Popular Christmas by the Lake continues to draw the crowds

by Art Joyce

It’s a little piece of old-fashioned Christmas just a snowball’s throw from Slocan Lake.

Christmas by the Lake, now in its fifth successful year, once again brought out the crowds over the December 2-4 weekend. Organizer Armand Lange estimates this year’s turnout at about the same as last year’s peak of 1,800, with the Nelson shuttle bus fully booked for the first time. But new features have added to the variety and appeal of the event, including the addition of fire dancers who performed after sundown.

“I never saw before such a crowd lined up at 5:00 for one of our events,” says Lange.

Also new was an expanded musical repertoire that included Nelson group Heavy Shtetl, Nakusp singer-guitarist Caelen Starblanket Laroque, and the Slocan Lake Community Ensemble conducted by Jill Faulks. The Village Voices choir enlightened the Friday evening opening celebrations and Lange said it was a special treat to hear the kids’ choir Sunday morning.

For the kids there was more fun to be had than ever. While the ice slide remains the number one outdoor attraction for tykes, the new gingerbread house workshop offered by Robin McNabb of William Hunter Cabins was a huge hit. McNabb baked the gingerbread and the kids then decorated their own houses.

Children and adults once again savoured the taste of ‘chestnuts roasted on an open fire’ just as in the old Christmas carol. Lange said that although attendance was about the same as 2010, there was more glühwein, bratwurst and waffles sold this year. Adding to the European flavours of the event was a truly Canadian backwoods experience - cooking bannock dough over a fire.

For any Canadian who grew up doing wilderness camping and canoe trips, this was practically a rite of passage.

Lange said the vendors are reporting that they sold well and as usual the maximum capacity of 33 vendors was achieved. Once again the standard of crafts offered for sale was high, with many old favourites and some new additions in the photography and jewelry departments. Madeleine McCarthy won for best inside booth display while Kayte Rock of Soup du Jar won best vendor hut outside. Sophie Burkholder won the draw for the kids’ prize, a tablet computer.

Woodcarver Luc Vreyxs created two new sculptures, both to be raffled off. His impressive new eagle sculpture was won by a Nakusp man. The second sculpture will be raffled on the July 1st Canada Day celebrations. Vreyxs is also the creator of the wooden Christmas by the Lake signs, which now appear each year near the site of the Silverton Museum/Gallery grounds. One of our resident blacksmiths, Dr. Chuck Burkholder, was again spotted practicing the ancient art, and reported being asked to build stair railings. This writer put in a request for a pair of fireplace tongs, but with a physician’s busy schedule, it’s an open question whether these will materialize.

The only disappointment this year was the lack of an ice sculpture due to over-rambunctious kids who knocked down the work-in-progress before it could be completed. Ice sculptor Peter Vogelaar said weather conditions this year didn’t help – about two tons of snow had to be trucked in to the site for the slide this year due to the lack of snow at lake level.

Christmas by the Lake has garnered widespread corporate and government sponsorship, including the CBT, ROCK, Canadian Heritage, Columbia Power, Slocan Lake Recreation Commission #6, EZ Rock radio, Kaslo Hotel, Soup du Jar and Silverton Transport.
Looming staff cuts at the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program have ruffled more than a few feathers. The BC Wildlife Federation, over 40 scientists and land management professionals and MLA Michelle Mungall are urging BC Hydro and the BC government to reconsider. The decision under fire is to reduce FWCP staff province-wide from 11 to 3 as of the end of January, with the Nelson office the hardest hit.

In fact, there will be no Nelson office. All seven FWCP staff in Nelson are being replaced with one program manager, and that manager will be located in the BC Hydro office in Castlegar.

In the Peace region, the Prince George office is closing, three staff are being cut, and the manager will be located in Fort St. John.

All that will remain are three regional program managers -- in the Columbia (Castlegar), Peace (Fort St. John) and Coastal (Burnaby) regions. They will be supported by technical staff and BC Hydro biologists in Burnaby, Castlegar and the north.

Despite the staff cuts, there will be no cuts to funding for the program. MLA Michelle Mungall points out there is “nothing to be gained” by the layoffs, as BC Hydro must continue to spend the same amount to mitigate the effects of the dams on fish and wildlife populations.

Chris O’Riley, BC Hydro’s Executive Vice President of Generation, confirmed that “…we will continue to fund the $8 million Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. While our funding has not been affected, we are changing to a more efficient delivery model that will allow us to put more money directly towards environmental protection. This new model has already been successfully implemented in the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program’s Coastal Region for a number of years and is part of our commitment to keep rates low for families and businesses.”

The BC Wildlife Federation has provided government with a position paper, proposing that the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program be taken out of BC Hydro’s hands and managed by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation “to provide independent and transparent management of the programs for the purpose they were intended.”

According to a press release issued by the BC Wildlife Federation, the proposal is being seriously considered and Minister of Energy and Mines Rich Coleman has asked BC Hydro to “pause their actions” so that the BCWF concept can be given ample time for discussion.

As soon as the layoff notices were issued in October, MLA Mungall wrote to Coleman to ask that the decision be immediately rescinded. “The FWCP projects are making a difference, from conservation and enhancement programs, to restoration of habitat, to species conservation, and invasive plant control. Biologists from FWCP also play a major role in fish and wildlife research, education, and communication in the region. As an example, FWCP staff have long served on advisory committees to Selkirk College programs, in particular the Recreation Fish and Wildlife Program,” she states in her letter.

In the legislature November 24, Mungall again asked Minister Coleman to reconsider the cuts. She pointed out that 46 scientists and land management professionals have signed a letter urging BC Hydro to reverse its decision.

That letter states: “We have found the role played by those staff has been essential to accomplishing the goals and legal requirements of compensating for the impacts of hydroelectric dams in the Columbia Basin. In addition to administering the BC Hydro compensation funds, the staff has initiated, supported and carried out many compensation projects that would not have been as effective (or in some cases even possible) without local scientific staff.”

These staff cuts are part of an aggressive workforce reduction program at BC Hydro that will see 700 jobs cut by the end of 2014. Already, 550 of these 700 jobs have been cut, with 150 more to come in the next two years.

The job cuts come in the wake of the government review of BC Hydro, which recommended that the Crown Corporation reduce its workforce from 6,000 to 4,800.

The Province ordered the review after BC Hydro applied for rate increases of 9.73 percent for each of the next three years (a cumulative increase of 32 percent). As a result of the staff cuts and other cost-saving measures recommended in the report, BC Hydro rates will increase by 8 percent in 2012, 3.9 percent in 2013 and 3.9 percent in 2014.
Parents and school administrators frustrated with unresolved teachers’ strike

by Jan McMurray

As the teachers’ phase one strike action continues with no resolution in sight, there is growing frustration among parents and school administration staff.

President of the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) Ann Whiteaker said parents were much more supportive of the ‘teach only’ job action in September. But at this time of year, they are feeling the effects with the cancellation of Christmas concerts and blank report cards.

“We’re hearing a lot of disappointment from parents about Christmas concerts and winter festivals. It’s a tradition for them to support their children and be included in these events, but now they are being cancelled or are happening within school hours, so working parents can’t attend. They are feeling excluded. It’s disappointing.”

Whiteaker said report card time is often when parents find out how their children are doing at school. With no marks on report cards this term, she points out that some students may be falling through the cracks. She said it is often principals who identify and support these students, but because the principals have added duties as a result of the strike, a lot of them do not have the time to appropriately deal with these students.

“It’s our students who will suffer the most,” Whiteaker said. “Parents are getting frustrated. We want the two parties to work together to reach an agreement.”

A resolution is also what the principals and vice principals want, says Jameel Aziz, president of the BC Principals and Vice Principals Association, but instead he sees the two sides moving further and further apart as each week of bargaining progresses.

“Our main concern has been that the strike is not getting the kind of public pressure or feedback it should. It will go on for a long time if parents don’t voice to politicians that they want to see a resolution so we can get back to positively affecting the education of our students.” Aziz urges parents to contact their MLAs.

Aziz says principals, vice principals, School District superintendents and secretary-treasurers are being targeted by the phase one strike action, and the pressure is being felt.

He said that in most districts, administrative staff is doing all of the supervision – before school, recess, lunch, and bus. Many also have to do supervision duties at neighbouring schools as well. “These people are losing huge amounts of productivity. Many don’t start their work until 11 am because of the supervision pieces. These are highly compensated people to be losing 25 percent of their work time on these tasks.”

Aziz said administrators are also doing all the paperwork around field trips and other routine procedures. Report cards fell to them as well, to organize and distribute.

Principals and vice principals are “extremely frustrated” because they cannot move the education agendas forward in their schools, said Aziz. Teachers are not attending staff meetings, so “everything is on hold – schools are not stagnant – staff is always talking about new programs to meet students’ needs. But there is now an inability to get together with staff and talk about things that affect students within the schools. The ministry has come out with a new vision for education – there is no opportunity to talk about that, and about the implementation of the new ideologies in the classroom.”
Support hunting closure in Valhalla Park

I would like to voice my support for the new no hunting/shooting zone within the Valmey Watershed in Valhalla Park.

I was rock climbing at Gimli September 9-11, the same weekend of the shooting of a habituated goat. I was on the summit of Nileheim when I heard the gunshot and came back to camp to find the innards and disposed parts of a goat that I had taken photos of that morning. The shooting took place towards our tent, mid day of busy weekend. There were multiple parties in the area hiking and climbing. This area is highly used and not protected anonymously. I do not hunt, but I believe in gathering your own food. In this situation, however, I question the morals and ethics of this hunter.

For the safety of outdoor enthusiasts and conservation of these goats please support the proposed hunting closure within Valhalla Park. Candice Randl

Crescent Valley beach donation to RDCK

Part of the pleasure of living in this beautiful part of the world is the privilege of swimming in the clean waters of the Slocan River on a hot summer afternoon. Or meeting friends at the beach and hanging out while our children play in the sand and paddle in the water. For decades families and individuals have gone to the beach at Crescent Valley for a swim as well as a social outing. We can even take our dogs, launch a kayak or rest after a float down the river. I would hope many people who have used and enjoyed this wonderful spot know that it is on private land.

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

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

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

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libellous. We do 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.

Smart people say no to smart meters

Smart people might be about as smart as taking humans out of lighthouses on the coast. You can automate the light, but not the life-giving operation of the experienced weather eye of the keeper. Line checks done by human beings reading meters are local jobs, and a service not provided by the meter. A smart meter is not smart enough to know when a tree has fallen on a line — until it breaks and power fails. They cost a lot, and they’re full of mercury, another toxic waste. Let’s hope that your house doesn’t burn, or that the meters aren’t ever damaged.

Smart meters are being sold to us with a lot of very expensive advertising and a suspicious lack of information. Is this another technological device that will be replaced by a new, improved version at shorter and shorter intervals? Music and spoken word spread by radio, granophone and telephone have been a blessing for a century. Do we really need them replaced by an endless proliferation of fashionable techno-toys? Expensive trinkets to part fools from their money.

These meters on our houses are working fine. Human line checks every two months, rain or shine, identify future hazards. They keep rural power on.

For the safety of outdoor enthusiasts and conservation of these goats please support the proposed hunting closure within Valhalla Park.

Candice Randl

Crescent Valley

Don’t block Ring Road in Kaslo

As the Kaslo All Candidates meeting November 7, I asked for a show of hands from all the candidates running for office who would be in favour of blocking the through access of Ring Road, the road extending around Vimy Park. Only Councillor Maureen Leithwood raised her hand and Mayor Greg Lay offered to speak to the issue. Mayor Lay indicated there would be a turn-around, but not a road closure.

