The Valley VOICE

Free!

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Your independently owned regional community newspaper serving the Arrow Lakes, Slocan & North Kootenay Lake Valleys.

Easing restrictions won't save 2020 tourism year in Kootenays

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Province may be easing some pandemic-related restrictions, but people who rely on the tourism industry in the West Kootenay say the damage has already been done for this season.

"I think we are going to lose some businesses. I hope we don't but I think it is going to be very hard for a lot of businesses," says Barb Ross, the president of the Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce. Her family runs the Burton Cidery, along the shores of the Arrow Lakes. "Our valley is not a rich valley. And summer visitors are critical for our businesses."

Tourism-related activities were among the first to be affected by the pandemic. Most of the area's ski hills shut down even before the general lockdown. Hotels were soon to follow as the concern spread. Hot springs, parks and other community facilities closed. Gatherings of 50 or more people were banned, cancelling weddings, concerts and community festivals, which give a big economic boost to several towns in the region. And the general ban on travel has already affected two long weekends – Easter and May Days.

"Two weeks ago, accommodators were sitting from 0% to 14% occupancy, which is extremely low – they can't survive," says Dianna Ducs, executive director of Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism. Her group supports tourism from Nelson to Kaslo and area. "We need to get the numbers above 50% to keep the doors open."

Right now, Ducs says tourism revenues are expected to drop 60% this year – but that's only if they can get them to rise 40%, as revenues now are basically at zero.

"So it's pretty dire for the accommodators," she says.

After resource industries like forestry and mining, tourism is one of the largest employers in the region. Past studies have shown that 4,000-5,000 people earn their living from tourism in the Kootenays, employed by about 1,000 businesses.

A 2014 study found more than two million visitors came to the region annually, spending more than $650 million on local hotels, restaurants, and other activities.

"The economic churn is gone – there is a lot of money that is not being moved around right now because of tourism," says Ducs.

That 'churn' should already be starting. This is the preparation time for business, when they stock up on supplies, spruce up facilities, and hire summer staff.

"Patios would be starting to be built; it would be vibrant and lively. Garden markets would be occurring. Kaslo May Days and Logger Sports, and in Nelson we would have had a spring kickoff even in May," Ducs added. "By the end of May, we are doing pretty good. Then things skyrocket in July and August. So people aren't doing a lot of those preparatory things, or planning for the events."

Festivals fall

A big payday for many communities in the region is a weekend festival. From the Sunfest in Castlegar to Kaslo's Jazz Festival, the events bring tens of thousands of dollars to local communities. All have been cancelled.

Shutting down the Hills Garlic Festival was an agonizing, but straightforward decision, says the event's treasurer.

"We felt that for a number of reasons it's not appropriate to hold the festival," says Ellen Kinsel. "There's been no relaxation of the restrictions on large gatherings. We are very concerned about bringing that number of people into our community, because our infrastructure bends under the weight under normal conditions. We don't want to be responsible for bringing the virus to New Denver."

She says the festival not only fills hotels, restaurants and campgrounds locally with over 5,000 visitors, but it also raises around $15,000 for local recreation programs.

"Of course we are concerned about our own financial position. We're going to have a big loss," says Kinsel. "But we also feel badly we can't provide assistance to the organizations we usually help out. Some of them will be in the same situation and struggling."

And it also affects the vendors who come to sell their products at the Garlic Fest.

"It's Black Friday for them," she says, comparing the festival to the weekend retailers turn a profit before Christmas. "So we feel really badly, because so many of our vendors, this is how they make their money. This isn't their hobby – it's how they make their livelihood.

"That made it into our discussion too, but we couldn't see how we could do it with clear conscience."

The Garlic Festival will survive – thanks to cash reserves and a balanced budget for the last few years. But it still makes the future uncertain.

"We are always going to be playing catch-up. Yes we have reserves now, but how long will that last?" says Kinsel. "You always say, 'it's the rainy-day fund'. Well, this is it. It's as rainy as it gets."

Forging ahead on hope

But many tourism operators are just small operations, and can't hold out through the rainy day. Barb Ross and her team are working 12-hour shifts to keep the Burton Cidery's doors open, testing new activities to drum up revenue.

"This Sunday we're holding a

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The Maypole Dance in Kaslo happened – sort of – at the same time and place as it has every year since anyone can remember. When it looked like the longest consecutive annual Maypole Dance in North America was going to have to skip this year because of the pandemic, a couple of Kaslovians got together to make it happen. Tracy Wallace and Katie Sheldrick (this year's coordinator) set up the ribbons, arranged for musicians, and, 'distantly' danced around the pole with two others at 1 pm at Vimy Park on May Days Monday.

First chance for public comment on proposed Zincton ski resort

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A New Denver developer's plans to build a "world-class, all-season, backcountry-oriented mountain destination… complemented by a pedestrian-only environmentally sustainable Mountain Village" is about to get its first test of public support.

David Harley, who founded Valhalla Pure Outfitters, has plans to build a multi-million dollar resort near New Denver to attract skiers, mountain bikers, and hikers to the area.

His company, Zincton Farms, has just posted a request for public comments on the project's Expression of Interest (EOI) document. An EOI is the first step in the long approval process for all-season resort proposals.

"The Zincton community plan is not finalized of course, but it will be a complete reset on what a ski community can become. It rewrites the established norms compared to all existing ski areas – which usually follow a 50-year-old model centred around parking lots and condos," Harley told the *Valley Voice* in an email. "Except for a couple chairlifts, maybe three, all development excluding the backcountry Lodge will be on 1,000 acres of private land that my wife Kelley and I have owned for close to 20 years."

According to documents filed by Harley to New Denver Village council and the Mountain Resorts Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the project will be a year-round facility that will bring a lot of jobs and investment to the area. Staff accommodation will be provided.

Built on a bench with 12,000 acres of skiable area, the project is bigger than Whistler and Blackcomb combined, says the EOI summary. It notes a 7,000-foot difference from the parking lot to Whitewater peak, with terrain of varying difficulty. The area receives up to 60 feet of snow in winter.

"Our inspiration is Murren in Switzerland, across from the Eiger," Harley said in his email. "Zincton will also sit way up on a sunny bench way above the valley bottom, and access will be via gondola."

The project is about eight kilometres from New Denver along Highway 31A. Parking just off the highway, resort users would take a gondola to a mountain village designed to be walkable and eco-friendly. The village, on Harley's private property at the Three Forks end, will have private cabins, B&Bs and bunkhouses – but no hotels or condos. It won't have a day lodge, but rather a developed commercial area with restaurants, bars, spas, general store, and other resort-related businesses.

A four-star backcountry lodge below Whitewater Peak that can accommodate about two dozen guests nightly is included in the plans.

"The proposed development will blend the lift-serviced recreation experience offered at traditional mountain resorts with an extensive and accessible backcountry offering increasingly being sought by the skier marketplace," the EOI states.

"This range of winter experiences will be matched in summer by a hiking and mountain bike trail network offering challenging hikes, epic rides, and a backcountry mountain experience, says the report. "The trails will range from short, accessible trails to full-day mountain adventures for the more ambitious."

The resort could comfortably handle up to 1,750 skiers daily, the EOI says.

It is expected to first open by 2022, and take about eight years to complete.

Environmentally friendly

The developer says one of its guiding principles is to "establish a destination that government, industry, and the public will recognize as a leading example of environmentally sensitive, socially and culturally responsible development."

The development is designed to be "near carbon-zero" says the EOI report, using run-of-river electric power, solar panels, and battery reserves. The layout of the village and trails for skiing and biking encourage human-powered movement throughout the facility. A long-range master bike trail plan would see those trails connecting to other regional routes.

"It is the first ski community in the world to join Yvon Chouinard's '1% for the planet,' so our approach comes from a 'preserve and protect' stewardship mindset," Harley's email says. "Low-impact, human-powered activities without burning diesel or jet fuel is our pathway."

A full environmental study of the area is still to be completed. The report notes that initial online research found one Blue-listed plant species in the area 40 years ago, and there may be several species of rare dragonflies on a nearby lake. Blue-listing means a species is vulnerable in that area.

The report says mountain caribou are designated as extinct in the area, and no signs of other ungulates were found. Several varieties of fish, including rainbow trout, can be found in nearby lakes and creeks.

Economic benefit

The project would create over 200 jobs from the resort itself to associated restaurants, spas, retail and other facilities, and another 100 spinoff jobs regionally. Nearly 150 construction jobs over the eight years of projected construction will bring more than $300 million annually to the region. A payroll of $20 million annually will generate steady income after construction is complete.

Zincton Farms also raised the idea of the Village of New Denver expanding its boundaries to include the resort area, and provide fire and emergency services.

Zincton's proponents spoke to New Denver council in March, seeking its support. Council asked staff to draw up a report on the project and options for New Denver's position.

"Although council members acknowledged the benefits of an economic driver such as this in the area, they agreed that a report on the potential risks, costs and benefits of the proposed development to the Village would be prudent, and would help them make informed decisions," said a staff report at the time.

The proponents caution the proposal is still in its early stages, and consultations with First Nations, other local governments and interest groups still have to occur, which may alter the plans.

The public has until the end of day on Monday, June 22 to submit their comments on the EOI to the provincial government. Submission details can be found in an advertisement found elsewhere in this edition of the *Valley Voice*.

Easing restrictions won't save 2020 tourism year in Kootenays

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farmer's market at the cidery," she said earlier this month. "We're keeping it small, with just seven vendors, selling foods and plants. That's just for the community, but we may keep that up during the year."

Ross says her company will ride out the storm. But she says ultimately it will be people taking the threat seriously, but not shutting down their lives, that will make the difference.

"I want people to not be fear-based. If we are careful and do social distancing, we can do a lot of the things we want to in our valley," she says. "I think camping should be allowed. We don't have to be fearful of people, just careful. There's a difference."

And over at Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism, Dianna Ducs says there's a Kootenay advantage that may help this area out of the pit tourism finds itself in, earlier than other areas.

"One area we have an advantage in is we are rural, and have a lot of space," she says. "And people are probably – and it makes sense to me – they will be travelling to rural communities where there is lots of space.

"So my advice to operators is hang on. Try to not have any expenditures. Hold back as much as you can. Because we will get through this. It's just a matter of time. And if they can hold on maybe next spring will be a different spring, and we can maybe open up."

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Changes coming to recycling depots this summer

by Jan McMurray

The new recycling depot system in the region is expected to roll out this summer, starting mid-June. The transition should be complete by the beginning of August.

"The depots will have new bins, new sorting procedures, new hours and they will be staffed. It'll be a big adjustment – we're hoping for patience at the start," said Travis Barrington of the RDCK.

Under the new system, a wider variety of items will be accepted at the depots, and more sorting will be required. "In addition to everything that's accepted now, you'll also be able to recycle Styrofoam, plastic bags, and things like chip bags and stand-up pouches," reports Barrington.

The new bins are starting to arrive at sites – shipping containers that have been modified with roll-up doors or slots to separate the materials.

Barrington said the first sites to transition will be the ones in Nelson, Castlegar, Creston and Crescent Valley. The new system will then roll out from east to west, from the east shore, Kaslo and Marblehead to the Slocan Valley, Nakusp, Burton and Edgewood.

All recycling depots will be in the same location as they are now, with the exception of four small sites near Creston that were dropped.

The depots in Kaslo, Marblehead, Nakusp, Burton and Edgewood are already at a landfill or transfer station, so they will continue operating with the same hours.

The biggest change will be felt by many Slocan Valley residents, who are used to having their depots open 24/7. Under the new regime, these depots will be staffed and will have operating hours.

Barrington commented that staff at the depots will allow the RDCK to "pursue illegal dumping better."

The RDCK has entered into an agreement with Recycle BC to deliver the new recycling system. Recycle BC is a not-for-profit organization that was set up to help businesses comply with the 2011 BC Recycling Regulation. The regulation requires businesses that supply packaging and paper to pay for the recycling of those materials. It's these businesses that fund the Recycle BC program. Up until now, the taxpayer has picked up 100% of the cost of recycling paper and packaging.

Barrington says taxpayers in the RDCK – and in other Regional Districts – will continue to pay for some of the recycling costs, even though a key premise behind the new Recycle BC system was to transfer costs from the taxpayer to industry. He says other Regional Districts with the new recycling system already in place are saving money, and his estimates show that RDCK taxpayers will save, too.

Under the old system, the RDCK paid for hauling, as well as a processing fee based on tonnage. Under the new system, there is no processing fee. The RDCK will pay for the staff, and some of the hauling costs. Recycle BC will pay for most of the hauling and will provide the RDCK with a financial incentive based on how much material is collected.

There are 25 depots in the regional district – 12 'core' depots and 13 'satellite' depots. Recycle BC will pay for hauling the material from core depots only. It will be the RDCK's responsibility to pay for hauling from satellite depots to core depots, where the Recycle BC hauler will take it away for processing. For example, New Denver's depot is a core depot and Silverton's is a satellite. The RDCK will hire someone to haul the material from Silverton to New Denver. The Recycle BC hauler will pick it up in New Denver and take it from there.

"With Recycle BC, we don't have to pay a processing fee, and we'll pay for hauling only from the satellite depots to the core depots, and then we have staff to pay for. Recycle BC will give us a financial incentive, but without knowing how much material we're going to collect, it's very tough to know right now how much that financial incentive will be – but based on the rough estimates I've worked on, it looks like we'll save. I've talked to other Regional Districts and even with the extra staffing, they are saving some funds," Barrington said.

The RDCK continues to advocate for recycling to be paid for by industry. "We're in regular conversations with Recycle BC and the BC government about the Recycle BC and other recycling programs – about that cost sharing and that split between what the programs are paying for and what our residents are still paying for.

"Overall, I think it's a benefit for BC, especially with all the news last year about trouble finding markets and stockpiling of materials. BC hasn't seen that problem as badly because of the network Recycle BC has developed. It's a good system overall even though it could use a bit of improvement," Barrington said.

The Recycle BC website (recyclebc.ca) states: "The people of British Columbia can be proud to live in a province that has the most advanced and integrated processes for the management of residential recycling of anywhere in Canada. It is a non-profit system that is studied and praised around the world and, in the face of incredibly challenging recycling markets the world over, it is a system that has proven itself repeatedly, as we have found end markets for our materials when others cannot."

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PUBLIC NOTICES

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Municipal garbage collection takes place every Tuesday for residential properties in New Denver. Residents are reminded that solid waste must be bagged, tagged and **placed in a garbage can** before being placed curbside for collection. Bags placed curbside without a container are prohibited. Please assist the Village in its efforts to remove bear, dog and crow attractants by ensuring that solid waste is placed in secure containers.

