Local elections return mostly popular incumbents

**by Timothy Schafer**

The electoral race in the region did not surprise, with nearly a complete sweep by incumbents in all areas and municipalities where an election was held.

Voter turnout in the five municipalities in the Valley Voice coverage area was higher than the average voter turnout of 40 percent in all municipalities and electoral areas in the region. Area H (Slocan Valley) was very low at 24.8 percent, as was School District No. 10 at 28.9 percent. There was no election in Area K (Arrow Lakes), as incumbent Paul Peterson was acclaimed. In School District No. 8, both the trustees representing areas covered by the Valley Voice were acclaimed: incumbents Barbara Lindsay (Slocan Valley) and Dawn Lang (Kaslo/ Area D).

We’ve charted the elections in the region, giving you a brief overview of the political landscape for the next three years.

### School District No. 10

The election in SD10 was between three candidates for two seats. Lora Lee Brekke (791 votes) and Judy Struck (622 votes) will be filling those seats. Ganishka Silverfox Dann trailed behind with 299 votes. Three incumbent trustees were acclaimed – Pattie Adam, Quinn DeCourcy and Carol Bell. Voter turnout was 28.9 percent – 1,007 out of a possible 3,488 votes cast.

### Area D

In Area D (North Kootenay Lake), incumbent director Andy Shadrack retained his directorship for a third term as he defeated Ron Greenlaw – the son of former Area D director Larry Greenlaw – by a margin of 404 to 228 votes. Voter turnout in Area D was the highest in the West Kootenay at 63.3 percent, with 652 votes cast.

### Area H

In Area H (Slocan Valley), Walter Popoff retained his seat with 519 votes over his challenger Will Parker (234). Voter turnout was 24.8 percent with 759 votes cast, the third lowest turnout in the RDCK.

### Kaslo

Greg Lay was returned to the office of mayor for a second term with a victory (279 votes) over Pat Mackle (133), and Teresa May (66). He will be joined on council by incumbents Suzan Hewat (325) and Molly Leathwood (289), and former mayor Jim Holland (286) and Rob Lang (250). Out of the 799 eligible voters, 485 chose to cast a vote, good enough for a 61 percent voter turnout.

### Nakusp

Incumbent mayor Karen Hamling held off a challenge from Hans Suhr by a 341 to 180 vote count. Her council will be incumbents Ulrike Mueller (406) and Joseph Hughes (400), with Thomas Zednik (437) and Guy Duchaine (288) rounding out the foursome. Robert Parkinson (211) missed in his bid for council, while Len Heppner still attracted 186 votes, despite announcing he was withdrawing from the race prior to the election. The village saw a 43 percent voter turnout, with 521 votes cast.

### New Denver

Ann Bunka was acclaimed mayor, while Heather Fox (158), Henning Von Krogh (157), Nadine Raynolds (140) and David Hodnall (140) were elected to council. Dennis Butler (111), Wanda Palmer (73) and Anita Dumins (63) missed the cut. Voter turnout was 56 percent with 226 votes cast.

### Silverton

Former councillor Carol Bell lost her bid for mayor in the only race, losing to Kathy Provan 59 to 43 votes. Voter turnout was 65 percent, with 102 votes cast. All four councillors were acclaimed: Jason Clarke and Christopher Saunders, Love, as well as incumbents Ross Johnson and Leah Main.

### Slocan

No change in Slocan. Incumbent mayor Madeleine Perriere defeated John Gates in the mayor’s race by a count of 96 to 63 votes. Jessica Lunn (145), Jean Patterson (134), Hillary Elliott (115) and Patricia McGuire (108) were all re-elected to council. Nick Verigin (51) and Glenda Zwer (48) missed the cut for council. Slocan had the highest turnout of any municipality with 68 percent of voters, and 159 votes cast out of a potential 233.
He’s a Wright-off: New Denver Mayor retires from politics

by Jan McMurray

‘The Wright Off’ was an evening of humour and song and the roasting of Gary Wright, New Denver’s soon-to-be-retired mayor of 22 years. Held November 27 at the Bosun Hall, the event was organized by Kevin Murphy and friends.

“Welcome to New Denver, where we make our own fun and make fun of our own,” began Murphy, who went on to tell the story of Gary’s life, “from his humble beginnings as an army brat to his career as a really cool mayor.”

Murphy explained that when Canada took Gary in many years ago, Gary was so grateful that he wanted to be “the All-Canadian Kid from Montana” and show his appreciation by doing some community service. That was his motivation for going down to the New Denver Village office, where he ended up as custodian before working his way up to councillor and then mayor. “And the rest is history – boring history, but history nonetheless,” said Murphy.

Murphy also talked about the speculation around town on Gary’s retirement plans, rumoured to include sailing, writing a book and watching more sports on TV. The one few people know about, however, is his bid to be a Renunciation Commissioner for the US.

Murphy explained that because of the “IRS tax grab” where the US is taxing Americans on income they earn in Canada, there is a major backlog of Americans trying to renounce their citizenship. Gary meets all of the qualifications of a Renunciation Commissioner (must have government experience, be reasonably intelligent, have renounced US citizenship previously, look good in suit, and have own transportation) and has applied for the job, reported Murphy. In fact, he and his wife DJ are working on a new business idea to offer Renunciation Vacations. People can go sailing on Gary’s boat, take their renunciation oath, jump into the lake and emerge from the water “free born.”

Several people told stories about Gary, including Carol Gordon, Therese Descamp, Walter Popoff, Hank Hastings and others. Art Joyce and Diana Hartog wrote poems for him. Andrea Wright did an impersonation of Gary, and Lilliana Wright sang for him. There was music by Howard Bearham, Craig Besinque, Richard Burton, Kevin Murphy, Michael Dorsey, Leah Main, and Norbert Maucher. Gary and DJ performed a couple of songs to wrap up the roast.

Gary was his usual humble self right to the end. Given the last word, he said that when he agreed to run for council back in 1988, then mayor Ken Casley replied with relief: “Thank you – you’re the 28th person I’ve asked today!” It was four minutes until nominations were to close, and one more candidate was needed for a full slate. Our “All Canadian Kid from Montana” came to the rescue.

Gary said one of the smartest things he ever did as mayor he did right off the but, and that was to make sure that Carol Gordon was hired as the Village’s Chief Administrative Officer. This comment garnered a loud round of applause from the audience.

He also spoke of the importance of volunteers in local government, and thanked everyone in the audience for their volunteer service to the community.
CBT holds public information session on Columbia River Treaty in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Shall we keep the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) as is, term it, or renegotiate it? This big decision is in the making, and the Columbia Basin Trust is hosting public sessions around the basin to educate residents about it.

Nakusp’s session on November 15 was the best attended yet, with well over 100 people there.

Ron Oszust, CBT director from the Golden area, emcee for the session, explained that the CRT’s role is in the education and informing the public, while the Province’s role is to consult with the public. The Province’s executive director for the Columbia River Treaty review, Kathy Eichenberger, was at the Nakusp session and promised she would be back in the spring “when we have more information” to outline the pros and cons of keeping, re-negotiating or terminating the treaty.

“This time, we are committed to consulting with you and doing it right,” she assured.

CBT representatives showed two short videos to de-mystify and ‘de-mythify’ the CRT. Kindy Gosal of CBT made sure we understood that the end of the salmon run was caused by the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in Washington State in 1939, and not by the CRT dams, which were built in the ‘60s and ‘70s. He said that the loss of the salmon was the single most important event from a First Nations perspective, causing significant negative effects of the treaty comes up frequently asked questions. “Stable elevations are really important to people,” he said. However, he explained that if one reservoir is kept higher, there will be impacts on other reservoirs and on power generation. The CRT is currently working on models that will illustrate those impacts. Residents can look forward to seeing the models in the next round of public meetings in the spring.

Ecosystem restoration

Environmental concerns will no doubt take centre stage in any renegotiation of the treaty. Hall indicated that enhancing fisheries is top of mind in both countries. “We can try to accommodate fish in the new negotiations,” he said. “We can look at fish first before power production and that can be put into legislation.”

When it was suggested that fish hatcheries on the Arrow Lakes would be a big help, Ken Hall said hatcheries are only part of the solution. He explained that there is not enough food in the reservoir for a thriving fishery because nutrients get caught behind the dam – hence the need for the fertilization program. Hall also said fertilization is more difficult in the Arrow than in Kootenay Lake because of the fast flow-through time. “You want the fertilizer utilized here, not down in the US,” he said.

Hall said not only fish, but the whole food chain and sunlight have to be taken into consideration, as does climate change.

CBT funding

Someone asked if CBT money would be better directed to supporting industry rather than community projects, with the specific example given of a fixed link to replace the Galena/Shelter ferry. Gosal said that CBT could support industry if there were overwhelming support from the public for this. He explained that the CBT operates on the income from its investments in power projects in partnership with the Columbia Power Corporation, and that these power projects provide a substantial number of jobs. However, the jobs are in the south of the Basin, not the north. Sabrina Curtis from the CBT said that the Trust’s economic strategic plan is an avenue for this conversation, “and we’re hearing it more.” Check out www.cbt.org for more information.

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- the ‘Canadian entitlement’ – which is worth somewhere between $150 and $300 million.

If the treaty were terminated, the Canadian entitlement would be terminated. Assured flood control would also be terminated, but ‘on call’ flood control is required as long as the dams exist. ‘On call’ flood control has never been requested. Although the CRT Flood Control Operating Plan contains some documentation on the implementation procedures for ‘on call’ flood control, many practical details would need to be worked out during the first such event. So there is uncertainty around what ‘on call’ flood control would look like.

The treaty has no official expiry date, but it does have an opt-out clause. The earliest date either country can opt out is 2024, but ten years’ notice must be given. So, the earliest time that notice can be given is 2014. Eichenberger said her review team would be making recommendations to the BC cabinet by November 2013.

Questions from the public at the Nakusp session were answered by Kindy Gosal of the CBT and Ken Hall, environmental engineer specializing in water. Most of the questions had to do with compensation, reservoir levels, ecosystem restoration and CBT funding.

Compensation

The issue of compensation for the negative effects of the treaty comes up again and again, said Gosal, as does the sentiment that one community was harder hit than any other. When it was suggested that the Arrow Lakes area was the most adversely affected by the treaty, Oszust said, “I have stood in all these communities and it’s amazing how many times I have heard that.” He said that all Basin communities were impacted but the impacts were different for each and every community. He emphasized the importance of working collectively together.

While acknowledging that many people do not feel compensation has been adequate, Gosal listed the three ways the BC government has provided compensation by making land deals with the farmers who were flooded out at the time the dams were built; by providing approximately $4.5 million per year to the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program to conserve fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams in the Columbia Basin (most of this goes to the fertilization programs in Arrow and Kootenay Lakes); and the creation of the CBT to help build a better future for the basin.

Compensation from the US was also called into question. Although the US paid Canada $64.4 million for 60 years of flood control, and gives BC half of the extra power generated because of the treaty dams, the US enjoys many benefits of water in Canada than just flood control and power generation. The US uses the water for ecosystem restoration, agriculture and recreation.

“It’s a different world now and the US is using the water differently now than in the ‘60s so that’s a good question and we don’t know the answer,” said Gosal.