On November 29, I met with Mayor Lay at the Ring Road to survey the site in question. He stated that the proposed changes would have a cut-de-sac at both the north and south sides by the Peruvian Daycare. The idea is to eliminate the through traffic and allow for campground expansion. Mayor Lay disclosed, although other reasons were given, such as decreasing excessive dust and improving safety.

We don’t want our waterfront commercialized! This area is easily accessed by everyone wishing to use the picnic area, playground and beach. With the creation of two cul-de-sacs, the increase in congestion would make this vital area of our community much less accessible. Dust, exhaust and pedestrian and playground safety issues will be worse if vehicle traffic is forced by such a road closure to turn around in two locations.

One has to wonder where this idea comes from. Take away public access to the waterfront which in turn creates an exclusive waterfront that is solely enjoyed by campers? Imagine seeing a roped climber being chased off the campground expanded!

I am circulating a petition to preserve our access to our waterfront, park and playground area. If you wish to sign the petition contact me before January 2, 2012.

Janice Sinclair

Kaslo

Conservative support drug trafficking

The Harper government will protect marijuana trafficking.

Such was the effect of the Prime Minister’s response to leading public officials in British Columbia who declared support for decriminalization, regulation and even taxation of the marijuana industry.

The Conservative party government will not only protect marijuana traffickers whose profits derive from the risk of criminal sanctions, it will bolster trade in illegal weapons used to protect or else ‘take out’ marijuana industry competitors.

Continued criminal sanctions are presently being beefed up to the increase of the Criminal Justice Industry with its complement of police, courts, lawyers and, of course, jails. This burgeoning industry is funded with our taxes.

Mr. Harper declares that his government will repress marijuana use among young people. That’s not likely.

The histories of such prohibitions are replete with failure, not to mention violence and waste.

Many Canadians, including many young people, are regular users of legally controlled pharmaceuticals prescribed to alter mood and behaviour. These products are taxed and are normally out of the purview of the Criminal Justice Industry.

Meanwhile an illegal industry, the trafficking of marijuana (a mood-altering substance), is thriving with untaxed product movement and its own internal regulation in recurrent gang warfare that now routinely breaks out in our streets.

Mr. Harper’s ‘line in the sand’ on marijuana is very disappointing in a leader. Rather like the sand in his head.

Dave Cursons

Cawston
teachers to demand this government stop the underfunding and ideological erosion of a highly successful (world renowned) public education system.

If you believe that the teachers’ strike or other educational matters please contact me at 250-354-4142 or lp70@
bc.ca.

Thomas Newell, President NDTA Nelson

Stop Smart Meters goes for initiative petition

What does it take to get a government to listen to its electorate nowadays? The civil equivalent of screaming at the top of your lungs, it seems, when corporate sponsors control the political game.

In the case of the internationally hated ‘smart’ meters, an initiative has been announced to force the BC Liberals to subject this unproven, potentially unhealthy technology to proper scrutiny and a public process. BCTF President Camille Thomas has served notice on the BC government of its intention to pursue an initiative petition like that used to defeat the HST. The BCTF has now created a smart meter website, smartmeters.ca, has been launched to allow people to pre-register for the vote. When the application for the petition is submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer, the next stage will be to collect signatures from 10 percent of all registered voters in each BC riding. If that number is achieved, the BC Chief Electoral Officer can then call for a referendum vote once a question has been formulated. The only catch is that these votes can only occur once every three years, and since the HST vote was held just last year, it will be 2013 before we get to vote down ‘smart’ meters.

The good news is that, in addition to the Union of BC Municipalities and 25 BC municipalities which have passed resolutions calling for a moratorium on ‘smart’ meters, Citizens for Safe Technology President Una St. Clair recently announced that the BC Public Health Critic John Horgan with 15,000 signatures calling for an end to the BC Hydro smart meter program. Horgan then presented these signatures in the Legislative Assembly, calling for Energy Minister Richard Coleman to subject the program to a proper review by the BC Utilities Commission.

And for those who claim that this is a sign of ‘Luddite-ism’, nothing could be further from the truth. As a journalist I pride myself on doing thorough research on any topic before opening my mouth. That means more than just going to the Health Canada website once or twice. Health Canada has been repeatedly proven to be a disingenuous source of purely ideological influence in regulating products for public consumption, including wireless. (Remember DDT? PCBs? Asbestos? Thalidomide? Vioxx? All passed as “safe” by Health Canada.)

I have personally communicated with scientists around the world and can supply them with reliable research reports on the hazards of wireless to lay the issue permanently to rest. I use technology every day as a journalist and am not against new technology unless there are indications it is not safe and has been rushed onto the market without proper regulatory review. Given that corporate power has so weakened government influence over society, it should be no surprise that this happens more often than not these days.

To pre-register your signature for the petition, visit: www.smartmeters.ca.

fixed link on Arrow Lakes a nonbrainer

It is with interest that I read about a new ferry at Galena. It would appear the only thing to be decided is where the new ferry will be built and by whom.

We at Beaton Arm Crossing Association (BACA) feel a new ferry is a poor choice to solve the transportation problems at Galena Bay. A new, bigger ferry can carry more vehicles per trip but would have to be built on the same pier as the existing one, a reason is very simple: Loading and unloading an 80-vehicle ferry takes up 20 minutes, making a trip across the lake up to twice as long as it is today. A time motion study has proven this.

Arrow Lakes Teachers

by Gary Parkstrom, New Denver Teacher

Public education in British Columbia is consistently ranked among the world’s best education systems. Teachers, principals, trustees, education assistants, parents and students work tirelessly to ensure people from all walks of life in our communities have a chance to learn, grow, and become critically thinking citizens.

However, for the past ten years, the provincial government has been working to destroy our much-loved public education system. The BC government has consistently made it abundantly clear that the quality of public education is not a priority.

Recently, the BC Liberal government used Bills 27 and 28, which stripped teachers’ and trustees’ collective bargaining rights. In 2002 the Liberal government specifically ruled that school boards could not negotiate on issues that español the collective bargaining agreement. Teachers and trustees have been struggling to secure the right to negotiate on issues that español school boards.

By having less control over schools, teachers and trustees have had to manage with fewer resources and more obstacles while being forced to continue to raise their voices in favour of teacher and student needs.

With the election of the BC NDP government, the NDP have ruled that the teachers’ raise was a priority. Teachers and school trustees have used their new political leverage to demand this government stop the underfunding and ideological erosion of our public education system.

The BCTF has announced that it is working closely with the unions and school trustees to negotiate a new contract for 2011/2012. The BCTF is seeking a raise to counteract the effects of the Liberal cuts and to bring teacher pay in line with that of public sector workers.

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Slocan Valley Rail Trail ready for cross-country skiing
submitted by Craig Lawrence

The Slocan Valley Rail Trail has become a popular winter pastime in the Slocan Valley in recent years and this year promises to be better than ever.

Volunteers of the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society have groomed the northern half of the trail already and are ready to groom and trackset the 45-kilometre trail from Crescent Valley to Slocan when more snow arrives.

Here are a few tips to help make the trail an enjoyable experience.

For information on the state of the trail, visit the new Rail Trail website at www.slocanvalleyrailtrail.ca.

The home page has a grooming update link that is kept current with the latest grooming and trail conditions. This website is also a great tool to keep up to date on what’s happening on the historic former CPR right-of-way.

For those using the trail please:

• The ‘trackset’ is for skiers, so please try not to walk in it.
• The trackset will be on one side of the trail so there will be ample room for walking, snowshoeing and skate skiing.
• If taking your pet, please try to ‘scoop the poop’ off the main trail to assist with the grooming program.
• This year, horse riders are being asked to refrain from using the groomed sections of trail from December 1 to mid-March.

There are two upcoming Rail Trail events happening in January that everyone is invited to enjoy.

The Full Moon Ski takes place on Sunday, January 8 between 6:30 pm and 8 pm and the eighth annual Day on the Trail will happen on Sunday, January 28 from noon to 2 pm.

Both events are taking place approximately 1.5 kilometres north of Perry Siding, or two kilometres south of the Kennedy Road trailhead at Lemon Creek. Both will feature hot chocolate, a roaring fire and lots of friendly smiles.

For more information on the event, visit the Rail Trail website or call 250-355-2397.

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

Young and old are warmly invited to celebrate Christmas 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.

Season’s Greetings
From the Council & Staff of the Village of Slocan

Holiday Hours:
The Village Office will be closed at 4 pm on Thursday, December 22nd and will re-open at 9 am on January 2nd, 2012.

Wishing all of you a safe and happy holiday!

The Corporation of the Village of Slocan
NOTICE:
2012 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Passed and adopted at the December 5th Regular Council Meeting, Council Meetings will be held on the second MONDAY of each month.

Listed below is the new 2012 schedule:

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Silverton council, December 5: Liaison appointments eliminated
by Michael Dorsey

Silverton’s council members will have a lighter meeting load this term with the elimination of the appointments of liaisons to the Silverton Historical Society, Silverton Community Club, Slocan Lake Gallery Society and Slocan Lake Arena Society. Instead, these organizations will be asked to send their meeting minutes to council.

If items are submitted requiring council’s participation, they will be added to the agenda of the appropriate committee or council meeting.

• New Mayor Kathy Provan, Councillors Jason Clarke and Christopher Love, and returning Councillors Leah Main and Ross Johnson, were sworn in by Acting CAO Elaine Rogers at the inaugural meeting December 5 at Memorial Hall.

Mayor Provan made the following appointments.

Staffing Committee: Councillor John Johnson (chair), Councillor Clarke, Mayor Provan; Finance Committee: Mayor Provan (chair), Councillors Main and Love; Facilities and Recreation Committee: Councillor Love (chair), Councillors Main and Mayor Provan.

The following council appointments were approved.

RDCK: Director - Councillor Main; Alternate - Mayor Provan; West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District Board: Appointee - Mayor Provan; Alternate - Councillor Main; Chamber of Commerce: Councillor Clarke; Alternate - Councillor Love; Emergency Recovery & Response: Councillor Main; Alternate - Mayor Provan; Recreation Commission #6: Councillor Main; Alternate Councillor Clarke; Banking Institution: Kootenay Savings Credit Union, New Denver; Auditor: Berg Naeni Lehmann; Corporate Law Firm: Staples, McDanold, Stewart; Acting Mayor Schedule: Clarke (January-March); Johnson (April-July); Love (July-September); Main (October-December).

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mobile (250) 551-6182 (TIME)
jacob@onetimeelectrical.com
www.onetimeelectrical.com

KAAK: 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.
Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society calls for board and advisory council members

by Jan McMurray

Slocan Valley (Area H) organizations from Summit Lake to New Denver to work on building the endowment fund and the other to work on the grant program for local non-profits. The newly formed Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society (SVCLS), which is an affiliate of Osprey, Osprey manages a charitable foundation. Also, as an affiliate of Osprey, Osprey manages the endowment fund and does all the administration work for a fee of less than one percent. Corbett added that a Slocan Valley community foundation can always be established in future if a future board sees fit to do so.

Lisa Erven from Columbia Basin Trust was also at the meeting to explain that CBT supports community foundations and community funds. The Trust will match funds raised by the community up to $50,000. “You can leverage the CBT funds if there is demonstrated support from the community,” she said, adding that the sustainability of the community fund depends on the community continually building the endowment.

Current board members indicated that this is one of the next steps for the new board – to launch a fundraising campaign with a goal of $50,000 in order to leverage the CBT matching funds. Erven also said CBT will help with training. The Trust is currently working with the Community Foundation of Cranbrook to organize a training session for people involved in community foundations and funds, and CBT will provide up to $500 for individualized training – for example, a bookkeeping course for the treasurer.