WILDLIFE ATTRACTANTS

The warmer weather has shown an increase of bear (or other wildlife) sightings in and around the Village. A reminder for all of us to do our part in keeping our community safe by managing the wildlife attractants around our homes.

If you see a bear in your area:

- Go indoors. Stay calm and do not run or taunt the animal.
- Alert your neighbours.
- For more tips on a "WildSafe" yard or managing attractants, go to www.wildsafebc.com.
- Report human-wildlife conflicts to the **BC Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277**.

CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLANNING

The Village of New Denver is seeking park planning quotes from qualified consultants for the development of a Master Plan for Centennial Park. Deadline for submissions is **Thursday, June 11 at noon**. For details visit our website or contact the Village Office.

FIRESMART ASSESSMENT

Whether you are doing regular yard maintenance or making large scale changes during renovations or landscaping, you can make choices that will help protect your home or neighbourhood from wildfire. FireSmart is a voluntary property assessment program that helps residents identify specific actions they can take on their property to reduce wildfire risks. Residents who would like a free home or land assessment on their property can contact Slocan Integral Forestry CO-OP (SIFCo) by phone 250-226-7012 or email wildfire@sifco.ca.

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Voices from the Valleys

Credit where credit is due

Last Thursday, Justin Trudeau announced an extension to the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy. This may be the key to the survival of a lot of small businesses in Canada, and more specifically in the Kootenays. I have not always agreed with things that our prime minister has done. But on this policy, he did very well for everyone in Canada in this trying time. Good job, Justin Trudeau.

John Eckland
Kaslo

Thank you, *Valley Voice*

I want to thank Kate O'Keefe for reminding us about the opportunity available to all recipients of the *Valley Voice* to contribute by paying them a voluntary subscription fee of $10 to $30. For me, that's a no brainer. This newspaper offers us the only real local news for Kaslo, New Denver, Nakusp, Slocan Valley and surrounding areas. Jan and Dan have worked very hard for many years to provide us all with quality journalism – for free! Time to pay them a little for all the wonderful work they do. Don't you agree?

So, if you can, drop a cheque in the mail or send them an e-transfer to show your appreciation.

Marlaina Blanche
Kaslo

Etymology of *pandemic*

Sorry Mr. Chatten ('Western pandemic failure,' May 7), the words *pandemic* and *pandemonium* have nothing to do with the little Greek god Pan. There are 111 words starting with *pan* in the Canadian Oxford Dictionary, including *pancake, panties*, and *pansexual*. *Pan* is also the flat, metal container in which you fry your bacon and eggs.

Pan was a little forest god with the legs of a goat, the horns of a goat, and the body of a pubescent boy. He lived in forests and played his pipes: *Pan with his pipes/ makes trees to grow,/ flowers to bud,/ and rivers to flow.*

Apparently he scared the French who coined the term *panique*. Panic is the only word derived from Pan the forest god.

Pan- is a prefix meaning "*all, or the whole of, relating to the whole or all of the parts or members*." (Oxford Dictionary) In *pandemic*, the *demic* comes from the Greek word for people, as in *demo*cratic or *demo*graphic. *Pandemic,* then, combines *pan-*, all, with *-demic* to mean affecting all people.

Pandemonium combines the prefix *pan-* with *-demon,* and was the place of all demons in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, utter confusion.

And *panties*? Panties are also supposed to cover everything... *Pansexuality*? Let's not go there.

Elsje de Boer
Fauquier

Bryan Adams' words 'cut like a knife'

In these deeply trying times of trouble, when we are being asked to reach out to one another in the spirit of human compassion, tolerance and understanding, we have been confronted by the shameless and shallow self-adoration of Bryan Adams, an individual showered with power, privilege and prosperity.

To bear witness to his vulgar solution of undisguised bigotry is beyond belief or comprehension. Whatever could have possessed him to display such ignorance and self-indulgence?

At a time when literally hundreds of thousands of people are dying and millions more face economic ruin, we have come to witness the scourge of white supremacy and racism crawling out from under the slime of our society. One might ask oneself how it came to pass that Mr. Adams, so deeply distraught that humanity was deprived of his Albert Hall display of his musical genius, felt it necessary to unleash his disgusting diatribe on behalf of those people who actually admired him. Sadly, he lacks any understanding that, indeed, words do 'cut like a knife.'

As we bear witness to the unbelievable and sad spectacle of the president of the United States stumbling and bumbling with his own unique brand of bigotry and self-delusion, one cannot help but speculate that Mr. Adams was really motivated in seeking out a White House special performance invitation (no face mask required).

Don't worry Bryan, it's in the mail.

Ken Wyllie
Robson

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The Ingrid Rice cartoon is a satirical look at current events in politics and is sponsored by the Kaslo Hotel. The Hotel does not necessarily share the political views of the artist.

Response to Larry Hyink's letter, April 23

I am responding to the letter titled 'Government's sudden sense of social responsibility'. I am surrounded by people being rescued by the Liberal's generosity – millions of dollars are doled out to help people make it through this tough time. Yet it isn't enough for the socialists; their sense of entitlement knows no bounds. It would never be enough.

Only a socialist can make a pejorative term of 'personal responsibility.' No, to a socialist, success means you oppressed someone, and you deserve to have it taken away for others, according to their need. Canada has found a decent balance of state regulation and generous benefits. We are multicultural to a fault, have LGBT etc. rights and laws. Our capitalist system has made all that possible.

Oh no, we are not entirely 'equal,' if that is your criteria, your desired outcome. We are free to not work, or to work as hard as possible, to invent and own the fruits of that, to share, to reciprocate, to live freely. Some do not grab at the opportunities of our far superior system based on, yes, greed. That is why we have public education, public healthcare, welfare and our pensions and all that is able to be given back. Equality of opportunity is a wonderful value of our hybrid capitalist-with-socialism system. It is far from perfect, but better than all the rest.

Is our collective memory that faulty that we cannot remember the three biggest villains of the 20th century were socialists? Hundreds of millions of people died at hands of Mao, Hitler, Stalin. Their Marxist ideals of forced equity and socialism brought out the worst of humanity. The murderous result is the natural consequences of Marxist ideas – there is no limit to the tyrannies of socialist ideology. We are not taught this, which is why our leader can praise someone like Castro, despite thousands of firing squad deaths and other atrocities, and we do not blink.

You slag our "old folks 'homes'" as 'refuse heaps,' but of course, like any good socialist, do not recommend an alternative.

Please, show me a successful socialist country, and don't point to any European example – they are all staunchly capitalist. There are no socialist successes to point to, only murderous and sad history we should learn from. Believe there is no ruling class in socialist societies? There is *always* a ruling class – it is how we humans organize. Only a hybrid society like ours can mitigate that and still respect civil rights and freedoms.

You are right in your last paragraph that we were not prepared, but now we will be. The entrepreneurs will start making our medicines and equipment, maybe with a little government support, but not government ownership hopefully. You and me, everyone in this village, are part of the 1% of the planet, the ruling class. Every material thing that brings you joy was created by a capitalist. You can relax your overblown language, encouraging 'social explosion.' Just take some 'personal responsibility' of your own, and leave the dogma behind.

Alison Gale
New Denver

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

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

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Voices from the Valleys

Response to 'Trudeau's gun control botch-up,' Rod Retzlaff, May 7

I also am an ex-farmer, an ex-hunter, and a legally licensed, law-abiding, sport-shooting firearm owner!

However, I don't have a holier than thou attitude about who is allowed to own or not to own firearms, and I see my firearms as legally licensed, legally stored, and frequently used sporting firearms. I do not see my firearms as tools and they are not for killing people or animals. Guns don't kill people; people kill people. And if there are no guns handy, they will find another weapon!

I am against a prime minister and a retired "narc" (who used to kick doors down and enter private houses with 'weapons' drawn) who use an Order in Council instead of properly discussing the idea in Parliament. This has resulted in a poorly designed weapons ban during a pandemic. Of course, it was in response to a planned horrific multiple murder rampage by a non-licensed, demented sicko nut case with illegal guns. Sadly, our prime minister and Minister Blair couldn't even wait until condolences had been broadcast, and announced the ban amidst trying to console those suffering terrible losses!

Police departments have stated that Trudeau's ban would not have made any difference in this case or in most cases because criminals are not law-abiding types. Many police groups, contrary to Minister Blair's statement, are against the ban as well because it won't make the difference that Minister Blair and PM Trudeau seem to think it will. What will the next idea bring when banning firearms from law-abiding Canadians doesn't work? Will there be a banning of knives, machetes, baseball bats, cell phones, cars, broken bottles, etc.?

There are hundreds of thousands of legally licensed firearms in Canada owned by hundreds of thousands of law-abiding Canadians (all are on police-monitored systems which can be queried 24/7/365 by any police department in Canada). It's been proven by stats for years that these people who own legally licenced firearms are the least likely to commit a crime involving firearms in Canada.

I will agree to the botched-up ban, though. Many of the firearms listed in the ban have been banned for years, and military style rifles are already prohibited. Many hunting rifles as well as 10- and 12-gauge shotguns are banned as well, although Blair said he wasn't going after farmers and hunters!

I wonder why you, a self-proclaimed gun owner (legal and licensed I hope), should have any right to say who should or should not be allowed to own a firearm, whether it's used for hunting, sport shooting, or protection of farm animals?

The way this world is heading, down the road a few years many people might be wishing they had kept all their firearms and told Trudeau and Blair and the rest of the anti-gunners to get lost.

Nick Tarasiuk
Winlaw

A more balanced future for BC

As we emerge from this recent change to our daily lives, we can continue to ask our policy makers in BC to ensure that we have a balance of social, environmental policy within the monetary capability for rural BC communities.

While we all can be mindful that the urban challenges are very real and have to be prioritized in their own municipalities, the BC government has to continue to have policies for keeping communities strong on a regional basis, here in the West Kootenay. Yes, Prince George is the regional hub for a vast region and has to be supported for the needs of that region.

The social costs of putting profit for large conglomerates first, combined with contracting out services for 'the public good,' have become more apparent. We now need a more balanced approach. There are many examples, now well documented, regarding the education, health and environment that need to be considered for effecting change to such very real aspects of our lives.

There have been some improvements – more public transportation for rural communities, funding to assist non-profits. For instance, North Kootenay Lake Community Services received $40,000 from the Columbia Basin Trust for food programs.

Housing is very much a priority. When people have secure, healthy housing, health is better. So, one suggestion is efficiency for more homes, perhaps supported by initiatives of Clean BC, a program of the Province of BC in conjunction with the Climate Action Plan.

With the likelihood of living costs (for basic needs) rising, there have to be effective public policies by the BC government, liaising with Ottawa as best as possible to address the circumstantial needs of the diverse land base of BC and the varying demographics. This may result in reducing costs that take up so much of the BC provincial operating budget. It is helpful to remember that Victoria's Budget 2020 identified a capital expenditure amount for new infrastructure – schools, health care centres, transportation.

Yes, improving working conditions will also reduce concerns regarding potential personal and corporate costs that have shown so recently to be a factor. BC labour legislation is important, including WorkSafeBC – on a precautionary basis.

While BC has some jurisdiction, the federal government still has the responsibility for improving more environmental laws on mega-projects and protection of water.

A balance of social/ environmental 'justice' with a healthy economy that is more equitably accessible to the majority of people is the future to be envisioned.

Sheila Haegedorn
Kaslo

COVID-19 conundrum

Coming back from California into British Columbia last month, we dutifully self-isolated for the required 14 days. Weather was kind of crappy anyway and we were still quite snowed in here at Soda Springs, our home near Kaslo, so it wasn't too bad. Now we're heading into our third week of staying home and self-distancing and books and puzzles just aren't cutting it for me anymore.

It's 4:45 pm and I'm halfway through my second movie of the day. My daytime pyjamas are one and the same as my nighttime pyjamas. My TV table has a big bowl of popcorn on it, a glass of wine and a small dish of Quality Street chocolates. So far the early happy hours have held off the virus. My little dog Matthew is beside me on the blanket making snuffling sounds. I think he wants some chips and dip. I've put on three pounds since returning from the States and at the rate of one pound per week, this could eventually become quite scary. My hair has taken on a persona of its own. The style, if you can call it that, is a combination of Larry, Moe and Curly Joe.

I have organized every drawer and cupboard in the kitchen. The pantry is in perfectly symmetrical rows by category – olives here, spaghetti sauce there, baking supplies to the left, soup and sauces to the right. The junk food is on the top shelf in a seriously depleted condition and the booze on the bottom shelf is in dangerously low supply. All closets and drawers have been released of unwanted items – the Thrift Store is going to take a big hit if and when it opens. Everything in the hamper has been washed, the house is clean and even the garage is tidy. Good heavens.

Must be time to watch another movie – *Murphy's Romance* with Sally Field and James Garner. This brings me to my conundrum. Do I go with Matthew and the chips and dip or do I break out the cheese puffs?

Kathy Freeman
Kaslo

Open letter to Katrine Conroy, MLA re: Celgar

I read with dismay Celgar pulp mill's request for public assistance. One of the reasons they give for their financial concerns is the dwindling supply of wood chips. Celgar expanded considerably in the 1990s, increasing its capacity to eat up wood. Did they not do the math on how much wood is available? Did they not consider changes in the economy? In the environment? On the planet? This is a for-profit business; these are the basics of sound business planning. I'm thinking at some time they must have made money.

Now Celgar wants us taxpayers to subsidize their for-profit company that is pillaging our forests due to their lack of foresight. I read with distress that only 60% of their chips come from sawmill waste and 40% from raw logs. That means more and more of our high value, climate protecting forests here in the Kootenays, are being turned into toilet paper and paper towels. And they want ME to help THEM keep doing that?

Interestingly, the *Valley Voice* also ran an article about a company in Fruitvale using forestry waste to make 'renewable natural gas.' If Celgar can't find wood waste to make paper, then where is REN Energy going to find the wood they need to generate electricity? Buying saw logs like Celgar is? FortisBC is touting this as advancing its agenda to supply carbon-neutral energies but this sounds like green-washing to me, especially in light of the evidence revealed in the recent film, *Planet of the Humans*.

Celgar makes three requests. My response is this: high value trees being billed at a pulp stumpage rate is unacceptable to me. Letting them run heavier chip trucks on roads that we pay for is unacceptable to me. The only thing they're proposing that seems reasonable is for the Province to extend their current agreement with BC Hydro making electricity using a byproduct of the pulp-making process.