Stable reservoir levels

Gosal said this is another of the frequently asked questions. “Stable elevations are really important to people,” he said. However, he explained that if one reservoir is kept higher, there will be impacts on other reservoirs and on power generation. The CRT is currently working on models that will illustrate those impacts. Residents can look forward to seeing the models in the next round of public meetings in the spring.

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Area D voter turnout amazing
In an age of cynicism and scepticism I am honoured to serve the people of an electoral area who so clearly value the importance of voting in elections.

Area D voter turnout was 63.3%, compared to Area A 27.1%, Area B 33.8%, Area F 22.3%, Area G 36.6%, Area H 24.8% and Area I 18.6%. Candidates in Areas A, C, J and K were elected by acclamation.

Andy Shadrack
Director Area D

Be safe when getting firewood
I write this letter with the hope that my words will have enough of an impact as to help keep you safe and alive.

On November 7, an individual gathering firewood at Summit Lake felled a tree onto a power line. This wasn’t just any one line; it was a transmission line packing 60,000 volts of explosive energy in those wires.

When the tree made contact with the line, an eyewitness heard the resulting roar of the fireball a quarter mile away. Little did he know, this zone has put himself in a situation of ‘step potential.’ This means that one foot is at a different voltage than the other leg, through your body, and then down the other. The current now flows up one leg, through your heart, and then down the other leg.

Your vital organs are instantly rendered useless. It doesn’t have to be a transmission line to have this effect; any power line can provide the same results.

The only thing that spared this person’s life is the fact that he was sitting in a truck at the end of a long rope in his attempt to pull the tree over. It went the wrong way and he was out of the step potential zone.

A wise move on his part would have been to go buy a lottery ticket after this. The gathering of free firewood can be a very rewarding experience if done safely. If you decide to take a chance you may very well pay the ultimate highest material.

Stay safe.

Vic Bidyak
Nakusp

Smart meter update
There are two campaigns regarding smart meters.

One is an ongoing campaign by a smart meter coalition at www.stoptsmarts.meters.ca. If you are concerned about smart meters you can vote to scrap the Smart Meter Program by going to www.stoptsmarts.meters.ca and filling out the official pre-registration form.

The completed pre-registration will enable organizers to contact you to sign the official petition in due course. When enough signatures are obtained via pre-registration, an Initiative vote similar to the HST campaign will be conducted.

The other campaign was until November 22 by the Citizens for Smart Technology Society. They had a petition for a moratorium on smart meters which had to be signed by November 22 by John Horgan, NDP Energy Critic, would be taking all the signatures (online and hard copy) into the Victoria Legislature on November 24.

C. Postnikoff
Nelson

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

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

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

We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

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

Think before you stop!
Winter is upon us again, and with it comes hazardous driving conditions. In November, Kootenay we know this all too well. What we fail to know… and I wish to witness, is that acting as a good Samaritan could result in additional havoc on our icy roads.

My husband and I were attending to a pick-up truck that had lost control on a blind corner on highway 3A just above our house, and landed head over heels in our yard. As I was waiting at the foot of our driveway for the ambulance to arrive, two neighbors noticed the truck in our yard on its side and began slowing down. The first car bypassed our driveway coming before to a full stop and the car behind him blocked our driveway. Both were about a foot into the lane of oncoming traffic. A man got out of the first car and walked towards me asking if he was needed. As he spoke, I looked over and noticed that other cars were attempting to slow down to avoid a collision with these two cars, but were having trouble as the road conditions were horrendous! Sensing the danger of this situation, I quickly called a Good Samaritan could result in additional havoc on our icy roads. Just at that moment, I saw a semi approaching around the bend and realized he had no time to stop… let alone slow down! The driver blasted his horn and swerved into the opposite lane and continued on. All I can say is… thank heavens that no one was killed. Was he醉?

Yes, I can understand the importance of stopping to help, but my goodness, use your common sense and think before you stop! Otherwise you’ll end up just another road statistic and nothing will be accomplished.

Bernadette Fuhrmann
South Slocan

Outraged by goat incident at Gimli
I’ve received further information from the Ministry of Environment concerning the hunting incident in Valhalla Park in the campground on Mt. Gimli.

Apparently, when the hunters arrived at the camping area, there was a goat there. A group of campers was also there. The hunters ordered the goats to get out of the way! The hunters then shot and disembowled the goat in front of these campers. Please campers, come forth with your story, at least near an area.

Mt. Gimli is frequented by close to 1,000 visitors every year. Climbers come from all over the world. This mountain is famous for its challenging climbing opportunities.

Hikers come here for the spectacular scenery and to take pictures of the very friendly goats that are one in the area. They will come to see you and approach to within ten feet. Nowhere else will you find this opportunity. This is how wonderful it is! People who camp here will have many stories about these goats. Do not believe they are being fed. Hikers do not feed any animals as we don’t want them to associate people with food, especially in a campground.

It’s hard to believe that a hunter with any ethics would come to a park area like this to hunt. This is outrageous! This is morally wrong! We need to keep our communities and hiking with the goats in mind.

Wayne Reid
Silverton

Support for no hunting in Gimli area
My husband and I were horrified to read the article about the mountain goat that was slaughtered in the Mt. Gimli area recently. This is one of our favourite hikes in the West Kootenays and most visits include contact with the friendly mountain goats, who until recently, have enjoyed a non-threatening existence around Gimli Peak.

This so-called hunter chose to kill an animal in the easiest of circumstances and met an area where so many people visit every year.

We have contacted the Premier’s office, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of FLNRGO about proposing a ‘No Hunting Zone’ in the Gimli Peak area.

If you feel the outrage we urge you to do the same.

Janice Found and Colin Moss
New Denver

Bring industry back to the Kootenays
The other morning prior to the civic elections I was reading the Valley Voice, and went through the write-ups for all the All Candidates meetings held in the towns covered by your paper. The most common objective of all the candidates was to attract some sort of industry to their town.

All the candidates, only one made a statement that in my opinion touches the root cause of many of our employment problems in our communities. That statement was made by Greg Lay (mayoral candidate, Kaledo):

“We have a community forest that keeps exporting logs out of Kaslo, because there is no value added industry.” I might add to that statement – we have no primary sawmilling left in any of our communities.

Our once thriving forest industry is being torn, bit by bit, broken. In the past there were social conditions attached to a forest license that required the licensee to provide employment and run a manufacturing facility in exchange for the rights to cut our timber resources.

With changes to the Forest Act that allow raw log exports to Asia and the US, those conditions have been removed from licensees’ obligations. So now we have community forests, BCTS, and major licensees harvesting timber in the area. Our communities and mining that timber to the likes of Kalesnikoff (Thrums), Interfor (Castlegar), Downie Street (Revelstoke), Atco (Frutivale) with virtually no economic benefit to our communities.

With nearly the highest base metal prices in history it’s hard to believe the hills are not busy with miners and prospectors. To my knowledge, Klondike Silver has been conducting some field work and one local individual worked his property last summer. A far cry from the past. In Sandon, we have what should be the heart of the mining industry in the Kootenays, that being the Carnegie mill owned by Klondike Silver. This mill is the last functioning mill in the Kootenays and no longer manufactures wood. A mill of its kind in western Canada that is capable of custom milling ore for small mining operations.

So prior to trying to attract new industry, let’s first try to get more value from our communities from what we already have. I would like now to challenge all the newly elected mayors, councilors and Regional District directors to band together through the organizations they all belong to (ARKB) and pressure the provincial government to make changes that will create more economic benefit to our communities from these once thriving industries.

Vern Gustafson
New Denver

The Valley Voice November 30, 2011

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lake valleys from Slocan/Plumgaron to Salmo and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake.

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November 30, 2011
The Valley Voice

Parents speak out on teachers’ strike

Dear Editor,

We understand that despite several months of negotiation, the parents remain very far apart and are outraged that this dispute continues. As extremely concerned parents we demand that you find a solution that will end the teacher job action immediately.

We understand that parents in the Kootenay Lake School District are actively involved in public education because we believe in its value for our children and society. At the October 27 Kootenay Lake DPAC meeting, parents discussed the ‘teach only’ campaign currently endorsed by the BCTF. This job action has turned the focus away from our children’s education and toward the seemingly insignificant positions of BCPSEA and the BCTF. We urge both parties not to undermine our children’s education in favour of fulfilling their own needs.

The BCTF has assured us that teachers will maintain close communication with parents; however, parents in the Kootenay Lake school district are frustrated that teacher-parent communication is inconsistent within and between schools as well as between districts throughout the province. Some parents are receiving detailed information about their children, while others have received nothing.

We are also concerned about the toll this campaign is having on principals, vice-principals and school district administrators, and the communities who must fulfill their duties, without collaboration from teachers, plus undertake additional supervisory responsibilities to ensure the safety of our children. School administrators need to get off the playgrounds and back to managing schools.

We believe that the learning environment that is marked by positive parental involvement supports and enhances the public school education system.

Further, the Kootenay Lake DPAC finds it unacceptable that the BCTF is limiting grade reporting to Grade 12 students when the Passport to Success program which provides up to $1,000 per student is based on Grades 10, 11, and 12 course grades.

We ask you to address what is important. We implore you to negotiate based on your mutual interest in the provision of quality education of our children. We believe that the time is now to address what is important.

Kendra Mann, vice-chair
Kootenay Lake District Parents’ Advisory Council

The fallacy of the free market

“it is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest.” (Adam Smith, pioneer of political economy, 1723 - 1790.) This is one famous quote that helped lead to the disingenuous “good is greed” philosophy we have had rammed down our throats for decades in an attempt to justify the greed that our leaders have, the baker makes the better bread he can so people will buy it and give him money. It is not necessary that he care at all about the we-being of his clients, because the customer is not a person that he will provide the best possible service.

Let’s see how this plays out in modern day reality. If a baker doesn’t care about the health of his clients, he will soon be using the cheapest ingredients he can whilst still retaining taste and appearance. The quality of the nutritional content is irrelevant to him. He is more interested in the econocentric nature of his ingredients. He is highly successful with his line of cheap bread, he may wish to expand into another town and employ another baker there who may care about the ingredients in her bread and therefore be a bit more expensive.

Bakers who ‘have regard to their own interest’ may go together and collude to raise bread prices and keep their workers’ wages very low. They might fabricate false bread shelf life factors so Howie goes hungry at the roof at times. They will sit on each other’s boards of directors and decide that they should get very large compensation for their invaluable work since only people of their considerable intelligence are capable of it. Some bakers will periodically enter high court to try to ensure that any regulations about the ingredients of their bread are weakened or even removed, and taxes on their industry are progressively lowered.

The outcomes are that people buying bread will get an inferior and possibly dangerous product at a greatly inflated price, while unscrupulous bakers grow increasingly rich as their work force lives in poverty. This is why an unregulated ‘free market’ based on self-interest does not and cannot work for the common good.

Adam Smith got it half right – we cannot rely on benevolence to make sure people do business with honesty and integrity. Howie goes hungry at the roof at times. They will sit on each other’s boards of directors and decide that they should get very large compensation for their invaluable work since only people of their considerable intelligence are capable of it. Some bakers will periodically enter high court to try to ensure that any regulations about the ingredients of their bread are weakened or even removed, and taxes on their industry are progressively lowered.