People wanted to know what kind of interest could be earned in today’s investment market. Board member Craig Stowell said Osprey has been earning 3.5 percent on average for the last five years. Using 7 percent as an example, he said $3,000 could be made on $100,000. He also said the Slocan Valley fund is in a guaranteed investment with KSCU.

Corbett confirmed that there would be a granting process this winter with $3,000-$4,000 to be dispersed. “And that will grow every year,” added board member Heather Burns.

When asked about the criteria for applying for the grants, Corbett said the current board would like to keep it open and diverse, but the new board will be responsible for coming up with the granting process.

With many community groups through a granting process. The fund is managed by the newly formed Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society (SVCLS), which is an affiliate of Osprey Foundation out of Nelson.

The society would like nine to ten people on the board and as many as possible on the advisory committee. By the end of the two meetings, seven people had signed up as board members, three people indicated they may be willing to sit on the board, and nine people had signed up as advisory committee members.

For more information, or to express interest in sitting on the board or advisory committee, email svcls.chair@gmail.com.

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Report released on West Kootenay Food System Alliance

After many months of research, interviews and discussion, the first step towards a regional food system alliance for the West Kootenay has been taken. Now available online is an in-depth report: “Towards a Regional Food System Alliance Development Strategy for the West Kootenay.” The report looks into how food councils, non-profits, and other food system initiatives are formed and how they function. The accompanying recommendation, which is the focus within the report and as a separate document online, is driven by the committee’s belief that determining the function of an alliance prior to determining its form is essential.

“The committee believes that the report and accompanying recommendation will offer strong support for a West Kootenay food system that shows an increase in the percentage of locally produced food each year, is robust and versatile in the face of ecological and economic pressures, and is an inspiration for a vibrant and resilient culture of food in other regions,” said Jon Steinman, project lead.

In April of this year, funding and support was secured to carry out research into organizations in Canada and the United States seeking to improve their communities’ access to local, healthy and responsibly produced food by bringing together stakeholders within their local food system.

The West Kootenay is already home to a diverse community of individuals, businesses and organizations that contribute to the production, processing and distribution of food for local consumption. All combined, these efforts, their accompanying relationships, and the very act of eating, make up what can be referred to as our ‘food system.’ But how do we define this ‘system’ and how do we identify the relationships within it to make sure that the system is functioning in the best interest of the people it serves?

With no efforts currently underway in the West Kootenay region to consistently bring together those involved within and outside of the food system, a regional food system alliance was believed to be an ideal forum to help enhance our regional food supply. Jon Steinman of the Co-op Radio Show Deconstructing Dinner took the lead on the initiative and gathered a team from throughout the region to advise on the process and contribute to what has become a strategic recommendation on what next steps should be taken.

The committee narrowed its attention on economic development, believing it to be the greatest opportunity for our regional food system. This focus of attention has proven to be very successful with organizations like the Center for an Agricultural Economy in Vermont and the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition in Oregon. These organizations offer great examples of the opportunities to be found from more coordinated, cross-sector work within the food system. The committee believes this should become the primary focus of an eventual regional food system alliance in the West Kootenay.

By “economic development,” the committee is referring to a sustained effort among all people within the region to support and develop the infrastructure, knowledge and skills necessary to increase the amount of food produced and processed in the region. The committee believes that through better coordination among individuals, organizations, governments and businesses, a regional food system alliance would be an exciting tool which could carry out a mandate to take on, stimulate, and/or partner on activities which would capture the millions of food dollars leaking out of the region every year.

What is meant by ‘leakage’? It is estimated that the population within the region spends roughly $266 million per year on food, with only a small percentage of that being spent on locally produced products.

“We see this as one of the greatest economic development opportunities for the region,” says Jon Steinman. “Focusing more attention on the food system as economic development and trying to keep more of our food dollars within the region, means increasing the support for existing, new and emerging farmers, businesses and cooperatives; creating a food sector that is more resilient within the regional economy; and reinstating the importance of being strong stewards of our soil, forests and water bodies.”

The advisory committee is made up of Corky Evans (former MLA Nelson-Creston), Sheila Dobie (Spencer Hill Orchard), Jocelyn Carver (Kootenay Country Store Co-operative), Darren Harris (Kootenay Alpine Cheese / Mountain Valley Farm), Nadine Raynor (Redfish School of Change / Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership) and Carolee Coler (CDS Consulting Co-op).

The report was made possible by funding and support from the Columbia Basin Trust, the Hume Hotel, Nelson and District Credit Union, Heritage Credit Union, Kootenay Country Store Co-operative, Kootenay Co-op Radio, Kootenay Food Strategy Society and Deconstructing Dinner.

Thanks to our customers and wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

To read the report and the recommended next steps, visit www.deconstructingdinner.ca. Feedback is welcomed and encouraged. Contact Jon Steinman, 250-352-6597 or jon@steinman.com.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Village of Silverton

Holiday Schedule

Dec. 21, 22, 23  10 – 4 pm
Dec. 24, 25, 26, 27  Closed
Dec. 28, 29  10 – 4 pm
Dec. 30, 31, Jan. 1, 2  Closed
Opening Jan. 3

RDCK Resource Recovery Facilities

HOLIDAY SCHEDULES OF OPERATION

All Waste Facilities will be CLOSED on:
- Sunday, December 25, 2011, Monday, December 26, 2011
- Sunday, January 1, 2012

Facilities that are normally open will CLOSE at 2:00 pm on:
- Saturday, December 24, 2011 & Saturday, December 31, 2011

Christmas trees will be accepted at Resource Recovery facilities during December and January.

Residential disposal user fees are
1 tree = $2.00; 2 trees = $4.00; 3 or more trees = $5.00

During the months of December and January residents of the RDCK (non-commercial only please) can drop off strings of old Christmas lights at any waste facility FREE OF CHARGE

For more information contact the Recycling Council of BC Hotline at 1-800-667-4321 or RDCK at 1-800-268-7325

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Changes made to funding formula for schools

submitted by Ministry of Education

In August, the Ministry of Education undertook a review of the school district funding formula and asked for input from BC’s boards of education. A representative committee under the BC School Trustees’ Association (BCSTA) identified several school district concerns and submitted recommendations for funding formula changes under the principles of equity, predictability, stability, flexibility and transparency.

Total operating funding to school districts in 2011-12 is $4.721 billion, increasing to $4.724 billion in 2012-13. In line with the committee’s recommendations, the ministry has introduced changes to the way these funds will be allocated, beginning in 2012-13.

Additional funding will go towards districts where the number of vulnerable students has increased, supplementing the CommunityLINK grant by $5 million in 2012-13 and $11 million in 2013-14. CommunityLINK (Learning Includes Nutrition and Knowledge) funds support meal and snack programs, child and youth workers, community schools, literacy and the healthy schools initiative for community schools, literacy and programs, child and youth workers, food security and health.

The transportation supplement will be revised using school-age density and enrolment data to provide equitable funding to districts based on special transportation needs and the location of students in relation to their schools.

The committee’s report also identified concerns with the continued allocation of funding protection. In the interests of providing long-term sustainable and predictable funding, those districts experiencing enrolment decline will now be protected to at least 98.5 percent of the previous autumn’s funding level.

Changes made to funding formula for schools

The posting closed on December 9 and the new superintendent will be hired toward the end of February, according to a timeline set out with the assistance of a recruitment agency that specializes in education: ‘Make a Future - Careers in BC Education.’

‘Make a Future’ (www.makeafuture.ca) was created by the BC Public School Employers’ Association as a joint venture among BC’s 60 public boards of education and the Ministry of Education. Its goal is “to innovate and advance K-12 public education employee recruitment and retention to ensure the right people are in the right places at the right time.”

Make a Future does not consider the search ‘closed’ until the right candidate has been found, so although the process typically takes about four months, it could take longer.

All stakeholders – unions, administrators, trustees, DPAC – are consulted during the process to help design the hiring process and the selection criteria. Ultimately it is the board of education that hires the new superintendent/secretary-treasurer.

• Enrolment in the district is 528, broken down as follows:
  Edgewood Elementary (K-7): 21 students; Burton Elementary (K-4); 10 students; Nakusp Elementary (K-7); 194 students; Lucerne Elementary Secondary (K-12): 83 students; Distributed Learning: 27 students.

The new School District 10 board of education: Carol Bell, Judy Struck, Quinn Decourcy, Pattie Adam (chair), Lora Lee Brekke.
New Denver group works with EcoSociety to improve Kootenay RideShare

A ‘North Slocan Community Forum’ will be added to enable residents to arrange transportation to special out-of-town events or to find out if there are others in the community interested in carpooling, for example to go to the hot springs once a week. Several new upgrades and revisions will also be made.

This project is motivated by an interest in helping people with their transportation needs and in reducing transportation impacts and greenhouse gas emissions. It also has the added benefit of building new and positive social relationships. The Healthy Housing Society decided to partner with the EcoSociety to make this an affordable and attractive website that would better serve North Slocan residents, as well as drivers and passengers across the Kootenays.

The Green Purchasing Policy amends the existing Purchasing Policy in that it now supports consideration of environmental factors in purchasing decisions.

The policy now includes environmental stewardship goals and steps for sustainable purchasing. It promotes the use of life-cycle costing when making purchasing decisions, and requires that energy-efficient equipment is selected whenever feasible.

The RDCK will now consider whether an existing product has been used to the end of its life, if needs can be met in another way, and reduce consumption rates. The policy recommends renting, leasing or buying second-hand from classifieds or from suppliers.

Durable, longer-life products will be chosen, as will products designed to address specific environmental or social concerns, with life-cycle costing factored in.

In order to pay for the possible higher costs of energy-efficient vehicles or other capital assets, the RDCK has committed funds to greenhouse gas emissions reduction through the Community Works funding program and the Climate Action Reserve Fund.

As part of the Carbon Neutral Kootenays project, the RDCK was provided with five draft policies to support implementation of the RDCK’s goal of greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

They include:
1. Climate Action Reserve Fund Policy
2. Green Buildings Policy
3. This policy will be considered for adoption in late 2011, early 2012.
4. Green Vehicles Policy
5. Purchasing Policy Amendment
6. Green Purchasing Policy Policy have been consolidated by RDCK staff into a single proposed policy.

The Green Purchasing Policy
New Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development

by Jan McMurray

There’s a new face and a new facet to the Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development position at Selkirk College.

Dr. Terri MacDonald took over the position in July when her predecessor, George Penfold, retired. Penfold held the position from when it was established in November 2006. This is now not only entails conducting research on rural economic development in the region, but also leading the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI).

This new facet of the job, the RDI, is a partnership between Columbia Basin Trust and Selkirk College.

Essentially, the RDI was established to take over the Columbia Basin ‘State of the Basin’ Initiative, launched in 2008 by the CBT. “Columbia Basin Trust and Selkirk College recognize that there are collective and important benefits to collaboration between CBT’s State of the Basin Initiative, Selkirk College’s Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development and the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre,” states a fact sheet about the institute.

The State of the Basin will be a database containing all kinds of information about the Basin that can be accessed online by the public. It could help a business with the development of a business plan, for example, or a local government with its decision making.

“The State of the Basin Initiative is an indicator and monitoring program developed to collect and report on information for the purpose of providing an up-to-date picture of the well-being of the Basin,” said MacDonald.

She explained that the RDI will provide ongoing development support for the State of the Basin Initiative, as well as the necessary research required to make the program into a highly utilized, community-driven online indicators tool. She aims to ensure that the information collected is relevant, current and accessible for the communities and decision makers within the region. “We will be providing ongoing ‘trends analysis’ on our website to help decision makers and residents better understand what the indicators data means,” she said.

The State of the Basin website portal will be available by June 2012. In the meantime, people will be able to access community profiles on the RDI website when it is launched in late January 2012.