Either that, or demonstrate to me that when they've had plenty of cash, they've offered it up to the public purse. Corporate begging is disgusting. Corporate begging in the name of the ongoing destruction of our much needed climate regulating forests is worse. Corporate begging just tells me that companies are taking risks that cannot be sustained, and that should be on their shoulders, not ours. There are more unpredictable times ahead. Let's stop setting this precedent of bailing out capitalists who have never prioritized our community's needs.

K.L. Kivi
New Denver

Imagine salmon

Less than a century ago, the Columbia River basin was home to the largest salmon and steelhead runs in the world. With the construction of dams, those salmon have been lost and with them the critical elements needed to provide proper ecosystem function. As a result, we are witnessing a fisheries and species decline on all levels of the ecosystem.

Salmon runs are nature's way of maintaining healthy fertile ecosystems, which benefits all species within that watershed. Resident fish populations benefit not only through direct supplementation of eggs and flesh but also through food web fertilization, which supports large and more diverse populations of aquatic invertebrate.

Our local watersheds (Slocan and Salmo River), offer terrific habitat with clean, cold tributaries for spawning and rearing of juvenile salmon. Introduction would begin with the planting of juvenile salmon into upper river tributaries, where after approximately one year they would migrate downstream to the ocean. Once mature, those ocean fish would migrate back to those specific tributaries to spawn, die and deposit vital nutrients. When these fish are stopped at the dams, it would then be up to us to get salmon over the dams. We have the technology and science! It's not about opening the gates to the Columbia and allowing invasive species to enter our rivers. It's about targeting a select group of salmon, where they are trapped below the dam, and then transporting them above the structure to be released.

Salmon reintroduction would create jobs for the fisheries sector, and provide opportunities for healthy ecotourism ventures. It would promote a greater appreciation for our watershed as a protected salmon ecosystem, and not just a recreational playground to fill bank-to-bank with tubers and floaters.

One concern I've heard is in regards to salmon carcasses lining our beaches and riverbanks. I find this unlikely, as salmon would spawn in the higher reaches of the watersheds' tributaries where originally planted, and not in the mainstream of the river. Another concern is that salmon traveling up the Columbia River would bring toxins from the Columbia into our rivers. Salmon/ fish generally gain toxins through ingesting/ consuming toxic prey like smaller fish and/ or aquatic invertebrate. When salmon begin their migration from ocean to river tributary, they feed little or not at all. The salmon would have little opportunity to gather or ingest toxins on their way up the Columbia.

With the global collapse of salmon stocks, I believe it's in our best interest to create refuge and habitat for salmon reproduction wherever possible. Salmon have a right to be here; they have always been here. Salmon were stripped from this landscape without consent, without foresight of the consequences and as a deliberate attempt to eliminate a First Nations food source. First Nations were forced to rely on the promise of government rations of canned salmon that were never received.

We now have a real chance to give something back to the watersheds we love so much. Let's give salmon a chance. Imagine salmon.

Chad Thomson
Passmore

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Despite COVID complications, house sales market still strong, say realtors

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Inititative reporter

People thinking about buying or selling a home in the West Kootenay should know two things: COVID-19 has made things a little more difficult to buy or sell; but despite that, the market is strong.

That's what several real estate agents in the area have told the *Valley Voice*.

"It's actually doing pretty good," says Kul Nijjar of Fair Realty in Kaslo. She says she's sold a number of properties in recent weeks. "When COVID first hit it became fairly slow. But as time goes on, the weather is getting better, and there's hope the restrictions will be eased up, I'm getting more and more enquiries."

A long-time Slocan Valley realtor says it's still early to be detecting a pattern for that area.

"At this time of year, that part of the world is in a lull, and just beginning to pick up anyway," says Bill Lander of Coldwell Banker Rosling Real Estate. But he says the signs are encouraging.

"In Silverton-New Denver, I have three deals in play right now," Lander says. "I'm doing a market evaluation. I have buyers. Everybody's backed off a little bit because they think they can't look at houses, but I have listings that are empty, which makes it easier."

The numbers for the rural West Kootenay market are so small it's difficult to translate them into trends at the best of times. But there are several signals that the market remains strong in the West Kootenay:

• The cost of homes has remained steady or increased, says Robert Goertz of Valhalla Path Realty in Nelson. That city is seen as the barometer for the West Kootenay market.

• From February to April 2019, the average price for a single-family home in Nelson was $375,000; for the same period this year, it was $405,000.

• List prices have gone up, as has assessed value.

• Castlegar saw a 12% increase in property values overall last year. The more rural community of Salmo saw an increase of just over 10%.

• There are just 4.8 months of home inventory available; realtors say this defines a 'seller's market'.

"Demand is down a bit, because there are some people who don't want to buy right now, but supply is down further, because more people don't want people coming into their space," says Goertz. "So what ends up happening is we still have enough demand that it has pushed pricing up."

"If anything we've created some pent-up buyers," adds Lander. "They're waiting to get back at it. There's also a lot of people who are fairly comfortable financially and they are buying the higher-end real estate."

Country road, take me home

Realtors are also seeing the signs of a migration – from people who've just had enough of life in the big city.

"I had one buyer – they work from home in Vancouver, and they have discovered they are actually quite capable of working from home," says Goertz. "And they are looking to make a move to the Slocan Valley to have an acre or two and enjoy our lifestyle."

"I don't think it will be a massive movement, but there will be some who want to choose our area rather than be locked down and not be able to go to the park."

"People are seeing that even the elevators they get on to get to their offices are public places, and they are looking for places that are less congested, and where nature is easier to access, and where social distancing kind of naturally happens," adds Nijjar.

Lander hasn't seen the big-city influx, but has seen interest from local disillusioned ski-town folk.

"In Nelson, Silverton and New Denver, the market has been strongly driven by an interested and active crowd from Rossland, Golden, and Revelstoke," he says. "An interesting demographic has developed there in the last few years.

"I'm commonly hearing that Revelstoke and Rossland are not what they went there for originally," he says. "It's just turned too high-end-recreational. It's quite the phenomenon."

However, another source of in-migration – from Albertans – has been depressed a bit by the economic uncertainty in that province.

So buy? Or sell?

Realtors say overall it's hard to predict where the market is heading, as there's no real historical precedent to offer clues.

"I don't think it's a bad time to be buying or selling," says Goertz. "As far as the seller is concerned, the people who are out looking are legitimate buyers – it's not people who are humming or hawing. They are solid buyers. And the same for sellers. These are people who want to sell and move on. So I think when we look back at this a year from now, they'll say it was not a bad time to make that move."

"There's just a lot of uncertainty," says Landers. "I don't see anything that is doom and gloom or an economic collapse in the future. Things are going to be done differently, but I'm not seeing anything that has me really concerned. So it's stay-the-course."

"I feel hopeful," adds Nijjar. "I feel like I might end up catching up, maybe not to where I was if COVID hadn't happened, but I think it will get busier.

"It feels like it's going to normal. A slower normal, but maybe we'll catch up as time goes on."

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SLOCAN

Mountain Valley Station Gas/Convenience
Open regular hours 8 am-7 pm daily
Bottle Depot open Tues-Sat 9-5, closed holidays
Taking precautions for everyone's health and safety
250-355-2245

Village of Slocan - Office
Office open by appointment only – please call 250-355-2277
Usual services offered. Special electronic payment options available.
250-355-2277, info@villageofslocan.ca, www.slocancity.com

Village of Slocan – Fitness Centre, Library, Campground, Playgrounds
Temporarily Closed
250-355-2277, info@villageofslocan.ca, www.slocancity.com

Slocan Village Market
Open. Limiting number of customers in the store. Providing gloves and masks to shoppers.
We are accepting orders by phone for pick-up for those who prefer not to enter the store. We are also offering delivery services on a weekly basis.
250-355-2211, svmkt@telus.net

WINLAW

Emery Herbals Botanical Dispensary, Healing Suites and Teaching Centre
The Botanical Dispensary Open Thurs and Fri, 12-4. Limit of one client in the shop at a time.
Order requests can be sent to orders@emeryherbals.com or by phoning 250-226-7744 for pick-up using our safe pick-up guidelines. We offer a $10 local ship rate and all local orders over $75 are shipped free. We ship once weekly.
Our online shop is https://emeryherbals.com/online-apothecary/
• Colleen Emery, RHT (CHAofBC) is conducting all client consultation online or via the phone. Priority is for acute cases, new clients are welcome.
• All classes have moved online at this time.

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250-226-7255

Kootenay Country Craft Distillery
Open for online/telephone sales. Tasting room closed.
Hand sanitizer available.
lora@kootenaycountry.ca
250-355-2702

Mama Sita's
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spinningfables.ca

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CRESCENT VALLEY

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These listings have been put together by the *Valley Voice*.

Your business could be listed here for only $10 + GST

Weather will be ultimate factor in Slocan River flooding

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The people who watch BC's rivers for flood danger aren't losing sleep over the Slocan River's freshet this spring.

"For the next ten days or so, it's a steady rise, but nothing of any concern at this point," says Jonathan Boyd of the BC River Forecast Centre. He spoke to the *Valley Voice* last week. "I would describe the current flows as seasonal, nothing out of the norm, and kind of following general patterns."

On the long weekend, Environment Canada issued a weather advisory for the Arrow Lakes area, warning that heavy rains could cause high water levels in streams that feed into major rivers and lakes. A high streamflow advisory is also in effect for the Boundary country.

But even with that, and despite a greater-than normal snow accumulation last winter, the current forecast is the Slocan won't get to even a two-year peak.

More rain, however, could change the West Kootenay's situation.

High snowpack

Earlier this year, the outlook was more disquieting for people who live on low-lying areas along the river, which stretches for 60 kilometres from Slocan City to the Kootenay River. Snowpack up in the mountains was reaching nearly 140% of normal at some stations. With a sudden turn to very hot weather, that could all come down quickly, causing flooding.

But the weather has co-operated. March, April and the first week or two of May were cooler and much dryer than normal. Snowpack readings at stations went down: the average for the West Kootenay overall dropped to 117%.

With seasonable or below-seasonable temperatures forecast for at least a few more days, that's meant a slow snowmelt and flow into the watershed.

While what's on the ground isn't worrying at the moment, what could come from the sky is. Some of BC's worst flooding happened when a cool spring suddenly ended, says Boyd.

"What we are most concerned about is getting to a period where we might get four, seven, or 10 days of record temps, pushing around 30 degrees," he says. "That's when the snowmelt can rapidly run off all at all elevations at the same time."

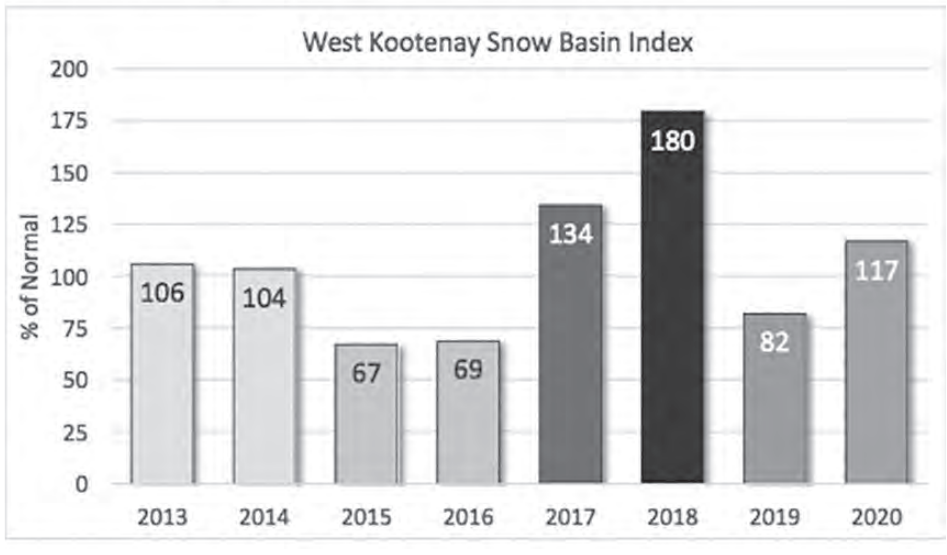
Hot weather combined with heavy summer rainstorms are the stuff that does worry forecasters.

"There's always that risk when the snowpack is above normal," says Boyd. "And the worst-case scenario is extreme weather conditions: either really, really hot, or really, really wet, or a combination of those two."

The Slocan River can peak anywhere from the last week of May to the end of June. Boyd says at this slow rate of melting, all things being equal, the peak will be a little later rather than early.

The next flood forecast from Boyd's office is expected on May 21.

Snow Basin Index Graphs - May 1, 2020



Snowpack readings at West Kootenay stations went down: the average for the West Kootenay overall dropped to 117%.

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NAKUSP & AREA

Anderson's Automotive Services
Open 7 am - 8 pm (temporarily – will resume regular hours to 9 pm when restrictions are lifted.) Practising physical distancing, enhanced cleaning
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Bon Marche Dollar Dollar
Open reduced hours: Monday to Saturday 10 am-4 pm
Limiting customers to two at one time. Cleaning with antibacterial cleaners between customers. Encouraging distancing when in store.
Taking phone/Facebook orders for pick-up
Facebook: Bon Marche Dollar Dollar Nakusp
250-265-3644

Burton City Cider
Open by chance or appt. Pizza Take Out, Cider and Beer Thursday 4-7 pm
Orders: Text or Call 250-265-7044
info@BurtonCityCider.ca www.burtoncitycider.ca Online ordering available

Chumley's Restaurant
Open Tuesdays only, 4-7 pm for take-out
Halibut and limited menu available. Call to order 250-265-3331

Crescent Bay Construction Ltd.
Open Mon-Sat, 8 am-5 pm
Nitrile gloves must be put on (available beside the door) when entering and discarded (beside the door) when leaving.
Phone orders and pick-up available. E-transfer payment available at cresbay@telus.net • 250-265-3747

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Open/Closed status: Open 10 am to 4 pm, Monday to Saturday, closed on Sundays. If you want to take additional distancing precautions, you can order and pay online at www.JenniferChocolates.com and your order will be ready for quick pick-up the following day.
Phone 250-265-1799 or email jennifer@jenniferchocolates.com

Kal Tire Nakusp
Open Mon-Sat, 8 am-5 pm
Call or book online for appointment or tire purchases. Emergency and commercial work done as required. Please only one customer in showroom at a time. Payments accepted by Debit or Credit. NO CASH please.
Sanitization precautions being taken in showroom and all customer vehicles. Visit our Facebook page for full details. 250-265-4155, www.kaltire.com

Kim's Kustoms
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250-265-4012

Leland Hotel
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Restaurant: Open 4-8 pm for takeout. Closed Tuesdays. 250-265-3314

Marvin's Small Motor Repairs
Mon-Fri 9 am-6 pm; Sat 9 am-5 pm
Open regular hours 250-265-4911

NACFOR
The NACFOR office will be closed to the public until further notice. Please call the office at 250-265-3656 between 8 am and 5 pm, Mon-Fri, to leave a message and your call will be returned. Alternatively, you can email info@nakuspcommunityforest.com.

