors. The performance was peppered with silly lines directed at the audience. For example, while watching the nuptial entertainment, Theseus, urged by Hippolyta to end the buttock rehearsal, solemnly intones, “Out of courtesy, we must stay the time.”

In all, everyone seemed to have a good time…except the audience. The two nights of The Midsummer Night’s Dream cast and crew had the audience in stitches.

BC Seniors held AGM event in Nakusp, May 19-21, 2001

by Gale Detta

Seniors gathered from all over the province for the annual meeting of the Senior Citizens Association of BC in Nakusp held at the Nakusp Legion Hall May 19-21. The event was co-hosted by Nakusp branch 71 (president Shannon Olson), and Burton branch 124 (president Ray Blanche).

Ron Decembrini from Port Clements, president of the BC organization, conducted the meeting.

The guest speakers were greatly enjoyed by all. Sharon Montgomery spoke on the Sinita Indians accompanied with a PowerPoint presentation. Earl Fredricks and Gene Nagy presented the plan for a fixed link instead of a ferry at Galena Bay. Liz Gillis used PowerPoint to demonstrate all the things seniors can do with their computers. Kate Tupper explained what the seniors do to help organize the Nakusp Music Festival – it is certainly much more than what the audience sees.

Past president of the Nakusp branch Nancy Stewart gave a speech titled “Overview of Seniors Lifestyle in Small Communities.” Troy Clarke of People’s Pharmacy gave an informative talk on how pharmacists can now fill your prescription without seeing the doctor each time if there are no changes or complications. Gale Detta spoke on mobility safety with electric scooters, bikes and Trikes.

There was a variety of resolutions which were all passed on topics of interest to seniors. Elections were held and Ron Decembrini was re-elected president. Gale Detta was elected first vice-president and Arnold Amonson becomes second vice-president.

The Nakusp Legion ladies catered the Friday night dinner and the Saturday night banquet. After dinner Friday night, participants enjoyed the guitar playing of John Dolmas as he sang many old songs that had everyone singing along. Saturday night the Nakusp Seniors did a skit on seniors coming to the convention, which was a real hit, followed by a medley of old songs by the Burton Singers.

The winner of the design contest for the Community Information Kiosk Project, funded by AGM event, the Nakusp Museum, a horse and carriage ride and a tour of the new emergency services building were well received. All in all everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

by Jack Olive


OPEN
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New Denver council, May 24: Hwy 6 improvements for cyclists proposed

by Michael Dorney

• Council welcomed Hills resident and cyclist Daniel Hellyer, who presented a slide show and spoke on areas of Highway 6 that need improvement for safe cycling and pedestrian use. As area roads are being re-paved this summer, the opportunity to improve the roads for cyclists and pedestrians is timely. He asked for council’s support of these improvements, pointing out that local businesses and campgrounds benefit from cycling tour groups. He has been cycling almost every day since he arrived in the area in 1969, and noted the highway has not been improved since major work was done in 1991.

Hellyer drew council’s attention to the BC government’s cycling policy, pointing out that “provisions for cyclists are made on all new and upgraded provincial highways,” and “route evaluations that impact cyclists will include consultations with cycling stakeholders.”

Hellyer commented that he had received no response to his requests to meet with Ministry of Transportation representatives. Mayor Wright offered to help set up a meeting.

He presented a seven-point program to address basic safety requirements:

1) The MOT Cycling Policy be followed with consultations with cycling stakeholders, the municipal and district governments, Recreation Commission #6, and the Hills Recreation Society.

2) Councillor Murray, chair of Rec. #6, agreed to participate.

3) The ROA Cycling signs be placed on all three roads leaving New Denver. Hellyer also noted that in areas not wide enough for two shoulders, asymmetric central painting would create a cycling lane – a practice adopted in many states and other provinces.

4) Mayor Wright noted that BC Hydro has confirmed attendance at the Tuesday, June 14 meeting to discuss smart meters. This will be a Town Hall Meeting in Knox Hall, open to the public and chaired by Councillor Bunka, followed by the regular meeting of council. Hydro has also confirmed attendance in the 26 council meeting (place TBA) to discuss the January 7 power outage.

5) Administrator Gordon reported on the proposed OPC and zoning amendment for the Becker property. The Village office has received public input against the proposal from nearby residents. Council directed stuff to prepare the amendment, and to respond to Francie Oldham’s question on process by informing her there will be more opportunities for public input, including a public hearing.

6) Pedestrian crossing areas to be road painted and signage installed, particularly at the Galena Trail crossing.

7) “Share the Road” cycling signs to be placed on all three roads leaving New Denver. Hellyer also noted that in areas not wide enough for two shoulders, asymmetric central painting would create a cycling lane – a practice adopted in many states and other provinces.

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• Council received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce, asking that the Silvery Slocan Museum washroom upgrade be done. The letter states that the Chamber understands the upgrade was approved and budgeted for by council.

• Mayor Wright reported that suggested prices to date on Centennial Park Boat rentals are $25 per half day and $40 per day for a single seat watercraft. He also reported that a new location has been chosen for the campground “bulletin board bar.” It will be installed adjacent to the campground attendant’s trailer. This location is clear of water and hydro lines and deemed more accessible to visitors and campers.

• In RDCK news, Councillor Bunka suggested prices to date on Centennial Park Boat rentals are $25 per half day and $40 per day for a single seat watercraft. He also reported that a new location has been chosen for the campground “bulletin board bar.” It will be installed adjacent to the campground attendant’s trailer. This location is clear of water and hydro lines and deemed more accessible to visitors and campers.

