Announcing local government candidates for November 19

by Jan McMurray

By the time nominations closed last Friday for candidates running in the upcoming November 19 local government elections, there was an impressive number of candidates in New Denver, Slocan and Kaslo – and not enough in Nakusp and Silverton.

Both Nakusp and Silverton had to extend the deadline for nominations for councilors until Monday, October 17 at 4 p.m. The result is six councillor candidates in Nakusp and four in Silverton.

For mayor, Nakusp has elected four mayoral candidates. By the time nominations closed on Monday, October 17, three others had joined them: incumbent mayor Karen Hamling is running for a third term as mayor, and is being challenged by Hans Shtein. Two incumbent councillors, Len Heppner and Ulli Mueller, submitted their papers, along with D. Robert Parkinson, by the first deadline of Friday, October 14. By the end of the day Monday, October 17, three others had joined them: incumbent councillor Joseph Hughes, Tom Zeleznik and Guy Duchaine.

The Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce is organizing an All Candidates Meeting co-sponsored by the Valley Voice and the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce.

Silverton

Two people are vying for mayor – Carol Bell and Kathy Provan. Bell has served as Silverton councillor for six years (two terms). Provan has also sat as Silverton councillor in the past. She sat for a full term (2005-2008), then was re-elected in the 2008 election, but resigned in May 2009.

There were just enough candidates for councillor after extending the nomination deadline, so they have all been elected by acclamation. Incumbent councillors Leah Man and Ross Johnson submitted their nomination papers by the first deadline of Friday, October 14. Jason Clarke and Christopher Love stepped up for the second deadline of Monday, October 17.

For mayor, voters will choose between incumbent Greg Lay, former mayor, and incumbent Judy Struck. Brekke, Ganishka Silverfox-Dann and incumbent Andy Mackle and Teresa May.

The slate of eight councillor candidates includes three incumbents (Donna Cormie, Suzan Hewat and Muddy Leathwood), one former mayor and councillor (Jim Hollands), and Lynda Bedford, Bill Bradley, Mel Bryce and Rob Lang.

Nakusp

All five existing members of Nakusp council are in the running, along with three others.

John Gates challenges incumbent Madeleine Perriere for the mayor’s position. Gates sat as Slocan councillor for six years (2002-2008), and unsuccessfully ran for mayor against Perriere in the last election.

Glenda Zwer and Nick Verigin are the two new people on the slate for councillors, along with incumbents Hillary Elliot, Jean Patterson, Patricia McGreel and Jessica Lamm.

Watch for notification of an All Candidates Meeting.

Area D (North Kootenay Lake)

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Local festivals form association

Three valley musical mainstays are expected to benefit from a new alliance set up recently to provide ongoing support for cultural events.

The Hills Garlic Festival, Kaslo Jazz Festival, Nakusp Music Festival, Shambhala Music Festival (Salmo) and Starbelle Jam (Crawford Bay) have joined to spearhead the formation of the Kootenay Columbia Festival and Events Association. Recognizing the growing economic impact of special events, the new organization’s members will be stakeholders in the successful promotion and delivery of festivals and events within the Columbia Basin region.

The association will facilitate marketing and promotion of festivals and events in the region. By working together, members will be able to raise skill levels of employees and volunteers while developing and sharing best practices which will be especially helpful to new event organizers.

Potential members are organizations that sponsor a festival or event or other individuals, organizations, government agencies, or incorporated companies with an interest in supporting these events.

The five founding members have been working together since 2009 with the goal in mind of formalizing their association. Incorporated under the Societies Act of BC, the KCFEA will enable participating organizations to have a united voice in issues of mutual interest, facilitating effective communication and advocacy with government and regulators in the development of strategies, legislation and policies.

The first general meeting of the KCFEA was held October 16 at the Hume Hotel.

More information about the KCFEA and any upcoming meetings is available by sending an inquiry to KCFEA.info@gmail.com.

Shambhala’s website wins best submitted

Shambhala Music Festival won the IFEA/Haas and Wilkerson Gold Pinnacle award for best event website at the 56th annual International Festival and Events Association (IFEA) Convention and Expo in Fort Worth, Texas earlier this month.

“This prestigious awards competition strives for the highest degree of excellence in festival and event promotions and operations, and in doing so, has raised the standards and quality of the festivals and events industry to new levels,” the IFEA website read.

Each award has a gold, silver and bronze level. Shambhala has been a member of the International Festival and Events Association since 2006.

The S h a m b h a l a w e b s i t e (h t t p : / / w w w. shambhalamusicfestival.com) is a collaborative effort, with programming and support by Andy Chute of Funktion Design (http://www.funktiondesign.com/), graphic design by Rob Campbell, art by KSA graduate Meghan Hildebrand (http://www.meghanhildebrand.com/), and content maintenance by Shambhala Social Media director, Britz Robins.

The Pinnacle Award is the second international award Shambhala has received in 2011, following the best large event award won by the festival at the Breakspoll International Breakbeat Awards in March.
by Timothy Schafer

Students and their parents should not expect to receive formal report cards or to attend parent-teacher conferences this year as the teachers’ job action continues, says the region’s school district.

The most recent release from School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) said while teachers in the West Kootenay and across BC are engaged in phase one of a province-wide teacher strike, their job action focuses on the withdrawal of many services normally provided by teachers, including preparation and distribution of formal report cards, and participation in parent-teacher interviews organized by school administration.

The BC Teachers Federation is still locked in contract negotiations with the British Columbia School Employers’ Association (BCEA). The BCTF said it would use an additional fund, provided for, to provide extra support to local boards.

The provincial bargaining agent for local boards of education. In fact, negotiations between the Province and the BCTF’s Teachers’ Federation over Bill 28 (Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act) have been suspended.

The government-appointed Paul Straczyk panel submitted to the BC Teacher’s Federation on government’s behalf – the last time being September 9 – about a Class Organization Fund, which would supplement existing resources, allow school-level planning for vulnerable learners and address complex class organization issues.

The fund would target classrooms with the highest needs and would be allocated on the basis of input from classroom teachers, BCTF representatives and school administrators. This fund could be used, for example, to provide additional support for vulnerable learners and face-to-face time for teachers.

The evening will benefit the historical fundraiser takes place Saturday, October 29 at 6 p.m. at Mary Hall, Selkirk College. The evening will benefit the historical archives of both organizations.

The evening in which heritage costumes are optional, but good times are guaranteed. The Brewing Company will round out an evening in which heritage costumes are optional, but good times are guaranteed.

Folks are encouraged to book a selection meeting, pie and cake auction.

The BCTF called on the BCTF to refrain from escalating their strike and asked them to ensure that teachers will provide report cards at the upcoming report card period. “Report cards are a critical communication for parents and students to determine student progress and identify areas where assistance may be needed,” Joy said. “Students and parents rely on the valuable information contained in report cards to ensure students have the most successful school year possible.”

Teachers are required by the Labour Relations Board to provide marks for grade 12 students for the purposes of graduation, applications to post-secondary institutions, and scholarship applications.

At this time of year, parents are normally expecting to receive a formal report card regarding each student’s progress. This year, they will not receive a report card.

SD8 said the teachers’ union has “encouraged” teachers to communicate with parents regarding student achievement. Some teachers do this through a phone call, some through email, while others choose to write a note and send it home to parents.

“While we recognize that there will be inconsistencies regarding the manner in which parents receive information, we are confident that our teachers will ensure that parents and guardians are informed regarding student progress,” read the SD8 release.

In addition, parents may be expected to be invited to parent-teacher interviews. However, the Labour Relations Board does not require teachers to participate in parent-teacher interviews organized by school administration. People can check the SD8 website for updates regarding the strike action, www.sd8.bc.ca.

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A meeting last week in Vancouver by the BC Public Schools Employers’ Association did not entertain the notion of a lockout of teachers at this point. School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) board chair and chair of the BCPSA, Mel Joy, said the BCTF has stated the strike is designed to have minimal effect on students and relieve teachers of administrative duties so they can focus on teaching.

“That position is disingenuous,” she said. “Many of the withdrawn duties are fundamental to the teacher-parent-student relationship, including teacher meetings with parents, administering and supervising tests, and assessment and report cards.

In the eyes of their very nature, are intended to be disruptive; this strike is disruptive.”

New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal 807-713-1124 or 359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539 2453 WATMAN RD, SOUTH SLOCAN

Smokey Creek Salvage 24 HR TOWING New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal 807-713-1124 or 359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539 2453 WATMAN RD, SOUTH SLOCAN

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Not business as usual in Kootenay Lake SD8 schools during teacher strike

The Trail of 1858: British Columbia’s Gold Rush Past, the wild and woolly Make your way through the archives of both organizations.

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your ladder gets stolen, the one you needed that very day to get the last of the plums at the top of the tree that the bear didn’t get. Winter fruit. Your ‘best friend’ - dog - gets taken, from your porch! Someone figures that its OK to take the Coleman stove you had ready to polish up in case the power goes out, or if (horrible thought) you can’t pay your bill and they cut you off.

In real poor places, people don’t do these things. What’s wrong with us? How about we realize that it’s hard times and we need to support each other, and the businesses in trouble around us? “Unite and survive!”

It’s hard enough without throwing fear into the bargain. We could be under lockdown in our offices, like my friend in Ciapecino, because there’s a disgruntled employee who came into a meeting and shot seven people (three of them dead). When she phones the next morning to see if it’s OK to come to work, the boss says “yes,” but half an hour later there’s a big shootout nearby and the disgruntled gunman is dead. Who’s looking after us if not us? Can’t we at least be buming a bit of wood instead of each other this winter?

It’s getting cold. The only violence I want to have any part of is slow ed into ground or use on chopping wood.

Daphne Fields
Slocan

EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY
The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.
Letters and letters 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.
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Your child deserves the best
Every child is a gift. Every child has the potential to grow into someone who will contribute positively to the community in which they live. It is the responsibility of the community to ensure that each child receives the support they need to grow and develop into that person.

Teachers in our communities are working with parents to help our children grow every day. In order to do this vital work, we need the support of appropriate government funding to provide the services our children need. As well, in order to retain the best educators in our communities, competitive salaries, benefits and working conditions are required.

During our jobaction, teachers in the Arrow Lakes continue to work to provide valuable daily experiences to help our children grow and learn.

Teachers are also continually communicating with parents and students to ensure that the learning process is optimized.

Your child deserves the best. Please support BC teachers as we work towards a new collective agreement, so we can be the best for your child.

Arrow Lakes Teacher’s Association

Have patience and compassion for bears
My elders have taught me to respect the bears and to have a deep respect for all nature. They are part of ‘all my relations’ and we are taught to co-exist with all life.

Learning the way of animals is important as being cautious with bears on a bad berry year. All school children should be taught bear awareness and our dogs should warn and protect us, but not attack an animal unless there is reason to do so.