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Kendra Mann, vice-chair
Kootenay Lake District Parents’ Advisory Council

Danger of winter road Blindness

On November 21, at about quarter to one in the afternoon, I was en route to Nakusp for a 1:30 appointment. As I passed Box Lake, my vehicle left the highway, severing a power pole, and plunging 30-40 feet down into the steep bank, upside down. I think it was something of a miracle that I wasn’t injured in the accident.

I am writing to express my deep thanks to all those who assisted me on that day: the ambulance crew, the doctor and emergency staff at Arrow Lakes Hospital, RCMP officer Tim Binnie and undertaker the baker there who came all the way from Red Mountain Hospital down to Silverton to pick me up, and especially the kind gentleman who saw me on the scene and sat me in his warm vehicle until the ambulance arrived, while he stopped traffic and alerted the authorities. I was deeply touched by his sensitivity and concern, and I’m sorry that in the confusion I never got his name. Thank you all.

I am also writing to address the serious and potentially deadly issue of snow accumulation on large trucks in winter, and the blinding cloud of snow dust they can put out at high speed. As I came into the straight stretch near Box Lake, I was rapidly overtaken by an empty logging truck, and before it had completely passed me, I was engulfed in a dense cloud of white and could see nothing outside my vehicle for several seconds, possibly as many as ten, which is an eternity in a moving vehicle. With no visual cues at all, I was not able to maintain directional control, and as I came out of the cloud I was nearly backward and sliding toward the power pole, which I could do nothing to avoid. The logging truck didn’t stop, and I think it’s most likely that the driver was oblivious to what he had just done. He certainly had not been able to see anything behind him through his own opaque cloud. In this case, the snow dust was not coming off the road surface but rather from something that was not enough loose material on the highway to cause the loss of visibility I experienced, and my own vehicle certainly had not been putting out a dust cloud from its side any way from home. I had no trouble seeing vehicles behind me, unlike the logging truck driver. Because of the size of the cloud, I suspect the truck had just recently started out on its trip to Nakusp, say from Summit Lake, or possibly from Hills, and maybe had sat idle for a few days of snow accumulation prior to the accident. I never had a chance to see any identifying logo on the vehicle, let alone a license plate, nor can I recall a specific time of day.

For more than four decades I’ve lived and driven in this area, and have been passed innumerable times by large trucks carrying logging trucks like this one, but have never experienced anything like this. For as long as they’ve had the program, I’ve been a RoadStar driver, and have there had so much as a point taken off my licence. At the time of the accident I was travelling more than ten kilometres below the posted speed limit, and since leaving home had not had any problem with loss of traction, even though the road surface was generally compact snow.

This accident was not the result of any of the usual suspects such as excessive speed, the use of drugs or alcohol, or a fatal moment of inattention. It was probably a pure road hazard created by another vehicle, and a hazard that in my opinion warrants inclusion in the motor vehicle laws of British Columbia. I have not been in an accident a few years back in Ontario when accumulated ice came off the top of a transport truck and killed the driver behind, which resulted in changes in the law requiring the use of a windshield of the driver of a commercial vehicle. Until such time as we get similar changes here in BC, here’s a rule for drivers of big trucks: if you can’t see anyone behind you because of the cloud your vehicle is creating, don’t pass any other vehicles, since you may be causing an accident, it’s possible fatal. And I’m not talking about the thin moisture that may come off the roads, but the cloud of snow powder coming off the vehicle itself.

To the driver of the logging truck, my question is: was the 20-30 seconds you saved in getting to Nakusp worth the impact you’ve now had on my life? At the best of times I struggle financially and had only managed to purchase this vehicle a few weeks ago on the coast. At this point I’m never in a longer position to repeat the process, so am now living six miles out on a road in a cold and dangerous environment, and a mile walk to the highway in order to hitchhike. At 64 and still recovering from recent back surgery, I don’t have much more than I can manage. And on top of all that, I’m also stuck with the $300 deductible, since ICBC considers it a ‘single’ vehicle accident. Can’t make a contribution! I’m serious about that. I certainly don’t need to know who you are, but if you’re so inclined, and wish to remain anonymous, you could deposit it in the little black mailbox just outside the Valley Voice office front door on Main Street (6th Ave.) in New Denver, and they’ll see it for me. It even that much would really be an enormous help for me right now.

Sam Tichenor

Silverton

Fish farms

I am writing to a letter from Mary Ellen Walling (Columbia.com November 23, 2011): “Salmon virus is not the problem that some claim.” Ms. Walling. I have just finished reading a book entitled “The Doubt - How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming. You fit right in.” I am currently in Spring, and again, you fit right in and does so your fish-farming industry.

I am not a fisherman, biologist or scientist but I can read. I have been following the wild vs. farmed debate for over 10 years now and have spent some days at the Cohen Commission as well. Because I am so informed, I have been what is so-called ‘experts’, I have to rely on anecdotal evidence. The evidence I see is simple. Anywhere (in the world) fish farms are put in the ocean the wild fish suffer. When the farms are taken out the wild return.

Sadly we do you the world a great disservice. I would like to see some government support for this industry – which, incidentally, cries out to be put on land.

But at the moment all I see is money at any cost and ‘profit over people.’ And is that not Occupy Wall Street is all about?
Sculptures by local youth on display at Cedar Creek Cafe

by Timothy Schafer

The embers of Art Sparks will be igniting into a full-blown blaze December 7 at Cedar Creek Café in Winlaw as eight young sculptors take their works public in a group show. Under the tutelage of Nancylee Smith, the creator of Art Sparks, eight sculptors ranging in age from six to eight, will unleash 24 of their best works in a one day show at the café (1-5 pm).

Smith has been working with some of the young artists for over one year through her Art Sparks program, sparking their ideas and creativity, creating literacy through art. The program is an arts curriculum for home-schooled children, an after-school arts program, and private instruction, and also involves special Pro-D Day and spring break activities.

In all there are eight young sculptors – Simon, Gabriel, Evan, Emmerson, Torn, Nathan, Dez and Paul – from the Winlaw area who will present 24 sculptures in the show. It is a chance to reveal to the community what they have accomplished in pushing the bounds of creativity.

“I’m excited because I’ve never had an art show,” said Simon, 7, who already made three sculptures.

“I’m happy to bring all of my sculptures and show them to people,” chimed in Gabriel, 6.

Smith chose sculpture to deliver her message of creativity because she knows children like to make stuff happen, they like the hands-on aspect of the medium.

“This introduces them to form, and balance, not only in the artwork,” Smith said.

New recreation director in the Slocan Valley

by Timothy Schafer

There are inherent challenges to programming for such a diverse and geographically large area, but the Slocan Valley has an incredible amount of potential and resources: beautiful backcountry, the Slocan River system, the Rail Trail, parks, local food production, a rich history, and so many unique and talented individuals.

At least, that is what the valley’s new recreation director Lauren Steeg Grace felt when she took over from the icon, Craig Lawrence, recently for the top spot with the Regional District’s Slocan Valley Recreation.

Grace moved to the Slocan Valley (Krestova) two-and-a-half years ago from Victoria and met Lawrence shortly after arriving. She saw the recreation director’s position as an intriguing one.

“Craig dedicated a lot of energy and that it is something that people of all ages and demographics can really feel reflects their interests, identity and connection to the Slocan Valley,” she said.

Prior to landing in the West Kootenay, Grace worked for the Boys and Girls Club of Victoria, managing one of their community clubs.

Since moving here, she has been working as the coordinator of the Nelson Food Cupboard, and coordinator of the Castlegar Early Childhood Advisory Council. In the past, she worked extensively with youth, supporting employment and personal growth through outdoor adventure, environmental awareness and experiential education.

She encourages anyone who is interested in talking to her about their vision for recreation in the Valley to drop by the recreation office, or give her a call at 226-0008 or send her an email at slocanvalleyrec@rdekc.bc.ca.

Happy Holiday Specials

- 2-PACK TRAVEL MUGS/DUO WALL STAINLESS STEEL LINER/W HANDLE/ THERMOCAFE BY THERMOS REG. $24 SALE $14
- BISTRO BAR SET (2 BAR STOOLS- 1 GLASS TOP TABLE) REG. $299 SALE $229
- DEWALT 18VOLT COMPACT DRILL/DRIVER 1 HR CHARGER REG. $229 SALE $195
- MAKITA JIGSAW VS (ECONOMICALLY DESIGNED HANDLE /SOFT GRIP) REG. $114 SALE $105
- WATSON “DAPPER DAN” GLOVES/POLAR FLEECE WITH HEATLOK LINING REG. $15 SALE $11
- WINDPROOF/WATERPROOF JACKET LIGHTWEIGHT & COMPACT “WETSKINS” REG. $30 SALE $29
- SYLVANIA LED FLEXIBLE GOOSENECK WORKLIGHT (UNDERHEAD) MAGNETIC BASE REG. $16 SALE $11
- BLACK & DECKER DUAL COFFEE MAKER BREVILLE DIRECTLY INTO TRAVEL MUGS(1 OR 2) REG. $30 SALE $31
- GIBSONS FISHING POLE BBQ LIGHTER BUTANE REG. $14 SALE $12

 ALSO CHECK OUR SUPER END ISLE SPECIALS!!

St. Matthew’s Anglican Church
3370 Village Road, South Slocan
Family Christmas Service

Young and old are warmly invited to celebrate through songs and stories of the first Christmas

Sunday, December 18th at 4:00 pm
All are welcome!
This service replaces our traditional Christmas Eve service.

The Valley Voice November 30, 2011

SLOCAN VALLEY

The valley’s new Recreation Director Lauren Steeg Grace

Occupy 7th Avenue!
— CTCLS

Thank you to the electors of Area H for returning me to office in the recent election
— Walter Popoff

Barn Kittens

KAAP has some cats and kittens that would be good for a nice warm workshop or barn. Do you need a mouser to be part of your family? Call Kootenay Animal Assistance Program volunteers at 250-352-2008 or check on www.homes4animals.com.
BURTON WOODWORKS
– SERVING THE WEST KOOTENAYS –
Repairs, Renovations, Service and Installation
WINDOWS – VINYL, ALUM CLAD & WOOD
DOORS – INTERIOR & EXTERIOR
METAL, FIBREGLASS & WOOD
OVERHEAD DOORS & OPERATORS
30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
SERVICE ORIENTED
CONTACT DON TILDEN
@ 250-265-3799

Dr. Paul M. Hinton is pleased to announce that Dr. Michael Brennan will be taking over his chiropractic practice in the New Year.

Dr. Hinton & Dr. Brennan will be working together from October to December.

The Wednesday and Thursday hours in New Denver and Nakusp will remain the same.

Phone 250-352-5135 for appointments.
Local author wants world to wake up to slavery crisis

Submitted

There are several reasons why local author Lucia Mann is inflamed enough to tackle the subject of slavery in modern society.

In her new book, Rented Silence, the second in a trilogy, she outlines the horrors of slavery and the testimony of the human spirit to survive these odds.

“All who thinks slavery died when America abolished it in the 1800s has a shock coming to them,” said Mann, whose mother was a sex slave and a WWII concentration camp survivor.