WE Graham students sign water conservation agreement

Water wasters in Slocan City beware! Eighteen students from the grade 7/8 class at WE Graham Community School have pledged to become the school’s first “Water Smart Stewards.” Their goal: reduce the school’s annual water consumption by 20 percent.

On April 13, the students met with Councillor Hillary Elliott and discussed some of their ideas for conserving water at the school. These included improving the sprinkler system on school grounds, using water barrels in the school’s community garden, and other things students can do to reduce water consumption at home and in the community.

Afterwards, each student signed a partnership agreement with the Village stating their commitment to reduce water usage. In return, the Village agreed to support their efforts, beginning with the purchase of rain barrels for the school’s proposed learning garden.

Teacher Cam Lytle has tried to make water issues a focus for the class. Over the course of the year they have studied the hydraulic cycle, taken water samples from Springer Creek with the help of the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, and discussed the importance of water to so many aspects of both human life and the ecosystem.

After the signing, Councillor Elliott thanked the students for being leaders in both their school and community. She said the Village is proud of the students’ commitment, and is very happy to see youth becoming involved in issues of local government.

The Village, in partnership with the Columbia Basin Trust, has set a target of a 20 percent reduction in overall community water consumption by 2015.

Best of luck to the students of WE Graham’s grade 7/8 class in all their water conservation endeavours.
Kaslo & District Area Association audit clarified

by Jan McMurray

The chair of the RDCK board, John Kettle, came to Kaslo on May 25 to meet with the Kaslo & District Area Association board, Kaslo Mayor Greg Lay, Councillor Molly Leathwood and Area D Director Ann Shadrack. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the RDCK’s request for an audited statement for the area association’s 2010 financial transactions.

Area D Director Shadrack explained that over the past three years, the RDCK has given out roughly $7.3 million in funding to non-profits and commissions to manage RDCK facilities. And over the nine years he has been an RDCK director, he has received many phone calls from people accusing volunteers of doing wrong. “We err on the side of caution when public money is involved. We do this to protect the interests of our volunteers,” he said. “You have to file financial statements and you have to do audits anytime we ask. Any director from any area can ask for a financial statement from any commission that is responsible to the RDCK for part of its funding. This is the best protection for volunteers. In nine years, there has not been one single audit that has shown a huge discrepancy that involved people doing scurrilous things.”

Area board members Dennis McIntyre and Kul Nijjar both asked for clarification on the connection between the letter requesting the audit, dated March 14, and the area association AGM two months later on May 4. Nijjar said some individuals questioned the financial statements at the AGM.

Kettle replied that the letter requesting an audit had nothing to do with the AGM, but was written after a resolution of the RDCK board. He said he understood from talking to the two RDCK directors, Lay and Shadrack, that they had received anonymous phone calls. Director Shadrack confirmed that his decision to ask for an audit this year has nothing to do with the AGM.

Area Association members said they had no problem having the audit done, but could not pay for it. McIntyre said the society has $70,000-$80,000 in term deposits, and this is contingency money for the repair and replacement of equipment. Director Shadrack said that once the audit is done and the cost is known, he will consider providing some of his discretionary funding towards the cost.

Joe Johnston from the arena board asked if the audit could be done according to the Societies Act. The Act states that the audit can be done by a responsible person, and does not have to be done by a professional accountant. Director Shadrack said he would find out from the RDCK’s Chief Financial Officer. Following the arena association AGM, at the May 10 council meeting, Mayor Lay and Councillor Leathwood made statements that were considered slanderous and libellous by arena board members. Councillor Leathwood apologized to the arena association board for her comments, and said she would send the board a written apology. She said she should have spoken to the board first before making statements publicly regarding what she had heard about the AGM.

“Look on this as an opportunity,” said Lay. “This committee needs to look more closely at the way it operates. I think this statement will provide a template so there will be something more satisfactory for Mr. Gustafson [CAO of the RDCK], so I think this is a good thing.”

Kettle concluded the meeting by urging the group to move forward. “Some things were said, maybe some things shouldn’t have been said. You got an apology and I thank you for that. Let’s move forward. These guys are good directors, they do a good job, so let’s move forward.”

Local committee forms to deal with Meadow Creek Cedar

by Jan McMurray

A Lardeau Valley committee has very recently formed to look into the situation at Meadow Creek Cedar.

The decision to form a committee came out of a meeting held May 12, attended by concerned local citizens and chaired by Don Edwards of the Lardeau Valley Opportunity Links Society.

The committee is interested in seeing a stable, safe work environment there, and environmental issues being dealt with,” said Edwards. “The public interest is worried about many things with this company – Worksafe infractions, road issues, payroll issues, reforestation...”

Edwards said the Lardeau Valley Opportunity Links Society is all about helping the community, so when some citizens approached them and asked them to organize the May 12 meeting, they agreed. He said “a good cross-section of people who know the industry” attended.

The committee that came out of the May 12 meeting was scheduled to meet for the first time on May 30. “A Lardeau Valley resident who is a professional accountant. Director Shadrack said that once the audit is done and the cost is known, he will consider providing some of his discretionary funding towards the cost.”

The committee that came out of the May 12 meeting was scheduled to meet for the first time on May 30. “A Lardeau Valley resident who

Association forms to work on fixed link to replace Galena-Shelter ferry

by Jan McMurray

A new association has formed to revive the idea of a fixed link to replace the Galena Bay-Shelter Bay ferry.