Countless generations of children have grown up here and few have been injured, and yet we are more aggressive towards the bears than ever. I rarely hear people talking about trying to save what’s left of the wilderness so they have habitat to survive in. Instead, I see motorbikes chasing the bears, cars honking and an attitude of fear towards the bears as if they are people, not to mention the bears.

I agree that we should have a live trap for bothersome bears and relocate them. Door best before we contemplate the extreme of shooting them, as they did to the bears this summer. The patience and compassion we have for them is also the compassion we have for one another.

Elke Charlet, Bear Clan
New Denver

Kudos to Sufferfest organizers
Thank you Janis, Shon, all the staff and volunteers and businesses for putting on what I consider a world class event.
Organizing something of this magnitude on little funding and a scarcity of resources is a mammoth task to say the least. The event was a huge success and over 14 of us from Nakusp participated in various challenges – mostly running but there were racers in the mountain bike challenges as well and who didn’t participate in the kids’ event.

From the moment we arrived, we could tell that attention to every single detail was taken care of: vendors were busy selling amazing pottery, clothing and food, dogs were put on display, all made by local artists.

The band was playing, Janis was welcoming everyone with a big smile while keeping an eye on the cyclists finishing either the 100k or 40k races. If she was stressed, she didn’t show it.

It was a very easy process to pick up our race packages full of goodies including event T-shirt, cowbells to cheer the crowd, special offers and so on. The energy around the event was palpable; we grabbed our cowbells and started cheering all the racers coming through the finish line.

The 10K race course was amazing – challenging, with a few easier sections to recover, scenic and beautiful. Volunteers at the different first aid and water stations throughout the course cheered us on, giving high fives and words of encouragement. Your cheers made us push harder, so thank you for that.

There were people from all over the valley and beyond, even as far as Cranbrook or Kelowna, or spend countless hours driving to Trail to lie briefly in a CT scanner – at least during daytime hours.

Health Minister de Jong pronounced “Improving access to treatment is excellent news for residents in the Kootenay Boundary. Our government is committed to providing access to the greatest range of health services possible in the Kootenays.”

Meanwhile Norman Embree, Interior Health Authority (IHA) board chair, commented: “I’m pleased we are bringing specialists to Kootenay Boundary.”

IHA’s Director of Diagnostic Imaging, Thalia Vestybaker, was more specific: “This is about trying to bring care closer to home. We are trying to reduce trips people have to take to Trail by offering them services closer to where they live.”

Positive. Reassuring.

Conveniently, each Good News Bear’s focus ignores one elephant: maternal care in Nelson: “The watchword is cooperation.” We need to continue on page 5

Accesses are commended as a priority. So why wouldn’t the same standard of access be applied equally to patients requiring general surgery? Moreover, contrary to the minister’s misguided spin, is the surgeon’s important role in emergencies during the ‘Golden Hour.’

What about the consequence of not having an emergency backup surgeon in maternity cases? Ignored too, are hundreds of trips people make in seeking general surgeons for consultations and surgery in Trail.

Dr. Goldman says in his review of maternal care in Nelson: “The watchword is cooperation.”

KLH needs to broaden its “watchword to Sufferfest bears.”

We want to thank Premier Clark, Minister de Jong, and Mr. Embree that general and emergency surgery is necessary in Nelson, and to identify and establish this essential elephant that the Good News Bears forgot.

Glyn Humphries
Nelson

Peter Routlend’s letter in the last Valley Voice describes his “survey” on what to do about the bears. Routlend says he asked the people he surveyed two choices:

‘1) Adapt to their presence and employ all possible means of Bear Smart precautions. 2) Remove bears from town with expediency.”

Did the people who responded to the survey understand that “expediency” to Routlend means shooting bears at first sight? And how could anyone ever find out, since Routlend took no names or addresses? The results of his survey are meaningless to us – we just have to take Routlend’s word for it.

The current situation is that most, if not all, the bears are shot. Because some live traps were used, some residents believed that the bears were being removed to the wilderness. Not so – the bears were being taken away to be shot. At last count, 11 New Denver bears have been shot this year, and it’s likely the death toll was higher. Routlend just wants them shot sooner rather than later.

Routlend’s first question does not accurately represent those who want to save the lives of the bears. The aim is not just to adapt to the presence of the bears, but to get them out of town using non-lethal methods that would make food

 editorial continued on page 5
continued from page 4

inevitable. This has worked for some communities. However, it is clear that New Denver has not been as different, that is the number of fruit trees we have, and the presence of a camp. At one time bears were taken care of by more or less just trapping it and releasing it by release in the wild, and this worked very well.

This is why the Vahalla Wilderness Society has launched a petition asking the town to go back to the live trapping and relocation program for New Denver. So far, we have 162 signatures, of which 120 are from the Villages of New Denver and Silverton, with the rest from the rural areas of the Slocan Valley, and also from visitors from out of the area.

Vahalla has not made a point of gathering signatures from visitors outside of the area, but those who saw the petition at the Friday Market wanted to sign it because they all loved it. They come from all over Canada, from Nelson to Ontario. It’s important to recognize that the bears mean a great deal to many visitors as well as residents.

The petitions will demonstrate verifiable community support for non-lethal bear removal to the government.

To sign, please call 538-2333 and have a message with your name and phone number.

Anne Sherrod, Chair
Vahalla Wilderness Society

Occupational therapy comes to Canada

People getting their news only from the radio and television could be forgiven, until quite recently, for not knowing a peaceful revolution is happening in the US. The mainstream media, mostly either owned by big corporations and financial interests or deeply beholden to them, have been protecting Wall Street by their silence.

What they were not mentioning were the thousands of angry people who have taken to the streets, initially around Wall Street, under the banner of “Occupy Wall Street” (OWS). This movement has now spread to Occupy actions in many US and Canadian cities, including Nelson.

The second line of defence of the mainstream media, after silence, is to mock. The implication is that these drug-crazed hippie socialist commune unemployed hipsters don’t even know what they are protesting about, and are just making fools and a nuisance of themselves. Let the adults at Wall Street get on with making money for us all.

In the US, the above argument immediately fails the laugh test. They have two political parties which are identical. They are both supposed to represent the corporate power which wants nothing less than the complete subservience of the labour force. They want minimal wages, all benefits scrapped and high unemployment so workers will be grateful for any poorly paid job they can get. They dress all this cruelty and greed up as being the kind of rugged individualism that apocryphally founded America. They dress all this cruelty and greed up as being the kind of rugged individualism that apocryphally founded America.

What about Canada? Well, the trans-national corporations have immense power here too, and the same agenda and we are being steadily transformed in the same direction. Our traditionally peace-making, tolerant country, under a Conservative majority government, is going to spend close to $40 billion dollars on jets to bomb oil-rich countries that are singled out, demonized and attacked by the US on one hand, by Iraq, Libya … Venezuela? That huge expense plus billions spent on prisons (lowest crime rate in 30 years, lol) will put us nicely into the red to at least stabilizing the current ratings. They are the most incredible thing since the Mississippi river. I mean truly mind-boggling.

The state has de facto fascism, defined as the collusion of government and the corporations. Our politicians in power are not working for the common good – they are supporting the de-regulation of industry and the denial that corporations have any social responsibility. This is insane myopic policy, hugely destructive to the planet we all live on and the needs of 99% of the world’s population. It has to stop, and what is that Occupy movement is all about.

In short we have de facto fascism, defined as the collusion of government and the corporations. We are encroaching on their territory, and this is a serious problem.

And to all you individuals who think we are encroaching on their territory, why aren’t the rest of the bears and other wildlife in town? Because they stay in the bush where they should be, only the lazy type makes it to town.

My grandson kindreds think bears are pets because Disney and other movies have made them cute and cuddly. The grandsons that live with us (Kayden) has to be cautious and watchful eye even in his own yard because we have four or five different bears that live near our yard and use it as a pathway to further their hunt for food – the easy way instead of hunting and scavenging in the forest like most bears. The bears live along the way they have found that communities with people are easy pickings.

This summer and early fall it hasThis summer and early fall it hasThis summer and early fall it hasThis summer and early fall it hasThis summer and early fall it has

Time to get tough on bears

I suspect that Andy Rhodes thought he was witty writing his diminutive story about the bears and a bicycle, but Mr. Rhodes, if you had children, you would understand that bears are most certainly no laughing matter. Mr. Rodston understands this is a serious problem.

And to all you individuals who think we are encroaching on their territory, why aren’t the rest of the bears and other wildlife in town? Because they stay in the bush where they should be, only the lazy type makes it to town.

My younger grandkids think bears are pets because Disney and other movies have made them cute and cuddly. The grandsons that live with us (Kayden) has to be cautious and watchful eye even in his own yard because we have four or five different bears that live near our yard and use it as a pathway to further their hunt for food – the easy way instead of hunting and scavenging in the forest like most bears. The bears live along the way they have found that communities with people are easy pickings.

This summer and early fall it has been necessary a couple times to have all the kids playing at the school to run over here while the bear wandered around the school yard. A lady even stopped and picked up Kayden from school because a bear was rambling down the sidewalk past the school. That bear made the journey daily for a few weeks. They have damaged my fruit trees, which we look after, but there is no garbage or compost – it is all recycled or taken care of.

Slocan Valley News that two years eight calls this year that are being educated by mommies where to find food, so they will be back next year to become town bears along with the other bears that are a huge worry to our community.

We need some desperate measures in dealing with these nuisances, whether it be pocking them off to some distant forest (too far away to return or destroying them. Some innocent child or senior will get hurt one of these days if action is not taken.

The bears come into our yard even when there are three or four people standing talking. They are not frightened. I observed one walk down main street mid-day not fearful of anything. My neighbor had one walk a few feet of her, nearly startled her to death and she was on her own deck. We fenced off our front deck to keep the kids from sitting out there or let the kids play. We have tolerated these bears long enough.

I also don’t think that putting up electronic fences, hauling your garbage away and cleaning up ripe fruit will clear up the bear problem. Eliminating the most aggressive ones and re-locating the rest would seem like a more probable solution. And no, I don’t think, it’s premeditated murder – just common sense.

Wanda Palmer New Denver

Bellevue planting funds should go to Mori Trail

It is my opinion that despite the overwhelming response to challenge the bylaw on treed part of Bellevue, it will move forward.

This is very clearly the last kick at the cat before this mayor and council run for the vote. As long as this is a misuse of funding!

The trail, with funds and volunteers, could greatly improve. Right now it is a huge liability. With some open-minded creative thinking, some heritage signage could be created and the trail could be truly accessible and attractive.

Restoring the rock wall and clearing the trail making it safe would be a start. This would be an asset to the community and not just a trail for the local chosen few who can actually walk it.

With many letters and concerns that I have brought forward to this mayor and council I have more than just a few proposals. This sample bylaw sounds like it was written by those who truly understand this is a serious problem.

I finally made enough noise and got some dead trees cut down, only the lazy type makes it to town.