Nakusp Computers
Open Mon-Fri, 10:30 am - 3:30 pm
250-265-0129; nakuspcomputers@gmail.com; facebook.com/nakuspcomputers

Nakusp Farmers' Market
Saturdays 9 am - noon, starting May 16
Locally raised foods and vegetable starter plants.
Crowd limit and handwashing stations. Bring your reusable tote bags. Money handling will be separate from vendors. Vendors of exposed products will wear masks and gloves; produce will be shielded. Food harvesting done safely.

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Open 10 am-2 pm or call us to make arrangements to come at other times
Sanitizing and bleaching. 250-265-8423

Nakusp Glass
Open
Drop in, call or email to make an appointment.
250-265-3252, nakglass@telus.net

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #20
Closed as of March 17
The office is operating on limited hours.
Phone messages and emails will be answered.
250-265-3033, legionna@columbiacable.net
If you require medical equipment, call Tracy 250-265-3493

Nakusp Taxi
Pick-up and delivery of anything from licenced food, beverage and retail stores.
250-265-8222

Nakusp Tirecraft
Open
250-265-4438, https://tirecraft.com/tirecraft-nakusp/ Facebook: @tirecraftnakusp

Selkirk Realty
The office is closed, but the agents are working remotely and more than happy to help! They can be reached directly, or via 250-265-3635 or Nakusp@royallepage.ca

Shon's Bike - Ski - Stay
Mon-Sat, 9 am - 5:30 pm
Please drop off bike repairs to the rear entrance (in alley) of the shop. No appointments are necessary for bike tune-ups. Our coffee shop and lounge area is currently closed.
All 2019 bikes are on sale.
For all inquiries, call us as (250) 265-3332, email: info@shons.ca, website: www.shons.ca, Facebook: Shon's Bike - Ski - Stay.

Wilf Hewat Repairs LTD.
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250-265-4388, Facebook: @hewatrepairs

Save-On-Foods
Open 8 am - 7 pm daily; 7-8 am for seniors and people with health issues needing more space to shop. Max customer limit in place. Please shop individually; leave recycle bags at home; No bottle returns at this time.
250-265-3662. Store Manager: Duncan, Asst. Manager: Ryan

Paddy Shack
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250-265-3255

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ACE Building Centre-Kaslo
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Four customers at a time
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Open for off-sales Wed through Sun 3-6 pm Phone 250-353-7446 to pre-order or to arrange a 'beer-it forward' delivery for a friend.
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Cornucopia
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Re-opens June 1! Pub 12-10 pm; Dine in 12-8 pm; Take-out 12-8 pm; Off sales 12-10 pm
Front desk 12-8 pm for check-in and reservations. Strict sanitizing protocols in place.
250-353-7714; kaslohotel.com; Facebook

Kaslo Husky
Open Mon-Fri, 6 am-8 pm; Sat & Sun 8 am-8 pm
Physical distancing measures in effect. 250-353-2205

Kaslo Community Pharmacy
Open Monday-Friday 9:30 am-5:30 pm
We look forward to serving you!
Welcome to shop by visiting during business hours or:
By phone: 250-353-2224, By fax: 250-353-2336, By email: kaslopharm@gmail.com
For prescription refills online visit**:** kaslopharmacy.myrefill.ca
403 Front Street, PO Box 550, Kaslo V0G 1M0
kaslopharm@gmail.com, phone 250-353-2224, fax 250-353-2336

Kul Nijjar, REALTOR(R) Fair Realty Ltd.
Open
kul@kulnijjar.ca, (250)505-4722

Mel B Digital
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www.melbdigial.com, info@melbdigital.com, Facebook.com/melbdigital

SS Moyie National Historic Site and Kaslo Visitor Centre
Closed during the pandemic
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250-353-2525; vcmanager.kaslo@gmail.com

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Physical distancing measures in effect. Food take-out
Phone orders and delivery available. 250-353-9667

Village of Kaslo
Open by email, phone or appointment
admin@kaslo.ca, 250-353-2311 x101, www.kaslo.ca, facebook.com/KasloBC/

Willow Home Boutique
Open for appointments by email, Facebook message or call us
250-353-2257, whg@kaslo.org, facebook.com/willowhomeboutique/

Your business could be listed here for only $10 + GST

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NEW DENVER

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Closed to the public until further notice.

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Pre-order and pick up or come shop for vegetable starters. Also drop-off days arranged locally. Contact us for order sheets.
250-358-2660, kip@netidea.com

Glacier View Service
Open 7 days, 8 am-5:30 pm
250-358-2445

New Denver Coin Laundry
Open 9 am-7 pm, 7 days a week
Use your intelligence, engage in physical distancing and wash hands when you come in and when you leave. Soap is good. The premises are being cleaned twice a day.
Contact: Wendy @ 358-7792 or Rod – phone numbers on signs inside the building.

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We look forward to serving you!
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By phone: 250-358-2500, By fax: 250-358-2524, By email: kaslopharm@gmail.com (please use reference "NDCP")
309 6th Avenue, New Denver V0G 1S0
Mailing: PO Box 550, Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0
Phone 250-358-2500, Fax 250-358-2524

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Open every day, 8 am-6 pm
You are welcome to come and shop. Keep your distance as much as you can with others. We have hand sanitizer at the door as well as at the tills.
If you are self isolating or not wanting to come to the store, we can do your shopping for you and have it delivered to you or you can pick it up.
You can call the store at 250-358-2270 or email shop@newmarketfoods.ca to place your orders.

Nuru Coffee Bar
Open for business
Tues-Sat, 9 am-4 pm
Nuru Nights Grab n' Go available Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Please pre order one day in advance: nurucoffeebar@gmail.com
513-6th Ave, New Denver

Raven's Nest
Re-opening in early June with regular store hours. Until then open by appointment: please email RavensNestBC@gmail.com or call 250-358-2178 to make arrangements.

Sew Much More
Now open for business Wed-Sat 10:30 am-1:30 pm
Open by appointment as well
1-250-551-6509,kathyprovan@gmail.com, www.sewmuchmoreyarn.com, Facebook & Instagram

Valhalla Inn
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Liquor off-sales available with food purchase
Pick-up only (no delivery)
To order, call 250-358-2228 ext 0

Valley Voice
Open 1-833-501-1700; valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca; www.valleyvoice.ca

Village of New Denver
(Village Office, Knox Hall, Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre, Centennial Campground, Silvery Slocan Museum)
Closed to the public until further notice.
For inquiries, please phone or email the Village Office. Check our website for regular updates.
250-358-2316**,** office@newdenver.ca, www.newdenver.ca

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This year, just memories of May Days past

submitted

May Days 2020 in Kaslo would have been the 128th year in a row for the community's celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday. Sadly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not to be.

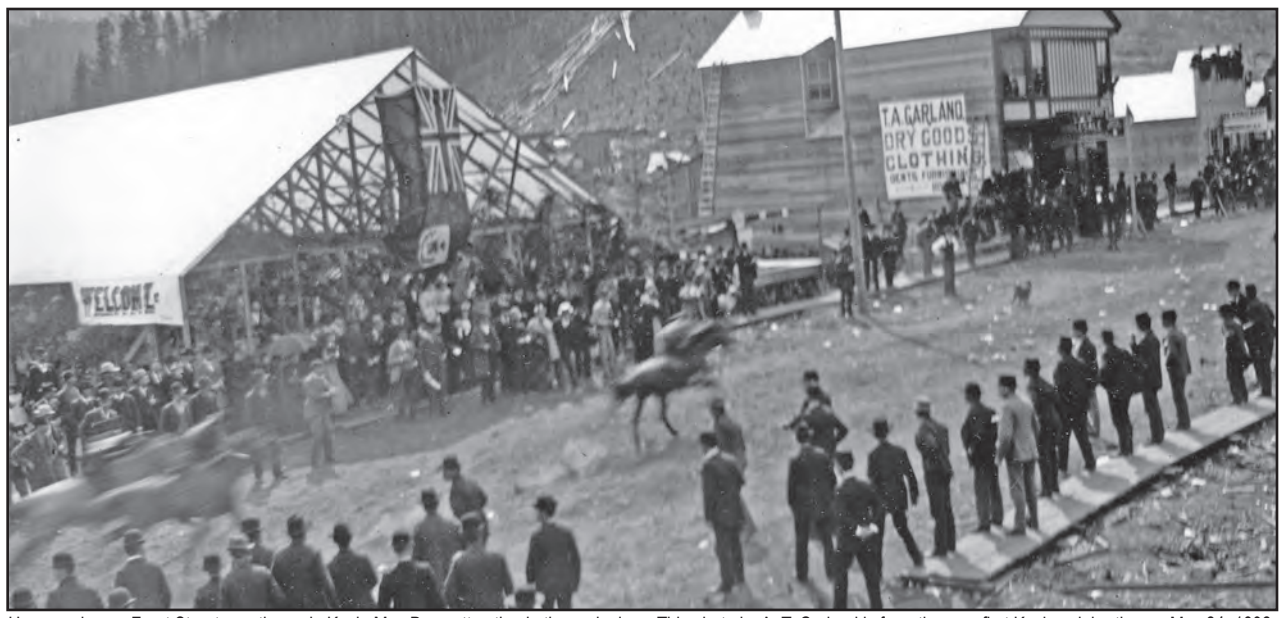
The first celebration, on May 24, 1892, was planned just the day before. A huge pavilion was erected on Front Street at the 4th Street corner where the pharmacy now stands. 'Welcome' banners and streamers, flags and tree branches decorated the streets. In the early days, horse racing on Front Street was the main attraction. Prizes as high as $200 were awarded and many horses were brought in from outside areas.

Over the years, other events were added, including mule and pony races, foot races, fire department's hose reel team races, and a greased pig catch – with the winner, of course, winning the pig. Baseball was added in 1894. Then came boxing, trap shooting, lacrosse, tug of war, children's sports. Boat races for row boats, sailboats and motorboats were held in some years.

The steamboats ran excursion trips from Nelson and called at all the lake points along the way. People arrived in all different types of boats, and there were crowds of people everywhere. The event has had various names over the years: Queen's Birthday, Empire Day, Victoria Day and now Kaslo May Days.

2020 was quieter this year and the SS Moyie National Historic Site wasn't open. However, this does not mean that the Kootenay Lake Historical Society, custodian of the Moyie, is idle. Under one of its mandates to preserve and maintain the Moyie as an historic structure and museum, the society is planning necessary repairs and maintenance to the ship during the next few months.

The society looks forward to welcoming visitors back to the site as soon as it is safe to do so.



Horse racing on Front Street was the main Kaslo May Days attraction in the early days. This photo by A. T. Garland is from the very first Kaslo celebration on May 24, 1892.

Swamp Tails

Cheerful notes from the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology

These notes from the field are submitted by Lorna Visser and registered professional biologist Wayne McCrory, directors of the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology. The VFE presents this paid column to educate readers about wetlands and to support our Valley Voice newspaper. This edition's Swamp Tails *column is sponsored by the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program.*

Greetings, marsh fans.

There's no question that full-on spring is gripping the swamp. Tender green shoots are sprouting up everywhere. The restored areas are greening up nicely and starting to look very natural after last summer's intensive wetland restoration work. In places, you would never know you were looking at what used to be a compacted road surface — now you'll see a string of lovely small pools bursting with Pacific Chorus frogs croaking madly as they seek a mate.

Great news for the Lucerne School students who, under the supervision of the good folks from the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, planted native trees and shrubs last fall around the large new pond at Snk'mip — it looks like everything you planted made it through the winter and is thriving. Perhaps your parents can bring you out to the marsh to check on "your" tree seedling(s) since school is not in formal session at this time.

We do ask that you **not** bring dogs (even on-leash) to the sanctuary at this time because it is "Nest In Peace" season for the many rare and sensitive species of birds that nest in the marsh and fledge their young there. Even the smell of a dog can dissuade a bird from nesting as birds perceive dogs as predators. Please put the needs of birds first at this time of year.

For this week's column we have some interesting notes on the history of the Snk'mip marsh area.

Let's take the way-back machine: history of the Snk'mip marsh area

The original human inhabitants of this area were the Sinixt people. Their stories and deep-time belief system tell us they have been here not just since the glaciers retreated but that they have *always* been here.

What came as a surprise to us was to learn that the Snk'mip area (Snk'mip means "head of the lake" or "base of the lake") is an ancient Sinixt village site. That's going back perhaps 4,000 years (more research needs to be done to determine exact dates of occupation with certainty).

This realization came to us settler types when K.L. Kivi e-mailed us a map from the textbook *Smithsonian's Handbook of North American Indians* that shows the full extent of the Sinixt people's territory. There on the map, which details Sinixt village sites, is village location-point #35: Snk'mip! It was a thrill to learn that. What an amazing honour that the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology is the current steward of this land which has such a rich and deep history. We intend to explore this more with the current Sinixt guardians of this region.

Smallpox epidemics and other diseases (which first spread along First Nations' trading networks) greatly reduced the population of the First People of this area even before the physical arrival of European explorers. That first contact was followed by waves of priests, prospectors, miners, loggers and colonial settlers. The Sinixt grieved many losses due to introduced diseases and were gradually forced off their land onto reserves or were dispersed to scattered locations.

By 1892, around the time the CPR railway was being constructed through the area, Snk'mip and environs was erroneously perceived by settlers as "empty land" ripe for development.

Certainly, enterprising surveyors had grand plans for a prosperous Bonanza City at the north end of Slocan Lake. Government surveyor C.E. Perry laid out Bonanza City with streets named "Mountain Street," "Broadway Street," and even a "Beaver Street." What is today Snk'mip marsh is noted as a "Beaver Meadow" with the notation "very wet."