MacDonald comes to the position with a Ph.D. in Educational Studies from the University of British Columbia and ten years of experience working in community and economic development across BC, primarily in the Kootenay region. She has worked with the Nelson Committee in community and economic development across BC, primarily in the Kootenay region. She has worked with the Nelson Committee, the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI), formed in fall 2010 through a partnership by the Columbia Basin Trust and Selkirk College.

The project is being spearheaded by the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI), formed in fall 2010 through a partnership between Columbia Basin Trust and Selkirk College.

The project focuses on addressing the needs of businesses already in a community, encouraging them to stay (retain) or grow (expand). This in turn supports the local economy and the economic health of the community.

Through the three-year pilot project, which will begin in 2012, RDI will offer research and training support to communities interested in undertaking BR+E initiatives. The RDI will work in partnership with various groups – from local governments and Chambers of Commerce to the BC Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation – to gather information from local businesses, enter data into the web application BC Business Counts, for which RDI has purchased a Basin-wide license, analyze the data and offer follow-up support to businesses.

“The RDI’s purpose is to support informed decision making through the provision of relevant and timely research,” said Terri MacDonald, RDI Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development.

“With the valuable information collected through BC Business Counts in hand, decision makers and economic development practitioners in the Basin will be well positioned to provide targeted support to our local businesses.”

The first group to test the project will be the Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation (LCIC), a partnership between the Cities of Rossland and Trail, Villages of Warfield, Montrose and Fruitvale and Areas A and B of the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary.

The Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST) and Kootenay Rockies Innovation Council will also be taking part, focusing on the manufacturing and technology sector.

Other Basin communities, particularly those without an economic development officer or economic development plan, can look for support from RDI to develop capacity and understanding before moving ahead.

The project’s region-wide approach will allow the Basin as a whole to identify and respond to shared challenges, important in areas with limited resources or community capacity. It will also allow the information to feed into the State of the Basin Initiative, which monitors and reports on social, environmental and economic indicators and trends in the Basin. The State of the Basin data is expected to be available online in June 2012 at www.cbrdi.ca.

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Keeping spirits high at the fitness centre in the Village of Slocan

Submitted

Thank goodness for Slocan City’s Fitness Centre and all the options that are offered there, especially the services of Megan Bly, the in-house fitness instructor. She has been a certified personal trainer for over 10 years and locals are grateful for her expertise and personal guidance through the process of getting in better shape.

The Slocan Fitness Centre opened up three years ago this December and many citizens from all over the valley are coming in to take advantage of the centre on Harold Street. At this time of year, it is key to keep the body moving and local regulars are enjoying the natural high, strength and flexibility that they get after a session with Megan. “My spirits really are lifted and my daily life is enhanced from the work I do with Megan,” says one local.

Currently the Slocan Fitness Centre has strength machines, a brand new commercial treadmill and elliptical cross trainer machines. Plus, the centre just received $2,500 from the Slocan Legion for new equipment and new programs.

Arriving any day are more ‘free weights’ and a ‘pull up station’ and upgrades to the existing equipment. New programs will include a three-month guided circuit training program starting with a fitness testing at the beginning and at the end of the three months.

The fitness testing is free to all for the first week of January and the circuit training is free to pass holders through April. Passes start at $20 per month and the prices drop for extended passes. They are available at Mountain Valley Station.

For information call: 355-2484 or email slocanfitness@gmail.com.

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VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER
2012 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Council Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Village of New Denver Council Chambers at 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, BC, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

January 10th and 24th
February 14th and 28th
March 13th and 27th
April 10th and 24th
May 8th and 22nd
June 12th and 26th
July 10th and 24th
August 14th and 28th
September 11th and 25th
October 9th and 23rd
November 13th and 27th
December 11th and 25th

New residential care rates benefit low-income seniors

Submitted by Ministry of Health

About a quarter of seniors in residential care in BC will now receive up to an additional $600 a year.

The change is the result of the Province increasing the minimum monthly disposable income amount to accommodate a federal government supplement top-up of $50. Under a revised residential care rate structure, the monthly minimum disposable income amount will rise to $325, up from $275.

Raising the minimum amount will allow low-income seniors to keep the new federal Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) increase, which was announced by the federal government in July 2011. The GIS is a federal program which provides additional money to low-income seniors, on top of the Old Age Security pension.

Currently, residential care clients pay up to 80 percent of their after-tax income toward the room and board costs, provided they are left with at least $275 a month to cover personal expenses. The GIS increase led the Province to raise the amount retained by low-income seniors to $325 a month so they will not lose the extra income provided by the top-up.

New residential care rates, which take effect February 1, 2012, will range from $932 a month to a maximum of $3,022. Private pay rates are usually in the $4,000 to $5,000 a month range.

To set the client rates, the Province uses income tax data from the Canada Revenue Agency. The rate-setting process usually begins in August, and is completed in the fall. Rates are then provided to health authorities, who mail notification letters to clients, informing them of the new rates.

The provincial government subsidizes the room and board costs of over 90 percent of all residential care clients. No one who needs residential care services will be turned away as hardship provisions are available for those who are unable to pay. Every client will also continue to have 100 percent of the cost of health-care services provided in residential care facilities covered by the Province.

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Closed Dec 24 - Jan 15
Opening Jan 16
Main Street • New Denver

Merry Christmas
Season’s Greetings
and Happy New Year
to one and all,
from Walter Popoff,
Director, Area “H,”
RDCK
Small water systems: UBCM working group recommends changes to regulations

by Timothy Schafer

What is needed to deliver clean, potable water to homes across BC varies from urban to rural areas. But with the Province requiring one template for water treatment under the Drinking Water Protection Act (DWPA), the disparities between what rural areas have to pay to reach that bar and what urban areas are able to afford is accentuated.

The fight to get the provincial government to look beyond its DWPA requirements and instead at the carrying capacity of rural areas to deliver clean water has begun.

At the last Union of BC Municipalities convention in late September in Vancouver, Area D Director Andy Shadrack, member of the UBCM Small Water Systems Working Group, made a presentation directed at regulating.

filtration. They should also be self-
requiring several degrees of very costly
be exempt from DWPA guidelines
(from two to 24 connections) should
recommendations, micro-water systems
by rural water users.

Under the UBCM’s working group recommendations, micro-water systems (from two to 24 connections) should be exempt from DWPA guidelines requiring several degrees of very costly filtration. They should also be self-regulating.

Further, small water systems from 25 to 125 connections would be subject to DWPA guidelines, but also eligible for point-of-entry water treatment — a cheaper alternative than what the Act recommends — approved by a drinking water officer.

Small water systems would also be defined not by population, but by the number of connections, including commercial operators.

Any water system over 125 connections must meet DWPA requirements, Shadrack maintained.

“The objective is to try and find treatment requirements that meet the needs of rural people, and take into account the potential for disease to occur,” he said. “With really small systems they can’t afford to do centralized treatment. It’s not an option for a variety of reasons.”

The UBCM intends to present the Small Water Systems Working Group’s report to the Province. Although still essentially in draft form, the document makes recommendations on how to manage rural water systems with two or more connections. Currently, the Act’s provisions apply to all water systems with two or more connections.

The new proposal would re-design micro and small water systems, the UBCM working group recommends — approved by a drinking water officer.

The micro systems would have
and subdivision planning guidelines
that would need to be followed,
minimal expectations developed
a health promotion approach and have
an operating permit. They will also use
a construction permit, but will not require
the number of connections, including
commercial operators.

Under the proposal, a micro system has two to 24 domestic and residential connections (not commercial enterprises), are required to have a construction permit, but will not require an operating permit. They will also use a health promotion approach and have someone responsible for the water system and provide potable water.

The micro systems would have minimal expectations developed that would need to be followed, amalgamation or service cooperation, and subdivision planning guidelines
created that would apply to commercial
or public enterprises (campgrounds,
motels, service stations).

In shifting from an enforcement model under the DWPA towards the health promotion model in the proposal, Shadrack said micro-system users would need to know the risks of the water they receive. Guidelines for the health promotion model would need to be created.

For surface water treatment, the policy suggested a two-barrier approach, depending on the source water quality. It also asked for flexibility for virus reduction, to make point-of-entry filtration more accessible in cases with good source water.

In his presentation, Shadrack explained that of the eight notable BC water outbreaks since 1995, neither chlorine nor UV alone would have been sufficient to treat the pathogens. UV treatment is effective for bacteria, viruses, giardia and cryptosporidium, while chlorine helps with some bacteria (like E-coli), some viruses and disinfection in the distribution system.

Contamination comes from human activity — development, logging, industry, agriculture, recreation — animal activity, including feces and dead or decaying matter, and natural events like flooding or erosion.
RDCK improves transit system with new Nova bus, extra run

submitted

Transit service to the North Shore and to Castlegar just got a little better.

The RDCK board of directors approved changes to the region’s transit system in consultation with BC Transit, expanding the transit fleet to include a 40-foot Nova bus for the Nelson to Castlegar transit route.

This bus is expected to provide expanded capacity and greater comfort for transit users. It has 33 seats and a capacity of 75 with standing room, compared to the existing 29-seat International bus. An extra run was also added to that route to accommodate commuters. The Nova began service on Monday, December 12.

“We hope that by providing expanded service, ridership will increase, and the new bus will address the capacity issues that we have been experiencing” said Randy Matheson, transit coordinator at the RDCK. “This could take more vehicle traffic off of what is a busy corridor. We anticipate that greater transit usage will equate to a reduction in greenhouse gases.”

The RDCK and BC Transit have also initiated a new bus service to the Blewett area consisting of three return trips per day to and from Nelson. The six-month pilot project, which started on November 14, will be monitored to determine the service’s usage and viability.

For bus schedules and route information for the Nelson/Castlegar service or the Blewett service, visit: http://www.bctransit.com/regions/cko. For North Shore/Balfour service info, visit: http://www.bctransit.com/regions/nl/?p=2.list.

submitted

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival is making a public call for submissions for the sixth annual event on March 3, 2012 at the Bosun Hall in New Denver.

Whether you are a seasoned filmmaker, accomplished mountain adventurer, or someone who would like the opportunity to share a story from the mountains, you are encouraged to submit an entry. Content boundaries are wide open, with the only qualifier being the subject of “mountains.” Past festivals have featured films and photo essays on topics ranging from tobogganing to ice climbing, wildlife to culture, mountain biking to whitewater kayaking. Submissions that are shorter in duration have a better chance of being selected, and entries must be all-ages appropriate.

For the first time ever, the North Valley Mountain Film Festival introduces a multi-media storytelling format to the regular lineup. Festival organizers are actively encouraging local filmmakers and photographers to add a personal storytelling touch to presentations.

The festival would like to celebrate the mountains through sharing stories, discoveries and insights – in fifteen minutes or less. Please include a script for this format.

The deadline for submissions of films, photo essays or multimedia presentation proposals is January 31, 2012. Please submit entries (preferably in DVD format) to Gary Parkstrom, Box 377, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0.

Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like your DVD returned. For more information, please contact Gary (parkstrom@gmail.com; 250-358-2164).
New Denver fire department saves house, but shed burns

by Jan McMurray

A fire at a New Denver residence on December 5 did some damage, but the house was saved, thanks to the quick response of the New Denver Volunteer Fire Department.

Jeff Piliner and Ana Bokstrom, who are staying at the Skrenes house just north of New Denver, were awakened on the morning of December 5 to their son, Atli, telling them, “There’s a fire in the back!” The shed, about 15 feet behind the house, was ablaze.

“It was a wall of orange,” recalls Piliner. “The flames were curling just underneath the eaves, and the house is three storeys, so they were probably 20-foot flames. It was pretty spectacular.”

Luckily, Wilf Wilson, a member of the fire department, had already seen the fire and alerted Fire Chief Leonard Casley. Within 15 minutes of Bokstrom’s 911 call, the local firemen were on the scene.