At one time the birds were nesting? Really there should even be considered for euthanasia (children). that were confronted by a bear. We were very thankful that we did not make the news as someone was killed. Garbage was not the problem.

Looking forward to hopefully a new mayor and council that will be more forward thinking and open-minded.

Peter’s letter was awesome, and despite the criticism he received, as some rummaged through and scattered garbage and the evil presence of mankind, no one offered any new ideas!

There are proven programs that work, and that don’t involve trapping or killing bears.

I still at the time of this writing have not found the ‘Benchmark’ company that is named on the proposal material that was received by the Village. I would like to know the credentials of the said company and/or that of the people who provided the ‘facts’ of the study.

I also would like to ask how much was spent on the trees and wet rock on main street? Will the upkeep and appearance fall into the same priority as that much money?

This very much replicates the coup to get rid of the heli-pad. Council’s actions are seen as a great misstep, or to even consider it to fail, to get a very clear vendetta directed at my family! Especially when all vandalized trees and most dumping has been done on treed part of Bellevue near the well known public beach.

 Shame on you! Sabrina D George

Proposed Slocan Valley dog control bylaw unacceptable

I am not entirely opposed to a dog bylaw being adopted for Area H, but I absolutely cannot accept the proposal in the recent mailed. With all due respect, this sample bylaw sounds like it was written decades ago. We are now living in a more compassionate era and the way we once thought, should reflect that.

A bylaw dealing with dangerous dogs, if properly defined, is surely one that most of us would not oppose. People should be compensated if they, their dogs, cats or livestock are killed or injured by a dog, and fines would be appropriate as well.

My strongest objection to this proposal is that in Part III #3 and IV #2 and #6. After seven days, the Animal Control Officer can destroy the dog. Collaberation with the SPCA or Homes 4 Animals would ensure that animals are re-homed at all possible. No animal should even be considered for euthanasia unless it is incurably ill or vicious.

Proposed Slocan Valley dog control bylaw unacceptable

4 Animals would ensure that animals are re-homed at all possible. No animal should even be considered for euthanasia unless it is incurably ill or vicious.

I am real disappointed that this bylaw does not address any important animal protection issues. I would support a set of bylaws that include regulations on cruelty and safety issues such as:

No animal should be fettled for more than 2 hours per day. Regular contact/ socialization with humans or other domestic animals, access to water and proper shelter need to be provided. (I’m afraid if this bylaw passes as is, we will see more dogs tied up. It’s much cheaper than the more humane fencing option.)

It should be illegal to transport dogs unsecured in the back of a pick-up truck.

I also wonder if the term Guide Dogs to Accredited Service Dogs and adding that dogs who have earned their Canine Good Neighbour certificates be allowed to run free anytime in the company of a person.

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Evelyn Kirkaldy Slocan Park

10 October 2011 The Valley Voice savers
The history of the Molly Hughes mine comes to life
by Jan McMurray

A very special connection to the area’s past was made this month with a visit to New Denver by Marnie Finstad and Terry Mobberley.

Marnie’s grandfather, Harry Dimock, owned the Molly Hughes mine from 1927/1928 to 1936, and owned the waterfront Molly Hughes house as well. The house was owned by the family until the 1950s. Dimock and his daughter, Helen (Marnie’s mother) are interred in New Denver’s cemetery.

Marnie and Terry came to New Denver in mid-October to present New Denver’s Silvery Slocan Historical Society board with a copy of The Molly Hughes Journal. This is a booklet on the history of the Molly Hughes property, and was compiled by Terry Mobberley for Marnie’s family. The couple also brought a few artifacts, a promise of a donation to the museum from the family, and some suggestions for a Molly Hughes display at the museum. Another idea was some sort of dedication on the Molly Hughes trail.

Silvery Slocan Historical Society board members were delighted with the couple’s visit, as the board is very close to closing the deal after three years of negotiation when “things went sideways.” Then, just days after the deal fell through, Marnie suffered a terrible fall which led to diagnosis of vascular dementia. Sadly, Marnie is very ill today and this was likely her last visit to New Denver. She and Terry live in Qualicum Beach. “Marnie has had a very rich life, but so much came from her grandparents here,” said Mobberley. “The real legacy was not the silver, but education, music and steadfastness.”

Mobberley explained that his work on the history of the Molly Hughes “allows me to recognize and respect my wonderful relationship with Marnie.”

Another piece of equipment for New Denver’s health care centre

The Slocan Community Health Care Centre Auxiliary is pleased to report the purchase of a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) ventilator for patient use in the Emergency Department and in the Pavilion. The ventilator provides positive pressure of humidified and heated gas throughout the respiratory cycle, improving oxygenation and lung function. It may be used alone for a spontaneously breathing patient or through a ventilator for intubated patients.

The unit cost $2,818 and was funded by proceeds from the Kootenay Savings Credit Union Auxiliary’s Light Up the Health Centre campaign in coming weeks.

Marathon duo from Hills hit Victoria

The 32nd GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon was held on October 9, on what was supposed to be a wet stormy day. Instead, the sun shone and the weather window provided all participants with ideal running conditions for their chosen events. For wife and husband team from Hills, Natasha Miles and Tim Sander, their 18-week training journey had come to an end and the time had come to finally line up on the start line.

Natasha ran a hard race, and completed the course in 1hr 43mins, placing 26th in her age group. “Chuffed to bits,” she said.

The full marathon (43.2 km) began 75 minutes later, with 1,572 runners for the half marathon event (21.1 km). “Just to be at the start line as it was getting light, looking around to witness a sea of runners, all having trained so hard for so long for their personal goal was quite a moment.”

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The event had a fun family atmosphere, as athletes and families soaked up the sun’s rays, watching the runners finish their race in front of the Parliament buildings. The marathon course record was shattered by Thomas Omwenga of Kenya, in 2hrs 14mins, and Lucy Njeri of Toronto broke the women’s course record, to place 11th overall in 2hrs 37mins. John Bloomington (USA) broke the half marathon course record in a time of 1hr 07mins. The total number of runners on the day exceeded 11,000 for the full and half marathon, 8km and Kids Run races.

“A wonderful event and we will both definitely be in training to enter next year’s race,” said Tim.
Littlefest pulls out of the crowded West Kootenay festival field
by Timothy Schafer
The work involved in staging one of the Slocan Valley’s top cultural draws got a fright and it had its run, says one of the organizers.
Ron LeBlanc said Slocan’s Littlefest has decided to call it quits after six-year tour.
Organizing a festival is a huge undertaking, he said, especially when
there are just two organizers: himself and Nala Keane.
“We figure it’s time to release ourselves from such a big commitment in order to allow other things in our work and personal lives to flourish,” he said from his Little Lodge South of Slocan. “It feels right to move on and make time for other things.”

Aside from that, with the future so unpredictable, an overcrowded Kootenay calendar of events, the downturn in the economy affecting people’s disposable income and a small community, there was an underlying reality affecting most local festivals that supported the conclusion to cancel future events.

For the duration of its run, Littlefest had a life of its own. “There were crazy moments and sweet times,” said LeBlanc. “For us it was always larger than life, beyond expectations. There are just so many wonderful, and some pretty funny, road has more than one name or has distinct landmarks nearby, like other communities.

Help is on the way, if we can find you
by Malin Christenson
The Slocan Valley Food Guide is a comprehensive directory of over 50 local farms, businesses, and organizations that are instrumental in making locally grown food available to everyone. Pick up your free copy at locations throughout the valley.

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by Michael Dorney

• Mayor Gary Wright opened the meeting and asked staff and council to share a moment of silence in tribute to the late Gordon Brookfield, who served on New Denver council for 18 years.

Wright commented on Brookfield’s great desire to see the new Village office finished. He had suggested a two-storey building for the office, but the Village asked for more space for conservation services.

The late Gordon Brookfield, who served on the New Denver council for 18 years, was pre-deceased by his long-time partner Loma Obermayr in 2009 and then moved to Nakusp. Council authorized that a flower arrangement be purchased for him. 

• The Village will ask the Province to provide additional resources to area Conservation Officers so they may better respond to bear problems in New Denver.

A staff report explains that after council received a letter from a local resident suggesting that a private contractor be hired to trap bears in town, council directed staff to contact the Province to clarify whether the Village would be able to undertake a bear trapping program.

The report states that under the current system, the provincial Conservation Service manages dangerous wildlife while municipalities are responsible for enacting policies to deter wildlife and limit attractants. “Duplicating provincially funded services by undertaking a municipal bear-safety program is a costly approach to the issue of problem bears,” concludes the report. Instead, staff recommended that the Village ask the Province for more resources for the Conservation Service.

Administrators Gordon also noted that MIA and WCB would not cover liability if bears were trapped by the Village.

• Council will set up committee meetings to discuss remuneration for the campground attendants. In the last four years, campground revenue has been split 65%-35% between the Village and the attendants. In the 2011 season, this worked out to approximately $46,000 for the Village and approximately $25,000 for the attendants. The attendants have asked for a 50%-50% split.

• Councillor Bunka reported that the Nakiski Lake Centre closed for the season on October 2, and work would begin on the fence. Council gave three readings to Bylaw No. 666, Heritage Facilities Maintenance Reserve Fund Expenditure. This authorizes the expenditure of $50,000 from the reserve fund to replace the fence around the Nakiski Lake Centre.

• The Slocan Lake Garden Society wrote to propose that they salvage some wood from the old Nakiski fence for its proposed new plant bed on the east side of the Kohan Garden. Council authorized staff to take care of the disposal of the old fencing materials.

• Council ratified the sale of the 1984 Volunteer Fire Department for $4,000.

• Councillors Bunka and Greensword reported on their attendance at the recent Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention. They worked as a team to maximize their coverage of workshops and ministerial meetings, as well as individually bringing Village concerns to the conference.

Both councillors brought attention to several ongoing and important items:

- The IHA has won more resources for the Conservation Service.

- Council ratified the sale of the 1984 Volunteer Fire Department for $4,000.

- The BC Hydro reports reductions in staff and vehicles, and will have its providers look at ways to reduce costs. Hydro’s health consultants state that municipalities are responsible for accidents that occur on provincial highways within their boundaries.

- There is concern about high levels of iron and magnesium in municipal water systems. The cost of a water analysis for the Village could be as high as $15,000; Administrator Gordon noted that the Village was checking out a Castlegar company.

- Ministries of Advanced Education and Health will not fund the proposed Selkirk College Lab Technician Training Centre.

- UBCM and the auditor want more policy changes for local municipal auditing, and the Finance Minister wants local governments to “tighten belts.”

MP introduces bill to ban horse meat for human consumption

The meat is then sold to markets in Europe. There are no regulations in the US to prevent horse owners from administering banned substances because horses are not regarded or treated as food-producing animals. On top of all that, the US believes it is our task to verify the data in the EID passports as we are the ones selling the meat for human consumption,” he said.