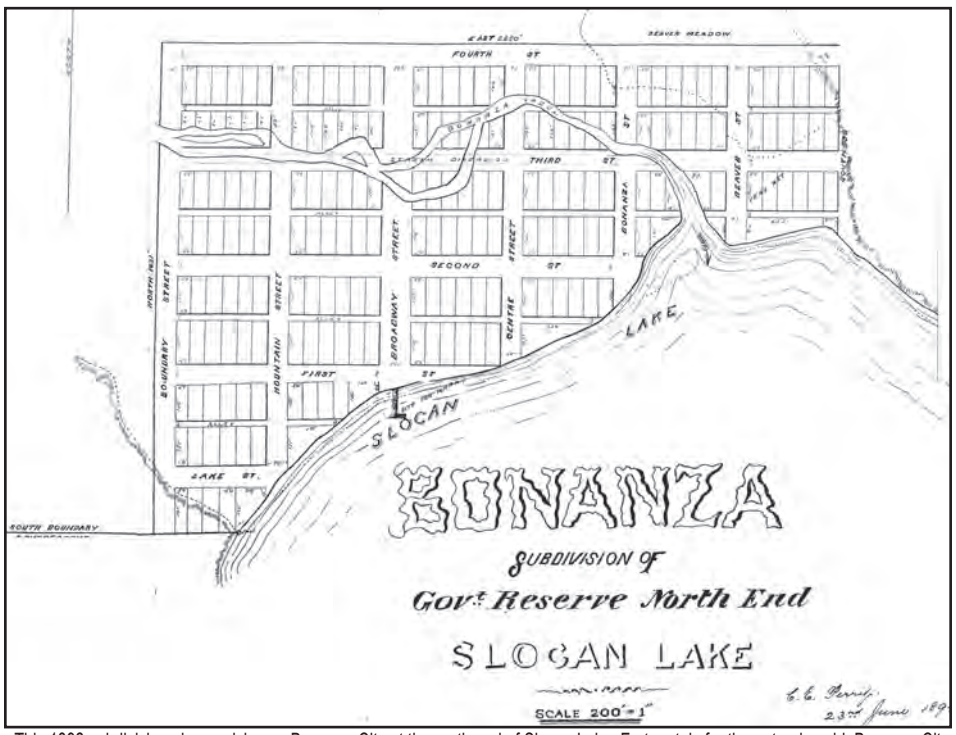
We got a laugh considering that Beaver Street is today well underwater thanks in large part to its namesake, the beaver.

Fortunately for the natural world, Bonanza City never existed. There was a sawmill on the lakeshore for a time and the area was logged, but the substantial settler residential zone envisioned by Mr. Perry never materialized. (A shout-out to local history expert Greg Nesteroff for digging up the plan of Bonanza City and providing it to us.)

Undoubtedly one of the most pronounced alterations to negatively affect Snk'mip marsh and its environs was the construction of the CPR railroad grade, completed in 1894. It was built to provide a transportation link to carry ore to smelters to the south. Creating a rail-bed wide enough and strong enough to accommodate trains carrying ore meant substantial works had to be undertaken in the steep mountainside slope above Snk'mip marsh.

Vegetation along the railroad bed on both sides was cleared during construction. In a letter written on November 24th, 1894 reporting on the completion of the railroad, Dominion Government inspecting Engineer G.J. Desbarats states: "The 'road' runs through a wooded uninhabited country and has been cleared to a width of 100 feet." (Trains ran through Snk'mip for almost 100 years. The last CPR train ran on the railroad tracks above Snk'mip marsh on March 2nd, 1989. The tracks and ties were later taken up and the railroad grade is today used as a recreational trail by cross-country skiers, pedestrians and cyclists.)

At the same time as First Peoples in Canada were being severely impacted by settler encroachment, Canada's beaver population took a terrible hit. The beaver was almost trapped to extinction to support the European craze for beaver hats in the 1800s. Beaver populations, once multitudinous and ubiquitous across the country, collapsed under this trapping pressure. The beaver population that would have been at Snk'mip was likely nearly extirpated.



This 1892 subdivision plan envisions a Bonanza City at the north end of Slocan Lake. Fortunately for the natural world, Bonanza City never materialized. The area aptly named "Beaver St." (and around the Bonanza Creek mouth) is where Snk'mip marsh is today.

By sometime in the 1930s, we have learned that the Snk'mip area had been drained (there would have been very few beavers left to maintain it as a wetland and it was likely drained by hard-working farmers who had by then settled in the Hills area). Air photos from that time, the earliest we were able to source, show Snk'mip as a hay field. A 1939 photo shows a well-established farm nearby. The trees which today are flooded snags appear to be healthy conifers and it looks as though the land was smoothed and was being hayed or grazed.

By what mechanism did these farm fields with ditched streams become the Snk'mip Marsh wetland complex? In a 1945 air-photo, one can see standing water in the ditches. It is likely that a few surviving beavers dammed the outflow ditch, causing water to flood the drainage ditches which settlers had cut into the swampy land. Perhaps the manpower or resources required to maintain the ditches were not available during the Second World War between 1939 and 1945.

We don't know exactly what transpired but we see from the photos that gradually the area becomes progressively wetter. We were told that a family that lived adjacent to the marsh from the mid-1950s onwards grazed some of their cows there and once had to rescue a farm horse that had sunk up to its neck in the muddy swamp.

The Snk'mip wetland has restored itself slowly on what was once agricultural land, mainly thanks to beavers. The marsh and wetland communities that have developed since 1939 show that highly ecologically valuable and unique wetland ecosystems can develop on sites that have been drastically modified in the past. Thus, we continue to do wetland restoration work there: to enhance natural habitat and "give back to nature" a place for birds, animals, amphibians, insects and reptiles.

In our next column we will discuss the challenges and complexities of stewarding conservation properties. For now, we'd like to give a tip of the hat to our wonderful funders who support habitat securement and wetland restoration work. Huge thanks to the Columbia Basin Trust's Environment Grants Program, the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, the Fanwood West Foundation, the Glasswater Foundation, the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, several family funds within the Vancouver Foundation, and many generous donors who care deeply about nature.

Valhalla Foundation for Ecology
Preserving wild places for wild things

Ecotourism business applies for non-mechanized recreation tenure in Retallack area

by Jan McMurray

Mount Brennan Backwoods Recreation (MBBR), an emerging ecotourism business, has applied for a small Crown land tenure (618.75 hectares) between Kaslo and New Denver for year-round, non-mechanized recreation.

"We would use the proposed tenure area for hiking and mountain biking in summer, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ski touring in winter, and for mountaineering year-round," said MBBR co-owner Braden East in an interview.

The existing trails in the proposed tenure area are well known and well established. They are open to the public, and Braden says the tenure wouldn't change that. "The trails and tenure area would remain accessible to the general public," said Braden. "The tenure is non-exclusive, so public access will be maintained."

The three business owners – Braden East, Dustin East and Joel Hutton – have lived in the area for 12 years and own 57 acres of private land in the Retallack area. They have built a lodge with a run-of-river power system on their land, and are currently creating a campground there.

"We've been renting the lodge out for a few years on an informal basis to people who do self-guided hiking or ski touring on our property and the surrounding Crown land, and we've offered backcountry skills courses out of the lodge in cooperation with qualified professionals," explains Braden. "We've come to the point where we'd like to formalize the business."

The lodge accommodates up to 10 people, and the campground will have 10-15 campsites.

Braden says MBBR's goal is to offer opportunities that improve public access to the backcountry and that have very little impact on the environment.

"The lodge and campground are easily accessible – you don't need to be flown in – and the price point is affordable," Braden says. "Visitors can drive their cars to our place – or close to our place and hike in – and use the lodge or campground as their home base while they explore the area. Our campground will give visitors the option of avoiding camping in sensitive areas while on their hiking trips."

Recently, they improved access to the lodge and by so doing, they helped to create a much-needed new public access to the Mt. Brennan/ Lyle Creek trail. The public crosses the bridge they built and a small portion of MBBR's private land to access the trail.

Access to the MBBR property is via Rossiter Forest Service Road, off Hwy 31A between New Denver and Kaslo. About 7.5 kilometres up Rossiter, MBBR owners built a bridge over Lyle Creek and a one-kilometre road to the lodge. They have a private roadway agreement with the government – they maintain this section of the road and carry liability insurance for it.

MBBR's proposed ski touring area is on private and Crown land close to the lodge, from London Ridge to Mt. Jardine, and avoids overlapping with existing heli-ski and cat-ski tenures held by Retallack and Stellar, Braden said.

The existing trails proposed by MBBR for hiking (and some for mountain biking) are Mt. Brennan/ Lyle Creek Trail, Rossiter/ Jardine Trail, Whitewater Creek Trail, London Ridge Trail, and Brennan Ridge Trail. Mountain biking trails will be beginner to intermediate.

MBBR is proposing to build a new three-kilometre trail to improve hike-in access to the lodge and to the Mt. Brennan/ Lyle Creek trailhead. The trail begins at the highway and follows the Kaslo-Sandon Wagon Road across Rossiter Creek, then winds up through the forest. Braden says both MBBR and the public will benefit from this trail, as it will make the area accessible without having to drive a vehicle or snowmobile up the FSR to get to the trailhead.

Another new trail MBBR proposes is a two-kilometre loop that starts from the lodge and follows an old miner's path on Crown land.

Public comments on the application will be accepted until June 25. See the notice on this page for the link to more information and to find out how to provide comments.

New Denver council, May 12: Campground may open in June

by Kathy Hartman

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Vern Gustafson as Mayor Leonard Casley was recovering from a bad attack of treehouse. (He was fixing his grandkids' treehouse when it fell on him. He was treated in Trail and is recovering well.)

• The New Denver campground will not be opening in May. The Village is exploring options for a possible June opening if staff and campers can be kept safe. More information will be forthcoming as guidance arrives from the provincial health officer concerning overnight camping.

• An update from the New Denver and Area Housing Society (NDAHS) informs the Village that the society has received $21,280 in seed funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The funding will go towards a feasibility study for the proposed affordable housing project in the village. The CAO and councillors will meet with representative of NDAHS on May 22 to discuss next steps.

• The budget and tax rate bylaws were adopted. Like many other local government budgets in this pandemic year, New Denver's results in a 0% increase in municipal taxation as compared to 2019. Taxes were kept low and service levels maintained due in part to the hard work of staff in securing some $340,000 in grants for municipal projects this year, with another $100,000 yet to be confirmed. These grants will help hold back the losses from lack of revenues this year from the campground and the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre.

The residential tax rate is 3.2816 per $1,000 of assessed value and the business tax rate is 6.4480. The municipal portion of the tax bill is 44% of the total, with the rest for schools (33%), RDCK (15%), police (4%), regional hospital facilities (3.5%), and BC Assessment and Municipal Finance Authority (0.5%). New Denver's tax deadline is July 15. All property owners are encouraged to pay by that date. On July 16, a 10% penalty will be applied to residential properties. The penalty for businesses has been delayed until October 1 by provincial order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

• A letter from Kevin and Jane Murphy was received thanking Village staff for expanding Arbor Day pick-up and to the crew for their careful and thorough job of removing debris from the winter storms. Several councillors mentioned that they had heard many comments on how good the street and boulevards looked this year.

• The Village will receive $15,625 for its Emergency Support Services Modernization project. The funding is from the provincial Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

• The Community COVID-19 Action Team returned $750 of the $1500 in-kind donation from the Village and asked that it be used towards the cost of the new COVID-19 information officer, Sara Thomas.

• Councillors Gustafson and Wagner expressed concern over the slide that closed the Galena Trail between Three Forks and the cable car. Gustafson said, "That trail system is a huge economic and recreational driver. Time to think out of the box for a different way to operate." Wagner remarked, "Trains never fell into the valley, but now the trail is sloughing away."

Land Act:
Notice of Application for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that We, 1163225 BC Ltd., from Kaslo, BC, have applied to the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), Kootenay Boundary Region, for a Licence of Occupation for hiking, all season mountaineering, mountain biking and ski touring use situated on Provincial Crown Land located in the vicinity of Kaslo, BC

FLNRORD invites comments on this application, the Lands File is 4406102. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to Authorization Specialist, FLNRORD, Kootenay Boundary Region, at 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook, BC V1C 7G1. Comments will be received by FLNRORD up to **June 25, 2020**. FLNRORD may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit the website at http://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. Access to these records requires the submission of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. Visit http://www.gov.bc.ca/freedomofinformation to learn more about FOI submissions.

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Next up at Studio Connexion – 'Journey to the Butterfly,' a study in metamorphosis

submitted

The idea for Journey to the Butterfly started in the Studio Connexion art gallery itself.

"I was with Anne and Clark at Studio Connexion a couple of years ago," says Barbara Maye. "I was exchanging some soapstone carvings at the gallery and Clark mentioned how he liked my carvings that you could flip over."

He was referring to five stones that Maye had carved decade years ago – one of which the gallery owners had in their own collection. The comment planted a seed for Maye to revisit the 'flip stone' style of soapstone carvings. The year-long *Journey to the Butterfly* began.

Most of Barbara Maye's art is informed by research before physical creation. With this collection, that research began with a mentorship with Mark McKay, a retired Revelstoke prospector and stone carver. With financial backing from GoFundMe supporters and a CKCA/CBT Major Projects Grant, Barbara and Mark headed into the mountains surrounding Revelstoke in hunt for soapstone.

Visiting 35 different soapstone sites on seven trips, the two became fast friends and fostered a mutual respect with the guidance of nature. As they discovered carving stone together, Barbara gained the appropriate permissions from active title owners to harvest a few. "Mark and I both feel strongly about respecting the claim title owners of the places we visited."

Maye's unique 'flip stone' carvings can be lifted and reset in different resting positions to expose a completely new perspective.

"The act of touching the carvings ignites healing properties of the soapstone. The action of turning it echoes both the molten transformation of the rock and my handling of the stones during carving," she says. "The abstract forms engage the imagination as impressions of the familiar are revealed. How one interacts with the sculpture, and the condition and position it is left in then becomes the first experience of another."

But when Maye began carving for the show in the fall, a severe compression of the nerve at her cervical spine caused acute pain and mobility loss in her neck and right arm. "For a while, I couldn't even lift my arm to brush my hair."

Overwhelmed by fear and disappointment, it was her mentorship with Mark, the concept of the 'flip stones,' and the soapstone itself that reminded her to change her perspective.

"Soapstone is the result of a metamorphosis. Like the transformation of a butterfly inside the chrysalis, it undergoes a complete physical restructuring if the right conditions are present – to recreate itself anew, more beautiful."

She determined to focused on what she could do and not what she had lost. She concentrated on her non-dominant arm and incorporated new tools to simplify the process.

The love of art persevered and beautiful stones became beautiful carvings. With new curiosity and encouragement from Anne at Studio Connexion, Barbara attempted both landscapes and left-handed painting for the first time – depicting loving memories of mountain roads traveled during the mentorship. And as the art was created, so was the healing.