Mann, a former journalist, (www.luciamann.com, http://youtu.be/TZOhbZMLHIk) penned the novel about slavery and racial prejudice based on some of her life experiences and those of other persecuted souls she witnessed.

“According to the United Nations, there are more than 27 million slaves worldwide, which is more than twice the number of those who were enslaved over the 400 years that transatlantic slavers trafficked humans to work in the Americas,” she said. “Many are forced into prostitution while others are used as unpaid laborers to manufacture goods such as clothing, toys and footballs in Asia and Latin America.

A few days ago, two Ukrainian brothers were convicted of smuggling desperate villagers into the United States to work long hours, cleaning retail stores and office buildings at little or no pay.

The prosecuting U.S. attorney in Philadelphia, Daniel Velez, said it was “modern-day slavery. It’s hiding in plain sight.”

RCDK offers special holiday recycling programs

Outside of the months of December and January, regular tipping fees apply to all items. Both programs are only available to residential customers.

New Denver/Silverton area chosen for CBT funding for youth

by Jan McMurray

The New Denver/Silverton area has been chosen as one of the first communities to receive Community Development Youth Funds (CDYF) from the Columbia Basin Trust.

The CDYF program will provide the community with $100,000 over four years – normally $25,000 per year – to enhance local opportunities and services targeted at youth ages 12 to 19.

New Denver, Silverton and area was chosen based on an Expression of Interest written by New Denver resident Beth Corven. When Corven heard about this funding opportunity, she organized meetings to get youth and adults involved. Thus the Community Youth Task Force was formed.

“Our community is ready to engage in the process for CDYF because we are filled with motivated youth, committed adults and a supportive community,” writes Corven in the Expression of Interest.

“Youth are Facebooking each other about ideas,” she said. “17 organizations in the New Denver/Silverton area have committed to being part of the process, and 11 others have submitted letters of support.

CBT’s adjudication criteria for the Expressions of Interest they received was based on the area’s demonstrated readiness to engage in the process.

The next step is a workshop hosted by the community and facilitated by CBT where youth priorities and related activities are identified. After that, the community will develop a budget and workplan for submission to CBT. Upon approval, funding is provided for the first year. The community must submit yearly report and updated workplans, which trigger subsequent payments.

At the community meetings initiated by Corven, the major youth issues identified in the New Denver/Silverton area included boredom and lack of social gatherings for youth; lack of opportunities due to rural location; concerns that all youth activities should be in the realm of education; and our communities’ abilities to forge connections with youth.

The six pilot communities that will begin the CDYF program this winter are: New Denver/Silverton, Salmo/Tyrav, Crawford Bay/Riondel, Montrose/Fruitvale/Beaver Valley, Revelstoke, and Golden. Another four communities will begin the program in the spring of 2012: Nelson/Harrop/Proctor, Trail/Warfield, Rossland and Kimberley. The next deadlines for Expression of Interests from communities are March 16 and October 31, 2012.
Mt. Sentinel youth hold fundraiser for a safe house for children

Thirty children share three bedrooms. They bathe in a small plastic tub and use the same one for less fortunate youth. The women who run the home provide for their basic physical and emotional needs, but more importantly, give them love.

These kids are not orphans. They all have mothers who must visit them at least once a month – it’s a condition of their place in this home.

The kids were taken in because they were struggling to get to school since they had adjusted to the nocturnal schedules of their mothers. Called ‘hijos de la luna’ (children of the moon), they are

Feathers were ruffled when an email sent to council November 10 appeared as if they were being told to approve a grant application for the Slocan Lake Arena Society.

In the email, it was indicated the Village of Silverton would be submitting a $200,000 application for a provincial recreation grant from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development on behalf of the arena.

The money would be used for finishing the top half of the walls on the ice surface, insulation and the finishing of the ceiling over the ice surface.

Under the grant, 80 percent of the funds would be paid by the ministry, while 20 percent would be paid from the Village’s gas tax revenue. The Village has around $134,000 in gas tax money available to them.

“I find this situation very unsettling,” offered Councillor Ross Johnson about the tone of the email.

“You can ask for an explanation about this,” offered Councillor Carol Bell.

“The council was left with the task of figuring out how to share shower revenue with the attendant now that the season is officially over.”

An invitation to a special Family Hannukah event:

Dreadls, Demons and the Divine

An sincere thank you to the citizens of Silverton for your support. It will be a privilege and honour to serve you over the next three years.

Respectfully,
Kathy Provan

Larry Zaleski plays the role of a mysterious stranger who drops by for Hannukah in the skit ‘Grandmother’s Tale,’ part of the variety show ‘Dreadls, Demons and the Divine Light’ that will be presented at Silverton Gallery on December 10. The creation of this event was inspired by the many folk tales about terrible demons who like to cause trouble on Hannukah night.
by Jan McMurray

• Single family dwellings are now allowed in the Lakeshore Development zone (Nakusp’s waterfront zone, from Nelson Avenue to 8th Avenue). Council adopted the OCP and zoning amendment bylaws at a special meeting November 21, following the public hearing on the amendments. Homeowners were running into difficulty obtaining insurance and mortgages for their single family dwellings (SFDs) in this zone because the Village bylaws did not list SFDs as a permitted use in this zone. So, if an SFD in this zone had been destroyed by fire, property owners would not have been allowed to reconstruct an SFD on the property.

Difficulties obtaining insurance for single family dwellings along Nakusp’s waterfront were not caused by local insurance brokers. These difficulties have been eliminated now that council has amended the OCP and zoning bylaws to allow SFDs in the Lakeshore Development zone.

This was the final meeting to be chaired by New Denvers mayor of 22 years, Gary Wright. Councillor Bunka reported that New Denver had been selected as “one of the first” to receive CBT Community Development Funds. Banka hopes to meet with Youth and CBT representatives before the end of the year.

Bunka noted that the proposed Mor Trail funding application had a December 28 deadline. Council authorized CAO Carol Gordon to engage outside consultants if necessary to complete the application. In Public Works and Water, staff reported the new sander was working well, so council authorized the sale of the old sander on an “as is, where is” basis. CAO Gordon noted that Steve Deakoff had taken his Level 1 Water System Operator exam. Councillor Campbell reported that Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a December 8 Merchants’ Night, and council authorized closure of Main Street for this event. The Chamber will hold its AGM in January.

Council approved the staff recommendation to explore funding for 24 years of service, and thanked Mayor Wright for nine years. She said the first time she met Wright, he was mopping the Village office floor, and she suggested he should aspire to better things. Councillor Bunka has worked with Wright for 22 years. She said the first time she met Wright, he was mopping the Village office floor, and she suggested he should aspire to better things.

Consultant Brian Gordon said the voters did a very good job electing the next council. Area D Director Shadrack presented Mayor Wright with a parting gift - a vat of Dalv.dimie single malt scotch. He assured the media that the gift came from him, not from Area D taxpayers. Mayor Wright said that although the Village has been able to keep its post office, health centre with 24/7 emergency care, Lucerne School, and unchlorinated drinking water, the reality is that these things are determined by other levels of government. However, local council supporting the community work being done to keep these services has been very productive.

He thanked CAO Gordon for 24 years of service, and thanked outgoing council for their achievements, including creation and management of the Nikkei Centre, now a National Historic Site; repair and painting of the Silvery Slocan Museum; upgrading of the Bonner Centre; the Community-School Greenhouse Project; a major Official Community Plan review; a three-year union labour contract with staff; expansion of the Centennial Park campground, with addition of new gazebos, bleachers and boat wash station; new pick-up truck and sander; the new, upgraded Village office; the good financial reserve position; the addition of more bearproof garbage containers; and the new water reservoir with double the previous capacity.
Public input wanted for no hunting zone in Mulvey Basin
by Jan McMurray

The BC government is soliciting public input into a proposal to create a no hunting/no shooting area in the Mulvey watershed in Valhalla Park. Public comments are being accepted until December 9 at http:// a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/ahc/env/hunting/ create-no-hunting-no-shooting-area-
mulvey-watershed-valhalla-park.

Local BC Parks personnel put forward the proposal after a mountain goat was shot by a hunter near a campground in the Gimli/Mulvey area of Valhalla Park. This area is well known as a viewing area for the goats. Although the hunter did nothing illegal, people staying in the campground at the time were very upset by the incident.

The rationale for the proposal that appears on the website states: “There is a safety concern if hunting activity is occurring in close proximity to rock climbing and other user group activity. Mountain goats in this area have become habituated to human presence and provide for significant viewing opportunities.”

Trio Hochelaga kicks off concert series in Nakusp
by Cedra Eichenauer

Trio Hochelaga kicked off the Arrow Lakes Arts Council’s concert series in Nakusp November 16.

One of Canada’s most important musical ensembles, Trio Hochelaga consists of violinist Anne Robert, pianist Stephane Lemelin and cellist Paul Marelyn.

The performance opened with Rachmaninoff’s Elegiac Trio, No.1 in G Minor. This piece was written when the composer was only 19, but is in no way a beginner’s work. It was in part a tribute to his friend and mentor Tchaikovsky, who was still alive at the time it was written. Anyone at this performance would think it was composed specifically for Trio Hochelaga. The cello led off with lightness and delicacy, and was quickly joined by the violin and piano. From there on, the three worked together to weave and blend a fine fabric of harmony and rhythm.

The second piece of the evening was Beethoven’s Trio in D Major, opus 70 no.1, sometimes called the Ghost. Lemelin explained that this name came from the ethereal second movement, although it is bracketed by cheerful, faster segments. Once again, the performance was light and rich as well as passionate and vibrant. The audience was clearly becoming involved as they clapped in rhythm with the final bars before the applause.

After intermission came the final offering: Schubert’s Trio in B Flat Major (D.898). Like in the other selections, the three musicians worked together seamlessly. They each played short solos, in pairs as well as all together. Their precision and blending of melody were breathtaking. It seemed, at times, as though one very talented person was playing a complex, many-voiced instrument.
NEW DENVER MERCHANTS’ NIGHT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING TILL 8 PM

SALES, SPECIALS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY SHOPS & RESTAURANTS

FREE HOT DOGS, HOT CHOCOLATE & GOODIES (laundromat)

SANTA ARRIVES at 6 PM (insurance office)

CHRISTMAS CAROLLING BONFIRES

STORY READING BY STEVE LONES AT HOME HARDWARE BONFIRE 5:30 PM – A true story about the 1937 race between Sandon and Silverton miners, drilling through Silver Ridge.

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Kaslo celebrates 25th annual Christmas Light Up

submitted

The Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to host the 25th Anniversary Annual Christmas Light Up Parade and Celebration on Saturday, December 3.

To insure a full day of family fun, the annual Kaslo Christmas Craft Faire at the Legion and kids’ event at the Langham will also take place that day.

Activities start with the Kaslo Christmas Craft Faire at the Kaslo Legion Hall from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission to the faire is free but food donations are appreciated.

The Langham will host an all ages children’s event from 3 pm to 5 pm by Boys Town, Kaslo Mentorship Program, making parade noisemakers for the Celebration.

At 5 pm, the downtown streets will close for the 25th Anniversary Christmas Light Up Parade and Celebration. It begins with the popular Santa Scavenger Hunt for the kids at 5 pm at 13 participating stores.