Harvest Share is wrapping up for the season...

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the volunteer pickers that harvested a grand total of 4205 lbs!!

Thank you to all of the property owners that chose to turn your backyard fruit trees into a valuable source of food for the people in our communities.

The generous support from the Villages of Silverton and New Denver and Columbia Basin Trust is very much appreciated.

For information about this project, please contact our Harvest Share Coordinator for New Denver and Silverton at 250-358-7225.

Flu clinics underway in October and November

The Slocan Community Health Centre in New Denver will be the site of the November 9 (9 am-5 pm) drop-in clinic, with a second clinic November 10 (1-6 pm), by appointment.

Down the valley in Nakusp at the Slocan Wellness Centre, there will be a drop-in clinic November 15 (11-3 pm), with another at Slocan Park Hall, November 10 (10 am-noon), also a drop-in clinic.

In Nakusp, a drop-in clinic will take place at the Seniors’ Hall October 28 (9 am-noon and 1 pm-3:30 pm), and a clinic by appointment will take place at the health unit on November 11.

The Edgewood Health Centre will host a drop-in clinic November 9 from 9 am to noon.

In Kaslo, drop-in clinics will be held at the Kaslo Primary Health Centre on October 27, 9:30 am-4 pm and on November 16, 2-5 pm.

While flu shots are free for those 65 and older and those at risk, anyone can receive a flu shot for $10. The vaccine is 70% to 90 percent effective in preventing influenza in healthy children and adults, according to the IHA.

People 18 and older for the free flu vaccine through the publicly-funded program should contact their physician, local pharmacy, walk-in clinic, travel clinic or primary care clinic.

Check ImmunizeBC.ca for eligibility for the free shot.
Proposed Home Hardware loading ramp to be discussed with public

COMMUNITY

by Timothy Schafer

• The final decision on a development variance permit for a proposed Home Hardware loading ramp has been tabled by Nakusp Village council until an on-site meeting can take place with concerned neighbours, Village staff, and the owner of Home Hardware.

Home Hardware plans to build an addition onto the east side of the existing store, with a loading ramp that slopes down to the basement level of the addition. The application made by Donebe Enterprises (Larry Ferguson) asks for a decrease in the rear parcel line setback behind the store from ten feet to 2.8 feet, to accommodate the 17-foot-wide downhill loading ramp.

The contract position would be an arm’s-length creation, with all of the marketing duties under the responsibility of one person. “It’s a business, it needs to have someone prepared to put that much effort into it,” said Councillor Hughes.

• Council will meet with the Nakusp and Area Community Trials Society to discuss working together to maintain areas that the Village historically has not been able to maintain with current staffing and funding.

The commission wants to see more of the smaller programs come back into the community through funding. “We feel the best way to do that is for somebody from the community, in a paid position, would organize and run these programs so we could see more of CBC’s Grant Lawrence brings Adventures in Solitude to Nakusp

submitted

Join popular CBC host Grant Lawrence for a reading, slide show, movie clips and a discussion about his award-winning book, Adventures In Solitude: What Not to Wear to a Nude Potluck and Other Stories from Desolation Sound, at the Nakusp Public Library on Sunday, October 30 at 2:00 pm.

Lawrence has become a popular voice across Canada as host of the CBC Radio 3 Podcast. Fans of independent music tune in to his podcast or turn up an old song from a record by ‘The Snugglers’, ‘Grant’s defunct rock band. In Adventures in Solitude, Grant shares how Desert Song shaped his life in up an old song from a record by ‘The Voice Across Canada’ as host of the CBC Radio 3 Podcast. Lawrence’s stories about music and journalism far away from Desolation Sound.

In his book, Grant reveals his tales of ‘going bush’, the tempting dilemma of finding an unguarded grow-op, and other laugh-out-loud stories from this unique place.

In addition to Radio 3 Podcast with Grant Lawrence, and Grant Lawrence Live on CBC Radio 3 and Sirius 86, he can be heard on various CBC Radio One programs. Adventures in Solitude: - a bestseller in BC and across Canada - won the Bill Duthie Bookellers’ Choice Award for best book published in BC.

The book was shortlisted for the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction, and the Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction, one of the richest literary prizes in Canada.

In addition to his book and radio appearances, Lawrence hosts many major music events, such as the Polaris Music Prize Gala, the Western Canadian Music Awards and various festivals around North America, and conducts music industry seminars and keynote addresses on music and media related topics. He still spends much of each summer at his cabin in the Sound.

Succession planning for non-profits workshop comes to Nakusp

submitted

On Saturday, November 5, staff and volunteers of non-profit organizations in Nakusp and area will have the opportunity to work with Linda Fairburn, Canadian bestselling author on the subject of leadership transitions.

The morning workshop, ‘Exit Right! Integrated Succession Planning for Non-Profit Corporations’, will be presented by Fairburn. The afternoon workshops will be facilitated by Val Mayes and will include additional topics critical for non-profit board success.

This training event will be held at the Selkirk College campus in Nakusp and hosted by the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative.

For further information about the board development event in Nakusp, go to thethecoop.ca/events or call the co-op office at 250-352-6786.

Registration is online. To read more about Linda Fairburn, go to http://www.makingshapings.net.

The Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative was formed in 2003. Its mission is to work to strengthen its members and address issues of social well-being in the Kootenay-Boundary region.

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Serving the Arrow and SNOC Lakes area

FORTIS BC
Nakusp’s concerns taken to Union of BC Municipalities

by Timothy Schafer

There was healthy conversation but few answers for Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling and her council as they took the concerns of the Village to the recent Union of BC Municipalities convention.

Physician recruitment

Hamling and Councillor Cam Leitch met with Interior Health Authority’s CEO Dr. Robert Halpenny and Norm Embree, chair of the IHA board, to notify them about the amount of time Dr. Norman Lea spent on physician recruitment and finding locums (doctors who work in the place of regular doctors) for the village.

Locums (doctors who work in the place of regular doctors) for the village. Dr. Norman Lea spent on physician recruitment and finding locums (doctors who work in the place of regular doctors) for the village. Dr. Norman Lea spent on physician recruitment and finding locums (doctors who work in the place of regular doctors) for the village.

She reiterated the importance of recognizing Nakusp’s facility as an acute care hospital, and requested the hospital be moved back into the IHA’s acute services department. The Arrow Lakes Hospital was moved to the IHA’s community integration/community care department a couple years ago.

Mayor Hamling also asked for IHA support on an application for $20,000 from the provincial Rural Recruitment Contingency Fund. The funding can be used to increase the incentive benefit for a new physician or for recruiting expenses.

There was also the issue of education for the hospital’s nursing staff. “Funding has not been approved for training to this point and it is critical that nurses receive training,” said Mayor Hamling.

However, nothing concrete arose out of the meeting.

Further on the road to wellness

In a meeting later in the UBCM week with MLA Dr. Meira Stilwell – Parliamentary Secretary for Industry, Research and Innovation to the Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation – Hamling again brought up the importance of physician recruitment.

Dr. Stilwell is working on a program involving BC medical students who are studying abroad and how they might be a resource for meeting the health care needs of the rural communities.

Over 500 BC women and men are studying to become physicians in countries such as New Zealand, Ireland and Australia. But they are facing challenges in getting residents to the province, particularly in regard to placements for residencies to complete their medical training. Hamling asked Stilwell to keep her informed.

A bridge (and decision) not too far

Councillor Ulli Mueller, Acting CAO Linda Tynan and Mayor Hamling met with Glen Brown, executive director of the BC Infrastructure and Finance Division.

They asked about the Nakusp Hot Springs bridge grant and were informed a decision would come in the fall, as they are waiting on the budget. Brown encouraged communication with his branch on grants requests so that they are aware of the importance of requested planning grants.

Thank you ferry much

A meeting with Minister of Highways Blair Lekstrom and his staff brought forward a number of concerns Village council had with the new ferry. Council had gathered information on the decision to replace the ferry, and wanted to ensure that the Village’s concerns were reviewed and that they receive a report on the results.

“We requested that the Galena remain in service to the end of this year,” said Mayor Hamling. “However, it currently is not in the plans.”

They also asked that a long-range plan be put into place for the Nakusp area, looking at whether a fixed link would be feasible, as well as discussing the importance of access to the area to the village’s economic growth.

Not so smart of an idea

A resolution (B 174) was passed by the UBCM delegates requesting that a moratorium be placed on BC Hydro’s installation of smart meters until more research had been done.

However, previous to the vote, the minister responsible stated that the smart meter program was going forward regardless of the outcome of the vote.

Complications arise for Centennial Building addition

by Timothy Schafer

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society will have to wait before they find out if the addition they are planning to the Centennial Building will be delayed or not.

But the building is a complex, involving three organizations, meaning communication and agreements need to be in place before the disruptive work goes ahead, reads a Village staff report.

The historical society has suggested they could proceed with the project this year and only go to the lock-up stage – the stage when a building’s external wall cladding and roof covering is fixed, the flooring is laid and external doors and external windows are fixed (even if those doors or windows are only temporary).

That suggestion sparked some discussion at the October 11 council meeting regarding Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling said they needed to involve the building’s other tenants – the library and the museum – because it will affect their operations and their budget.

“We can’t make a decision without input from them,” she said. “We’ll need to determine from that meeting whether it is in the best interests to allow building to go partially completed.”

The idea of a delay rankled Councillor Ulli Mueller. “I would like to make sure we move as swiftly as we can on this because they have gone through a tender process and it would be unfair to hold them up longer than we have to,” said Mueller.

The historical society had advertised for a contractor to complete the addition, but there was no formal agreement in place with the Village. The Centennial Building is a Village facility, so liability issues and other items must be addressed before work can begin.

Simply put, the project cannot start until it comes back to council for approval.

Until then, council requested the Arrow Lakes Historical Society to meet with directors of the library board and museum board in regards to the proposed Centennial Building addition and develop an operating protocol between all parties outlining responsibilities for expenses, operations and building safety.

Village staff will also prepare a formal agreement between the society and the Village in regards to construction and development of the project.

MP David Wilks aims for minimum sentence for kidnappers of children

by Timothy Schafer

Making good on one of his election promises, Kootenay–Columbia MP David Wilks is looking to establish “proper” punishment for criminals.

The former 20-year RCMP officer and mayor of Sparwood has put forward a new private members bill in the 41st Canadian Parliament, he told Nakusp Village council at its most recent meeting, in response to the kidnapping of three-year-old Kieran Hebert of Sparwood.

The bill says that a stranger who kidnaps someone under the age of 16 and is found guilty will receive a minimum sentence of five years and a maximum of life. Currently there is no minimum sentence.

“It’s very difficult to provide evidence in court because a three-year-old is not allowed to give evidence as they don’t know the difference between a truth and a lie,” said Wilks. “So what happens is they have to rely solely on physical evidence of admission by the kidnapper.”