The first exhibition of Barbara's new works, *Tectonic Perspective: Journey to the Butterfly* will be at Studio Connexion Art Gallery in Nakusp June 2-20. The opening reception is June 5, 5-8 pm.

Social distancing guidelines mean people attending the gallery can't handle the stones as originally intended.

"But Anne and I will be happy to show everyone how the carvings can be transformed. It's still going to be magical," she says.

Studio Connexion is open by appointment only for now by calling 250-265-8888.

Barbara Maye's upcoming show at Studio Connexion features her 'flip stone' carvings. This piece is called 'Chocolate Chip.'

Rainer Krissler

Rainer Krissler born November 19th, 1937 passed on May 9th, 2020 at the Nakusp hospital in the presence of his wife, Gesila, children and family. We deeply appreciate all those from the hospital, friends and neighbours for their support and care.

Rainer spent endless hours with his wife and family in the surrounding mountains fishing, hunting, collecting mushrooms and appreciating nature's offerings.

He worked very hard and had multiple true talents. He passed along to family upon retirement a very accomplished concrete finishing company that continues to this day in Kelowna.

He will be deeply missed by all for his endless energy to help family, neighbours and friends.

WHY LEAVES UNFURL

Leaves unfurl in spring due to cues set up the previous autumn: day length and temperature. Plants respond to longer nights by shutting down, forming hard casings that protect the buds in winter. In spring, there must be a sufficient number of consecutive warm days in a row for leaves to open. Hormones, temperature changes and water availability also trigger unfurling.

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society
slocanlakess.com

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CHANGE TO OPERATING HOURS

In order to accommodate shoppers during our busy periods while observing the current health order issued by Interior Health Authority for all essential service operators, we have been able to expand our operating hours.

We are now open from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM daily.

As we are required to ensure social distancing measures are being observed, during periods with high numbers of customers, we will continue to limit the total number of people inside the store. At those times, customers may be asked to wait briefly outside until others inside have completed their shopping.

The Co-op Team thanks you for your patience.

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We are now in a position to offer food delivery. The service will be available to those under order for isolation, immune-compromised individuals, or isolated seniors. Orders are placed by calling 250-226-7433 - Extension 227. Callers may need to leave a message for callback.

The Passmore Volunteer Fire Department has offered to provide even more service to our community by delivering orders from Crescent Valley to Slocan on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Payment will be made by credit card only, and processed over the phone before delivery. As we are unable to perform age-verification, we will not be able to provide delivery of liquor, tobacco or lottery products. Other restrictions may apply.

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Due to changes in the availability of some products that were part of our regularly advertised specials, we are unable to ensure that stock will be on hand for the advertised period. We will still offer a number of Manager Selections and In-store specials at this time. Stay healthy everyone.

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For more information and submission details visit
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New pizza place opens on Broadway in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Ryan and Kathleen Chisholm have purchased Karl's Woodfire Pizza on Nakusp's main street and have renamed it Arrow & Anchor Pizza.

"We had been looking at different options to relocate to Nakusp, but with the purchase of Karl's place it sort of felt like the stars aligned for us," Ryan says. "In all of our dreaming of opening our own restaurant, pizza was always on the top of the list. With Karl's being up for sale, we saw an opportunity to work in our favourite place and be close to Kathleen's parents, who relocated to the area about five years ago, after years of summers spent here on vacation."

Arrow & Anchor is offering 11 different pizzas now, and will offer 21 when the restaurant can be open for dining in. There's even a dessert pizza.

"We love the dessert pizza – it reminds us of our years camping at McDonald Creek and making s'mores at the campfire. It has been quite a hit so far!" says Kathleen.

Ryan and Kathleen Chisholm are the owners of the new Arrow & Anchor Pizza in Nakusp.

The menu also includes three appetizers, and there will be a larger selection of salads when people can dine in.

Arrow & Anchor uses local, organic ingredients when possible, and has gluten-free options. "It was important to us to have gluten free – and recently added vegan – options so that everyone can enjoy our pizza," Ryan said. "It's also important to us to support the local economy as much as possible."

The couple spent six years together in Halifax and did nearly all of their grocery shopping at the local farmers' market. "Here in Nakusp, we see many of those same opportunities to support local wherever possible," Kathleen said.

Ryan is a professional red seal chef. Born and raised in Halifax, he has always worked in the restaurant industry. Kathleen is originally from Airdrie, Alberta and met Ryan when she moved to Halifax to do a masters degree in geology.

From the website: "Our mission is to create quality pizza with fresh and honest ingredients. Dine in or take out, pizza with a fork and knife, picked up by the slice, or folded in half east coast style, our goal is to share our love of pizza around the communal table."

Ryan says the mission is "inspired by our love of food, honestly. Our favourite restaurants over the years have felt like a second home to us. We hope that our menu and our atmosphere make those who visit our restaurant and try our pizza feel the same way."

The couple is very happy with the response they've had to their new business. "The support from Nakusp has been incredible," Kathleen says. "We have been so warmly welcomed by the community. Nakusp used to be our favourite place to visit and now we can't believe how lucky we are to call Nakusp home. We absolutely love it here."

"It feels like a dream come true," adds Ryan. "Going back to our mission, getting to know so many people so quickly has already made our restaurant feel like a second home to us in many ways. We love greeting people by name when they come through the doors."

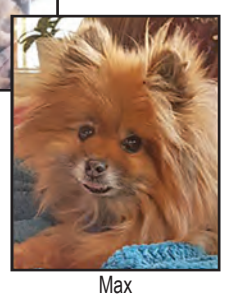
The Arrow & Anchor will also be featuring "pop-up" themes from time to time. Instead of the regular menu, they will offer something entirely different – Italian, seafood, French. "The possibilities are endless," says Ryan, adding that when they come up with their first pop-up menu, they'll announce it on their website (arrowandanchor.ca) and on social media.

RCMP aid in search for missing dogs

submitted

Police are appealing residents of Burton to keep an eye out for a pair of missing dogs that disappeared earlier this month.

Sophia



Max

On May 8, Nakusp RCMP received a report from a Caribou Creek Road resident that their two dogs had disappeared from their yard three days earlier.

The Burton woman reportedly let her dogs out into her private yard and when she returned a short time later, her pets were missing. She searched the area for her dogs without success, and took to social media with concerns that her animals were taken.

One dog is described as a nine-year-old female Chihuahua, Shih Tzu and Pomeranian cross. 'Sophia' is cream coloured and said to be in poor health. The second is described as a 9-year-old male, pure-bread Pomeranian. 'Max' is brown in colour.

Both dogs are said to be tattooed.

"These animals are deeply missed by their owner, who wants nothing more than to have them both returned safely home," says Nakusp RCMP Cpl. Jaime Moffat. RCMP are sharing images of Sophia and Max in hope that someone knows something.

Anyone with any information is asked to please contact the Nakusp RCMP Detachment at 250-265-3677.

Nakusp council approves tighter water restrictions

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

If you have a lawn and garden in Nakusp, you're going to have to ease up on watering it this summer.

Nakusp Village council took steps earlier this month to curb the community's unsustainable water consumption – and they did it by changing a single word in their water use bylaw.

Council has approved a change in the water regulation bylaw that will cut residential irrigation from four hours every second day to just two hours every second day.

The bylaw has allowed residents to water twice per day on their permitted days, once from 7 to 9 in the morning and again from 7 to 9 in the evening. By changing the 'and' to an 'or', they cut the allowable sprinkling time by half.

Automatic underground sprinkler systems will also be limited to operate for maximum two hours per day, on permitted days, between the hours of 12 am and 4 am only.

"This restriction isn't because we're in a permanent drought," said Councillor Joseph Hughes. "It just makes sense to be more efficient and not waste because people are watering all the time because they simply don't know that it's just wasted water."

Last year the village actually started running short of water at the height of the summer. A consultant found that over-consumption and low stream flows contributed to the shortage. On some days Nakusp used more water than Nelson, a town about ten times the size of Nakusp.

Reducing sprinkling times to two hours a day will reduce water usage by approximately 900 gallons per connection, on each day. With nearly 1,300 connections in town, the saving would work out to more than 576,000 gallons saved daily during summer months.

"This would increase the amount of water available, and reduce the likelihood of water shortages occurring in the upcoming summer season, to meet domestic and fire protection demand," said a letter from consulting firm 9dot Engineering to council.

The restriction is for daily lawn and garden watering, and does not include daily household water usage. Nor does it include hand-watering gardens, which can be done as often as the gardener prefers.

Murky waters

But the straightforward request got bogged down in debate when Mayor Tom Zeleznik noted that many more residents were growing food this summer, in anticipation of pandemic-related food distribution problems and high prices.

"Gardening has gone right through the roof," said Zeleznik. "People are worried, the expense to bring food in is going to double… so gardening is going to be a top priority. Times are tough for people right now.

"I can't stress how important gardening is to people who are suffering right now," he said. "When you think about it, rich people aren't going to have a garden. They're going to buy their food and they can afford it. The ones who can't are going to garden."

He suggested that watering gardens shouldn't be included in the restriction. That prompted more discussion, as the bylaw makes no distinction between watering a food garden and watering lawn and flower beds.

"If we want to protect food-producing gardens for some kind of irrigation, there's more work to be done," said Councillor Aidan McLaren-Caux. "As the bylaw currently stands, there's no exemption in the bylaw."

Village CAO Cheryl Martens noted that hand-watering would be considered an exemption, but said she would go back and look into the water bylaw to clarify. She'll bring any necessary changes back to the next council meeting for approval.

The Village plans to use education, not enforcement, as the prime tool to get gardeners to change their habits. They'll be hiring a summer student as a water ambassador to go from door to door, talking to residents about the need for conservation and offering up suggestions for saving water.

Burton family shaken by vandalism to jeep

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Nakusp RCMP is asking the public for help in finding the person or persons responsible for the vandalism of a family's jeep in Burton earlier this month.

Police say on May 5, 2020 they received a report that someone had heavily damaged a jeep parked at the flats in Burton while family members were on the lake between 2 and 6:30 pm.

The owner of the vehicle, a local Burton resident, returned from fishing with his son and discovered that someone had smashed the windows, headlights, and mirrors of their vehicle and boat trailer.

Investigators believe that the brake lines of the Jeep had also been tampered with.

"If it were not for my husband's ability to catch this we could have been seriously injured, or worse…," wrote Catherine Bischke in a Facebook post. "I'm so sick over the fact that someone could be this awful.

"Smashing out windows and lights is one thing. Deliberately putting our lives at risk is a completely different story."

An early lead that a black Jeep had been spotted near the scene turned out to be a dead end.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Nakusp RCMP Detachment at 250-265-3677.

THE VILLAGE OF
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WATER SMART AMBASSADOR

The Village of Nakusp has an exciting opportunity for a dynamic individual to act as the **Water Smart Ambassador**, a summer position for the 2020 season. Position will be based on a 7 hour work day at $18.23/hr, Monday to Friday.

The Water Smart Ambassador provides public education about water conservation to residents and businesses in Nakusp. Duties include: responding to customer inquiries about water conservation; proactively promoting water conservation through public displays and events, conducting lawn and garden water assessments at residential locations, working with the Public Works department to help ensure watering efficiency; and carrying out social marketing programs designed to reduce water consumption. Training will be provided.

This is a real opportunity to make a difference in your community. While this is an ideal position for a person already in, or interested in, a career in environmental education or resource management, anyone with an interest in water conservation is encouraged to reply.

Essential Qualifications
- Passion for water conservation and environmental issues
- Excellent interpersonal communications skills
- Completion of Grade 12 or an equivalent GED
- Valid BC Driver's License, Class 5
- Knowledge of the local area
- Self motivated and highly organized
- Experience with public education and/or working with the public on a one-on-one level
- Computer skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc)
- Data gathering and analytical skills

Interested applicants should submit a covering letter and resume by May 27th, 2020 to:

Cheryl A. Martens, CAO
Village of Nakusp Box 280, Nakusp BC, V0G 1R0

Or Email: cao@nakusp.com

This position is supported by a wage subsidy program and requires applicants to be 17 to 29 years old, must be a BC Resident, and must not be participating in another labour funded program. The successful applicant will be approved by GetYouthWorking after prior review of the CAO. Information on this program can be found at www.getyouthworking.ca

Slocan council, May 11: Municipal taxes will not increase this year

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

• The Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw and the Annual Tax Rate Bylaw were adopted.

Recognizing the financial downturn for local residents, council decided that property taxes in Slocan will not increase this year. (Water rates increased in January.) Taxes will be due on July 2. CAO Gordon reports that residential home owners have the option of applying to the Province for a deferral if they need to pay later. July 2 is the deadline for applying for the deferral.

CFO Colin McClure presented the 2020-2024 Draft Financial Plan. "The community should be pleased with the work council has done," he said. McClure called the Village "a good steward" and noted "the grant-writing has been fantastic." The Village plans to go ahead with a number of capital projects, with a total cost of $1,141,990. The Village has no long-term debt at this time. Interest rates are "quite low," McClure said, and in 2020 the Village will look into leasing a new excavator. In future years, the Springer Creek Hydro Project and new water plant, when and if approved, would require the Village to borrow funds for project costs not covered by grants. For infrastructure with a long lifespan, it's a good idea to borrow, McClure said.

• The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has awarded $29,000 in seed funding for Slocan's affordable housing complex: $13,000 will not need to be repaid; $16,000 will be loaned interest-free for three years or until the Village receives project financing or either party terminates the agreement, whichever happens first. An email from Denise Dufault asked that the planned two- and three-bedroom affordable housing project also include two single occupancy units. Mayor Lunn agreed it was "important that we consider some single units as well." Councillor Pelletier said an architect had not yet been engaged, and the change could be considered. CAO Gordon said that M'akola Development Services had issued an RFP for architectural layout and design options for the project.

• Council approved the draft Licence of Occupation outlining the terms and condition for Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation to install, maintain, and operate an underground fibre-optic cable and associated equipment along the east side of Harold St. from Arlington Rd. to Lake Ave. and then west past the gazebo and Rail Trail to the lake. Village staff were directed to execute the agreement.

• Council discussed the CBT Public Arts Grant of $16,636 for a large steel and concrete sculpture in the "Discover the Koots" series to be created by the Koots Artist Collective and placed on Rail Trail property near the waterfront gazebo. Councillor Madeleine Perriere said she thought the art would be better in a "more secluded… forest location" like the campground or at the Owl Walk. Council noted that Perriere had missed the meeting where the waterfront was chosen as the location for the sculpture. "I don't think they'll be too stoked if we want them to come back to look at a new location," Councillor Pelletier said. Perriere withdrew her call for a different location. Mayor Lunn said the Collective's "concept was germinating" at the last meeting and it would be good to have another meeting to get a final update about the project.