The Beaton Arm Crossing Assessment (BACA) had its founding meeting on May 28. The association will pursue the proposal that would provide a fixed link via Hill Creek Road, a causeway and bridge across Beaton Arm, and another causeway and bridge across Columbia River from the old Sulmuth townsite to Cranberry Creek.

The new proposal is similar to the one developed by ALTJA for the Galena-Shelter ferry.

“Chwachka said the society is in favour of multi-use trails where possible and would like to “overcome some of the problems and infighting that happen over this issue. We trust it’s difficult, but we’d like to do the best we can.”

The society has been in touch with the Regional Districts and Tsilhqot’in branch of the Ministry of Forests, which has provided a set of guidelines. “We want to develop our plans based on best practices, so we hope these guidelines will help,” said Chwachka. She also said the society wants to work with the snowmobile, ATV and bike clubs, as well as the general public, “to be sure we are doing what the community wants, not just what we think we should be doing.”

The society is also keen to provide organized hiking and biking trips. The society board has eight members and is looking for one more to fill the role of secretary.

BOOTS

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Mt. Sentinel to perform Beauty and the Beast at the Capitol theatre, $10 for students/seniors and $12 adults.

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Friday, June 3rd – 7:00PM
Saturday, June 4th – 2:00PM & 7:30PM

$10 Students/Seniors $12 Adults
Chuck and Judy Cameron are New Denver’s Citizens of the Year. June McMillan of the May Days Committee presented the award.

“This year’s nominees are exemplary examples of the definition of a good citizen,” she said. “She possesses the innate ability to determine what is really needed and then tirelessly and quietly gets to work to accomplish it. He is the silent handyman, ready to volunteer for those special construction projects, general maintenance or transporting chairs or equipment when needed.”

The Camerons volunteer at the Kohan Garden and the Donation Store. Judy is also a volunteer gardener at the Slocan Community Health Centre.

The kids love New Denver’s soapbox derby on the Saturday of May Days.

Chuck and Judy Cameron are New Denver’s Citizens of the Year.

New Denver Citizens 2011

by Jan McMurray

Chuck and Judy Cameron are New Denver’s Citizens of the Year. June McMillan of the May Days Committee presented the award. “This year’s nominees are exemplary examples of the definition of a good citizen,” she said. “She possesses the innate ability to determine what is really needed and then tirelessly and quietly gets to work to accomplish it. He is the silent handyman, ready to volunteer for those special construction projects, general maintenance or transporting chairs or equipment when needed.”

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As volunteers, caring friends and neighbours, the Camerons make our community a better place, concluded McMillan.
What’s a logger sports event without log birling? May Days Sunday saw lots of exciting logger sports events, including the Stihl TimberSports Series Western Canadian qualifier. Mitch Hewitt of Scotch Creek and Stirling Hart of Maple Ridge scored the highest in the series, and will represent Canada at the world championships in Holland.

Kaslo’s main street was lined with some very cool cars for the Show n Shine on Sunday of May Days.

Another satisfied customer at Yvonne Boyd’s face painting booth.

Elections BC is administering the 2011 HST Referendum. To vote in the referendum, you should know the following:

- an HST Referendum Voting Package will be mailed to each registered voter beginning June 13 through to June 24, 2011.
- voters who do not receive an HST Referendum Voting Package may request a package until midnight (local time), July 8, 2011. Call 1-800-661-8683 (toll-free).
- voting packages will include a ballot and instructions on how to vote and return your ballot package.
- you can vote if you are:
  - a Canadian citizen
  - 18 years of age or older on July 22, 2011
  - registered as a voter in British Columbia, and
  - not disqualified by the Election Act or any other enactment from voting or be otherwise disqualified by law.

ballot packages must be received by Elections BC, a Service BC Centre or an Elections BC Collection Centre before 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 22, 2011. Locations are listed on the Elections BC website at www.elections.bc.ca or call 1-800-661-8683 (toll-free).

HST Referendum Voting Packages are provided in English. Translations of the materials will be available on the Elections BC website at www.elections.bc.ca.

For more information, contact:

www.elections.bc.ca
1-800-661-8683
TTY 1-888-456-9448
Meeting held to discuss local inter-jurisdictional cooperation

by Art Joyce

Council members from the Villages of New Denver, Silverton and Slocan met with Area H Director Walter Popoff at the Silverton fire hall May 25 to discuss inter-jurisdictional cooperation.

First on the agenda was a request for proposals from the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS) for a Slocan Lake scoping study. Popoff said he has been approached by SLSS to cooperate on the development of a management plan for Slocan Lake, but as yet RDCK staff are unsure how to proceed. He is supportive of such a plan and seeing direction from the Villages and SLSS. He sees it as primarily an issue of Rural Affairs governance.

New Denver Mayor Gary Wright pointed out that all the Villages have water rights on the lake, so all have a stake in any management plan, not just the Regional District. Slocan Councillor Hillary Elliott said what makes this plan unique compared to other areas in BC is that it is pro-active whereas other lake management plans have been implemented after the fact of intensive lakeshore development.

Now that much of the scientific data has been collected, the process will involve extensive consultation with all the stakeholders.

Silverton Councillor Jamie Barber expressed concern that with four different administrations involved, we could end up with conflicting regulations governing lake management. “We can see that in future it may require some contribution from the Villages, but that an equitable cost-sharing arrangement could be made.

Meeting Chair Leah Main suggested having a representative from each of the three Villages as a liaison with the SLSS board. Popoff and Wright agreed this would be a good idea. Wright said once a meeting was held with SLSS, a recommendation could be brought forward to the RDCK board. He raised the possibility that the CBT could be an ongoing source of funding for future studies and projects related to lake management.