Randall Hopley was captured late last month in Crowesnest Lake, Alberta, after a week-long manhunt. He is accused of abducting Hebert from his bed in Sparwood sometime before 8:30 am the week before.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child gives you the opportunity to make this Christmas brighter for a needy child. This project of Samaritan’s Purse allows you as a family to send a message of love and compassion to children in crisis in areas of the world.

We welcome the opportunity to join with you to bring a gift of hope, faith and compassion to a needy child this year. To take part in this exciting program, ask for a brochure at Nakusp General Store.

Shoe boxes available at Nakusp General Store

Broadway St., Nakusp
Ph: 265-3444

The Village Voice October 19, 2011
Sun shines for second annual Halcyon Harvest Fest

Submitted

Following a week’s worth of foreboding forecasts, tents had been erected for the second annual Halcyon Harvest Fest and the Halcyon Hot Springs Village and Spa staff had prepared for a cold and rainy day.

As the set-up for the festival that Sunday morning proceeded, the air felt warmer than everybody had expected and the ground was drying. Beyond all expectations, and to the delight of all Harvest Fest participants, the sun started to shine. The day was gaining momentum and expectations were growing as people gathered for the event.

The crowd of happy visitors cheered on as Jesse Booth, Aidan McLaren-Caux, Terry Goodfellow and Caelen Laroque all showed their talent on acoustic guitars in different genres of music and the succulent aroma of cooking food brightened the afternoon.

By mid afternoon the apple pie contest was in full swing. Contestants looked on in quiet anticipation as the judges sampled and awarded scores for presentation, aroma, and flavour. The pies all looked wonderful; some were adorned with the traditional criss-cross pattern, another with a spotty-made apple shape, and there was even a raw-food apple pie.

With so many worthy submissions, it wasn’t easy for the judges, but three prizes were awarded with the grand prize going to Janice Leeson from Nakusp. As the last of the performers wrapped up as people dispersed and vendors packed up at the end of a great day. To everybody’s delight, the proceeds of the bake sale earned over $300 to split between PALS and the Nakusp Food Bank. Blessed by good weather, great food and joyful attitudes, a successful Halcyon Harvest Fest left the staff, vendors and visitors looking forward to another celebration next year.

Nakusp hosts presentation on native bees

Submitted

Come listen to a free presentation called ‘Pollinators That Really Perform’ on the importance of native bees and their role in pollinating our ecosystem.

Plus, at the Tuesday, October 25 presentation at the Seniors’ Hall in Nakusp, you’ll learn how to build a simple bee home that will attract them in your yard.

“When you mention bees, most people think of honey bees that were imported from Europe,” says insect biologist and presenter Lynn Westcott. “Native bees, however, are a very different beast. There are hundreds of native bee species in Canada and nearly all are non-aggressive. Most importantly, native bees, especially mason bees, are also incredibly efficient pollinators.”

This wide-ranging presentation explores native bee identification, the important role they play in the environment, the different bee groups that might be encountered in the Nakusp area, and how to build simple bee “condos” that will attract them.

‘Pollinators That Really Perform’ will be held at 7 pm on October 25, at the Seniors’ Hall in Nakusp. Registration is not required. For more information, visit fwcp.ca or call 250-352-6874.

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF NATIVE BEES

When: Tuesday, October 25, 7 pm
Where: Seniors Hall, 210 8th Avenue NW, Nakusp
What: Free Presentation: no registration required.

Join the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program presentation, Pollinators That Really Perform, and learn about the importance of native bees and their pollination to our ecosystem. Please learn how to build a simple bee home that will attract native bees to your garden and help it blossom.

For more information visit fwcp.ca or call 250-352-6874.
Volunteers move Kaslo Library twice in 2011

submitted by Eva Kelemen

Kaslo & District Public Library has had an exciting year with volunteer work parties moving 13,000+ items twice. The first move meant sorting the library collection and moving half of it into storage and the other half to a smaller temporary library on Front Street, so that renovations could take place in the basement of City Hall. In September, the library moved back to a welcoming space with wonderful improvements such as new lighting and electrical wiring, higher ceilings, fresh paint, new office, geothermal heating, an expanded hallway, and an accessible washroom. It is a pleasure to be back!

The Kaslo Public Library first moved into City Hall in 1924, occupying a small room on the top floor. In 1953, the library moved down to the main floor when provincial and local government funding made it possible to purchase books. When the library became crowded, it was time to look for a larger space, and in 1962, after huge renovations to the City Hall basement (which, by the way, was the first jail in Kaslo and still had a dirt floor at the start of the project), the Kaslo & District Public Library moved in and expanded. January 2011 was the first time the library left City Hall in 87 years.

It was the library director, Eva Kelemen’s job to organize both moves. “Facing the move out, I did not know it was possible to move an entire library in less than a month!” she said. “Every day involved specific projects as well as planning the next day. There were so many unknowns. Fortunately, there was also a lot of support.”

For the move back, Kelemen was able to organize the work days in just six hours, based on notes from the first move and getting to know the volunteers. “It is amazing how fast a group of volunteers can complete projects,” she said.

September 17 was packing day. It took 30 volunteer hours (or 3.5 hours) to pack 7,000 library items! “As a result, the Monday work party was cancelled and we enjoyed a day off,” said Kelemen.

On Tuesday, 17 JV Humphries grade 7 students moved approximately 500 boxes from Front Street storage to the City Hall location in just under two hours. They had the added challenge of moving the colour-coded numbered boxes in the ‘right’ area of the library; the next group of volunteers could then put the boxes in order by number and begin unpacking and rejoining the collection.

Volunteer jobs also included moving furniture, all kinds of cleaning, assembling and breaking down boxes, recycling, patching up walls, installing cabinets, bending metal, modifying shelves and counters, etc. “Every task was important. Every volunteer donated valuable help,” said Kelemen.

For each move, just over 60 volunteers signed up to help. Both times, support from volunteers, the Village of Kaslo, and the library board and staff made the move possible. In September, volunteers donated 290 hours to successfully move the Kaslo & District Public Library back to the ground floor of City Hall in one week.

Thank you to all the wonderful ‘library movers’ in Kaslo and Area D.

Winlaw artists do well in Castlegar

submitted

Three Winlaw artists were honoured at the gala evening on October 1 in Castlegar for the city’s SculptureWalk. Celebrating the summer end to the city’s sculpture tour, David Ducharme, Peter Vogelaar and Rabi’a were given a nod for their exceptional work.

Ducharme was honoured for his original sand piece by having it turned into a cement sculpture. For artistic merit, Vogelaar was awarded second place for his piece Venus de Cello.

And Huge and Foolish by Rabi’a, a four-foot diameter sphere made of hundreds of welded together industrial pieces, rusty tools, bike parts, horse and buggy gear, farm bits (all but the kitchen sink) was purchased by Columbia Basin Trust to be on public display at Castlegar in perpetuity.

Huge and Foolish by Winlaw artist, Rabi’a, was purchased by CBT and is on public display at the CBT building in Castlegar.
Kaslo’s Sufferfest inspires and brings community together

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo’s second annual Sufferfest was another huge success. There was more than double the number of participants from last year, and lots of very positive feedback from participants, volunteers and spectators.

One of the racers wrote in these comments to Race Director Janis Neufeld: “Thank you thank you thank you! What an incredible job you and all the volunteers did. I had one of the funnest days in my 52 years on this planet thanks to your work! I have never seen and felt so much positive energy in Kaslo before. Specially all the competitors were just beaming. The way it brought people together was just absolutely amazing.”

Neufeld says this comment really sums up what the event is all about. “It’s not just about the racing – it brings the people of Kaslo together,” she said. “We had half the population of Kaslo involved in this event, either as participants, volunteers, sponsors, suppliers or spectators.”

Also, she says, the event is about inspiring people. “The participants are excited to race, but to have people cheering them on and celebrating their accomplishments with them is the best! It’s so uplifting and inspiring. So many people were inspired to try it next year, or to try a longer race next year – it gives people something to work towards. That’s what it’s all about – how it changes people’s lives.”

There were 309 registered participants this year, including quite a few professional and elite athletes. There were over 200 volunteers and many, many spectators. People came from all over the region, from further afield in BC, from Alberta, and there was one from Quebec and one from Yellowknife.

Many racers from the region did very well, most notably Gary Parkinson of New Denver, who was the fastest female in the 100K bike race.

The children’s events took place Saturday morning, and every child received a cookie medal – a cookie shaped like a medal on a ribbon – made by Kaslo’s Landmark Bakery. “That was a big hit, so we’ll do that again!” said Neufeld.

The event grew to two days and eight races this year, compared to one day and four races. Next year, Neufeld says there probably won’t be any big changes, but she will plan for double the number of participants again to 600.

“Eventually, it will be on the same scale as Jazz Fest.” said Neufeld. “We have a vision to grow this event into something grand,” said Neufeld. “Eventually, it will be on the same scale as Jazz Fest.”

Sufferfest is an event of the Kaslo Sufferfest Society, which hires Janis Neufeld as race director. 

Bob Sandford comes to Slocan Valley to speak about water

submitted

Bob Sandford, one of Canada’s most authoritative voices on water-related issues, will speak at the Passmore Hall on November 5 at 7 pm.

This event is part of a cross-Canada speaking tour, sponsored by the Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW). The Perry Ridge Water Users Association arranged for the Passmore event, and is co-hosting a dinner with the Sinixt Nation at the hall from 6 to 7 pm – suggested donation of $10 to go towards water protection. The event also coincides with the release of Ethical Water: Learning to Value What Matters Most, a book co-authored by Sandford and Merrell-Ann Phare.

Fresh water is essential to both the ever-expanding human population and the ever-threatened natural landscapes that surround us. And yet, society seems to continually ignore the need for a common-sense approach to – and appreciation of – our freshwater resources. Our consumption of this remarkable, life-giving substance now exceeds its future availability.

Ethical Water is a groundbreaking work that redefines our relationship with fresh water. It outlines the steps that we must take in order to ensure the sustainability of our water supply for future generations. The authors emphasize that, unlike most countries around the world, Canada is still in a position to effectively manage our water resources in positive and productive ways. By balancing water availability and the needs of its population, Sandford and Phare contend that Canada can achieve sustainability and become a world leader in this all-important issue.

Sandford is the author or editor of some 20 books on the history and heritage of the Canadian West. He is presently chair of the United Nations International Decade Water for Life Partnership in Canada and was the first Canadian to be invited to sit on the advisory committee for the Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy, a biennial global public-policy forum that examines solutions to our planet’s water crisis. He lives in Canmore, Alberta.

Merrell-Ann Phare is a member of the Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW), and is a legal advisor to the Assembly of First Nations regarding water matters.
Rossland hosts youth film Festival

submitted

The international REEL Youth Film Festival comes to Rossland Saturday, November 26, featuring some of the best in international youth film-making, along with submissions from the talented youth of the West and Central Kootenays.