Santa arrives and the bigger-and-brighter-than-ever parade will leave from the Moyie at 6 pm. Spectators will be dazzled by some very exciting additions to this 25th anniversary tradition.

The festivities this year have expanded to include a bonfire, chestnuts roasting, children’s craft table at Kootenay Lake Computers, a merchants’ draw, music at various restaurants, carolling by the choir ‘Zaumba’ in front of the hotel, hot dogs and hot chocolate $2 (fundraiser by Kaslo Minor Hockey at Front Street Market), and last but not least Santa’s Village (Selkirk College), where children will have a chance to meet with Santa and his elves. Food donations will also be accepted at Santa’s Village.

Add in some after-hours shopping in the many decorated shops and cozy restaurants. Kaslo’s downtown businesses will be lit up brighter than ever before. Without local support, this event would not be possible!

So bring your Christmas spirit and experience the magic of the holidays in Kaslo at this year’s 25th Anniversary Light Up Celebration!

Activities:

- Kaslo Christmas Craft Faire at the Kaslo Legion Hall from 10 am to 4 pm.
- All ages children’s event at the Langham from 3 pm to 5 pm.
- Santa Scavenger Hunt at 5 pm at 13 participating stores.
- Christmas Light Up Parade from Moyie at 6 pm.
- Santa’s Village at Selkirk College.

Support the Valley Voice with a voluntary subscription

Only $10-$30

Let us help you create a festive atmosphere!

- Floral Arrangements
- Wreaths
- Plants/Poinsettias
- Centerpieces
- Gifts
- Ornaments
- Nudge Fudge
- Cards

KASLO FLORISTS
250-353-7766
info@kasloflorists.com
#4 311-4th Street, Kaslo
The Nakusp Midget Rep Falcons headed to Chase November 18 to compete in a six-team tournament. Falcons first game was versus Vanderhoof and the Falcons came out with a 5-2 win. Goals were scored by Mitch Hascarl, Levi Condingley, Nathyn McInnes, Dylan Hascarl and Jacob Balask. Assists were awarded to Max McCoy, Mitch Zorn, Ryan Bateman, Balask (2), Mitch Hascarl and Daminn Devlin.

The second game was against Ridge Meadows. After a slight officiating hiccup, the Falcons were disallowed a goal with the end result being a 6-6 tie. Goals were scored by Bateman (4), Mitchell Hascarl and Kellan Nishida. Assists were given to Nishida (2), McInnes, Balask and Zac Friedenberg.

Falcons third game ended in a tie as well, 5-5 versus Chase. Goals were scored by McCoy (2), Bateman, Dylan Hascarl and Tyson Cram. Assists were given to McInnes, Mitchell Hascarl, Devlin, Balask, Friedenberg and McCoy. The Falcons ended divisional play in third place and secured a spot in the semi-finals.

In the semi-final game, Nakusp was matched up against the second place team, Kelowna. Bateman opened the scoring halfway through the first period, with the assist going to Devlin. Dylan Hascarl would add two back-to-back goals, one unassisted and the other assisted by Balask. Nishida added one more at the end of the third period, unassisted, to secure the 4-0 win and a place in the final game. After a short break, Falcons hit the ice versus Ridge Meadows. Ridge Meadows opened the scoring three minutes into the first period. Dylan Hascarl would tie the game up a few minutes later with the assist going to Bateman. Halfway through the second period, Dylan Hascarl would get the go-ahead goal on a pass from Zorn. Falcons scored two more unanswered goals in the third period – AJ Hughes, unassisted and Balask from Devlin to end the game 4-1 and bring home the first place trophy.

Team Captain, Ryan Bateman, was awarded with the tournament MVP award.
Kaslo council, council 22: Grant application made for arena/curling club

by Jan McMurray

• The Village will apply for a grant under the new provincial Community Recreation Program for upgrades to the arena and curling rink. Council decided not to include the Kaslo Trailblazers in the application. Councillor Leathwood explained that including the Trailblazers increases the amount the Village would have to apply for, and there is a limited amount of monies available under the program. She said the arena and curling club are “in dire need.” The club would like to upgrade the arena ice plan with a new compressor and dehumidifier. The current compressor is 40 years old and has reached the end of its useful life. Last year, the two old dehumidifiers were removed and only one was replaced, so the society would like to get a second one back in. The curling club would like a new chiller for the curling rink ice plant.

• Council received an email from John Addison, chair of the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society, regarding the warming hut built by the Kaslo Nordic Ski Club (part of the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society) on the south flank of Mount Buchanan. The club had applied to the Province for a licence of occupation for recreational activities on the Crown land, and believed this was sufficient to go ahead and build the cabin. However, the application process was stalled when the Province informed the society that KDCFS would be the more appropriate applicant, as this would be done under their tenure. The report said that cabin would be removed and only one was replaced, so the society would like to get a second one back in. The curling club would like a new chiller for the curling rink ice plant.

• Erika Bird, Village on site at the Kaslo District Community Forest Society board, reported that the society will likely hold a meeting in January with local contractors about work opportunities with the community forest.

• The Village Water Street Planning Select Committee minutes from a November 9 meeting were received. A summary of public comments received indicates that angle parking and more green space is preferred. As requested by the committee, the public works foreman will provide pricing for excavation, grading, leveling, drainage, curbs and gutters, etc.

• The draft Kaslo Transfer Station Location Study, prepared for the RDC by Wild Earth Associates Inc., was received. Mayor Lay pointed out that the study identifies the existing site as the preferred location for the transfer station, as long as the Village and the RDCK can reach an agreement regarding access to the site. The study states that the agreement should include guaranteed access of use of Airport West Rd. as primary access for the transfer station until the Village develops the South Road. It should also include provisions for RDCK to upgrade the gravel section of Airport West Rd. in 2012. Further, the Village should agree to be responsible for maintaining the access road, as well as an annual contribution from the RDCK.

• In response to a request from the golf club to remove two trees in order to add storage facilities for golf carts, council decided to allow the removal of the one dead tree only. Council will remember that the club that a five-year development plan and an arborist study is required before any live tree removal is permitted. A council resolution to this effect was made in February this year.

• Council received correspondence from Mumby’s Arboriculture Consulting, including a tree management plan for the upper and lower cemeteries, and recommendations about other trees. The tree management plan for the cemeteries was referred to the Development Services Committee.

• The public works foreman will remove a poplar tree and a Douglas fir tree at the park, as both trees are in slow decline.

• Murney also made comments about the Lombardy poplar and maple trees at the City Hall. These were referred to 2012 budget discussions.

• The Village will enter into a five-year lease effective December 14 with the Kaslo Boat Club and Kaslo Bay Marine Club, with annual rental fees to be established in each year. The first year’s fee will be roughly $3,000.

• Councillor Frary suggested that a boat slip from the Kaslo Pier be made available at no cost to emergency responders, such as the coast guard, RCMP, Search and Rescue. Mayor Lay said council is waiting for the public works foreman to report back about the utility needs for the Kaslo Pier, but that the Kaslo Trailblazers and the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society, have “so are we in the preliminary stage.”

• The Village will charge David May $50 per month from November 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012 for temporary occupation of public dock space to the east of the main walkway only, with no liability assumed on the part of the Village of Kaslo.

• The owner of the Merriwake, Ted Fitzgerald, will be asked to provide his business plan to the Municipal Services Committee before noon on December 23. The Merriwake is no longer parked at the public dock.

• Parks Canada confirmed receipt of the Village’s funding application under the National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program for the City Hall building. The letter states that decisions will be made by the end of January 2012.

• Minutes of the Development Services - City Hall Committee meeting held November 15 were received. At that meeting Clerk Hughes provided a financial report showing that since 2008, grant funds of $485,181 and Village funds of $101,526 have been spent on the project. A policy on direct awarding was approved. Contracts less than $5,000 can be directly awarded, and contracts up to $10,000 can be directly awarded in emergency situations, at the discretion of the Municipal Services Committee and the Chief Administrative Officer.

All tenders, requests for proposals, etc. will include the question: What is your preferred method of communication?• Now that the OCP has been adopted, council is looking at updating the zoning bylaw. CAO Sawyer reported that the RDCK can provide mapping at no charge, but would have to be contracted to do consulting because the Village of Kaslo does not participate in RDCK planning services. She said the Village of Slocan recently hired a Nelson consultant to update its OCP. Council agreed to contact the Nelson consultant for a quote to update Kaslo’s zoning bylaw.

• In connection with developing a Sustainability Plan, which is required of all local governments in the province, the following question will be posted on the Village’s website: What does sustainability mean to you as a resident of Kaslo? There will also be a link to the provincial website that provides details about the Sustainability Plan.

• Berg Naqvi Lehman will be engaged as municipal auditors for the term 2011 through 2014.

Kaslo council, council 22: Grant application made for arena/curling club

KDCFS News

It’s late November and snow is already deep over much of our operating area. Forest development has moved from the field to the office and winter logging has started in the headwaters.

Relatively little logging has taken place thus far in 2011. Two blocks on the Buchanan face – one near the 3 Mile gravel pit and one on the 7 Mile road – plus two blocks in the Merritt area were generated and approximately $84,000 in profit from 5,827 m3 of timber harvested. Sunshine Logging Ltd (Kaslo) cut the help of WY Scottee Trimming Ltd (Kaslo) to complete the successful harvest completion of the two blocks.

As always, for every cubic metre harvested: we are setting money aside for future silviculture obligations. We are also setting aside 3% per cubic metre as a dividend/legacy to our communities.

In December, Sunshine Logging will be logging the last block we had planned to harvest this term. Council controlled between Ken and Kemm creeks. Unexpectedly, several other small blocks along the Milford Forest Service Road and close by altitude were selected and economically viable given a (slight) spike in lumber prices: Triple B Salvage (Kaslo) and Underwood Logging (Jenkinson) were contracted to harvest.

Gaining access to a significant part of our charted area has been a priority for this year. As a result, our road construction strategies are shifting. We are building roads to economically viable given a (slight) spike in lumber prices: Triple B Salvage (Kaslo) and Underwood Logging (Jenkinson) were contracted to harvest.

The strategic plan for the near zone (an area of approximately 13,000 ha near Cooper, Davis and Lost Ledge creeks) sought to determine the presence and the potential impact of “constraints” to forestry development such as geology (terrain stability, drainage systems and ground features such as slope), forest management and species claims, legal (logical, recreational, water usage), and fire hazard among others. The current solution is explained by the following:

The data for these three areas was not available for some parts of the area, data “gaps” were identified. In the absence of any constraints, the Wilkins Report’s recommendation is to go into three forest development units based on the information gathered and cross-referenced.

The last part of the plan involves seeking permission from nearby residents for a report of his findings will be written. In the report Rod will make suggestions to reduce constraints, assess the Village’s and KDCFS’ efforts in targeting its efforts to develop the area for harvesting, recreation, fire preparedness and other values.

Richard Marchand RPF, KDCFS manager, presented the results of his forest development plan in the Naslton area. Richard’s plan addressed the following:

• What areas should we avoid?
• Where are the best areas to locate roads (least amount of risks) and where do we need roads? What time frame is it wise to plan?
• Where should we locate access now? Which area should we harvest in 5 years, in 15 years, in 25 years?