Popoff volunteered to contact the SLSS board to set up a meeting date sometime in June.

Mayor Wright said that based on his 25 years of experience in local government, inter-jurisdictional cooperation for project planning has been a major challenge, particularly regarding fundraising and cost-sharing. He recommended having each Village set aside $10,000 into a cooperative projects fund.

The problem is how do we actually do something, how do we actually get the funding,” said Wright. “It has never happened in 25 years that required all four of us to coordinate. This would be a real first.”

Councillor Barber had reservations about setting aside money from an already limited pool of funds for projects that may or may not happen.

New Denver Councillor Bonnie Greensword suggested designating funds specifically for the lake management plan, which could open up more funding possibilities from the CBT. Slocan Councillor Jessica Lunn suggested a cooperative project to create a regional marketing strategy in combination with education about respectful uses of the lake.

Slocan Councillor Jean Patterson asked if anyone from the Villages had planned to attend the rural medicine conference in Kelowna June 15-16. Councillor Greensword said she’d check with West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District Chair Maquarie Retovd, but would be happy to attend as a representative of the three Villages.

Director Popoff raised the issue of parks commissions within the rural areas, pointing out that each park seemed to be administered by a different process. He’d like to see consistency and inter-jurisdictional cooperation on this matter.

Kaslo girl raises money for seniors, local charity

by Jan McMurray and Art Joyce

It’s never too early for kids to get involved in community service. At least, if you’re Maddox Hahne. The seven-year-old Kaslo girl has been active both in raising funds to buy baby food for the Kaslo Food Hub and volunteering at Kaslo’s community health centre.

Maddox expressed an interest in “helping the poor people” and discussed with her mother, Angela Burton, various ways she could do so. She set out donation jars in her father’s store to collect money for organic baby food to donate to the Kaslo Food Hub.

“She decided that adults could get a job if they really wanted to and get food for themselves, but that their babies had to sit and wait to be fed,” says Burton.

Maddox collected $119.75 in total, including money from her donation jars, as well as money she earned by busking with her violin and from selling her pony’s mane to local gardeners. Maddox is home-schooled, so as part of her maths class with her mom, she counted out the money herself. As a means of encouraging other kids to help out, perhaps by donating part of their allowance, she wanted to get her story out.

When asked by the Valley Voice why she decided to help out, Maddox said, “Because so many families I feel sad about, so many people who don’t have anything to eat – the babies have to wait a long time to get food.”

Maddox also volunteers at the hospital for a couple hours a week, passing out treats she buys or raises herself. She also assists Ruth Langevin with the seniors Bell Choir, doing crafts, decorating and visiting with the residents of the Long Term Care Facility.

Kaslo Food Hub coordinator Aimee Watson received Maddox’s donation of organic baby food, organic baby food to donate to the Kaslo Food Hub.

“I would like to promote the idea of children learning to volunteer and contributing to the community at a young age,” says Burton, “and see this as a great opportunity to show other kids and their parents how even a little time and effort can be so rewarding and make such a difference.”

Silvery Slocan Museum in New Denver open

submitted by Silvery Slocan Historical Society

New Denver’s Silvery Slocan Museum and Visitor InfoCentre, located in the museum, are now open every day 10 am to 4 pm until Labour Day. In the past, the museum and InfoCentre in New Denver have been open in July and August only. This year, however, the provincial government decreed that all BC Visitor InfoCentres will be open from Victoria Day weekend until Labour Day. Everyone is invited to take advantage of the longer season – bring your friends and family visitors to have a look at the old Bank of Montreal building at the foot of Main Street, where the Silvery Slocan Museum and the InfoCentre are located.

This year, the Village will be putting a new coat of paint on the old building, which was built in 1897. It was the Bank of Montreal from 1897 until October 31, 1961. The Silvery Slocan Historical Society is putting together an exhibit about the bank for display this summer season. Anyone with information or artifacts relating to the bank operation in New Denver from 1897 until 1961 is asked to contact any member of the board of directors.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

On behalf of the New Denver May Day Committee, we would like to take this opportunity to say...

THANK YOU to our local businesses, organizations and Village Councils for your continuing generosity, commitment and support. Your donations of time, money and merchandise help keep our costs down, which in turn allows us to put our fundraising efforts back into the community.

THANK YOU to our volunteers, who selflessly donate their time to pitch in to help with or run an event, work in the Hot/Cold booth or just plain show up to help with anything that needs doing. You rock!

THANK YOU to our community – New Denver, Silverton, Rosebery and Hills. It’s all of you who make this weekend a true success and it is the commitment to the community that makes this such a special place to live.

With much gratitude and appreciation,
The New Denver May Day Committee – Anita, Linda, June, Kerry, Candice, Erica, Debbie, and Shelley
Parents sound alarm over how school board makes decisions

Submitted by Trafalgar PAC

With the school year about to enter into its last month, you might expect Parent Advisory Committees (PACs) to be winding down their activities, but the Trafalgar School PAC is winding up the pressure on the board of education for School District #8. The Trafalgar PAC is asking that the board initiate an independent review of how it involves parents in educational issues as well as how it makes decisions that limit the number of students who can participate in educational opportunities—particularly, the number of students allowed enrollment in French immersion.

The concerns arose from recent discussions on how to address the interests of more than 90 families who wanted their children to enter the French immersion program at Trafalgar when the district only offers space for 60 students. The PAC’s concerns are not about the French immersion program, rather what it considers to be fundamental issues for a publicly funded education system.