This exciting piece of the Rossland Mountain Film Festival is brought to you by the Rossland Council for Arts and Culture in partnership with Kootenay Association for Science and Technology. Admission is $3. Funds raised at the REEL Youth screening will support the upcoming U39 Film Festival and Gala April 14, 2012 on the big screen at the Royal Theatre, Trail. The screening begins at noon at the Rossland Miners Hall.

The 2011 Reel Youth Film Festival is a collection of compelling and entertaining short youth films: animations, dramas, documentaries, comedies and a musical. Whether facing down not police in Copenhagen, vying for love in Philadelphia, or searching Vancouver’s downtown east side for a missing aunt, these are the unflinching stories of today’s youth.

According to Festival Director Mark Vonesch, “The Reel Youth Film Festival is discovering and promoting the next generation of film-makers. The festival empowers young people to speak up and express themselves through film. It is an opportunity for audiences to see the best of youth film-making while gaining insight into youth culture and the issues affecting young people today.”

The RYFF premiered at the Vancouver International Film Festival, and continues across Canada and around the world, with almost 30 screenings booked from September 2011 through August 2012.

The deadline for local youth to submit a film is November 4 and all films must be received in Vancouver on or before this date. It is free to submit a film and forms can be found on the Rossland Council for Arts and Culture website at www.rosslandac.com. There will be cash prizes for two local films: People’s Choice and Best of the Fest.

Film submissions must be made by people 19 or younger; be under 10 minutes (including titles and credits); be original video (video you shot yourself) or have permission to use; have original music or music you have permission to use.

For more info on the Reel Youth Film Festival and for film submission information visit: www.ReelYouth.ca or www.rosslandac.com

Six new members join CBT’s youth advisory committee

submitted

CBT welcomes six new members to its Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) this past weekend in Golden, including Winlaw’s Jaya Ducharme and Tyler Perepolkin of South Slocan.

YAC members are motivated and involved youth, ages 15-29, who provide advice on youth-related grants and events at CBT.

“Engagement and leadership are two key areas of CBT’s recently finalized 2011-2016 Youth Strategic Plan,” said Wayne Lundeberg, CBT director of youth initiatives. “The YAC is an important means for CBT to engage with Basin youth and through their participation they are able to build their own skills as leaders.”

Prospective YAC members go through an application process and are selected to volunteer on the committee by the previous year’s committee members.

The commitment to serve on the YAC is a minimum one-year term. This commitment involves a weekend meeting every two months and review of all Columbia Basin Youth Grant applications.

This is a task unique to this CBT advisory committee and was specifically given to the group to further promote the active engagement of youth in regional decision-making processes.

YAC members are also often asked to become involved in a number of CBT and community events and youth programs, to special projects and website moderating.

Welcome new members: Jaya Ducharme (Winlaw), Sierra Franklin (Canal Flats), Taryn Jackson (Nelson), Blake Nicol (Nelson), Jane Rolandi (Cranbrook) and Taryn Walker (Revelstoke).

Returning members are: Laura Archer (Golden), Miranda de Groot (Cranbrook), Matt Fonies (Castlegar), Zeb Hansell (Fruitvale), Zachary McClean (Golden) and Tyler Perepolkin (South Slocan).

CBT offers $300,000 to promote manufacturing/technology in Columbia Basin

submitted

A $300,000 partnership to further develop the manufacturing and technology sector in the Basin is being forged between the Columbia Basin Trust, the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST) and Kootenay Rockies Innovation Council (KRIC).

The Manufacturing and Technology Sector Development Pilot Initiative is a two-year pilot initiative which will focus on the development and expansion of the Basin manufacturing and technology sector. Activities over the two years will include a business incubator and development resource and networking programs, virtual business and special projects and website moderating.

The initiative will support the region to better compete in the global market, provide support to start-up companies in the region, keep sector talent in the Basin and provide role models and mentors to businesses and employees.

KAST is a professional organization that actively promotes science, technology and innovation; and facilitates meaningful connections to stimulate entrepreneurial and economic development.

KRIC is a non-profit society that provides programming and events targeted at businesses, communities and students/educators related to science, technology and innovation.

Bears are hungry - public urged to do their part

submitted by BC Ministry of Environment

With bears seeking out extra food to build up fat reserves for hibernation, BC’s Conservation Officer Service is busy responding to bear-human conflicts.

The main cause of conflicts is access to non-natural food sources. Bears that learn how to get at exposed pet food, ripe fruit, improperly stored garbage, dirty barbecues or composts become conditioned and will continue to return to the food source.

“We can’t prevent all bear-human conflicts but we can prevent those ones,” said Environment Minister Terry Lake. “There’s a lot of information out there for the public such as the Bear Aware website, which offers valuable information to help us all reduce bear-human conflicts.”

The Bear Smart Community program is a voluntary, preventative bear conservation program designed by the Ministry of Environment in partnership with the BC Conservation Foundation and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. It is based on a set of criteria that must be achieved for communities to be awarded “Bear Smart” status.

The goal of achieving Bear Smart Community status is to address the root causes of bear-human conflicts, reduce the risks to human safety and private property, and reduce the number of bears that have to be euthanized each year.

Squamish, Kamloops, Lions Bay and West Vancouver are the first four BC communities to achieve the Bear Smart designation.
Kaslo council, October 11: Library asks for increased budget

by Jan McMurray

• Catherine McCormick of the Kaslo Public Library attended to ask for an increase to the tax rate for the library, from 12 cents per $1,000 of assessed value to 14 cents per $1,000. This was referred to 2012 budget discussions.

McKinnon also thanked the Village for the renovations to the City Hall basement. The library has moved back in, and McCormick said it is "brighter, warmer and more welcoming."

• Lynn Van Deursen of the Front Kaslo event raises awareness of depression, anxiety and risky drinking

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First a tip of the hat to Elizabeth Scarlett, for all her hard work and efforts at the Kaslo Valley Archive. For our Pirate Day, Curran Appreciation Day and restoration projects like the Hog Post Replacement and Weatherproofing Envelope we owe our success to the following people and businesses.

S.S. MOYIE

Glen Walker
Andy Philpott
Steve Jaksitz
Laddi & Anne Malik
Hamilt Creek Timberwrights
Meadow Creek Cedar

The community support and love for the S.S. Moyie is very special. Thank you.

Our sincere apologies if we have missed anyone. KLHS Board

KASLO & DISTRICT

Street Park Committee presented the results of two surveys on the conceptual drawings they have had done for park improvements. There were 126 parking and 48 merchant surveys completed, showing overwhelming support for the suggested improvements. Improvements include a wheelchair accessible washroom and a covered pavilion.

Van Deursen indicated that the committee had finished its work after three and a half years. Councillor Leatherwood acknowledged that the committee had accomplished a lot, and it was now up to council to decide "where we're going" with the project. The matter was referred to the Development Services Committee.

• A resident wrote to object to a washrooms in Front Street Park, and to suggest that the Saturday Market take place in Vimy Park. The letter was referred to the Development Services Committee.

• A letter from David Steward, North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council president, asks for the use of Front Street Park for Saturday Market. 16 Saturdays in 2012, from June through September. Steward acknowledges that the Kaslo Hotel would like to use the park during the Canada Day weekend for the folk festival, and says NLKALC is working with the hotel to determine how to share the space on the Saturday. This was referred to the Municipal Services Committee, where committee members will take a look at the park policy.

• Kaslo Flying Club President Russ White wrote to report that Safesther participants had crossed the airport runway during the race, posing a danger to themselves and to pilots and aircraft. Safesther Race Director Janis Neufeld will be asked to attend the next Development Services Committee meeting to discuss the event.

• Council received word that the Village's funding application for the operational fuel treatment project has to be revised and re-submitted by October 10. The five-year strategic plan process the library board completed in 2009 showed that the Kaslo Library is under-funded by local government. In 2009, the average tax rate for libraries in BC was 14 cents per $1,000, where Kaslo was 8 cents per $1,000. The strategic plan sets the goal to reach 16 cents per $1,000 by 2014.

• Alan Davidson, Ministry of Forests, informed council by email that the works to restore Whitewater Creek near Kaslo, which is the Village's backup water source. "The risk to the town water system from elevated sediment levels during summer thunderstorms or extended fall rains should now be greatly reduced," he said.

• In response to a request from a company called 'Green Gym,' the largest provider of outdoor fitness equipment in Canada, was received and referred to the Municipal Services Committee. CAG Sawyer informed council that there is a balance of $6,700 in the budget for the waterfront park trail at Vimy Park, and council has three months to spend it. The Green Gym info was referred to the Municipal Services Committee, which was given the authority to spend the remaining money in the budget.

• Councillor Leatherwood raised the issue of electronic communication. In the past month, there have been two incidents where someone has tried to contact council by email or phone, but the emails have not arrived at all the companies the Village intends to reach. This issue was referred to the Municipal Services Committee.

• Erika Bird's report on the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society was received. Road building between the airport and South Fork "is taking a bite out of our bottom line," she says, and a deficit of about $100,000 is expected this year.

The manager has been asked to find some timber that can be logged this fall, and likely the board will borrow from the silviculture account.

• Tom Humphries wrote to ask that the kingpost of the Vimy Park gazebo be carved with some kind of local motif, as they meant to do when they built it 20 years ago. This was referred to the Municipal Services Committee to create an appropriate RFP and to 2012 budget deliberations to consider costs.

• In response to a request from Ken Hart, the Village will provide a letter of support to those agencies installed on local highways that alerts drivers to cyclists.

• A request for tree removal on the Water Street bank (and Fifth) and sidewalk repair on A Avenue was referred to Public Works to report to the next Development Services Committee meeting.

• The Village has entered into an agreement with the new owners of the lanadrum building, who plan to add a second floor with a balcony. The agreement allows for the balcony to encroach over the sidewalk.

• The Village will upgrade its website to CivicWeb CMS standards in 2011 for a total cost of $3,637, utilizing the following areas of the annual budget: software purchase $1,000, office supplies $2,000 and education $637.

• The following rates will apply to general election officers in 2011: Chief Election Officer $650; Deputy Chief Election Officer $300; Poll Clerks $350.

First a tip of the hat to Elizabeth Scarlett, for all her hard work and efforts at the Kaslo Valley Archive. For our Pirate Day, Curran Appreciation Day and restoration projects like the Hog Post Replacement and Weatherproofing Envelope we owe our success to the following people and businesses.

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The community support and love for the S.S. Moyie is very special. Thank you.

Our sincere apologies if we have missed anyone. KLHS Board

For our Pirate Day, Curran Appreciation Day and restoration projects like the Hog Post Replacement and Weatherproofing Envelope we owe our success to the following people and businesses.
Interview with Deanne Monroe, Basin Business Advisor for the West Kootenay area

For our Small Business Month feature in the Valley Voice, we interviewed Deanne Monroe, the Basin Business Advisor for the West Kootenay region.