“We had been standing inside at the back of the house overlooking the fire and listening to the windows cracking, praying that they’d be coming soon. Lo and behold we saw the lights flashing on the ceiling as the trucks arrived,” said Bokstrom.

She said the firemen had the fire under control very quickly, and they remained there “until there wasn’t a whiff of smoke emanating from the pile. It was amazing and reassuring to see them perform their duties with such speed and efficiency. If the crew had been 10 minutes later, we would have lost everything and been homeless.”

The shed housed firewood, a new wood boiler and a backup oil boiler, which was turned off at the time. The wood boiler was in use, heating water for the in-floor heating system and for the hot water supply in the house. “Either it malfunctioned or it was a chimney fire,” said Bokstrom. The cause has not been determined.

Several windows cracked, and soffits and fascia on the roof melted. Until the boilers are replaced, the house is being heated by electric heaters and there is no hot water.

“All things considered, there was minimal damage,” said Piliner. “Another 10-15 minutes, and it would have been a totally different story. It’s made us realize what’s important in life – we’re just glad to be alive.”

A Christmas bird count in New Denver

All bird lovers are called to join the New Denver Christmas bird count on January 3. This is the New Denver area’s first year to participate in the count, which occurs in many communities across Canada, including Nakusp, the Okanagan Thompson, lower Fraser Valley and the east coast of Vancouver Island. The count began in the late 1800s in eastern North America. Its standards are issued by the key sponsoring organization, the Audubon Society in New York. New Denver’s bird count will include Silverton, Sandon, Rosebery and Hills. All birds seen throughout the day are counted or their numbers estimated if seen in flocks. The count will take place between 8:30 am and 4 pm, with volunteers devoting whatever time they can within those hours. Interested residents can also observe their own bird feeders. Some species are seen only at feeders and those counts can really embellish the day’s results. To volunteer, call Richard Johnson at 250-358-2590.

May the Blessings and Joy of the Christmas season be with you throughout the coming year.

Box Lake Lumber Products Ltd. • Nakusp, BC

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from your friends at Arrow Lakes Ready Mix

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Merry Christmas and Season’s Greetings

To all our business contacts, friends and neighbours:
Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Crossley, Shawn, and Dean of Scot Norsemen Enterprises
Nakusp, BC

Wishing our friends, neighbours and customers an exhilarating holiday season!

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“Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year from our home to yours. Thank you to all our valued customers for your continued support this year.”

Call us for your entertaining needs: Meat and cheese trays, veggie trays, fruit trays, apple and/or sweets trays. Gift certificates and gift baskets available. Delivery service available in the New Denver and Silverton area. Order by 2:00 pm for same day delivery. Call 250-358-2270 or email your order to shopnewmarket@gmail.com. Freezer packs still available.

Our holiday hours are:
December 24 8:00 am - 4:00 pm • December 25 & 26 Closed • January 1 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Every other day we will be open our regular hours 8:00 am - 6:00 pm.

Salon of the Arts 2012 submitted

During the month of January, the work of some 35 North Kootenay Lake artists is on display in both galleries at the Langham Cultural Centre.

With the opening night reception on Friday, January 27, at 7 pm. This popular event is a mélange of performances by Kaslo and area actors, musicians and storytellers along with the live and silent auction of items solicited from local businesses, galleries and artists.

This annual fundraising event sustains Art Walk, the Saturday Market, the Banner Project, and the Scholarship Fund. The auctioneers always inspire generous and competitive bidding.

General inquiries can be directed to David Stewart at 366-4623 or 354-5368.

Nakusp council appointments made at inaugural meeting by Jan McMurray

Members of Nakusp council were appointed to the following committees:
- Mayor Hamling - Community Consultative/Community Health; Downtown/Park Select Committee; Ferry Advisory Committee; RDCK Director; Music Festival Committee; Labour Relations.
- Councillor Duchaine - Music Festival Committee; Nakusp and Area Development Board; Chamber of Commerce.
- Councillor Hughes - Recreation Commission #4; Hot Springs Commission; Music Festival Committee.
- Councillor Mueller - Hot Springs Commission; Library; RDCK Alternate/Resource Recovery Committee; Tourism Advisory Committee (liaison); Age Friendly Committee (liaison).
- Councillor Zeleznik - Community Forest; Provincial Emergency Program; Nakusp and Area Development Board. All council members were appointed to the Committee of the Whole, Finance Audit Committee, Pride Week, and council and senior management quarterly meetings.
Annual General Meeting

The Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend the 2012 AGM

Tuesday, January 24th
6:00 pm
Caffe Lago
RSVP 250-265-4234

(Mark your calendar now.)

The Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce relies on the creativity and hard work of its volunteer Board of Directors. We will miss the board members who will be leaving at the end of their terms in January.

Kathy Bone 5 years of service
Vall Hill 5 years of service
Kim Reich 4 years of service
Angela Mowbray 3 years of service
Connie Wethal 3 years of service
Michele Williams 3 years of service
Stephanie Scambler 2 years of service
Sondra Krajewski 1 year of service.

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of the Chamber!

Slocan, BC
Office: 250-355-0088
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email: kfurnace@netidea.com

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Season’s Greetings to our Friends and Neighbours

Kootenay Furnace
Internet societies in Burton and Edgewood working on final expansions

by Jan McMurray

Burton Internet Society and Edgewood Community Internet Society are both working on their final expansions.

Both received $50,000 in Network BC funding in the summer, and the Burton Internet Society recently received $5,000 from the RDCK’s Community Development fund.

Burton Internet Society (BIS) put up its third tower this summer, on Marshall Mountain. The original one is on Mt. Naumolton and the second one is at Burton Community Hall.

The society also put up solar panels and back-up propane generators at all three sites this year. Rosalie Crana of BIS explained that they had been using a water generating system for power, but it was freezing up in winter.

The new Marshall Mountain tower required a Crown land lease, which took seven months to get. Crana said this delay resulted in cost overruns, so they turned to the RDCK for assistance.

BIS has about 85 customers and will have around 100 by next summer. “That will cover everyone we can feasibly reach,” said Crana.

The Edgewood Community Internet Society (ECIS) is working on their plans to expand into three unserviced areas: Whatshan, an area west of Edgewood and an area east of Edgewood.

“It’s a work in progress,” reported Ella Michiels of the ECIS, “We are trying to determine what infrastructure is needed.” ECIS works with In the Air Networks out of Kelowna for technical support.

The society currently has a tower on Goat Mountain, a tower at Whatshan and an access point at Applegrove. Eighty-five customers are currently served by ECIS, and Michiels was not sure how many more would be served by the expansion. But she was sure that this expansion would complete the society’s coverage goals.
RDCK will make funding application for Mt. Buchanan Recreation Area

by Jan McMurray

The Mt. Buchanan Recreation Area Project gets a kick at the can after all for funding under the BC Community Recreation Program.

The RDCK will make the application on behalf of the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation Society (KORS) for the project. The Village of Kaslo was approached, but decided instead to apply on behalf of the Arena Association and Curling Club for ice plant upgrades.

The Mt. Buchanan project budget is $150,000. KORS is applying for a $120,000 grant from the BC Community Recreation Program, has $25,000 pledged from the CBT, and will raise $5,000 through fundraising efforts.

The project has four steps, starting with planning. A document prepared by the KORS Grant Committee outlining the project states that this first step will likely take one to two years. Planning will begin with an application to the Recreation Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations for a recreation tenure over the area. The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) will apply for the recreation tenure, as Mt. Buchanan is part of the KDCFS licence area.

This first step of the project will also include the development of a detailed land use plan and cost analysis. “Numerous groups and individuals will be consulted, including a thorough public consultation involving community input,” states the document.

Step two will address the issue of access into the area; step three will be to develop the trail system (three-metre-wide cross-country ski trails and narrow single-track biking and hiking trails); and step four will be to build cabins, shelters and a permanent bike skills park in the area.

The Mt. Buchanan area is in the tenure of the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) whose board has endorsed the project proposal. It is likely that KDCFS will apply for the recreation tenure, not KORS, but that has not yet been decided.

At a special KDCFS meeting November 29, the recreation tenure process was outlined by Justin Dexter, Recreation Officer (Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) and his assistant, Travis Mitchell.

Dexter explained that once the application is submitted, all agencies that could be affected by the application are identified. These agencies are contacted and asked to provide input on the application within a certain time period, usually 60 or 90 days.

Dexter addresses any issues raised during the review period. Assuming there are no “show-stopping complaints,” a Section 57 authorization letter is offered to the applicant. This authorization usually comes with conditions.

The area then becomes a recreation site, tenured to the Kootenay Boundary Recreation Branch of the ministry. A partnership agreement must be established between the Recreation Branch and the organization assuming responsibility for meeting the established objectives of the recreation tenure area. The partnership agreement requires an operating plan.

Dexter said that KDCFS could sign the partnership agreement, or both KDCFS and KORS could sign the partnership agreement and be in joint partnership with the Kootenay Boundary Recreation Branch. The other option is for KORS to ‘sub-partner’ under KDCFS.

Once the partnership agreement is finalized, the tenure is gazetted and the area is officially a recreation tenure area.

Dexter explained that multi-use tenures are regarded more favourably than proposals that are restrictive, i.e. non-motorized use only. He said that Crown land is always public – a recreation tenure does not impose restrictions on individual members of the public.

When asked about the Nordic cabin recently built in the proposed Mt. Buchanan Recreation Area, Dexter said it is not in danger of being removed by the Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) branch of the ministry as long as there is an application for a recreation tenure underway; and in any case, not before May 9, 2012.

As a result of a complaint from a member of the public about the cabin being built on Crown land without authorization, the C&E branch issued a fine for $173 and ordered the cabin removed by December 9.

Secret Garden Toys
wishes readers of the Valley Voice a Safe and Happy Holiday!

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Season’s Greetings from Barry, Judy & the staff

Tired of desktops that only do one thing?

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455 Ward St. Nelson
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Holiday Hours:
Dec 24 – 9-4
Dec 25 & 26 – closed
Dec 31 – 9-5
Jan 1 – closed

250-355-2403

Season’s Greetings from all of us at Cornucopia in Kaslo!
FLIKS presents *Buck* in Nakusp

FLIKS is back in Nakusp with its eclectic, independent, and often hard to find films.

Entering its eighth season, FLIKS presents the Sundance Film Festival award winning Buck – the story of horse wizard Buck Brannaman – on Monday, January 16 at 7 pm at the Bonnington Arts Centre.

Winning rave reviews and selling out across North America, the enthralling Buck isn’t just for horse nuts.

“Your horse is a mirror to your soul, and sometimes you may not like what you see. Sometimes, you will.”

So says Buck Brannaman, a true American cowboy and sage on horseback who travels the country for nine grueling months a year helping horses with people problems.

Buck, a richly textured and visually stunning film, follows Brannaman from his abusive childhood to his phenomenally successful approach to horses.

Winner rave reviews and selling out across North America, the enthralling Buck isn’t just for horse nuts.

A real-life “horse-whisperer,” he exchews the violence of his upbringing and teaches people to communicate with their horses through leadership and sensitivity, not punishment.

Buck possesses near magical abilities as he dramatically transforms horses – and people – with his understanding, compassion and respect.

In this film, the animal-human relationship becomes a metaphor for facing the daily challenges of life. A truly American story about an unsung hero, Buck is about an ordinary man who has made an extraordinary life despite tremendous odds.

*FLIKS.ca* for the trailer, and to learn about the rest of the FLIKS season, please go to www.FLIKS.ca.

Run time: 86 minutes, rated PG. Tickets are $10 for non-members and $8.50 for FLIKS members. Memberships are $5 and last a full year. For more information, to view the trailer, and to learn about the rest of the FLIKS season, please go to www.FLIKS.ca or email info@FLIKS.ca.