“The lack of credible, transparent and effective decision-making processes has created a crisis in confidence in the leadership of our school district and represents a real threat to the future of our public education system,” explained PAC Chair Robin Woodbridge.

Francesca Blishen, Trafalgar middle school parent representative to SD8’s French Advisory Council (FAC), says Superintendent Jeff Jones claimed the SD8 presentation acquired its information from the Ministry of Education at the May 26 District PAC meeting. Parents refute this claim outright, since at the April 26 parent meeting SD8 senior management clearly told parents that they had quoted “called around to other districts” for the information. Yet that presentation was pivotal in denying parents a third French immersion classroom for their children.

“It is deeply upsetting to think that parents might have been denied the education they chose for their children because of a potentially flawed presentation,” says Blishen. “If this is the case, it is time for the district to consider putting a third class back on the agenda.”

The PAC is concerned with the efforts of the board and district staff to engage with parents. “Research has shown that a key factor in determining how well students do at school is the degree to which their parents are involved with their education,” said Woodbridge. “These recent discussions have left parents questioning whether it is worth trying to engage with their children’s school and the school district, and even if they should be looking at alternatives to our public education system.”

Woodbridge says the Trafalgar PAC is calling for an independent person to be brought in to lead a review of the decision-making process.

“We need to learn from these mistakes,” said Woodbridge. “For the sake of all current and future students, we need to find more effective ways of working together – the students need us to rise to this challenge.”

EcoSociety challenges Basin residents to car-free commute

Submitted by West Kootenay EcoSociety

The 2011 National Commuter Challenge Week is June 5-11. The City of Nelson had the best participation in Canada last year, and for 2011, the West Kootenay EcoSociety is expanding the challenge throughout the Kootenays. With grants from Columbia Basin Trust and Osprey Community Foundation, the Nelson-based environmental non-profit is throwing the 2011 National Commuter Challenge throughout the Kootenays.

The Children’s Art Show at the Hidden Garden Gallery is submitted by Hidden Garden Gallery

Don’t miss the one day Children’s Art show at the Hidden Garden Gallery on Friday, June 10 from 10 am to 3 pm. This is a special showing of art that the children in the New Denver preschool and Lucerne School’s kindergarten, grade one, and grade two students have done this year.

Their work will delight and inspire viewers of all ages. Diverse mediums have been used to create these pieces. There is string art done with paints, lovely paper collages depicting spring flowers, and an array of impressions of our golden sun. The featured installation of felt with paints, lovely paper collages with paints, lovely paper collages

Hidden Garden Gallery presents children’s art
Tax freedom now! Or at least earlier

Tax Freedom Day is the day of the year when most Canadians finally start working for themselves after paying their total tax bill to all levels of the government. It occurs either in late May or early June, depending on where you live.

A significant portion of the taxes you pay are federal and provincial government income tax - and how much you pay can be positively influenced by taking full advantage of tax planning opportunities. You can bump up your personal Tax Freedom Day with strategies like these:

- Use an RRSP to pull the trigger on taxes. With a marginal rate of 46 percent, if your family earns $10,000 in tax-deductible RRSP contribution, you could save as much as $4,600 in taxes and advance your Tax Freedom Day by as many as 18 days.

- Invest your non-registered dollars tax-efficienly. For example, if your family earns $100,000 in interest income, taxed at a personal marginal rate of 46 percent, you will pay $46,000 in taxes. But if that $100,000 of interest income is derived from more advantageous tax investments — say $3,000 invested in Canadian equities that pay dividends, $2,000 in related capital gains investments, and $5,000 in deferred capital gains investments — your tax cost would be reduced by $3,361 — advancing your Tax Freedom Day by about 13 days.

- The family that tax-plans together, saves together. Families can reduce their tax liability by having a spouse or family member with the highest marginal tax rate pay the tax on the family's combined income. For example, if your family makes $100,000 and one member earns $70,000 and the other $30,000, the cost of taxes will be less.

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COOL EATORIES of the West Kootenays

by And Rhodhes

GOOD TIMES AT THE KASLO HOTEL

If you read this column now and then you might recall that my favourite drive in the world is between New Denver and Kaslo on Highway 31 eh. No overhead power lines, the beaver pond with its dragonfly and wildflowers, the Lake Osoyoos, and the high alpine “wilderness” lakes, wildlife, and lots of places to get out of the car and do some exploring all combine to make it a very enjoyable drive. And two weeks ago I was feeling lucky again to be on that stretch of highway. Also, I felt lucky to be on my way to the Kaslo Hotel for lunch. YIPPEE! I arrived in Kaslo early to catch the installation of “Bear Circle”, a beautiful granite sculpture by brilliant Metis sculptor Stewart Steinhauser. Check it out just up from the Kaslo Hotel on Front Street.

Ah yes, the Kaslo Hotel. I’ve been there a number of times since it opened two years ago and I always enjoy it. Owners and builders John and Susan Eckland put a lot of thought and TLC into the design and the building of this hotel. From the outside it looks just like a big inviting turn of the century boom-town hotel. Inside it is open, airy, bright, modern, clean and comfortable. The views of the Purcell Mountains are simply stunning! The dining room, brewpub area and two patios seat close to two hundred people, and have views of the Purcell Mountains that are downright stunning, and that’s where I found myself at a table full of lively folks. Andy Lecouffe, the general manager, his parents Rodger and Beverly, his wife Lyne, John Eckland himself, sculptor Stewart Steinhauser and I sat comfortably at two round tables. As we perused the new menus, Rodger Lecouffe explained that instead of opening a B&B at his home east of Montreal, he was opening a C&C as in “Cot and Crackers.” On his business card it says “Every day is Saturday.” He’s a funny man, and he set a lively and humorous tone for our lunch.