His suggested approach for developing the Naslton area involves setting up forest development units that should have little impact on harvesting. These areas should be to either be sensitive (water or terrain stability issues) and/or have operating constraints. From the net openable areas remaining, Richard identified and located the future road system. Some access structures are pre-existing, some have been recently, and some will need to be built in the next ten years.

A series of proposed harvest areas (blocks) were also presented for discussion. It was explained this work needs to be done to complete the Naslton plan, although some road locations have been identified and Richard will be asked to do this work in 2012.

Recent Developments

Two issues have surfaced quite recently. The first one is the manner in which the Woodlands Manager solicited bids for the Milford blocks. Some members of the community forest and management for not making sufficient efforts to inform them of this local opportunity. The Board recognizes that communication between the forest licence and local forestry brokers broke down. Since we always aim to give local contractors priority whenever possible, we deeply regret the hurt feelings that have been generated. A meeting is being planned for early in the new year, by which time we will have a good idea of the work planned for 2012. All forestry broker agencies were invited.

The second issue is the banquet plaque for the gazoo kennings was referred to 2012 budget deliberations.
Seasonal fundraising dinner for Perry Ridge and Sinixt Nation December 10

submitted

The struggle for justice on Perry Ridge continues through the long-standing hard work of the Sinixt Nation and the work of the local Perry Ridge Water Users Association.

There will be a celebration of this continued hard work on December 10, 2011 at the Passmore Hall, Old Passmore Road, off Hwy 6, 5 to 9 pm. A fundraising seasonal dinner at a suggested donation of $15 will be served. There will also be local musicians and a silent auction offering beautiful gifts for seasonal giving.

The appeal for the Sinixt Nation to have standing in the northern two-thirds of their traditional territory and to protect the environment on Perry Ridge is still before the courts. The Sinixt have not yet exhausted their legal challenge and BC Timber Sales continues planning and development in the sensitive headwaters on top of the ridge.

Legal actions require substantial funding. For the justice system to serve Canadians, it must be accessible. At present, barriers exist which make it difficult for many Canadians to access the justice system. Chief Justice Madam Beverly McLachlin, keynote speaker at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law’s Middle Income Access to Civil Justice Colloquium on February 10, 2011, said full representation is out of the question for many, with average legal fees hovering in the range of $340 per hour. Low legal aid cut-offs have made that option equally unrealistic for the growing group caught between two financial extremes.

“We do have adequate access to justice? I think the answer is no. Among those hardest hit are the middle class and the poor. We have wonderful justice for corporations, and for the wealthy. But the middle class and the poor may not be able, in many situations we have found, to access our justice system.”

"Do we have adequate access to justice? I think the answer is no. Among those hardest hit are the middle class and the poor. We have wonderful justice for corporations, and for the wealthy. But the middle class and the poor may not be able, in many situations we have found, to access our justice system,” said McLachlin.

"We can draft the best rules in the world, we can render the most enlightened decisions, but if people can’t take advantage of that body of law, if they cannot have access to it to resolve their own legal difficulties, then it is for nought,” she said.

It has been a year of steady fundraising and meeting many supportive members in the community and worldwide.

The opportunity for the community to begin the process of reconciliation with First Nations requires the continued support for Sinixt legal challenges. The Perry Ridge Water Users Association is also studying its legal options. West Coast Environmental Law has supported Perry Ridge with funding for lawyers and experts.

“The destruction of aquatic ecosystem health, and the increasing water scarcity, are in my opinion the most pressing environmental problems facing humankind.” - Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, 1992 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005, 2005 Right Livelihood Award Winner, United Nations senior adviser on water issues.

If you have a silent auction item to donate please contact 1-250-226-7324 or 1-250-226-7311.

Websites: www.perryridge.org and www.sinixtnation.org

Slocan Valley author’s book a bestseller

submitted

“It’s very satisfying when one of our books makes the bestseller list,” says Diane Morris, owner and publisher of Winlaw-based Sono Nis Press. “It proves we can compete with the big publishers.”

The most recent Sono Nis title to make it into the top ten best-selling titles in British Columbia is Rita Moir’s local photographic history book, The Third Crop: A Personal and Historical Journey into the Photo Albums and Shoeboxes of the Slocan Valley 1800s to early 1940s.

“Rita’s book is wonderful,” Morris said, though she confesses she is a tad biased.

Orders for the book have come in from all over the province. The Third Crop has also been picked up by BC Ferries and can be found in onboard gift shops on all the major routes. “Readers from all over the world discover work by BC writers when they’re travelling by ferry,” Morris said. “It’s a great way to share a bit about our province with visitors from other places.”

The Third Crop was launched earlier this year at a fabulous event at the Vallican Whole. A couple of hundred book lovers turned out to enjoy music, tasty local food, and, of course, to share the excitement of bringing out a new book about our region.

“It’s a privilege to be able to publish books like these, and to work with someone as talented as Rita,” Morris said. “Every time we do a book like this I learn so much more about this fascinating area we live in.”

The Third Crop is available through local bookstores or by ordering direct from the Sono Nis website (www.sononis.com).

More information about Rita Moir and The Third Crop can be found online at www.sononis.com.

Slocan Lake’s foreshore is natural & undisturbed

submitted

This fact brought to you by Slocan Lake Stewardship Society www.slocanlakes.wordpress.com

FORM 10 (Rule 4-4(3))

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

No. S134894
New Westminster Registry

CAPITAL ONE BANK
Plaintiff

AND:

CORINNE A MISKO ALSO KNOWN AS CORINNE ALBERTA MISKO ALSO KNOWN AS CORINNE ALBERTA THOMAS ALSO KNOWN AS CORINNE ST THOMAS
Defendant

ADVERTISEMENT

[Rule 22-3 of the Supreme Court Civil Rules applies to all forms]

TO: CORINNE A MISKO ALSO KNOWN AS CORINNE ALBERTA MISKO ALSO KNOWN AS CORINNE ALBERTA ST THOMAS ALSO KNOWN AS CORINNE ST THOMAS

TAKE NOTICE THAT on November 3, 2011 an order was made for service on you of a Notice of Civil Claim issued from the New Westminster Registry of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in proceeding number S134894 by way of this advertisement.

In the proceeding, the Plaintiff claim(s) the following relief against you: Judgment in favour of the Plaintiff for the sum of $16,370.27 as at May 10, 2011, plus interest at the rate of $8.87 per day; post-judgment interest and costs.

You must file a responding pleading/response to Notice of Civil Claim within the period required under the Supreme Court Civil Rules failing which further proceedings, including judgment, may be taken against you without notice to you.

You may obtain from the New Westminster Registry at 651 Carnarvon Street, New Westminster, B.C., a copy of the Notice of Civil Claim and the order providing for service by this advertisement.

This advertisement is placed by the Plaintiff, c/o Richards & Richards whose address for service is 10325 150th Street, Surrey, B.C., V3R 4B1, Tel: 604-588-6844, Fax: 604-588-8800.
Christmas: Garland, Gifts and ‘Plastic’

Christmas is just around the corner and already the stores are bustling, all decked out with the latest gizmos and gadgets of the holiday season. Like most consumers, you’re looking forward to the festive celebrations but deep down you’re probably feeling a bit overwhelmed thinking about the financial stress of it all. Many Canadians feel obligated to whip out the ‘plastic’ as they cannot bear to disappoint their loved ones – especially at Christmas.

There are many reasons why we charge so much on store cards. It’s convenient for one. They’re instantly accepted at 650,000 outlets in Canada and millions more around the world. No need to carry around large amounts of cash. Some credit cards also come with insurance benefits or reward points good for free travel or other discounts. And if we pay off the full amount within the grace period (except for cash advances), we’re even charged any interest.

Why paying the minimum can mean paying the maximum

The big banks’ prime lending rate may be low, but the usual rates that most standard credit cards charge are much higher. Many cards charge 17.5 to 19.9 percent on overdue balances. Department store or gasoline company cards are even worse. Count on paying 24 to 28.8 percent a year on outstanding balances there. Many allow minimum monthly payments of as little as $10 or two percent of the amount owed.

Let’s assume you owe $10,000 on a credit card that carries an 18 percent interest rate. Let’s also assume you want to take them on their minimum monthly payment terms of three percent of the outstanding balance (or $10, whichever is greater). Enter the variables and you’ll see that simply paying the minimum will mean that it will take you 272 months to pay off the debt (that’s almost 23 YEARS)!!! You’ll also pay almost $9,800 in interest and this assumes you charge nothing more on that card during that 23-year period!!

So how do I get around those high rates?

The easiest way is, of course, to pay off your balance in full each month. If you can’t do that, you can try transferring that debt to something that costs less to service. A personal line of credit for most Canadians can be arranged at their local financial institution, often at single-digit rates. Secured lines of credit, like home equity loans, are the cheapest.

Payday loans

For those who can’t get a credit card, or those who have a poor credit history that limits access to other forms of credit, payday loans are the lenders of last resort (except for loan-sharks)!!! They are also the most expensive.

I heard of a case where a woman borrowed $520 and she kept rolling over her loan every two weeks for more than two years because she was never able to repay the original loan. Each rollover cost her $130 in fees and interest. By the time she was able to come up with the full amount owing (some 30 months later), she had paid more than $8,000 in fees and interest. Unbelievable…!!

Do yourself a favour this Christmas – tap it cool on the spending, especially if money is tight. Don’t get yourself into a financial predicament that you will soon regret. Look for bargains, pay cash whenever possible and most importantly, keep it meaningful and simple. Sometimes the best gifts come from the heart – not the department store shelf. Have a good one, folks…!!

Debbie Pereversoff

CPCPA is a financial planner with Assante Financial Management Ltd. and her company, The Affolter Financial Group Inc., in Castlegar.

Contact a professional advisor to discuss your particular circumstances prior to acting on the information above.

LIVING

The astonishing Fisherman’s Market in Nelson

Some places just simply amaze me, and the Fisherman’s Market in Nelson is certainly one of them. I was there last week talking to Adam Pearl, who owns and operates the Fisherman’s Market along with his business partner Geoff Austin. The Fisherman’s Market is located at 577 Ward Street, just a half block up from Baker Street and the epicentre of Nelson. A big difference between these guys and other fish retailers and wholesalers is that both Adam and Geoff have worked in every facet of the seafood industry; catching, cleaning, processing, wholesaling, distributing, making bulk packs, and retailing. They have also both run seafood restaurants in which they have managed, cooked and waited tables. Simply put, these guys know what they’re doing, and they’ve been doing it commercially since they were teenagers.

A little history of Adam. His first commercial fishing trip with his dad was for halibut. They had to go 500 miles off the California coast to fish and catch the fish. It was a 23-day trip, which was not what Adam’s mother had in mind when she allowed him to go. Adam was nine years old.

Adam’s family and extended family are all in the fish business. He has his own prawn boat and fishes April and July. Geoff is a freelancer, going from boat to boat when a good hand is needed. I asked if they’d had any close calls while out in the ocean. Adam says it happens all the time. Once, out with Geoff, they actually lost their vessel and were in survival suits and life rafts when rescued.

This did not deter them. They continued fishing and soon opened up the Fisherman’s market and an attached seafood restaurant in Nelson.