Season’s Greetings from the Spectrum Business Centre

412 Broadway

**Shirley**

Century 21 Mountainview Realty Ltd.

shirley@century21nakusp.com

250-265-8040

**Barbara**

Spectrum Home & Family Care

spectrumcares@telus.net

250-265-3842

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Merry Christmas from Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic

**Holiday Hours:**

Office Closed December 22 – January 2

Office Reopens 11:00 am, January 3

ROYAL LEPAGE

From the staff of Royal LePage Selkirk Realty in Nakusp

**Seasom’s Greetings**

The Valley Voice December 14, 2011
Mungall hosts Meadow Creek meeting

Resident roads – who is responsible for maintaining them and who is liable for them? These were some of the questions explored at a public meeting held by Kaslo council December 8.

The Village of Kaslo will be responding to the provincial government’s call for public comments about resource roads, and will include the input of the handful of people who attended the meeting. Council has also asked the Kaslo & District Community Forest and Area D Director Andy Shadrack for their input.

The BC government is working towards the development of the Natural Resource Road Act, and is asking for public input until December 15. Visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/nrra for more information and to make a submission.

Keeping resource roads open and having some measure of local control were the two messages that came through at the meeting. “Stop them from closing access to the backcountry,” said one citizen. “How much money has the Village lost because they have limited access to Kee Creek Road?”

It was pointed out that these roads are very important for tourism and recreation in the area, and for firefighters in the event of a wildfire. It was also pointed out that the creation of the Natural Resource Road Act may be in response to issues surrounding resource roads in northern BC. “One size doesn’t fit all,” said Councillor Rob Lang, who chaired the meeting. He suggested that the province be divided into regions, and that there be a regional manager to look after the resource roads in each region.

Although everyone at the meeting seemed to agree with the idea of local control, most were wary of setting up yet another government department.

Lang also suggested that roads may need to be prioritized. “Is it realistic that all resource roads can be kept and maintained or should we identify critical roads and insist that government take responsibility for those and deactivate the balance?” If there is a finite amount to be spent on roads, there may have to be prioritization.

People at the meeting generally agreed that liability should be limited to government, with ‘Use at your own risk’ signs at the entrances to the roads.

One resident complained that the government does not allow private citizens to maintain the roads on a volunteer basis. Lang suggested encouraging the government to allow volunteer groups to take some of the responsibility for maintenance, without having to take on the liability.

Information on the website states that the main objective of the Natural Resource Road Act Project is to streamline legislation for resource roads, which are currently governed under several different Acts. The new Act will simplify things, and will create certainty about rules and regulations, and provide consistency for all sectors and resource road users.

The website explains that under the new Act, government will assign maintenance responsibilities to the primary user of the resource road in question. The Act will support non-industrial sufferers to take on responsibility for roads that are no longer required by industry. All industrial and some commercial users of the road will be required to contribute to maintenance when their level of use crosses a threshold that will be defined in the Act.

Government will be responsible for determining if and when a road will be deactivated. That decision will be primarily based on risk to the environment and the existence of a party willing to mitigate that risk.

The Act will ensure road users are accountable for following the rules of the road and the damage they cause to a road.

The new Act will include a locked viewing tower that will provide biologists an improved vantage for counting fish during the Gerrard spawn in the spring and the Kokanee spawn in August and September.

Columbia Power is supporting the construction of the new Gerrard rainbow viewing platform to the tune of $2,500. For more information about this project and the Friends of the Land, email landuse interns@icbc.ca.

Mungall is looking forward to a positive conversation and hearing some great ideas. There will be a panel of local experts to speak and answer questions, as well as information on how to move the local economy through the next stages of development.

For more information visit www.michellemungall.ca or call 1-877-388-4498 toll free.

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The Act will ensure road users are accountable for following the rules of the road and the damage they cause to a road.
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One TAIL GATE SANDER for dump truck. Will fit box opening of 74 inches. Sold on an “As-Is, Where-Is” basis. The sander may be viewed at the Village of New Denver public works yard located at 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, BC.

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Bids must be received no later than 4:00 pm, Thursday, January 05, 2012. Highest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

COMMUNITY
StopSmartMeters.ca announces recall initiative petition, urges BC Hydro not to throw away old meters

by Timothy Schafer

Smart meters aren’t a smart choice for people in BC, according to a new group organizing to stop their spread.

Called StopSmartMeters.ca, the Nanaimo-based group is calling for BC Hydro to instruct Corix, the installers of the new smart meters, not to dispose of the existing analogue electrical power meters they are removing.

By December 15, Corix has announced it will begin disposing of all the analogue meters it has collected while installing smart meters.

“As each fully functional and dependable analogue meter is disposed of, a little piece of democracy is lost,” said Walt McGinnis, spokesperson for StopSmartMeters.ca. “One by one, as the analogue meters are replaced by a microwave-emitting surveillance device, our rights and our freedoms are being stolen.”

He feels there is undue haste to get rid of the analogue meters and that this is a plan by BC Hydro and Corix so British Columbians will have no option but to stay with the new wireless hydrometers.

On November 24, StopSmartMeters.ca announced its intention to apply for an official initiative petition under the BC Recall and Initiative Act with the chief electoral officer, and their website (www.stopsmartmeters.ca) will allow people to pre-register for the vote. As of December 11 there were 2,324 people pre-registered.

Like the HST before it, the petition will require signatures from 10 percent of all registered voters in the province in each riding before a question can be formulated and a referendum vote held.

A referendum vote can only happen once every three years. In 2010, the HST vote was held, meaning, if enough signatures were gathered, a vote on the smart meter program cannot be held until 2013.

But through a new petition, Citizens for Safe Technology (CST) has collected 15,528 signatures against the installation of smart meters, with a goal of 100,000 by February 14. On November 24, CST presented the petition at the legislature in Victoria, asking Energy Minister Rich Coleman to halt the program until the BC Utilities Commission could conduct a review.

Citing reasons of health, privacy, cost, security and safety, John Horgan, NDP energy critic, spoke to the petition that called for a moratorium on the smart meter program (http://citizensforsafetechnology.org/).

McGinnis said some people believe the province has pushed ahead on the program without due diligence or public education, using “implied consent” as the basis of moving ahead with the program.

“There have been many reports of adverse health effects associated with exposure to electromagnetic radiation emitted from smart meters in other jurisdictions,” said McGinnis.

To register your refusal of a BC Hydro wireless smart meter, a form letter from the CST may be useful at: http://citizensforsafetechnology.org/alerts-and-updates-in-news-and-developments,85,0.

The CST said the letter was not a guarantee BC Hydro would not install a smart meter, but it eliminated the ‘implied consent’ argument they use to justify the installation of the meters without notification or permission.

According to the website, it is recommended that you keep copies of your letters, and perhaps post one by your meter.

People can send their letters via electronic mail to: smartmeters@bchydro.com and info.utilities@corix.com.

Over 80 local seniors attended Slocan Valley Recreation’s annual Seniors Christmas Tea, filling the Slocan Park Hall with holiday spirit.
Shadrack takes FortisBC to task over paltry cost savings for big energy savings

by Timothy Schafer

FortisBC is being taken to task by Area D Director Andy Shadrack for not making household energy conservation measures feasible.

As the energy giant airs their application for a rate review – asking for a residential inclining block rate – before the BC Utilities Commission, Shadrack has shaken the tree and posed some difficult questions.

In his two lengthy diatribes to the BCUC detailing the extent to which his family has attempted to cut their energy consumption since 2007 in the hope of reducing their energy bill, Shadrack admonished FortisBC for not designing their systems to reward those who reserve to conserve.

In fact, the rate system under which FortisBC operates is so skewed that Shadrack was outraged when he crunched the numbers of the cost to upgrade to more energy-conserving appliances and devices versus the lesser cost of their power bill. Shadrack found little savings due to a basic charge three times higher than the one BC Hydro offers.

In his letter, Shadrack said it would take his family almost 17 years for them to begin realizing cost recovery from the amount they have already paid out for energy-saving devices.

That length of time is disappointing, Shadrack noted, and he wonders why people would be moved to conserve if the break-even point was nearly 20 years away.

Shadrack pointed out to the BCUC that in the June to August 2011 billing period, despite a 34.5 percent drop in household energy consumption, the overall cost of electricity to his household rose by three percent compared to the electricity he was using five years ago.

During a 2009 rate design hearing, FortisBC said a reduction on the number of kWh consumed in any given year would not reduce either their bottom line or their ability to borrow capital for operating, Shadrack reported.

As a result, Shadrack felt FortisBC needed to set an inclining block rate with clear hard targets and a mechanism to get there. The commission agreed with Shadrack and told FortisBC to lower their basic charge.

However, although FortisBC's proposal before the BCUC contains an inclining block rate and they have agreed to lower their basic charge over time, they won’t be lowering it beyond the current basic charge.

But at the current basic rate of $29.34 per month, Shadrack feels FortisBC should reduce the basic charge to $9.78 – similar to the $8.98 BC Hydro charges – to give customers an incentive to reduce consumption. And any future rise in the basic charge should be tied to cost-centre increases, not electrical energy rate increases.

“The facts speak for themselves,” said Shadrack. “The more our household lowered its electrical consumption, the higher the unit cost of electricity rose.”

In 2011 the Shadrack household came very close to achieving a 50 percent reduction in electrical consumption. “When we started this project we had one goal: reduce our household consumption in such a way that the money invested was recouped before we had to replace the appliances and light bulbs that other residential households could follow in our footsteps,” he said.

Under FortisBC’s current rate design, Shadrack did not believe it was possible to recoup an investment in energy saving devices and, therefore, he felt it was highly unlikely that many FortisBC customers would follow their example.

“This our conclusion is that if ordinary folk cannot do it, it will not happen,” he said. “Many individuals and families simply do not have enough in their bank accounts to meet daily basic needs, let alone invest in energy saving devices.”

During a 2009 rate design hearing, FortisBC said a reduction in the amount of kWh they had to sell to customers would likely result in a financial savings to all customer classes, Shadrack wrote in his letter to the BCUC.

Allegedly, FortisBC noted a reduction in the number of kWh consumed in any given year would not reduce either their bottom line or their ability to borrow capital for operating, Shadrack reported.

But he is unconvinced FortisBC is ready to adopt the necessary changes for that sort of conservation. “Adoption of this ethic is the only way FortisBC can hope to achieve energy self-sufficiency without building new generation facilities,” he said.

FortisBC’s application is still before the BCUC with no move on the books to reduce the basic charge to the level Shadrack feels would create incentives for energy consumption.
Falcons Place second in Kelowna Tier 3 tournament.

The Nakusp Falcons fell one win short of their goal in a tier three tournament in Kelowna November 25-27. Nakusp lost their first game of the weekend to the home team, Kelowna, 5-3, but would re-group in the next game and be victorious, 4-0 over Surrey.

Goals were scored by Balske (McCoy, Mitchel Hascarl), Levi Cordingley would get two in the game (Zorn, Mitchel Hascarl) and Connor Reimer was awarded one (unassisted). Cam MacPherson got the shoutout.

Falcons won the next game as well with a hefty score of 7-3. Dylan Hascarl proved to be a force with five goals (Nishida, three assists going to Devlin and two unassisted), Nishida also got a goal (unassisted) and Zac Friedenberger put the seventh in (Reimer). This win would earn them enough points to advance straight to the final game versus Kelowna’s tier three team.

However, Nakusp lost the final game, 6-1. The lone goal was scored by AJ Hughes on a breakaway pass from McHernes.

Back in league play

The Nakusp Falcons tallied two more league points the first weekend in December as the team travelled to Kaslo to play the tier three Nelson/Kaslo combined team.