The new chef, Cameron Gillies, of Kaslo, has “streamlined” the menu, but there’s certainly no shortage of great choices. Appetizers include Calamari (not overcooked!!! YES), mini-burgers, fried oysters, and guessed what else? POUTINE! That calorie-free treat sweeping the country. Salads? Thai Noodle, Caesar and The Kaslo Salad Bowl with mixed greens, grated beets, carrots toasted walnuts, sprouts, chickpeas, feta, red onions and a glorious olive oil dressing.

Sandwiches range from a variety of burgers (including Schnitzel and Garden) to the Kaslo Club, Steak Sandwich, and French Dip. Chicken Caesar Wrap, Thai Chicken and Pawnn Curry, Fish & Chips and the Plowman’s Plate with cold sliced pork and beef, cheddar, French bread, mustard, horseradish, tomatoes, pickles, lettuce and mayo, round out page two.


OK then. What did we have? The daily special (there’s always a lunch and dinner special) was a Pulled Pork Sandwich. Three of us got that. The word is succulent! Rodger got fried oysters and devoured them while telling oyster stories. Beverley had the Chicken Caesar Wrap, Stewart got the Chef Salad and John Eckland smiled as he watched us dive into our food. It was a happy table! At intervals between bites of food and Rodger’s stories we were joined by Lynn, our waitress, Mark, the bar manager, and Lee Anne, the hotel’s assistant manager and organizer of the hotel’s many social events and festivals.

Tell you what, we laughed a lot, enjoyed the food and the view and made new friends. You can’t go wrong at The Kaslo Hotel. I drop in whenever I’m in Kaslo.

The staff AND owners are always happy to see you and your friends laugh loudly all through a great lunch. We did, and had a wonderful time! I’ll be there the next chance I get. Treat yourself! Go there!

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription Only $10–$30

LIVING

Nelson novelist Mark Nykanen publishes two novels in three weeks

Mark Nykanen, a Nelson resident, has published two novels this month. He is a long-time resident of Nelson. The first is Burn Down the Sky, a post-apocalyptic thriller published by HarperCollins. Using his pen name, TLC into the design and the building of the hotel.

Nykanen puts a lot of thought and energy into female leads. With truly stand-out writing, a superb, brilliant thriller.

“Takes the idea of the post-apocalyptic men’s adventure tale and turns it on its head, with the simple idea that it focuses on female leads. With truly stand-out writing, a superb, brilliant thriller.”

The new chef, Cameron Gillies, of Kaslo, has “streamlined” the menu, but there’s certainly no shortage of great choices. Appetizers include Calamari (not overcooked!!! YES), mini-burgers, fried oysters, and guessed what else? POUTINE! That calorie-free treat sweeping the country. Salads? Thai Noodle, Caesar and The Kaslo Salad Bowl with mixed greens, grated beets, carrots toasted walnuts, sprouts, chickpeas, feta, red onions and a glorious olive oil dressing.

Sandwiches range from a variety of burgers (including Schnitzel and Garden) to the Kaslo Club, Steak Sandwich, and French Dip. Chicken Caesar Wrap, Thai Chicken and Pawnn Curry, Fish & Chips and the Plowman’s Plate with cold sliced pork and beef, cheddar, French bread, mustard, horseradish, tomatoes, pickles, lettuce and mayo, round out page two.


OK then. What did we have? The daily special (there’s always a lunch and dinner special) was a Pulled Pork Sandwich. Three of us got that. The word is succulent! Rodger got fried oysters and devoured them while telling oyster stories. Beverley had the Chicken Caesar Wrap, Stewart got the Chef Salad and John Eckland smiled as he watched us dive into our food. It was a happy table! At intervals between bites of food and Rodger’s stories we were joined by Lynn, our waitress, Mark, the bar manager, and Lee Anne, the hotel’s assistant manager and organizer of the hotel’s many social events and festivals.

Tell you what, we laughed a lot, enjoyed the food and the view and made new friends. You can’t go wrong at The Kaslo Hotel. I drop in whenever I’m in Kaslo.

The staff AND owners are always happy to see you and your friends laugh loudly all through a great lunch. We did, and had a wonderful time! I’ll be there the next chance I get. Treat yourself! Go there!

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription Only $10–$30
Kaslo council, May 24: Parks Canada grant for City hall denied

by Jan McMurray

The Parks Canada grant for the City Hall building was initially rejected due to changes in property use. However, the grant was re-considered and approved with amendments.

The decision to decline the grant in 2018 was based on the fact that the City Hall was not the original building. The old City Hall was demolished to make way for the new building. The new building was not eligible for the grant because it was not the original building.

The amendment to the grant was made to address the issue of the original building. The amendment allowed the grant to be awarded to the new building as long as the original building was preserved.

The amended grant was submitted to Parks Canada and approved. The grant was then used to fund the construction of the new City Hall building.

Forest, was notified about the project by Councillor Frary, who was present at the meeting where the project was discussed. The project was discussed at a special meeting on May 26, 2011, with Councillors Cormie and Frary.

The two councillors voted against adoption of the OCP because they felt the affordable housing policies in the document should be improved. Councillor Frary made a motion to table adoption for three months to provide time for the preparation of housing policies, but this was defeated.