• Mayor Lunn drew attention to a letter from MLA Katrine Conroy, congratulating Slocan on receiving a $52,350 CBT grant to revitalize the Tenacity Skate Park. The grounds will be landscaped and signage, seating, and shade covering will be installed. The community cobb oven will also be repaired.

• Saturday Market will be held once again this summer. Council okayed Christina Knight's request to renew her Licence to Occupy the Expo Park upper bench area from June to August. While provincial COVID-19 regulations are in place, only food will be sold at the market. Knight told council in an email that she hoped the restrictions would be eased during the summer and that the Saturday Market would then be able to resume selling non-food items and offering entertainment.

• Council directed staff to sign and complete a Letter of Consent for the RDCK Electoral Areas E & F and Slocan Valley Transit Service Amendment Bylaw No. 2709, 2020. The new amendment increases rates to local governments by 25%. Mayor Lunn said this agreement would allow the bus service to be maintained without cuts to service. On a side note, Lunn said, "Actually, we're paying quite a bit for this service." The rate "doesn't take into account that our mill shut down." Lunn suggested the Village invite Tom Dool, RDCK Research Analyst, to meet with Council to discuss Slocan's rate.

• The Slocan Valley Economic Development April Progress Report noted the second phase of the Economic Resilience planning for the Village of Slocan was complete.

• Councillor Pelletier reported that the WE Graham Community Service Society was "working away at new garden space" for the Food Bank Garden. The fenced area has doubled in size.

• The May Slocan Council Meeting was again held online. "It's been difficult and challenging to meet remotely," Mayor Lunn said. She thanked council and staff for their patience and expressed hope that the June meeting might be held "in person… perhaps at the Legion" where there would be sufficient space for social distancing.

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Goat Mountain Kids Centre in New Denver is seeking part-time and full-time Early Childhood Educators and assistants to join our team. Goat Mountain Kids Centre will open September 8 in New Denver with a pre-kindergarten childcare program for 16 children and an after-school program. Hours of operation will likely be 8:30-4:30, Monday to Friday.

Qualifications: ECE certificate or ECE A qualifications, valid first aid certificate and a clear criminal record check.

The ideal candidate would have:

• an understanding of Reggio Emilia philosophy to use while working with children;

• knowledge about licensing requirements and regulations;

• ability to work and communicate well with other educators, board members and parents;

• a passion for working with children

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Kaslo council, May 12: Campground and skatepark open for May Days

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

• Chief Administrative Officer Ian Dunlop reported that pandemic-related signage is being developed for the campground and skateboard park, in anticipation of those facilities reopening as social distancing rules are relaxed. The campground was to be opened for the long weekend, but only for RVs that are completely self-contained. All but one washroom will be closed. That one will be available for the public. The reopening of the skateboard park is contingent upon provincial rules being issued allowing such facilities to operate. [The skatepark was open for the May long weekend.]

• Council approved the temporary expansion of the unlicenced area of the patio at Taqueria El Corazon, as long as the expansion doesn't impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic, all building permit requirements are met, and appropriate insurance is in place. Council also reduced the 2020 fee for patios by 50%, as the season will be shortened due to COVID-19.

• Council passed its five-year financial plan and tax rate bylaws, with a 0% property tax increase. Water and sewer rates were also passed. For the average residential user, the sewer fee is $370 annually. A large retail operation will pay about $1,100. It would cost $3,975 for a new connection to be set up to the sewer system.

• The Kaslo Racquet Club has developed a plan to allow people to play competitive racquet sports again. Members want to start playing outdoors and have been requesting the courts to reopen. The KRC has agreed, but says it has put in guidelines "somewhat more stringent in some areas" than Tennis BC and Pickleball BC recommend. Those include only allowing locals who are members to use the facilities; scheduled group play will only be permitted; social distancing will be observed; members who are sick with any symptoms of cold (or worse) should stay away for at least two weeks; pickleballs will be disinfected and tennis players will provide their own balls. Council received the correspondence as information.

• The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Committee has been officially established. The committee, which will be chaired by Councillor Kellie Knoll, will liaise between council and staff and the Chamber of Commerce, RDCK, Kaslo infoNet Society, partner agencies, organizations, businesses, citizens and the provincial government to "help guide the near-term strategy around the Village's economic and social recovery" from the pandemic and its aftereffects. The committee will remain in place for the remainder of the current term of office, or until it's not needed anymore. It will meet biweekly, and while it won't get any financial support from the Village, it can ask for staff time for information requests that are "reasonable in scope and expected response time." There's no word on when the first meeting of the committee will be held. Members are: Councillors Knoll and Henry Van Mill, Paul Heofer, Daphne Hunter, Jean-Marc LaFlamme, Randy Morse and Kul Nijjar.

• The Kootenay Carshare Co-op won't be getting a dedicated parking space closer to downtown for one of its local vehicles.

"It would help grow membership and usage if one of those vehicles had greater community presence," the Kaslo Climate Action Team wrote to council. The co-op has had vehicles in Kaslo since 2007, and already parks two of its three local vehicles on Third Street. They had been looking at a spot on A Ave. and 4th St., but council felt there were too many parking spaces already dedicated (to electric charging stations) on that strip, and denied the request.

• Organizations that have received recreation or municipal grants to undertake projects or events are going to get a break from the Village to complete their work if it's been affected by the pandemic. Council approved a motion to give an extension for groups to complete their work and report to council by the end of 2021, instead of 2020.

• Municipal governments are being blitzed this week by cannabis retailers, who are looking for support for a relaxation of their operating rules. They want to be able to take payment for orders online and deliver products to people's homes. The Village received a letter from 'Stick and Stone Cannabis Co.' from Fernie, asking for a letter supporting their request. It's not often generic campaigns get into the main council agenda, but the letter writer knows how to work the system. He called Village hall and lobbied staff to include it in the main agenda. Councillor Knoll indicated he knew the writer, a former city councillor in Fernie, and moved that council write a letter of support for cannabis retailers. He said the economic recovery from the pandemic will require some easing of regulations for business, and this was an example of that. The motion passed.

Kaslo council approves budget, keeps tax rate down

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Kaslo Village councillors have passed the 2020 municipal budget, approving a spending plan that focusses on reducing the tax burden on property and business owners in town.

However, the Village's chief administrative officer warned the budget is still very much a work in progress because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Uncertainty remains on the ability of property owners to pay their taxes on time," CAO Ian Dunlop stated. "Other revenues, like business licences, may be reduced, but the impact won't hit us until next year."

Council adopted the document at its May 12 meeting.

The budget sees Village revenues amounting to $2,554,243 from all sources, down from $3,078,099 last year. The Village sees the biggest drops in revenue from the sale of services and other small revenue generation sources.

The municipality will also collect almost $1 million in taxes for other levels of government, including the Regional District and the regional hospital board.

Spending has been cut too, with expenses budgeted for $2,575,832. That's down roughly $325,000 from last year. The biggest expenses are wages and benefits for staff, and capital expenditures.

The Village tax rate has actually decreased overall – by about 4.76%. But Dunlop pointed out property assessments have gone up by 5.9%, and other levels of government have raised their taxes. So the actual amount a homeowner pays may go up a little, depending on your assessment, says Dunlop.

But it's not because of Village budgeting, he noted.

"A property with an average assessment will see a zero tax increase on the Village portion of the taxes," Dunlop told council.

"If their assessment goes down or stays the same, they will see a significant decrease. If their assessment has gone up, more than the average, they will see an increase on their property taxes."

"It shows you how the increase in assessments have allowed us to keep tax rates low," he said.

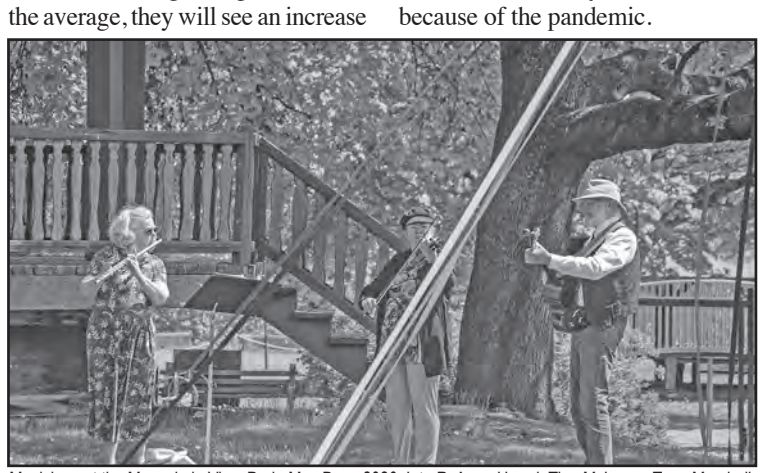
The Province reduced the school and business taxes this year as well.

Dunlop told councillors the Village could also see declining revenues from the campground and park rentals. While costs of travel are down, new expenses – like for COVID-19 protection for staff – are also an unknown. Senior levels of government have also declined to help municipalities with grants so far.

The budget also calls for $59,000 to be raised through the water parcel tax to begin saving for large-scale capital projects planned for the next few years. For the typical residential lot, that works out to about $55 this year.

Most of those capital projects are must-do jobs to replace older or install new water and sewer lines, and improve water treatment.

Taxes are due July 2. If payment isn't made, a 10% penalty will be charged. For businesses, the 10% penalty won't be charged until October 1 this year – a special measure taken by the Province because of the pandemic.



Musicians at the Maypole in Vimy Park, May Days 2020. L to R: Anne Heard, Tina McLaren, Terry Marshall.

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Find links provided to join virtual board meetings every third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.

The Treehouse Restaurant - End of an era!
Ronnie and Pauline, owners/operators of the Treehouse restaurant have officially sold their business. These very hardworking ladies can now enjoy a much anticipated and well-deserved retirement.
Over a 34 year span this busy hub of Kaslo has provided not only great food and service to their loyal customers but also solid employment and training to generations of workers within our community.
We, the staff wish to congratulate them and say thank you for letting us be a part of it all. It has been a privilege and an adventure working alongside these incredible women and they will be missed! So, ladies we raise a glass in honour of you and encourage everyone else who has been touched by the Treehouse magic to do the same!
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Nakusp council, May 12: Nakusp Farmers' Market starts up in new location near post office

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

• The Nakusp Farmers' Market held its first market of the year on the May long weekend, next to the post office. Zeleznik says he met with organizers, who showed him their preparations to keep the new market space safe for buyers and sellers. There'll be a limit of 10 vendors maintaining stalls, and no more than 50 people – the provincial public health limit—in the area at any time.

• The mayor is floating an idea of a non-monetary way the Village can support local business hit hard by the pandemic. He said the municipality could close portions of Broadway Avenue to vehicular traffic on certain days, allowing restaurants and businesses that don't have enough space for safe social distancing to move outside.

"We must remember these local specific businesses now! And once again after this pandemic is over!! or when we go to knock or shop at that local business it may be locked," he wrote in his mayor's report.

• Council adopted its new bylaw enforcement bylaw. Essentially, the new bylaw allows Village staff to levy fines and enforce bylaws without having to go through a lengthy and expensive court process. Bylaw violators facing penalties under $500 (which is most of them) will be able to appeal their fine to an adjudicator instead of a judge.

With the Village taking more control over its bylaw enforcement, Councillor Joseph Hughes said he wanted to ensure council remained informed to what staff were doing. He asked that council be provided with a 'high-level' summary of what bylaws were being enforced, how many, from what areas of town, etc.

CAO Cheryl Martens said it shouldn't be a problem for staff to provide council with a summary monthly. However, such a report would not contain identifiable information about violators in order to protect privacy rights.

• Council approved its five-year financial plan and tax rates for this year. Residential taxes were held to a zero increase this year. Commercial tax bills have been reduced by about 25%, thanks to the Province decreasing school taxes for businesses as part of its COVID-19 response.

• The Launch Club asked the Village to take on the hydro costs at the marina. Power was shut off to the marina in October 2019 due to damage done because of the compromised breakwater, so the club was surprised to get such big bills over the winter. It turns out they were still paying for heat and light for the attached public washrooms, which the Village has been operating since 2000.

"There is only one hydro meter on site and the Launch Club has continued paying for the hydro costs of the washrooms, which are open and heated during winter months," said a report to council.

Council approved the request. Staff will also draw up a new lease that frees the Launch Club from future bills to power the potty.

• Dope to your door? The Association of Canadian Cannabis Retailers asked council to support a lobbying effort that would allow private cannabis retailers to take online payment and make door-to-door delivery of cannabis products. Councillor Susan DeSandoli noted that there are no companies currently in Nakusp that would be able to take advantage of such a change, and wondered why it was coming before council. Allowing it would allow residents to order from out-of-town dispensaries, staff said. Not only that, approval's been given for Nakusp's first cannabis store to open at 312 Broadway, so the change could help a new local business to survive. The motion of support passed.

• The Tasty Times Vegan Eatery was granted an application to run its mobile food kiosk at the beach again this summer. Council heard it's the third year the food wagon will be at the beach, and council's never heard any complaints from local business.

• Council approved a construction project for the Emergency Services Building. Emergency crews will be able to clean their equipment on a fresh 60 x 40 cement pad. They'll also be building a 30 x 30 trailer shed. The project also includes creating a road access, a practice area and additional parking spaces.

• Mercer Celgar asked the Village to sign a letter of support for its plan to survive the downturn in the company's fortunes caused by the coronavirus and changing pulp wood supplies. The motion carried – though it was rubber-stamping a decision made earlier by the mayor and staff, as the letter of support had to be sent off before the council meeting.

• The Province has approved a $7,500 grant for the Village's asset management project. It's dry as toast, but essential to the operation of any modern municipal government: data about the age and condition of the Village's assets and infrastructure has to be integrated into its planning documents. But that takes staff time or money, or a consultant to do the work. The money will be used for that purpose.

Work on the Nakusp marina is progressing. The engineer's report on the new system for the western breakwater was received May 4; delivery of the new system is expected in late June/ early July. With the support of Galena Contracting crew and equipment, the Launch Club has been repairing the marina walkway, and will continue this work as funds become available.

New log yard, chipping and scaling facilities for Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Mercer Celgar and the Nakusp and area Community Forest (NACFOR) are partnering to set up a log yard and chipping facility near the Nakusp landfill.