Kellan Nishida opened the scoring early in the first period with the assist going to Dylan Hascarl. Less than a minute later, Nathyn McHernes scored with the assists going to Connor Reimer, and Zac Friedenberger and Friedenberger made the game 3-1 when he scored on a pass from McHernes.

Falcons won the game 8-3 with Cam MacPherson being the net minder.

Falcons are off to Penticton to participate in the tier three tournament.
Enrolment down in SD8 Nelson-Creston and Selkirk College

by Timothy Schafer

Enrolments are declining across the region in both School District 8 (Nelson-Creston) and in Selkirk College’s regional campuses, but respective administrations aren’t ready to push the panic button.

The first enrolment total of the year for SD8 (as of September 30) was 5,086 by a ‘head count,’ a number that was down from initial estimates for the 2011-12 year.

However, some students take more than a full course load, and others take less than a full course load, a situation that makes the numbers misleading, said SD8 superintendent Jeff Jones.

For as full-time equivalent student load, a pro-rated SD8, there were 4,823 students registered in the district, a drop of 208 students from the final 2010-11 total of 5,031 students enrolled district-wide in full-time programs as recorded in June.

“Our enrolment is lower than we expected, mostly due to decreased enrolment in our distributed learning programs (DESK, Homelinks),” said Jones.

“The way that distributed learning programs are counted and which the ministry of education uses, is different than we expected, but about which the ministry insists on us accepting them,” said Jones. “However, there are many errors that the auditor’s observations with which we disagree – but about which the ministry has demonstrated no interest in pursuing with us.”

Three years ago SD8 lost around 120 students, and 80 fewer students were enrolled for the 2009-2010 school year. A drop in enrolment forced reorganization of schools in SD8 in 2007 when the district reconfigured schools in Nelson to Grade 5, Trafalgar became a reconfigured school contained in 2010.

From 2010 to 2011 that five years of reconfiguration saw the closure of several schools in the Nelson area, including Central Elementary School, Gordon Sargent Primary and A1 Collinston on the North Shore.

By the numbers: enrolment

SD8 schools that experienced growth of 20 or more FTE students included: Hume Elementary School (Nelson); Salmo Elementary School; Crawford Bay School; and Canyon/Lisster Elementary School.

Schools that experienced a decrease of 20 or more FTE students included: Salmo Secondary School; LV Rogers Secondary School (Nelson); South Nelson Elementary School; Prince Charles Secondary School (Creston); Erickson Elementary School; Homelinks; and DESK.

However, enrolment in the International Student program in SD8 is presently 90 (67 full time equivalent students), which is the highest fall enrolment in the history of the program. Enrolling schools to date are: Adam Robertson Elementary, Crawford Bay Elementary Secondary, Erickson Elementary, LV Rogers Secondary, Mt. Sentinel Secondary, Prince Charles Secondary, Salmo Elementary, South Nelson Elementary, and Trail Mountain College.

The countries represented this year in the program are: China, Korea, Germany, Mongolia, Venezuela, Mexico and Brazil.

College consensus

Enrolment at Selkirk College in 2010/11 declined to a utilization rate (capacity) of 83 percent overall from a peak of 92 percent in 2009-10.

From 2010 to 2011 that represented a drop of 65 students, around 3.2 percent of the 2,022 full time equivalent students.

The drop in enrolment numbers are cyclical. “Generally, university transfer careers path, he said.

At issue were the Ministry of Education’s expectations SD8 remove First Nation students out of classrooms for different learning in order to quality to receive funding.

The Council and staff of the Village of New Denver would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Village Office hours over the holiday season are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 23</td>
<td>8:00 am – 12:00 noon (Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 24 - 27</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 28 - 30</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1-2</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 3</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Residential garbage collection will take place on Wednesday, December 28th (not Tuesday, December 27th). All other garbage collection will take place on regular scheduled days.

The December 27, 2011 Council Meeting has been cancelled.

In Trail, the student population increased by 62 students – the only campus to have a rise – to 338 (22.5 percent). The largest drop in enrolment for Selkirk is in industry and trades training, that fell by 20.9 percent, or 38 students, to 144 overall, while university arts and sciences transfer program enrolment is down 14 percent (60 students) to 369 people in 2011. The overall drop does not concern communications and development director Barry Auliffe since the 3.2 percent change is quite small – and enrolment numbers are cyclical.

“Generally, university transfer is a softer area for everyone right now,” he said. “And our size means a drop or rise of a few students in any one program makes a difference.”

Any drop in enrolment is linked to what the job marketplace is dictating as people choose their career path, he said.

Dog owners in the Village of New Denver are reminded that all dogs residing in the Village of New Denver are required to have a dog licence. There is a $15.00 discount for all dog licences purchased by February 15, 2012.

Licence fees are:

Unspayed Female…………………………………………....$50.00
Unneutered Male………………………………………….…$50.00
Spayed Female……………………………………………$25.00
Neutered Male…………………………………………….…$25.00

Christmas Lights, Light Bulbs, Misc, Etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Lights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light Bulbs</td>
<td>$4.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc, Etc.</td>
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Christmas Clearance specials

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King 15 Amp Cut-Off Saw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work Platform 11” X 30” X 1 1/2”</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 PC Drill Driver Bit Set (2 Only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 PC Titanium Drill Bit Set/ Travel Mug (2 Only)</td>
<td>$14.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Tall Neoprene Warm Gloves</td>
<td>$8.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>25” Evernmark True Value Tape Measure</td>
<td>$9.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stainless Steel Hydration Bottle</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Red Plastic Gas Can</td>
<td>$9.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Plastic Gas Can</td>
<td>$12.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy Duty Think Safe Work Glove Removable Felt Liner</td>
<td>$5.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tread Sleeping Bag - 5 Deg. 3 Lb 36”X86” Rectangular (2 Only)</td>
<td>$44.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat Boy Sleeping Bag - 30 Deg. Oversize 78” X 15” X 29” (2 Only)</td>
<td>$129.99</td>
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Christmas Specials

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<tr>
<td>Stainless Steel Hydration Bottle</td>
<td>$9.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-shirt – Canada</td>
<td>$9.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have a Safe and Very Happy Holiday!

Silverton Building Supplies

216 Lake Avenue, Silverton
Phone: 359-2283
Toll-free: 1-800-332-0588
sbs@silvertonbuilding.ca

Have a Safe and Very Happy Holiday!

Shore.

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By the numbers: enrolment

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From 2010 to 2011 that represented a drop of 65 students, around 3.2 percent of the 2,022 full time equivalent students.

The three campuses in Nelson were down 26 students to 533 in 2011, while Castlegar’s student body was reduced by 84 students to 960 – an eight percent drop.
Kaslo council, December 5: New economic development committee formed

by Jan McMurray

At Kaslo council’s inaugural meeting, appointments were made to the usual committees, and to a new committee: the Sustainable Economic Development Select Committee. Members of this new committee are Mayor Lay and Councillors Hewat, Holland and Lang.

Choosing the RDCK director and alternate director was a difficult decision for council. The first motion, to appoint Mayor Lay as director with Lay as alternate, was defeated. A second motion to appoint Lay as director and Holland as alternate, carried. Membership to other committees was appointed or affirmed as follows.

Acting Mayors: Councillor Hewart December-February; Councillor Holland March to May; Councillor Lang June-August; Councillor Leathwood September-November.

Development Services Standing Committee: Councillor Leathwood (chair), Mayor Lay (alt. chair), Councillors Hewat and Lang.

Development Services – City Hall Standing Committee: Councillor Leathwood (chair), Mayor Lay (alt. chair), Councillors Hewat and Lang.


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Development Services – City Hall Standing Committee: Councillor Leathwood (chair), Mayor Lay (alt. chair), Councillors Hewat and Lang.


Mayor Lay gave a mayor’s address, described as follows in the draft minutes of the meeting: “Mayor Lay expressed his privilege and honour in being able to serve the community as an elected official for a second term, and stated his role is to act as facilitator and mediator. He encouraged members of the public to communicate with their elected officials in all matters of concern. His goal will be to harness the knowledge and creativity of Kaslo’s citizens to ensure that the challenge of sustainable economic development is pursued with enthusiasm and confidence.”

由于没有明显的分类广告或活动，以下是我根据上下文做的推断：

- **HALF PRICE SALE**: 提供半价销售的优惠，可能与圣诞有关。
- **CHRISTMAS BAKING**: 提供圣诞烘焙，包括各种蛋糕和饼干。
- **CHRISTMAS BAKING**
- **HOME Gallery, KASLO 250-353-2257**: 提供家居用品，如床单、毛毯、洗护用品、库特尼珠宝和竹产品。
- **Slocan Valley Rail Trail**: 提供铁路小径的最新情况和最近的报道。
- **KEALY’S WELNESS CENTRE**: 提供多种类型的治疗，包括淋巴按摩、腕关节按摩、颅骶疗法、斯多马提奥等。
- **MOUNTAIN VALLEY STATION**: 提供餐厅服务。
- **COINS RENTALS**: 提供各种租赁服务，如锤钻、混凝土搅拌机、混凝土切割机、激光水平仪、燃气柱洞机、混凝土震动机、混凝土液化器、充电式割草机、固定式喷漆机和各种工具。

由于没有更多的上下文信息，我无法提供更详细的解释。
**Kootenay DanceBeat Christmas Solstice Dance**

Sat. Dec. 17, 7:30 - 10:00 pm, Playmore Function Centre. Taped music: Swing, Latin, Ballroom. Mini-lesson, refreshments, mixers & door prizes. ALL WELCOME. www.dancingbeat.ca

**FULL MOON SKI ON THE TRAIL** - Be part of the fun! This year it takes place on Saturday, December 24 from 6:30 and 8:00 pm. It takes place 1.5 km north of Perry Skiing or 2 km south of the Lemon Creek Trailhead. Visit www.slocanvalleyrecreation.ca for more details.

**SLOCAN VALLEY ARENASOCIETY** will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the rink in Silverton. Everyone welcome! ST. MATTHEWS - Instead of their longstanding traditional Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols, the congregation of St. Matthew’s Church in South Slocan welcomes you to a Children’s/Family Christmas service on the afternoon of December 18 at 4:00 pm. All families with children, uncles and aunts, grandparents and friends are warmly invited to celebrate Christmas and take part in the telling of the first Christmas through songs and stories. You can easily find St. Matthew’s Church at #3370 South Slocan Village Road.

**FOR RENT**


**NEWER QUALITY COTTAGE**


**WINLAW 3 BEDROOM**

Sunny home, 2 bathrooms, 1500 sq. ft., appliances, electric heat, beautiful view of Frog Peak, utilities and security deposit. Call 250-675-358-2177.

**FOR SALE**

MOVING SALE - Household items, antique chairs, walnut hall table, oak bench, round oak table, wing chair 358-2251.

**TWO LEFT-HAND CORN**


**FULL MOON SKI ON THE RAIL**

www.slocanvalleyrailtrail.ca for more details.

**Annual Christmas Service**

Christmas service on the afternoon of December 24 at 5:30 and 8:00 pm. It takes place on Sunday, January 6 between 6:30 and 8:00 pm. It takes place at #3370 South Slocan Village Road. Location: Bijou Hair Salon, 564 Ward St. - Household items, perishable food items will go to support St. Mary’s Mission 

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

Referrals will be served following the service. Any offering of money or non-perishable food items will go to support St. Mary’s Mission food cupboard in Nelson.