They have since sold the restaurant business (although still in cahoots with the new owners) and now concentrate on the Fisherman’s Market, and business is good!

Really good!

I know I’m going to run short on space here so I’ll jump to some of the products they offer. Get ready!! Depending on the type, processing, and cut, there are 29 choices of salmon. Twenty-nine! Fifteen choices of halibut (incl. cheeks!), ten tuna choices, nine tuna choices including three ahi. Like lobster? Six choices! Various choices of mahimahi, half a dozen shrimp offerings, as well as swordfish, tilapia, haddock, cod, pickerel, pollock, shark, crab, not to mention four types of caviar, plus clams,urgeon, blue marlin and more. Where else, I ask you, can you find this line up? I know I’ll end more. Where else, I ask you, can you find this line up? I know I’ll end more. Where else, I ask you, can you find this line up? I know I’ll end more. Where else, I ask you, can you find this line up? I know I’ll end more. Where else, I ask you, can you find this line up? I know I’ll end more. Where else, I ask you, can you find this line up? I know I’ll end more. Where else, I ask you, can you find this line up? I know I’ll end more.

One of the other eight bulk choices is the ‘wild things’: 5 lbs. wild sockeye, 2 lbs. each of wild prawns and BC sidestripe shrimp, and 3 lbs of halibut. Make my day!

These bulk packs are priced to save you from 15 percent up to 30 percent. It’s a great deal, and there are six more bulk packs to choose from in a wide range of quantities, but all of the highest quality!

Too much to say…I’m running out of space, but here’s what I saw in the display cases on my way out: premium halibut, wild sockeye, Arctic char, rainbow trout, Gorge Inlet oysters, halibut and sockeye burgers, fish cakes, prawn/scallop cakes, mussels, clams, tiger prawns and salmon jerky.

As I left, I said to Adam: “You really care about your customers don’t you?” Adam replied: “Honestly, that’s one of the biggest things in my day…making sure I make every one of my customers satisfied and happy!”

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Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services Women’s Programs are hosting 2 Free Health-Promoting Fitness Classes for Women

Place: Nukusak Arena Auditorium
Zumba with Sharon Metlewsky
When: Sunday December 4, 2011
9:30 am – 11:00 am
Yoga with Terri McLeod
When: Sunday December 11, 2011
9:30 am – 11:00 am

Please bring yoga mats & blanket to yoga class

There will be refreshments
For more info call 250-285-3674 ext. 211 or 212
Valhalla Wilderness Society holds public meeting to discuss park proposal
by Dan Nicholson

The Valhalla Wilderness Society recently held public meetings in Nakusp & Kaslo to discuss their Selkirk Caribou Park proposal, and to review the Society’s critical work in preserving spirit bear and wild horse habitat in other parts of the province. The Nakusp presentation was held on Sunday, November 20, in the Seniors’ Hall.

Once the technical difficulties with the PowerPoint production were worked out, the audience was held rapt by images of the few remnants of old-growth forest left within the protected boundaries of the province. Anne Sherrod explained that the park was necessary to provide migration corridors for the Mountain Caribou, and as habitat for many other species. Much of the land inside the proposed park has been logged, but the remnants of old growth in places like the Incomappleux River Valley and the upper reaches of East Creek are visually amazing.

Sherrod noted that, in addition to the visual appeal of these places, they are important to the survival of many species. “The Incomappleux River is important for bull trout. We’ve identified 283 species of lichen, nine of which were previously unknown to science.”

The proposed park encompasses four rivers - the Westfall, the Upper Incomappleux, the Duncan and part of the Lardeau. It would provide wildlife migration corridors between three existing wilderness Parks - Glacier National Park, and Goat Range and Bagaboo Provincial Parks.

Following the presentation of the park proposal, biologist Wayne McCrory showed photographs of his work on the coast, protecting the spirit bear of BC’s coastal rainforest.

McCrory also spoke of his work with wild horses in the Chilcotin. He described his reluctant conversion to the preservation of BC’s wild horses. “I started off thinking of them as fields. If hay bales are not confined within a building, the elk find them and make short work of them, thus destroying a lot of feed. Ranchers are not compensated for their losses. The increasing numbers of moose, which are attracting packs of wolves, is another new worry. One ranch spotted at least six wolves in a pack following a moose in an area within the Incomappleux stock range during the grazing season last summer. Other association members reported seeing growing numbers of wolves. Ranchers are now worried that their cow herds will be at risk when out on summer range in the Monashees.

Details of the park proposal are available on the VWS website: www.vws.org.

In even more worrisome news, an invasive species that really ought to be destroyed. Then I came to see the important role that they play in the ecology of the area.”

Another ongoing problem is invasive weeds, which cut down on native plant growth, limiting available feed for wildlife and cattle. Invasive weeds are not going away, despite efforts to contain them. Livestock association members are looking for more effort from the Ministry of Transportation to attack the weeds, and to seek cooperation from other organizations and individuals.

The good news is that cattle prices have risen considerably after an eight-year downturn following the discovery of one Alberta cow with BSE in 2003. Cattlemen are optimistic for next year.

End of Season Specials
Wednesday November 30 & Thursday December 1

PENNY BURGER SALE

Buy one burger and get an equivalent burger for one penny.

Chicken Special
Buy One of our Chicken Packs
– Get all the Fixings Free

Half Price Pizzas!!!
– Friday, Saturday & Sunday Only

FREE ICE CREAM –
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Columbia Power sponsors Nakusp events

Lakes Arts Council in support of its 2011-2012 Concert Series. Along with the Christmas Panto, Columbia Power will be specially sponsoring the Time Capsule Tour magic show on February 21.

Audrey Repin of Columbia Power Corporation (left) presents Janet Royko and Marilyn Massey of Arrow Lakes Arts Council with a $1,000 sponsorship for the Christmas Panto performance.

Audrey Repin of Columbia Power Corporation (middle) presents Angela Mowbray and Michelle Williams with a sponsorship for the Christmas parade.

The Valley Voice November 30, 2011
Ten good reasons to shop close to home this season and always

1. Local economic stimulus
   When you purchase at locally owned businesses, more money is kept in the community because locally owned businesses often purchase from other local businesses, service providers and farms. Buying local helps grow other businesses as well as the local tax base.

2. Non-profits receive greater support
   Local business owners donate more to local charities than non-local owners.

3. Unique businesses create character & prosperity
   The unique character of your local community is defined in large part by the businesses that reside there, and that plays a big factor in your overall satisfaction with where you live and the value of your home and property.

4. Environmental impact is reduced
   Consuming less gas not only saves money but saves the environment as well.

5. Most new jobs are provided by local businesses
   Most new jobs in a community are provided by local businesses.

6. Customer service is better
   Local businesses know their customers better and can respond better to their wants and needs.

7. Local business owners invest in community
   Local businesses are owned by people who live in the community, are less likely to leave, and are more invested in the community’s welfare and future.

8. Public benefits far outweigh public costs
   Local businesses require less infrastructure and more efficiently utilize public services than chain stores.

9. Competition and diversity leads to more consumer choices
   A marketplace of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long term.

10. You matter more
    We talk a lot about exerting influence with your purchasing choices, or “voting with your wallet.” It’s a fact that businesses respond to their customers, but your values and desires are much more influential to your local community businesses than they are to the big box stores.

Real Estate in Kaslo and North Kootenay Lake
www.century21kaslo.com
kul@century21kaslo.com
250-505-4722
Century21 Mountainview Realty Ltd.

Flying Grizzly spotted in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

Fun and funky is the order of the day at the Flying Grizzly, a new shop in downtown Kaslo.

“We try to bring in items from all over North America that are unique and interesting with a bit of an edge – things that we don’t always have access to here in the Kootenays,” said owner Suzanne Thompson.

Originally from Toronto, Thompson said she wanted to bring a bit of urban shopping to Kaslo.

“We specialize in fun and funky stuff – from kids’ items to beautiful handmade aprons, tapestries, groovy T-shirts, and great jewellery. We are also fortunate to be carrying lashes and hula hoops made by Kaslo’s Jen Cookson,” said store owner Thompson.

Suzanne Thompson, baby Mary Ann and dog Heidi outside the Flying Grizzly, Kaslo’s new fun and funky shop.

The Flying Grizzly, located on 4th Avenue in Kaslo, is normally open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11 am to 4 pm. It will also be open for special 4th Avenue Christmas shopping events from 4 to 8 pm on Wednesday, November 30 and Friday, December 9. The shop will open December 3 from 4 to 8 pm for the Kaslo Light Up celebration as well.

The Flying Grizzly is always open by appointment – email kasloshop@gmail.com to make arrangements.
ASSOCIATED CLASSIFIEDS

CRAFT FAIR at the Legion 10 am-4 pm, the Langham 3-5 pm Create a Parade Noisemaker, Santa’s Scavenger Hunt 5 pm, casinoing by Zainabi Choir, bonfire, hotdog/mashed chestnuts, hot cider, parade 6 pm, Santa’s workshop at Selkirk College after parade. After-hours shopping and much, much more! Info: eaglejane@ gmail.com.

THE HUNT IS ON now at BC Brewstellers Rita Moe will sign this Slocan Valley picture history book (and her other books) at the Winlaw Craft Fair December 10.

COFFEE HOUSE: The Whole School presents the 15th Annual Blue Moon Coffee House Dec. 1, 6-9 pm. Sensational live entertainment, a delicious Indian dinner, decadent desserts, kids area, and huge door silent auction filled with beautifully locally made gifts and more! 5-11 pm: $11 at the door.

BREAKFAST SPECIAL: Eggs Benedict @ The Cup and Saucer, Silverton. Starting Saturday Dec 19th.

ITALIAN DINNER at the CUP- SAT., DEC. 10 - Tender roasted seasoned chicken breast smothered with mozzarella and parmesan cheeses-covered with eggplant tomato sauce! Complete dinner w/ appetizer, salad - finishing w/mocha mousse for $20. Reservations and preferences Madeleine 358-2475/2267.

SOCIAL DANCE, Saturday, December 3rd, 7 - 11 pm, Silverton Memorial Hall DJ music all popular styles for ballroom & freestyle dancing. Mini-waltz, dance lessons, refreshments & fun! By Donation. Proceeds to the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society. Brought to you by the Slocan Lake Dance Club - 358-244.

FESTIVE DINNER and SILENT AUCTION to help raise legal funds to protect Sinixt cultural sites and water in the Slocan Valley. December 10, Passmore Hall, 5-9 pm. Festive dinner $15 (sliding scale). To donate a seasonal gift or work of art for the auction, contact 250-226-7371.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE gathering for our dear friend, Margaret Anne Tracy, May 4, 1949 - October 30, 2011. Bosun Hall, 5-9 pm. Festive dinner: $15 (sliding scale). To donate a seasonal gift or work of art for the auction, contact 250-226-7371.


BIRTHDAY- TURKEY BINGO Sunday, December 4, 1:00 pm, Legion Hall 502 Harold St. Slocan $2.00 per card. Everyone welcome. 25TH KASLO CHRISTMAS LIGHT-UP - Saturday, December 3, Kaslo Christmas Day Events - Tens of thousands of little lights in Kaslo Bay! Seasonal entertainment, lights, music, Food Fair, Santa, camera with Santa, Santa’s Scavenger Hunt 4:30 pm, Free activities, carolling by Zuimba Choir, bonfire, Noisemaker, Santa’s Scavenger Hunt 5 pm, Potluck dinner after parade. After-hours shopping and much, much more! Info: eaglejane@gmail.com.