At the public hearing on the OCP held May 19, there were just three speakers, and they all spoke solely about the improved affordable housing policies in the document.

Elizabeth Scarlett and Sean Kubara of the Kaslo Housing Society pointed out that the society had hired a consultant to help develop a housing strategy for Kaslo, and suggested it might be prudent to wait for the strategy before adopting the OCP.

“Are we preparing a horse before the cart?” asked Kubara. “We need to know what the strategy looks like to know what kinds of policies to put in the OCP.” She acknowledged that another option may be to adopt the OCP now and amend it later.

Scarlett said other OCPs have better affordable housing policies, and that many of the housing policies in Kaslo’s OCP are “of a general nature.” For example, she said there is nothing in the OCP requiring developers to provide a percentage of affordable housing units, or requiring resorts to provide staff housing. She also told council that the society’s first meeting with the consultant was taking place just before the OCP was scheduled for adoption.

Kubara reported that at the meeting with the consultant, the society learned that other communities have adopted better affordable housing policies for Kaslo’s OCP at no extra charge. He estimated this would take three months to achieve.

Although the OCP has been adopted, Kubara said the consultant will go ahead and prepare the policies. The plan, she said, was accepted by council at a special meeting on May 26 OCP adoption meeting, is to amend the OCP to incorporate the policies at a later date.
CARMEN GUSTAFSON - Joan and Danny Law, Sharon and Al Gustafson recently attended convocation ceremonies at the University of Calgary and watched as their granddaughter, Carmen Gustafson was granted the degree, Juris Doctor as their granddaughter, Carmen Gustafson in Whitehorse, Yukon with the firm Cabott Centre, then she will complete her articling and be admitted to the bar.

DANNY LAW, Sharon and Al Gustafson

CARMEN GUSTAFSON

June 1, 2011

The AGM for the ARROW LAKES ARTS COUNCIL will be held on Sunday, June 12, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at the Nakusp Community Hall. All are welcome!

THE COLUMBIA BASIN ALLIANCE FOR LITERACY (CBAL) would like to thank the Passmore Lodge for hosting our ‘Shopping and Banking Safely Online’ Workshop on May 11. We would also like to thank Columbia Wireless for their generous support with the connection and troubleshooting.

THE FIRST SLOCAN SCRABBLE Tournament saw competitors come from Nelson and Castlegar to test their vocabularies against each other. Thanks to the sponsors: Mountain Valley Station, Sav-On Foods Nelson, Secret Garden Toys, Walmart, Slocan Women’s Institute, Slocan Legion Branch 276, CBAL, Slocan Village, the Village of Slocan and the Columbia Basin Trust. A big thanks to all of the volunteers.

TEXAS HOLD’EM TOURNAMENT Sat., June 11, Slocan Legion Hall, 502 Harald St. Slocan starting at 9:00 p.m. $30 buy-in. Tickets at Mountain Valley Station or Slocan or phone 355-2672 to reserve. Tickets not available at the door.

THE FRIDAY MARKET happens in New Denver every Friday, June through September, 10 am to 2 pm on 6th and Kildare – local produce and artisan’s wares. Ph 250-358-7733.

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AHA! First Slocan Scrabble Soup for your soul

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Ready, Set, Learn at St. John's Elementary May 25, June 1, and June 8, 12:45-1:45 pm. All 4 and 5 year old children are invited to join us for stories, songs, crafts and games. A great opportunity to introduce your child to Kindergarten. Local professionals will be available to discuss children’s health and development with parents. Please call 250-339-7292 to let us know which session you plan to attend with your child. FREE!

Come to a talk by Kay Conley-White. Is Buddhism relevant in the 21st century? at Knox Hall, Sat. June 11, 7:30 pm. Part of the Hidden Garden Gallery’s summer series. Free admission. Donation appreciated. All welcome. June 19 beginning at 6:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to showcase or just come and see what others have brought. Please call 250-355-2740 if you are interested but can’t make the meetings.

In Celebration of Legion Week June 19-29th a BBQ will be held at the Slocan Beach Gazebo on Sunday, June 19 beginning at 6:30 pm. Everyone Welcome.

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Stop chopping wood, warps and birds without poison!! Use a Kootenay Cover. Check out www.kootenaycovers.com. email: kfurnace@netidea.com or call 250-353-2264


Yoga at the Domes – Rejuvenate your spirit! Drop in classes – Monday morning 9:10-30, Thursday afternoon 3:30-5.

Help Wanted


Museum Attendees for summer 2011 – The Slocan Historical Society requires a student attendant for July and August at the New Denver museum. The attendant must take admissions, handle gift shop sales, clean exhibit areas and supply information in co-operation with the interpreters. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and continuing their education in the fall. Submit applications showing education and experience to Box 301, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0.

Nurses, Care Aides, House Cleaners – Bayshore Health Care, one of Canada’s 51 Best Managed Companies, is hiring part time casual RNs, LPNs, Certified Care Aides and House Cleaners. If you are empathetic, flexible, possess a “can do” attitude and are passionate about providing the best in personal care, email sali@bayshore.ca. Only those shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Calling all chapters to sign up to take part in the 2011 Canada Day celebrations!

NOTICES

For information on AA or Al-anon meetings contact in New Denver: St. John’s 358-7044 or Nakup 256-4924; Kaslo 353-2608; Slocan 355-2805; South Slocan 226-7706

Real Estate

Summer Special: Perfect group or family investment! Castle flying 96.39 acres with sunny southern exposure and Valhalla mountain views. Several building sites, your own trail and utilities off public road near Silverton. Contact Larry Laing, Landquest Realty Corp., 250-513-2733.