**BIJOU ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE**

Featuring local designers who specialize work nationally. Ceramics, housewares, jewelry, textiles, illustrations, clothing and more. Many lovely gifts under $20. On Sunday the 17th. Enphants cakes will be selling delicious and delectable holiday treats. Sunday the 18th, the Nelson roller derby team the Kilroys will have a bake sale featuring scrumptious homemade pies. In addition, the artists will donate 5% of their Sundae sale to support the food bank. Location: Bijou Hair Salon, 564 Ward St. (just down from Ono) Sat. Dec. 17, 10-9 and Sun., Dec. 18, 10-3.

**FOR RENT**

ONE BEDROOM CABIN in Nakups. Non-smoker, quiet person, no pets. References required. $460 per month plus utilities and security deposit. Call 250-675-2661 or 250-265-1149.

**SALE**

**FOR RENT**

3 BEDROOM STARRA STAIRS home, New, and still in boxes. $5,500. 250-265-4515.
Covered storage available for RV and/or room, large deck. Excellent condition.

PROPERTY FOR SALE by owner.

ALANON MEETINGS
FOR INFORMATION ON AA OR seeking December 14, 2011
The Valley Voice

Serving the Valley 7 days/wk, 24-hr. All-Around commercial, industrial wiring. Local

MEMORIALS can be sent to the Arrow Lakes home on Silverqueen Road, Burton, BC.

100% organic sourdough bread baked in a traditional wood-fired bread oven
Available at Rutabaga’s, New Denver • Slocan Village Market, Slocan • Gaia Tree, Winlaw

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Selkirk Paving has received a government award, L to R: Chief Operating Officer Dave Byng, Tony Maida (Selkirk), Shawn Rokosh (Selkirk), Deputy Minister Grant Main.

Crescent Valley company one of BC’s best road builders
submitted
Selkirk Paving of Crescent Valley has won this year’s Deputy Minister’s Contractor of the Year Award for its paving work on the Fernie Ski Hill project.

The company was recognized for its work on the $5.5-million project to resurface Highway 3, from 12 kilometres east of Elkso to Fernie Ski Hill Road, and for delivering a high-quality product under very tight timelines.

Selkirk, Paving was recipient of the Ministry of Transportation Deputy Minister Award for quality in 2007 for the successful completion of the Toby Creek Road project.

The Deputy Minister’s Contractor of the Year Awards recognize construction and maintenance companies demonstrating excellence in the categories of grading, paving, bridges and structures, and highway maintenance work throughout the province. The ninth annual awards were hosted by the BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association on December 2 in Victoria.
New Denver council inaugural meeting

by Jan McMurray

New Denver’s inaugural meeting on December 5 was attended by several family members of the new councillors, and by former mayor Gary Wright. After the mayor and councillors were sworn in, Wright commented, “Finally, the Village is in good hands!”

Appointments were made as follows:

**Public Works and Water Standing Committee** - Councillors Henning von Krogh and Nadine Raynolds and Mayor Ann Bunka;

**General Affairs Standing Committee** - Councillors David Hodsall and Heather Fox and Mayor Bunka; Finance and Administration

Standing Committee - Mayor Bunka, Councillor Fox; RDCK director - Mayor Bunka, Alternate - Councillor von Krogh; West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District Board - Councillor von Krogh, Alternate - Mayor Bunka; Building Design Review

**Committee/Council**

- **Director**
  - Mayor Bunka
- **Alternate**
  - Councillor von Krogh

**Public**

- **General Affairs Standing Committee** - Councillor Fox, Alternate - Councillor von Krogh
- **Finance and Administration Standing Committee** - Mayor Bunka, Alternate - Councillor von Krogh
- **RDCK Director** - Mayor Bunka
- **West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District Board** - Councillor von Krogh
- **Building Design Review** - Mayor Bunka
- **Heritage Advisory Committee** - Councillor Raynolds
- **Recreation Commission #6** - Councillor Hodsall
- **Slocan District Chamber of Commerce** - Councillor Raynolds, Alternate - Councillor Hodsall
- **Carbon Neutral Kootenays** - Councillors Fox, Raynolds and Hodsall
- **Municipal Emergency Program** - Mayor Bunka
- **Signing Authority** - all members of council, administrator and deputy administrator
- **Banking Institution** - KSCU
- **Auditor** - Berg Naqvi Lehmann

---

**MLA Michelle Mungall is Hosting a Community Meeting**

**Economic Development Next Steps:**

- Forestry, Mills & Community Involvement
- Thursday December 15
- Lardeau Valley Community Hall
- 6:30-8:00pm

All Welcome

Light refreshments will be served

A Strong Voice

Standing Up For You

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**Santa Plow Special**

Yamaha Grizzly 700

(This model has Power Steering and is Fuel Injected)

& 3000 lb Superwinch & Tri Plow

$10,788.00

(includes PDI & freight —limited quantities)

Season’s Greetings from Lex, Gal, Chad & the staff.

Jones Boys Boats will be closed from Dec 23 — Jan 3

---

**Seasons Greetings**

From Pat & Peggy and the staff at Mountain Valley Station, Slocan

“Your little store with more for less!”

We will be open on Christmas Day & New Year’s Day 12 - 4

On Boxing Day, we will be hosting our 5th Annual “Family Fun Skate” at the outdoor rink in Slocan from 1 - 4. We supply the hotdogs and hot chocolate – You supply the FUN!!!!

---

**Warm Wishes This Holiday Season**

All the Best for the New Year

Michelle Mungall, MLA Nelson-Creston "Opportunity exists for Advanced Education, Youth & Labour Market Development"
December 14, 2011  The Valley Voice

COMMUNITY

Slocan Counseling

Provincial Recreation Grant

by Dan Nicholson

The Village of Slocan showed its typical can-do spirit at the inaugural meeting of the village council, December 3. Word of the Community Recreation Program grant has been circulating in the community, and has attracted the attention of two groups with proposals to spend the money.

Jamie Ingram attended on behalf of the Slocan Curling Club to pitch upgrades and improvements to the Slocan Curling Rink. According to Ingram, the building needs renovations. He cited problems with the insulation and the front of the structure. “The rink is not in very good shape.” He noted that the building was over 50 years old and that very little maintenance had been performed on the building during that time.

Rory Lindsay had a proposal for a waterfront promenade. It involved a paved path along the lakefront and river, and interpretive signage.

The Community Recreation Program provides grants of up to $300,000 over five years for community recreation facilities. Costs are split, with the province paying up to 80% of the cost and the municipality picking up the other 20%. The deadline is fast approaching.

CAO Jack Richardson advocated caution. “There will be other grant opportunities. We should take some time, do a proper evaluation. This isn’t free money, the village has to come up with its share. If we choose a $500,000 project, then we have to come up with $100,000. That’s a challenge with our limited tax base.”

Both Lindsay and Ingram agreed that their projects could be done in stages. Lindsay pointed out that, since the grants were to run for five years, the village would likely be able to make payments over time.

Council agreed that both proposals had merit, and agreed to meet again before the deadline to consider which project to endorse.

Committee Appointments:
Waterfront Committee: Hillary Elliot, Jean Patterson
Library Committee: Patricia McGreal, Jean Patterson
Seniors Housing Committee: Hillary Elliot, Jean Patterson

Joyeux Noël

Slocan Village Council: Mayor Madeleine Perriere, Councillor Hillary Elliott, Councillor Jessica Lunn, Councillor Patricia McGreal, Councillor Jean Patterson.

Come and enjoy our festive atmosphere, exquisite desserts and unique Mexican cuisine made with our own exclusive recipes since 1981.

OPEN SATURDAY EVENINGS TILL CHRISTMAS for GOURMET MEXICAN DINNERS $35/person or TAPAS ONLY $20/person

Two seatings: 5-5:30 and 7-7:30

Saturday, December 17
Musical guest: Folk Sensation Dominique Fraissard
Saturday, December 24
Evening of lights, champagne and strawberry delights

For our specialty menu each week, call us or check our Facebook page

Reservations Recommended: 250-358-7744

Card, original artwork & maple syrup

Deck the Walls
11 am to 4 pm Tuesday to Saturday
Nov. 23 to Dec. 23
featuring the work of Sharon BAMBER, Jan BURKS, Linda DIXON, Kim IZAIROVICH, Susan JANZEN, Kathleen JONES, Barbara MAYE, Patrizia MENTON, Lee ORR, Kate TUPPER & Jennifer CHOCOLATES

Joyeux Noël

Celebrate 30 Years!

the Wild Rose Mexican Restaurant

303 - 5th Avenue Nakusp • 250-265-8888

Slocan Village Council: Mayor Madeleine Perriere, Councillor Hillary Elliott, Councillor Jessica Lunn, Councillor Patricia McGreal, Councillor Jean Patterson.

Slocan Council hears proposals for Provincial Recreation Grant

Slocan Village Council: Mayor Madeleine Perriere, Councillor Hillary Elliott, Councillor Jessica Lunn, Councillor Patricia McGreal, Councillor Jean Patterson.

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CAO Jack Richardson advocated caution. “There will be other grant opportunities. We should take some time, do a proper evaluation. This isn’t free money, the village has to come up with its share. If we choose a $500,000 project, then we have to come up with $100,000. That’s a challenge with our limited tax base.”

Both Lindsay and Ingram agreed that their projects could be done in stages. Lindsay pointed out that, since the grants were to run for five years, the village would likely be able to make payments over time.

Council agreed that both proposals had merit, and agreed to meet again before the deadline to consider which project to endorse.

Committee Appointments:
Waterfront Committee: Hillary Elliot, Jean Patterson
Library Committee: Patricia McGreal, Jean Patterson
Seniors Housing Committee: Hillary Elliot, Jean Patterson

Joyeux Noël

Slocan Village Council: Mayor Madeleine Perriere, Councillor Hillary Elliott, Councillor Jessica Lunn, Councillor Patricia McGreal, Councillor Jean Patterson.

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The Kootenay forestry community gathered on Thursday, December 1 at Selkirk College Castlegar campus to discuss how the forest industry and communities can work together more effectively, as part of the province-wide Healthy Forests – Healthy Communities initiative.

About 60 people attended the dialogue, which was hosted by Selkirk College’s School of Environment and Geomatics, including students, forest industry professionals and members of the general public.

The event started out with a talk on the importance of communities in forest management by semi-retired registered professional forester (RPF) and Mayor of Kaslo, Greg Lay, and then moved on to a panel discussion by three people with plenty of on-the-ground experience in the industry: Brent Petrick, an RPF for 10 years and small woodlot owner; Stan Hadikin, woodlands manager at Kalenikoff Lumber and Jesper Neilsen, manager of the Nakusp Community Forest.

The panelists discussed big questions around the forest industry’s relationship to communities, such as: Why should the community be interested in forest management practices? Are communities currently involved in forest management? And, if not, what tools exist to facilitate community involvement in forest management?

While each panelist offered up his own perspectives on how to get communities involved in forest management, they generally agreed that residents of communities in the Kootenays have to be involved in their forests because forests play such significant roles in communities – both from an economic perspective and in terms of recreation and safety.

Suggestions for engaging communities in forest practices included more education, recognition of changing societal values, and panels of community members who oversee forest practices, much as school board trustees oversee management of schools in the region.

It was also noted that the public needs to know when they give input on forest management practices, it will be taken into account and acted upon.

When it was all said and done, chair of the Selkirk College Environment and Geomatics School, Derek Marcoux, said he was quite pleased with how the event turned out.

“It was really positive. There was a lot of constructive dialogue about how to shape the future of forest management and how communities can be involved,” Marcoux said. “People are leaving with a lot of energy and momentum they can take forward. Communities want to be involved and we need to create a mechanism so they can have a voice; so people have someone to turn to so they can say what their needs are.”

“The results of the forum will be added to those of similar discussions being held around the province and compiled into a report that will be handed to the provincial government.

To learn more, visit http://bcforestconversation.com or e-mail info@bcforestconversation.com.