OUR CONGRATULATIONS to Kathy Provan on becoming the new mayor of Silverton. The Knight Family- The Valley Voice.

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Marlene (Murfy) Sked cherished wife for over 30 years of Tracy Sked of Winlaw, BC passed away peacefully at the age of 62 at the Kootenay Lake Hospital in Nelson, BC on Thursday November 2nd, 2011. Marlene was a beautiful lady whose love, caring and compassion enriched the lives of all those who knew her. Born in Bradford, ON, on January 1, 1949 Marlene was the beloved daughter of Bridget Murphy of Port Perry and the late Cyril J. Murphy of Bareneed, NFLD. She will be loved and remembered by her stepson and her wife, Randy and Toria Sked, and her three grandchildren Collin, Brody and Jordan. She was predeceased by her stepson Kelvin of Terrace, BC. Marlene will be sadly missed by her sister Mary Murphy and brother-in-law Bryan Reeson, brother Bob Murphy of Oshawa, brother Patrick Murphy and sister-in-law Elaine Ney of Bayshore Village. She was also loved and will be remembered by her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Ken and Andy Bussema, Paige and Marthe Sked, and her many nieces, nephews, and friends. She was predeceased by her sister Joy Murphy and her twin brother Bob Murphy of Irish River, NF and the late Cyril J. Murphy of Bareneed, NFLD. She will be loved and remembered by her stepson Kelvin of Terrace, BC. Marlene will be sadly missed by her sister Mary Murphy and brother-in-law Bryan Reeson, brother Bob Murphy of Oshawa, brother Patrick Murphy and sister-in-law Elaine Ney of Bayshore Village.

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The spread of digital hate: graduate student at the University of British Columbia, a member of the Committee for the Advancement of Scientific Skepticism, as well as a member of the Centre for Inquiry in Kelowna. He will be presenting his research on white supremacy movements.

The internet has been something of a double-edged sword for most of its history. While offering people all over the world access to information they might never have seen otherwise, modern communications technology has also proved to be a boon to racist organizations desperate to get their message out.

At a great extent, their attempts to spread their message have been successful; there are now more than 1,000 known hate groups present in the United States, and their numbers continue to grow. These groups are religious, secular, white supremacist, black supremacist, anti-Semitic, anti-government, and many other flavours besides. How has their message been adapted to fit into the digital age? How do they recruit? Who are their leaders, and who joins their causes?

How can a person recognize racist speech – especially when it has been specifically tailored to appear non-racist? The presentation will be at the Nelson Oxygen Centre, Friday, December 2, 7:30 pm and will be free for students and by donation (suggested $2) for everyone else.

Stephen Lewis Foundation, providing assistance to African grandparents who are raising grandchildren orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
by Timothy Schafer

The Village of Slocan is serving notice to some residents that taxes are overdue, and one of those owing is their biggest landowner.

Currently there is a sum of $335,388 in overdue taxes waiting to go into Village coffers — a number that could create an issue with cash flow in early 2012 if it is not collected.

But the biggest culprit of that owed sum is the Springer Creek mill, which closed down temporarily in May. Chief Administrative Officer Jack Richardson said the Village has to come up with a plan now to deal with the situation.

“If the land is in arrears it goes to tax sale,” said Richardson.

In September when the first late tax notices went out, one of the residents had 12 properties that were in arrears, but on the day of the tax sale later that month there was only one still in arrears.

If a property owner continues to refuse to pay taxes, their property can be sold for an ‘upset’ price — what the Village is owed on the taxes, administration fees and any other costs that are incurred.

“Eventually we’ll get our money or end up with some property,” he said.

As for the small-amount tax notices, they still haven’t paid some of their taxes from 2010 and 2011. Richardson did not say how much, but hinted the amount was “considerable.”

“We’ve got some discussions going on with them,” he said.

Power improvement
Ross Johnson made a presentation to council on behalf of the Slocan Lake Power Improvement Association asking for council’s support in the form of a letter on the project to bring power to the resident out-town Sligo and Silverton.

They were asked about the price to get power into the area, citing a FortisBC suggestion it would cost several million dollars to do so. Johnson said it would only cost a few thousand dollars. Council agreed to write a letter of support in principle for the project.

Stewardship Society
The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society is applying to the Columbia Basin Trust and other funding organizations for money to complete the third year of its three-year water quality monitoring program on Slocan Lake.

Council approved a letter of support for them to include in their applications.

Official Community Plan
Council adopted the 2011 Official Community Plan, after public feedback was obtained at the October 20 public hearing that attracted 25 people.

On October 3, Village council held first and second reading on the revised plan, after gathering input from neighboring municipalities and federal and provincial departments.

One item expected to cause some discussion at the hearing with regards to “not permitting rental or sales of houseboats, jet skis, ski boats or other noisy water uses” in the OCP did not. No comments were received and council worried about keeping it in.

“All that is is a vision and a guideline, it’s not telling you that you can’t. It’s giving us direction to move ahead into our business licence bylaw to amend that so it’s consistent,” said Richardson.

The item stayed in the OCP and the review passed into adoption.

House cleaning matters
Two manufactured homes that are vacant and unmaintained have been causing some concern in the neighbourhoods that surround them.

As a result, both homes — 1103 Hume St. and 517 Arthur St. — were declared a nuisance by council and are now requiring the owners to have the homes and all other structures removed from the property, and the property cleaned of all brush, weeds and other growth to remedy the situation.

Both properties were inspected in August. The Hume residence, owned by Daryl and Naomi Bixler, was found by Village staff with all of its windows boarded up, an enclosed addition in a dilapidated state, the roof sagging and the overall structure to be uninhabitable.

The Arthur Street residence, owned by Eric Jennings, was in a similar state with an existing porch addition in a dilapidated state, prompting Village staff to declare the home uninhabitable.

Formal notice will be going out for a public meeting on the properties, slated for the next council meeting, with a formal report to be given by Village staff on any changes to the properties.

If the owners do not comply, the Village could assume the task of disposing of the items, with the cost being placed on the property owners’ taxes.

Solid Waste Management
Garbage collection costs will be going up $25 per week for Slocanites after Village staff brought a shortfall in the service’s budget to the attention of council.

The shortfall was related to the clean-up weeks and free tipping days the Village offered its residents as a service to keep their yards in order, creating a negative $2,375 in revenues in the 2011 budget already.

Every residential property in the Village pays an annual fee of $104 for weekly garbage pickup service, allowing each household to dispose of one garbage bag per week.

The increase would put the cost per household for the annual service at $117 for 2012.

“That is something we need to look at in order to break even in this service,” said Councillor Hillary Elliott.

Currently, people can purchase a $2 tag to dispose of extra residential bags.

Village staff will also be preparing a report on the pros and cons of establishing a curbside recycling program in the village.

Curling Club energy retrofit
There were some concerns on council that the Curling Club would not be able to make payments to the Village for a compressor purchased in 2009.

Large energy costs required to keep the ice — due to improper insulation and general inefficiency of the building — were affecting their ability to do so.

The Village paid $14,535 for the compressor, and the club has paid $3,750 back, missing the two payments of $1,400. The club still owes the Village $10,785 by December 2014.

A report on the errors is planned for the club in that regard was submitted, but council passed a resolution saying they could not support an application for a grant on behalf of the club for the money, but the club could submit an application for a community recreation grant.

Traffic bylaw
A draft revision of the Traffic Bylaw caused some debate on the finer points of skateboarding and parking on boulevards contained in the document by council.

Councillor Jessica Lunn took umbrage over section 6.5c, that decreed against people coasting or sliding on any highway, sidewalk or boulevard “with sleds, hobogoggans, skis, skateboards, roller skates or other like apparatus.”

She felt the young people of Slocan would be impeded in using their skateboards to get around the village, and it was viable transportation for them.

“In this small town it is an option as mode of travel going between the skatepark and their homes,” she said.

“That’s useless to let them do that,” called out Nick Verigin from the crowd.

A lot of parents use sleds in the winter to pull their children around when they make a trip to the post office, she added.

Councillor Jean Patterson tore the scab off of an old wound as she questioned why the section prohibiting parking on boulevards was still in the bylaw.

“Are we going to enforce people not parking on boulevards and, if we are not, take it out,” she said. “It (is not right) the way it is now.”

CAO Richardson thought the section was more for undocumented vehicles that would impede the Village’s attempt at snow removal.

Although there is still some debate left to come on the bylaw — for third reading and adoption — council elected to remove the section prohibiting skateboarding as first and second reading of the bylaw were passed.
The Silverton Community Club is once again presenting the very successful Christmas by the Lake, December 2-4.

This family friendly event captures the spirit of a traditional European Christmas market, with lighted wooden huts offering local and regional arts, crafts and culinary delights. Over 30 vendors will take part this year.

Among the many activities for visitors to enjoy will be artisan demonstrations for blacksmithing and glass-blowing, ice sculpting, music and entertainment provided by local choirs, community bands and performers, and children’s activities such as pictures with Santa and a card and ornament workshop.

Columbia Power Corporation is a major sponsor of the weekend event. “We are so happy that we can support this beautiful community event,” said Audrey Repin, Director of Stakeholder Relations for Columbia Power. “Each year it gets bigger and better; last year over 1500 people attended.”

A free shuttle service from Nelson to Silverton will be provided on Saturday, December 3.

For more information about Christmas by the Lake, visit www.christmasbythelake.ca.

RDCK to help distribute radon testing kits

Kootenay residents will now be able to test for potentially dangerous radon in their homes, thanks to a partnership between the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and the Donna Schmidt Memorial Lung Cancer Prevention Society.

RDCK offices in Nelson, Nakusp and Creston will serve as pick-up and drop-off sites for test kits, which can be obtained for a $15 donation.

“The RDCK is pleased to be able to participate in this valuable public service by helping residents determine if they might be at risk of radon exposure,” says John Kettle, RDCK chair.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can accumulate in some homes. Because radon cannot be seen, tasted or smelled, it can go undetected. Long-term exposure to radon is linked to an increased risk of developing lung cancer and is the second leading cause of the disease after smoking. Radon levels are generally highest in the fall and winter months, making this an ideal time to test for the gas.

The test kit contains a small device that is placed in the home for a minimum of 90 days. Homeowners can then return the kit to the RDCK, which will forward it for laboratory analysis. Results will be provided in confidence but if they are willing, homeowners are encouraged to anonymously share their results with the Donna Schmidt Lung Cancer Prevention Society, which is gathering information on radon levels in the region.

Test kits and brochures may be obtained at the following RDCK offices: 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson; 531B - 16th Ave. S., Creston; 204 - 6th Ave., Nakusp.

For more information on radon: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-sbt/radiation/radon/radoneng.php

For more information about the Donna Schmidt Memorial Lung Cancer Prevention Society: http://donschmidt.shawwebspace.ca

Phone Dana Schmidt at the Castlegar office of Golder Associates Ltd. (250-365-0344, ext 227) or email her (dschmidt@golder.com).