Residential & Commercial Septic Tank Cleaning: "Serving the Valley" 7 days/wk, 24-Hr. All-Around Septic Services, Don Brown (250) 354-3644, emergency 352-5676.

Rogan Electric – Residential, commercial, industrial wiring. Local references available. All work guaranteed. "We get the job done." 352-6618.

Food for Thought series. Admission by donation. All welcome.

Don’t miss the one day Children’s Art Show at the Hidden Garden Gallery on Friday, June 10 from 10 am to 3 pm.

The next meeting of the Slocan and Valley historical society group will be on June 10th, 2011 at 2 pm at the Slocan Library - 710 Harold Street. This will be a show and tell day – bring an item you’d like to showcase or just come and see what others have brought. Please call 250-355-2740 if you are interested but can’t make the meeting.

For more information please contact Kay Costley, Costley@telus.net.
Arrow Lakes School District explores balanced calendar

by Dan Nicholson

School Board Chair Pattie Adam gave a presentation on the balanced school calendar at the May Committee of the Whole meeting for School District #10.

The balanced school year is otherwise known as year-round schooling and tries to distribute instructional days and school breaks evenly over the course of a year.

Balanced calendars have a shorter summer break and longer breaks at other times in the year. For example, there might be a three week winter break, a three week spring break and six weeks in the summer.

Proponents of the balanced calendar feel that there are improvements in many aspects of learning. Students attend classes more regularly, have a better attitude, and tend to have higher academic achievement. Teachers have greater job satisfaction. They also note that shutting schools down for longer periods of time in the winter will probably reduce operating costs.

The balanced calendar seems to be better for students that experience ‘summer learning loss.’ There’s less need for review when students start again in the fall. Students don’t burn out as badly with the shorter terms, and more evenly spread out breaks.

Students that are struggling can get into remedial programs in the three week breaks.

Those who oppose year-round schooling tend to point out that there’s been little research done on the merits of the balanced calendar. That it may cause scheduling challenges for teachers and some families. They also make the point that the cost-saving claims are unsubstantiated.

Many teachers upgrade their credentials through university degree programs. Often these are held in the summer, and there is a concern that a balanced calendar might disrupt a teacher’s ability to attend. Adam pointed out that universities offer other options including on-line programs that can be done at any time of the year.

Adam noted that no decision has been made about year-round schooling in the Arrow Lakes School District, but that the idea was worth exploring. “We’re not going there without community support. I’d like to take this presentation to staff meetings, PAC meetings and so on. I think that it’s an exciting idea, but I also think that we need to consult with the communities and families that we serve, and find out what they need.”

For more information, email padam@sd10.bc.ca
The Buzz from Burton: Burton Beach Daze offered this Father’s Day submitted
Burton will be hosting Burton Beach Daze on Father’s Day weekend, June 17-19. This is a great weekend of family fun centered in the campground and beach area of Burton. Family-oriented competitions, concession stand, beer gardens and parkour were all the trimmings, bring out a host of community members and valley residents alike to the community’s most significant fundraiser of the year. Beach Daze will again have an ‘iron man’ style relay, beach volleyball tourney, fishing derby and much more. The community of Burton welcomes all to come out and celebrate – make it a day trip or spend the weekend camping in the historic park/campground.
In February, Burton hosted the second annual wine competition. This event allows winemakers from the West Kootenay region to see their product evaluated by wine experts.
Regional Agriculture Plan meeting to be held in Silverton submitted by David Stewart
A meeting on the Regional Agriculture Plan will be held at the Silverton Gallery on June 6 at 7 pm.
For the past six months, Byrne Consulting, a local firm, has been working with farmers and residents in the region to develop an agriculture plan. Central Kootenay is one of the few Regional Districts in BC to have a plan for the entire district.
Information has been gathered throughout the district from Creston to Meadow Creek, Castlegar to the Arrow Lakes and Blawett to Hartnop/Froster.
“We have used the feedback from these community consultations, input from diverse sources and direction from our regional steering committee to create a set of recommendations that we are now sharing with the public. The plan will then be presented to the RDCK directors in June,” said Paula Sobie, one of the members of the Byrne Consulting team.
The recommendations have been presented in Creston and Nelson, and the Slocan Valley garden tour returns with a bouquet of colour submitted by Ruth Porter
Fields of lavender, landscaped ponds, organic market gardens, blueberry hillsides, garlic, and flowers everywhere – ten gorgeous valley gardens to explore. The 12th Slocan Valley garden tour will return Father’s Day, Sunday, June 19 from 10 am to 4 pm.
There are five new gardens and five past favourites, from Slocan Park to Perry Siding. Local artists will be showing their work at several sites and and the Slocan Valley Community Band will be playing at noon at Elderbee Greens.
Tour brochures are available online version of the brochure is available at www.sloancanyardarts.ca sponsored by the Slocan Valley Arts Council. Donations gratefully accepted on site.
Many of the wines are derived from local vines. This event is meant to celebrate and bring attention to and the viticulture potential in our region.
The community is looking forward to the replacement of the Community Hall roof this summer, completing project, with support from EcoSociety and the Friends of the Park. For now, the committee plans to hire a full-time coordinator and two part-time and agriculture in this region. Residents have provided us with tangible, low-cost, easy-to-implement ideas, such as introducing noxious weed bylaws. We are really looking forward to seeing the implementation of the plan.”
September 24.
For more information email kaslomarkets@shaw.ca.