Deanne travels regularly to meet clients in Nakusp, the Slocan Valley and Kaslo.

What is the Basin Business Advisors Program?

The Basin Business Advisors program is accessible to any business in the Columbia Basin and is designed to help small business owners strengthen the management and performance of their business. The program is funded by the Columbia Basin Trust.

Basin Business Advisors are experienced business counsellors and analysts, who work passionately to meet the unique needs of clients. We meet business owners at their place of business, which is super convenient for rural based businesses. Advisor services are free and confidentiality is respected.

Where the business could benefit from the assistance of a specialist in their industry or in a particular management area, the BBA program has funds available to cost share consulting contracts with businesses.

Business owners contact the BBA program seeking professional input and a perspective on the direction of their business. As Advisors, we often pose the right questions to the business owner and then work with owners to come to a right solution for them. In some cases we start right at the beginning: what is the business, what are the key products and services offered, where is the business positioned in the market and is company communicating this message clearly? We discuss current practices, what is working and what is not from the owners’ perspective, and explore new ideas to help the business achieve its goals.

There is no company too small or issue too large for the BBA program to assist with. Our challenge as Advisors is to make a meaningful difference for business owners, to help them manage their business more successfully, however that is defined by them.

What are the most common small business issues that you hear about in the West Kootenays?

One common issue for small business owners is the challenge of remaining in control of their cash flow and overall financial performance. Business owners who have taken the time to set up ways to track financial performance of their products or services and budget their expenses find themselves better able to control this aspect of their business.

For small businesses who are struggling with financial management, we customize our work to help owners improve their practices and create practical tools they can use in their business day to day. It can be as simple as a pricing model for manufactured goods to a comprehensive cash flow plan for an upcoming year. We have also supported business plans that assist business owners develop a strategy to reduce their debt.

We also work with many businesspeople who are managing a financially successful business, yet there is a management area they need help with. This may be a lack of knowledge or confidence in managing employees, growth issues or assistance in developing a succession plan. We have worked successfully with many second or third generation businesses who are in need of updating their practices and systems.

What are today’s trends in Kootenay small business?

There have always been hard working entrepreneurs in our region. Current trends include the strengthening of the agriculture and food processing industry. While farms have always existed, there are changes in how farms are doing business, such as branding the farm, expanding products and working harder to connect with a direct customer. A farmer may know how to grow the best produce, but can they make the overall business work?

New technology is being created and adopted by Kootenay businesses. Integrating new technologies, thoughtfully, into your business can create new opportunities to access and serve customers, which can be essential for businesses based in smaller communities. All types of business are exploring social media and the internet to determine if it is a good fit for marketing their business and how to tap into it successfully.

There are definitely challenges in the construction, service, tourism and retail industry caused by global economic uncertainty. Independent businesses who ensure their products and services are competitive and relevant to their customer and are active in planning the future of their business have greater resiliency in tough times.

Contact Deanne at 250-825-4171 or dmonroe-bba@shaw.ca. For more information about the program, visit www.cbt.org/bba.
Change of hands but not of heart at Cedar Creek Cafe

by Timothy Schaefer

The Slocan Valley breathed a collective sigh of relief when news broke recently about one of the region’s top restaurants, the Cedar Creek Café.

The Winlaw café has passed into the hands of a local, Sarah MacKay, someone who understands the subtleties and quirks of valley life, embraces its spirit of freedom, and is, simply put, a Valley person.

And like a true Valley person, she knows not to radically alter a good thing. Although she is now assuming the reins of ownership of the institution — capturing a ship that has up to 24 staff members at the height of the season in summer — and will wield a very light hand.

“I’m not doing this for me, it’s for the community so I need to be open to what people want and give them that,” she said.

She is open to suggestion but MacKay has a few ideas of her own, and some minor tweaks can be expected to the menu — spaghetti on Wednesday and steak night on Friday — and to the steady diet of musical flavour that pours through its doors.

But the fresh baked bread, emphasis on local produce and meat, and incredibly diverse, health-giving and delectable fare on local produce and meat, and incredibly steady diet of musical flavour that pours through its doors.

And like a true Valley person, she embraces its quirks of valley life, embraces its spirit of freedom, and is, simply put, a Valley person.

But the fresh baked bread, emphasis on local produce and meat, and incredibly diverse, health-giving and delectable fare will continue, MacKay said.

It’s such a rich, abundant valley, it seems wrong to bring in mass-produced food from other parts of the world when what we have is so great here,” she said. “I want this to be as sustainable as possible,” she said.

As a result, she will continue to support local and regional businesses — Kootenay Co-op, Oso Negro, the Nelson Brewing Company and Winlaw’s Farm's Bakery — as well as including more of the local musicians into a frequent rotation for entertainment each week.

“I love this place, it’s so special and it’s a place I want to call home for the rest of my life,” she said.
From bean-counting to bean-selling in New Denver

by Jan McMurray

Susan Bridgett and Mark Adams laughed a lot when recounting the story. “When we first thought up this hare-brained scheme two years ago, we sprang it on Seth [their son]. Having worked in a couple of grocery stores himself, he just couldn’t believe it. He kept asking, ‘Have you guys really thought about this!’ Well, that’s now become our mantra,” said Susan, “because we’ve found out that we really hadn’t thought about it at all!”

Rutabaga’s Whole Foods came about because they were dissatisfied with running their accounting business, and realized that what was important to them was to have a good selection of organic and natural foods close to home.

“We’re grateful to Ann Bunka for bringing natural foods to New Denver for the past 15 plus years, and felt that the community needed a larger selection, in a bigger premises. We appreciate the support Ann has offered to us by her willingness to share her expertise and answer all of our questions.”

So, in November, Mark and Seth began renovating their building from an office into a food store – which took longer than expected. Their opening, originally planned for the May long weekend, was pushed back to early July. “We were renovating right up to the minute we opened the doors,” said Susan. Next was stocking the shelves. “Grigg Stone from Gaia Tree in Winlaw was a great help to us in getting us started, as we knew so little about dealing with ordering and receiving inventory,” said Susan.

Mark explained that local food is very important to them at Rutabaga’s. “As time goes on, the community will become more dependent on food close to home and less able to get it from far away, so having distribution in place is really important,” he said.

Mark and Susan encourage local people with organic gardens to bring in their overflow produce during the growing season. They are also interested in local free range eggs and honey.

“In some ways it’s better to eat non-certified local cucumbers than certified organic ones from California,” says Mark. “The food value is better, it’s more supportive of our community, and then of course there’s the carbon footprint.”

The store offers an espresso bar as well, and has a landscaped courtyard where you can sit and enjoy your coffee while watching the happenings on main street. They serve Oso Negro coffee, Kootenay Bakery Cafe bread, and Antoinette’s dips from Nelson; Jerseyland cheese from Grand Forks; and organic beef from Vale Farms in Lumby. The store also has healthy snack food, lots of gluten-free items, frozen food, canned goods, yogurts, non-dairy beverages, bulk foods, bulk spices, teas, organic ice cream, non-dairy ice cream, ethnic foods, ecologically friendly cleaning products and personal care items.

Most of the food products in the store are organic and some are fair trade – and prices are competitive.

Rutabaga’s is one of many new storefronts on New Denver’s main street. If you haven’t been to New Denver lately, it’s worth a trip to see what’s new.

**Rutabaga’s Whole Foods**

Main Street, New Denver

Organic Produce, Dairy, Bulk Foods and a wide variety of other good foods

We use all organic ingredients on our Espresso Bar

Monday to Friday 9:30 to 6:00, Saturday 10:00 to 5:00

On sale Saturday Oct 22 through Friday Oct 28

Olympic organic yogurt, regular $5.85 in sale for $4.70*

“Honey Candles” beeswax candles, all varieties - 20% off of regular price*

Santa Cruz lemonade, regular $3.92 in sale for $2.99* Simply Natural salsas, all varieties, regular $3.99 in sale for $2.99* Kettle Deluxe bulk nut mix - 20% off of regular price*

*While quantities last.

—

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Outdoor recreation is booming in the Kaslo area

submitted by Carol Plato

Kaslo has seen a surge of interest in outdoor recreation this past year, prompting the Regional District of Central Kootenay to implement a group to promote and coordinate the new plethora of outdoor activities.

The Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society (KORS) has been formed to manage the recreational onslaught. From mountain biking workshops, ongoing bike rides and a mountain bike youth camp, swim lessons, kayaking outings, trailblazing courses, to the Sufferfest events and the North Extreme event, Kaslo has been on the move.

The Runners’ Club has 65 increasing members, the Nordic Club has 40, and the Mountain Bike Club has 15.

There are snowshoe enthusiasts, hikers, walkers, climbers, ATVers and horseback riders using the area’s many privately owned trails, and many mountain bikers who enjoy water sports at area rivers and Kootenay Lake.

KORS is currently working closely with the Kaslo Nordic Ski Club and the Kaslo Mountain Bike Club, and is participating in planning sessions with the Kaslo Trail Alliance group regarding a long-term plan for the mountain biking land and to complement the existing Trailblazer’s network of trails.

Other clubs can contact KORS president Denis Thibodeau at dtrkker@msc.ca for information on how to become involved.

Mt. Buchanan warming hut

The Kaslo Nordic Ski Club has had their passion for skiing rekindled with the new warming hut on Mt. Buchanan.

Tom Duchastel, project designer and co-founder of the club, said, “The cabin is now finished and nearly ready for skiers.” A steady stream of visitors has been visiting the site and reactions range from “wow” to “I can’t wait for snow.”

Getting children involved

Another top priority for KORS is to get a kids’ program up and running so that area children can participate in the ski club’s planned outdoor adventure programs this coming season.

Golfers include the purchase of 30 sets of children’s cross-country ski equipment, training for volunteer coaches through BC Cross Country and the purchase of the initial trail grooming equipment needed to make this possible.

The club applied for several grants and was thrilled with the outpouring of support from local businesses, organizations and private donors.

KNSC also put together a beautiful trail guide which was sold as a fundraiser, but when the guidebook was recently taken off the shelves amid controversy, the projected monies for the kids’ ski equipment and trail grooming equipment was removed.

It appeared that this year’s children’s program would have to be cancelled. However, this is Kaslo and amazing things happen here. A local business stepped in and saved the day with a donation that will come close to what is needed for this winter’s kids’ program, reports KORS treasurer, Ken Butt.

High Kootenay Lake levels double cost of mosquito program

by Timothy Schafer

The work of Dr. Moshe Feldenkrais is a modern day application of what the ancient yogis intended by the word ‘yoga’ – which means to bring true purpose on this beautiful earth we now call home.

If course, in most parts of the world it is dangerous to express oneself even to the point of remembering our own name. Yet, due to conditioning, most of us are stuck in a role of identifying who we are. How can we be spontaneous in a responsible, authentic self-expression with the Feldenkrais method?

The Regional District of Central Kootenay’s semi-annual celebration of waste reduction is happening on Saturday, October 22.

It’s Trash to Treasure time again based on an approach to changing old, repeating old patterns that we may like yet have no idea how to change.

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CORNUCOPIA – THE NATURAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM – Saturday, October 29, 7:00 pm, Hidden Garden Gallery. New members welcome.

VENDORS WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY CRAFT FAIRE to be held on November 20 at the Legion Hall, 562 Hahn St. in Slocan. Phone 250-355-2672 for application. Everyone Welcome.

THE SILVERTON GALLERY AGM is Oct. 23 at 2 pm, discussion to follow. Readmissions. Adham Shaikh and Dominick on Nov. 30.

WEEK PERSONAL WELLNESS COURSE starts again in New Denver at The Healing Den Nov. 3- Dec. 15, private, confidential 1-on-1 courses specifically designed for each individual. This is the 5th year that Karen Dubreuil is offering her course to anyone who feels the need to change some things in their lives but not quite sure how to go about it. The course is all about life changes – physically, mentally and spiritually. Don’t let fear keep you stuck in pain and suffering; the right time for change is NOW! We meet once/week for 2 hours in 8 weeks for 8 weeks (mornings, afternoons or evenings). Cost: $480 for 8 weeks = $240 per month, compact Sealy, $255-354-2828.

GOAT MOUNTAIN SCHOOL AGM 3:15 pm, October 26 at Ladder School. For info, call Ruth 250-356-2909.

TRADITIONAL DOUGHBUTTER FOOD SALE and Luncheon. Saturday, October 29, 10:00am-2:00pm at the Brilliant Cultural Centre, Castlegar. BC: Borscht, Bread, Lapsha, Pyrahi, and Fruit Tarts will be sold. Come out and enjoy lunch and live entertainment. Supported by the USCC Kootenays Ladies Organization.

SNOW PEAKS! The Hills Nordic Ski Club will be having its AGM on Sunday November 6, 1:30 pm. Ski trail work party in the morning beginning at 9 am. AGM starts after lunch. Bring ears to share. We welcome all kinds of XC skiers and create opportunities for outdoor winter fun in the North.Slocan. 113 Reinh Rd. or somewhere in Hills.

KOHAN GARDEN FALL CLEANUP PARTY, Sunday, October 23, 10 am. Hot beverages and Soup du Jour lunch. Bring rakes, bowl and spoon.

201st OF NOVEMBER - KASLO HOTEL PUB & RESTAURANT HAS NEW

HAPPY DRINKING!
CONCERT WITH VICTORIA-BASED singer-songwriter Belle Plaine and her band Silverton Gallery, Sun., Oct. 30, 7 pm. $10. www.belleplaine.com

SLOCAN CURLING CLUB - Registration now open for the 2011/12 season. No experience necessary, new members welcome. Info: 250-355-0021 or slocancurlingclub@hotmail.com. Register by November 15.


AGM, Mon., Oct. 24 at 7 pm, Passmore Lodge, Passmore. Everyone welcome!


October 19, 2011

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WOODSTOVE, CARPORT. F/S. $700/month plus utilities. 250-675-2661 or ONE BDR COTTAGE Available. $750/month. 250-575-8867 or – One mile from Silverton. Refreshments will be served.

Lodge, Passmore. Everyone welcome!

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Local HART nurses team moves from full time to casual

by Timothy Schafer

A team of four HART nurses who supported transport of acutely ill patients from outpatient rural and remote health sites in the West Kootenay to higher levels of care from full time to casual positions last month, according to the BCC's acute care director for Kootenay-Boundary, Ingrid Hampf. The three nurses had been an integral part of the High Acuity Response Team (HART) in the Kootenay Boundary for the last six years, but Hampf said there will be no interruptions to the HART service in the region.

She said the nurses’ decision was a personal one and each staff member made: “So it wouldn’t be appropriate to provide the reasons for the change,” she said. “We also have to recognize that these nurses are dealing with the most acute patients and this is a high stress role, so we respect their decision to look at other opportunities.”

Hampf said the BCC has been able to cover shifts with other Kootenay Boundary HART staff and other highly skilled, highly trained nurses from other areas of BC. “And we’ve even seen our new SRT nurses starting in Trail in the next couple of weeks,” she said. “Because there are three HART teams now in place across BC, we have specially trained nurses who can support teams in all locations, including Kootenay Boundary.”
Cooperative Development Initiative 2009-2013

submitted

The Cooperative Development Initiative (CDI) is a government of Canada program delivered in partnership with the two national organizations of the co-operative sector, which are the Canadian Cooperative Association and the Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité.

CDI is designed to help people develop cooperatives and to test innovative ways of using the cooperative model. CDI makes the cooperative option more readily available to Canadians, to respond to their present-day challenges.

Since it was established in 2003, CDI has supported over 1,500 co-op projects and helped to create over 200 new cooperatives. The program has also allowed for testing new kinds of cooperatives and undertaking research projects to understand how cooperatives can contribute to regional economic development. The agriculture component of CDI, put in place in 2006, was responsible for the creation of over 60 value-added agricultural cooperatives. This component has now been integrated into the CDI program. The CDI program has three interrelated components.

The Advisory Services component is delivered by the cooperative sector through a network of cooperative development experts established across the country. The objective is to provide access to professional and technical services needed for the successful launch or strengthening of a cooperative. The Advisory Services component is managed jointly by the Canadian Cooperative Association and the Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité.

Slocan Valley library service officially launched at Heritage Credit Union

submitted

It’s about questions, answers, and community. On Thursday, October 20 from 9 am to 5 pm, library service to the Slocan Valley will be officially launched at the Heritage Credit Union (HCU) in Slocan Park. Library staff will be on hand to register new members and introduce the library’s services, including a rotating collection to Winlaw School and a pick-up, drop-off service at the credit union as well as online opportunities.

Will Rimmer, manager of the Heritage Credit Union, is enthusiastic about the launch. “October 20 is International Credit Union Day, so the timing is excellent,” he says. “Heritage Credit Union is a strong supporter of its communities, and we’re pleased to support the library outreach to the Slocan Valley.”

Library staff will help library users navigate the library’s website and catalogue, access databases, place holds and reserves for pick-up at HCU, and place interlibrary loan requests. The credit union, in celebration of Credit Union Day and the library initiative, will offer a friendly atmosphere with refreshments served all day, and hamburgers and hot dogs on the barbecue from 11 am to 2 pm.

“It’s a wonderful partnership,” says Chief Librarian June Stockdale. “So far, the arrangement for pick-up and drop-off has been working beautifully. We hope people who haven’t yet joined the library, or who would just like to find out more, will drop by Heritage Credit Union on October 20.”

Library residents with library cards can now request items from the library stacks for delivery each Thursday to HCU. A secure book drop located outside HCU accepts returns of all Nelson Library items at any time, with pick-ups each Wednesday. For those who love to browse through books, DVDs, MP3s, and audiobooks for all ages, a rotating collection arrives at Winlaw Elementary School on the third Thursday of each month. The next delivery is October 20, with items available for checkout from 3 to 7 pm. Library staff will also be on hand in Winlaw.

A defined portion of Area H (south of Enterprise Creek) became part of the Nelson Library service area in January 2011. Residents who wish to join the library, whether on October 20 at HCU, at Winlaw Elementary on library days, or at the library itself, must have proof of address and picture ID.

For details on both programs go to www.nelsonlibrary.ca or call 250-352-6333.

Co-ops in Canada and the world

• There are close to 9,000 co-ops and credit unions across Canada, with more than 17 million members. Some of Canada’s best known businesses, including Mountain Equipment Co-op, Federated Cooperatives Limited, UFA Cooperatives Limited, Gay Lea Foods, The Cooperators (insurance), Vancity (credit union), Agropur and Desjardins Group are cooperatives.

• The cooperative sector controls over $275 billion in assets. The world’s 300 largest cooperatives, nine of which are Canadian, have an aggregate turnover of SUS 1.1 trillion, the size of the 10th largest economy in the world.

• According to the International Labour Organization, cooperatives provide more than 100 million jobs, more than all the world’s multinational corporations combined.

773-2898; fax: 613-773-2198; email: Jean-Nicolas.Roy@agr.gc.ca.

The Innovative Cooperative Projects component provides funding to innovative projects that respond to public policy priority areas and generate best practices and learning. The policy priorities to be addressed through the Innovative Co-operative Projects are: agriculture, including farmer-driven value-added agriculture and biofuels; rural/indigenous community development; innovative goods and services, including innovative technologies; and capacity building and sustainability of the cooperative sector in Canada.

The upper limit of funding for Innovative Cooperative Projects is $75,000 per year per project. The minimum proponent contribution for Innovative Cooperative Projects is 25% per individual project. The Innovative Cooperative Projects component is delivered jointly by the Canadian Co-operative Association and the Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité. For more information, visit http://cccn.coops.canada.coop.

Credit Union Day

Thursday, October 20

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Canada launches website for International Year of Cooperatives 2012

The government of Canada is committed to working with the cooperative sector to make 2012, the International Year of Cooperatives, a success. On June 30 this year, Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz joined with the Co-operative Association to proclaim 2012 International Year of Cooperatives. On December 3, the federal government announced its support for the UN resolution, the first time a Canadian government has officially expressed its support for a UN International Year before it was proclaimed.

In Canada, the federal government’s Cooperatives Secretariat has been working with the Canadian Cooperative Association and the Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité (CCCM), said that “the Canadian cooperative movement is pleased to see the government of Canada’s involvement in supporting and promoting the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC). The launch of www.canada2012.coop is one of the initiatives undertaken by the government of Canada, the CCCM and the CCA. This website will be an efficient tool to inform people and to introduce the three partners.” Among the 45 projects approved through the Cooperative Development Initiative (CDI), a four-year, $19.1 million program designed to help Canadians establish new co-ops, are:

- Kootenay Cooperative Radio and Kootenay Carshare Cooperative in Nelson, and the West Kootenay Herb Growers Cooperative in Wynndell. Kootenay Co-op Radio received $66,450 to adapt and promote the community radio co-op model to its community radio colleagues and listeners across the country. The project includes developing a handbook, a radio documentary, as well as a series of regional workshops to help community radio groups that want to start up cooperatives.
- West Kootenay Carshare Cooperative received $43,740 to develop services adapted to the specific needs of rural areas, including conventional travel requirements, but also the transportation of goods and merchandise, by offering a truck rental service.
- VantageOne Credit Union has renewed its five-year sponsorship agreement with the Vernon Soccer Association (VSA). The original agreement was forged in 2006. Dr. Gavin Smart, vice president of VSA, describes VantageOne as “an extraordinary community partner that supports sport and family.” The partnership between VantageOne Credit Union and the VSA is a five-year sponsorship agreement worth more than $75,000 and includes naming rights through to 2016.

For more information on the International Year of Cooperatives in Canada, visit the website www.canada2012.coop.