According to information submitted to Nakusp council, the project will "facilitate increased volume and efficiencies in fibre flow to Mercer Celgar," and will "create employment and other business opportunities for Nakusp, including an outlet for some low grade logs and fibre that are not currently utilized."

The yard is being moved from Lumby to Nakusp to improve transport efficiencies, the information document says, so will not increase the number of super B-train chip trucks on the road. Annual volumes are estimated at 8-10 logging truck loads entering the yard and six super B-train loads leaving the yard for Celgar.

The log yard will be located at an old gravel pit site on private land near the landfill.

Part of the project is to set up a weigh scale on NACFOR's log yard on Hot Springs Road. The scale will be used as a remote scale site for the Mercer Celgar yard, for other forestry operators in the area, and to weigh other highway trucks.

Some of the benefits of the project listed in the information document are: the opportunity to utilize waste fibre from wildfire risk reduction projects more economically, less slash burning, and a better ability to supply other local operators with logs.

To mitigate safety concerns from the increased industrial traffic on Hot Springs Road, the document says project proponents will work with the Ministry of Transportation to install signage and to ensure maintenance during adverse weather conditions, and limit truck speeds to less than 50 kilometres per hour between the scales and the highway.

Work on the first phase of Slocan's Waterfront Beautification Project paused for the Victoria Day weekend. Friday night a quad did donuts on the sod and Public Works staff had to work on their holiday break to repair the damage. The Village asks that anyone with info on the vandalism call the RCMP (250-358-2222).

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The successful applicant will have some knowledge of the materials, tools and equipment, as well as sufficient physical strength, stamina and coordination to permit the performance of manual outdoor work in all weather conditions. Exercising some independent judgment and initiative, the successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Performing the duties of helper and general labourer in relation to parks maintenance and other Village departments as assigned.
- Driving a pick-up truck to transport materials and tools to job sites.
- Performing other related work as required.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:
Possession of a valid class 5 BC driver's license is essential.
The terms and conditions of employment are in accordance with the CUPE Collective Agreement; pay rate is $17.32/hr. Interested applicants should submit a covering letter and their resume by June 1, 2020 to:

Village of Kaslo, PO Box 576, Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0
Email: admin@kaslo.ca

The Village thanks all applicants for their interest, however only those under consideration will be contacted.
The Village of Kaslo is committed to employment equity.
We encourage all qualified applicants to apply.

Village of Kaslo

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LACE APPRECIATES THE DONATIONS / memberships that came by cheque and by deposit to help pay for Donation Store rent. We will let you know when we are able to re-open. Thank You!

COMING EVENTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the New Denver Hospice Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting on June 25, 2020 at 7 pm. Due to a possible change in social distancing guidelines, the location or Zoom link will be determined by mid-June. Please check the website at https://newdenverhospice.com, email admin@newdenverhospice.ca or call 250-358-7828 for updated information.

READY, SET, LEARN at Home in New Denver area! All pre-kindergarten 3 to 5 year-olds, including home-based learners, are invited to participate in this free program on two Fridays, June 12 and 19. The modified program will be partially delivered on Zoom (stories and songs). Parents or caregivers may pick up Activity Kits for the program at Lucerne Elementary Secondary School on Wednesday or Thursday before the class. You do not have to 'attend' the class, everyone may have the Activity Kits, which include a book and very engaging activities. Please register to receive the kits: call Charlene, ECE, at 250-358-7768, or Lila at 250-358-7766. Sponsored by SD10 & Ministry of Education.

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Slocan Valley literacy group encourages youth to tell their COVID-19 story

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

We're living through history, and a community literacy group in the Slocan Valley wants to get a kids-eye view of the current events that will shape their generation.

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy is gathering stories and art produced by youth for a book by kids, for kids, says the group's community literacy coordinator for the Slocan Valley.

"I was trying to think of something we could do to connect kids," says Sayre Knight. "As adults, we recognize the significance of this time and how it is a real point in history, but youth might not realize that. So it would be really neat to produce something they could reference for a time when they were a kid in the valley."

Our Story will document life in the Slocan Valley during the COVID-19 pandemic for Slocan Valley youth 18 years of age and under.

"I want to help document what individuals in our area are experiencing during this time," she says. "If enough people participate, we will have a gorgeous collection of stories and /or pictures, each told in a different voice, to show what it was like to be a kid during COVID-19."

Knight says she needs at least 20 youth to participate in the project to publish a book.

Anyone under 18 who's interested in participating can contact Knight at sknight@cbal.org with their mailing address. They'll receive a package with a release form, and other information needed to participate.

She'll also include some writing prompts to get kids journaling – a great writing habit that can turn into a lifetime hobby.

"It's great for improving literacy skills. It reinforces reading and writing skills kids learn at school. It sparks imagination. It cultivates self-awareness," she says. "And it's a great way to start a conversation between parents and kids about what's happening in their world."

If writing is still too daunting, Knight says youth can also create art that captures what their lives are like at this time.

Knight hopes to hear from enough interested youth in the next few weeks, and will make a decision on publishing the project by mid-June.

Correction

When the submitted article, 'LACE calls for memberships, donations' was edited for the last issue, some things got mixed up. Last year, with grant funds and matching LACE funds, the hall was upgraded, including resurfacing the hall floor and purchasing a commercial stove. LACE funds paid for repainting the hall. In December, LACE upgraded the kitchen and purchased a commercial dishwasher with reserve funds. The Village of New Denver helped with electrical upgrades.

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Appeal to Canadian government to suspend 5G until proven safe

submitted

Scientists and citizens groups from across Canada, including several from British Columbia, are launching an 'urgent appeal' to the government of Canada, demanding the right to say 'no' to 5G in their neighbourhoods. Twenty-four Canadian groups are banding together and calling for a national moratorium on the roll-out of 5G until questions about its human health effects are resolved.

"This has nothing to do with COVID-19. All groups launching this appeal condemn acts of violence such as burning antenna towers," said one of the organizers. "The Parliamentary Health Committee has been investigating the negative health impacts of cell phones, cell towers and Wi-Fi for over a decade. So far the only assurance that it's safe comes from the wireless companies profiting from it, but scientists disagree."

The appeal is also requesting that Health Canada conduct a comprehensive and rigorous assessment of the health effects of radiofrequency radiation.

"Hundreds of peer-reviewed, published studies show that radiofrequency (RF) radiation can cause cancers, damage sperm and DNA, impair reproduction, learning and memory, and more. We should be limiting public exposure, not increasing it," said Dr. Meg Sears, PhD, Chair of Ottawa-based Prevent Cancer Now, one of the signatory groups.

Numerous 4G and 5G microcell antennae are appearing in neighborhoods with no prior notice. A safer, faster, and more environmentally friendly Internet option is available – fibre-optic cables connected right to the home.

Oona McOuat of Salt Spring Island says, "COVID-19 has shown us we need dependable and affordable internet. With the government increasing connectivity funding, now is the perfect time to connect fibre to our homes. Rural communities in the Slocan Valley and on the Gulf islands are exploring how to create net neutral and energy efficient community-owned fibre networks. These networks may be up to 20 times faster than wireless 5G, while offering untold financial and other benefits."

The appeal requests that Ottawa give local governments and their citizens proper notification and grant them a decisive say over the placement of cell towers and microcell antennas.

Sign the appeal at http://c4rst.org/5Gappeal/

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society - 2020 Update

submitted

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS)'s major conservation project in the Bonanza corridor will continue as planned, even with the world seemingly turned upside down. The Bonanza Wetlands Enhancement Project will move ahead with continued funding from the Columbia Basin Trust and Environment Canada's Nature Fund. Biologists, researchers and field workers can be properly separated to meet health requirements. The project crews on the ground are small in number and will be working for limited periods.

As this three-year project moves into its second year, the project team will be completing fish, amphibian, species at risk (SARs), sensitive habitats and archaeological assessments. Work will begin late summer at the Hunter Siding wetland area, to re-establish conditions for vegetation regrowth and to plant native species. Restoration work for the wetlands section at the south end of Summit Lake and the Upper Bonanza complex is scheduled for 2021.

By mid-summer, SLSS will launch a new and much improved website. New features, improved visuals, links and video updates are all in the works – including an exciting new SLSS stewardship video that was conceived, developed and funded by Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo). Membership renewal will also be available on the new website.

Unfortunately, this summer's Wild Days series has been cancelled, as it would not be feasible to meet distancing requirements during these outings. SLSS will also miss connecting with local residents and visitors at the New Denver Friday Market, due to this season's restrictions for farmers' markets.

The SLSS board of directors extends thanks to all its members and donors, past and present. With the public's support, SLSS continues to make a difference. Stay tuned for the new SLSS website launch.

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Silverton council, May 13: Governance workshop to get council "back on track"

by Moe Lyons

• All council in attendance via GoToMeeting except Jason Clarke, who is on a leave of absence. Clarke's leave was accepted during the *in camera* portion of the April 22 meeting. The minutes of that meeting note: "Council accepted Mayor Clarke's request for a leave of absence for three months without stipend, after which Council would consider his resignation." No other information was presented.

Councillor Tanya Gordon is acting mayor until the end of June. She expressed her appreciation to CAO Elliott and Village staff for their patience and support while she has been going through the steep learning curve involved in becoming the acting mayor.

She also spoke about the process of developing a plan for the Lakeside Campground, saying it was clear people want to have a say. There will be an ad in the *Valley Voice* and a mailout asking for public input.

The acting mayor outlined a proposal for council to participate in a governance workshop. "This will really help us to get back on track," she said. The idea is to hire Christina Benty of Strategic Leadership Solutions (SLS) to lead the workshop, speaking both to individual council members and to the group as a whole. The cost is $4,000 plus tax. The cost will be covered with funds originally allocated to the Union of BC Municipalities conference, which has been cancelled.

Councillor K. Gordon asked who Benty was and why the Village was hiring an independent consultant instead of bringing in someone from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Councillor Main replied that she has had experience with Benty in other contexts, and says, "She is one of the most respected municipal government experts in BC. We can't get much better."

Council voted to have this workshop on June 11.

• The five-year financial plan and tax rate bylaws were adopted. CFO Colin McClure noted that only 43% of the taxes collected actually go to the municipality. He also pointed out that there has been a drop in the school tax rate for Class 6 (businesses). "Overall, Class 6 taxes should be significantly lower in 2020 than in 2019."

In the discussion of the five-year financial plan, Councillor K. Gordon questioned the suggestion that a new backhoe may have to be purchased for the Village. She asked, given what a large expenditure this would be, whether all avenues had been pursued to avoid having to do so. McClure said he didn't think it would need replacing in 2020, but its hydraulics need work and eventually it will have to be replaced. He said it was mentioned because if and when the Village needs to replace it, it would require borrowing money. His advice was to "be prepared." K. Gordon requested that quotes be obtained for fixing the hydraulics and whatever else might be needed before considering replacement. CAO Elliott concurred that the backhoe is "getting near to the end of its life" and that the Village would need to consider its replacement as part of the five-year plan.

• David Hillary was present to speak to the letter he received from the Village in March, notifying him that his house number had changed. He asked that his address be changed back to what it once was. A letter from Hillary to the Village on this matter indicated he was not pleased with lack of clarity and communication with the Village in relation to both the address question and the work done on the campground, which is adjacent to his property. "As a relatively new resident, I am getting increasingly concerned about the lack of open, transparent and effective local government," concludes his letter. Council agreed to restore his house number.

• Council arranged to have a special meeting on Tuesday, May 26 at 4 pm to adjudicate the applications for funding for the Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs (CIP/AAP), working with results from the Public Engagement Process.

• The Silvery Slocan Historical Society put in a request to move the propellor from the *S.S. Rosebery*, currently located behind the Village of Silverton Public Works Yard, to the garden at the Silvery Slocan Museum. There it would become part of an historical display about the lengths of the five big boats that once plied the lake, and form the backdrop of a garden created by Ray Nikkel. While this proposal was generally viewed favourably, Councillor K. Gordon was concerned there might be an historical reason why the propellor was in Silverton. The matter was deferred until she can determine if there are reasons not to move it.

• Councillor Main reported on her work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), where she is the BC Caucus Chair. A big focus of FCM's Rural Forum continues to be broadband, and they also are concerned with agricultural supports and regional economic development. They have made the point with Minister of Rural Economic Development Maryam Monsef that "federal solutions created around urban needs do not address rural needs."

• CAO Elliott reported that work on the Memorial Hall is getting close to completion. She also said repairs to the gallery building are complete except for one sprinkler head, which is on back order. COVID-19 related issues are taking up a considerable amount of Village staff time. Work on the Official Community Plan is ongoing.

In the public input part of the meeting, David Hillary, board member of the Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society, said new funding was now available relative to COVID-19.

Don Broughton said it would require a revision of the Community Charter to make significant changes to the roads around Lakeview Campground. He is concerned about encroachment on to his living space. "We won't take kindly to the idea of a 20-foot-wide road," he said. "We want some protection."

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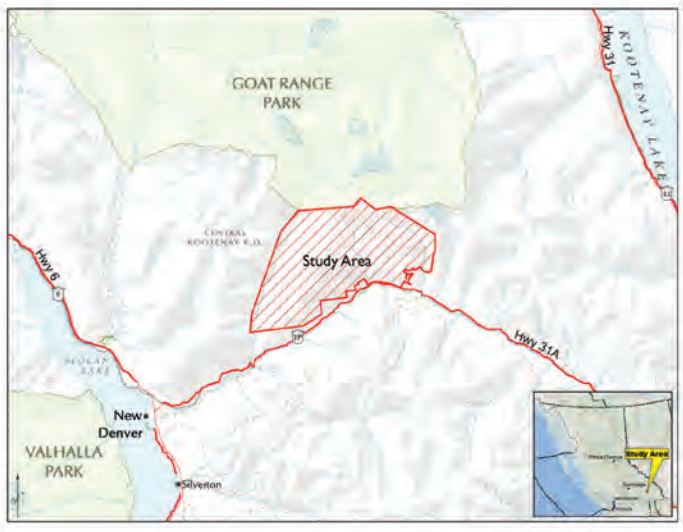
Expression of Interest for developing All-Seasons Resort near New Denver

The Province has received an Expression of Interest from a Proponent for the development of an all seasons resort near New Denver, BC:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/resort-development/proposed-approved-resort-master-plans/list-of-proposed-plans



The Province invites **public comment** on the proposed Zincton Expression of Interest.

For more information on the All Seasons Resort Policy and Guidelines for submissions visit https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/resort-development/applying-to-develop-a-resort

Deadline for submissions is 4:30pm on Monday, June 22, 2020.

Send Submissions to:

MountainResortsBranch@gov.bc.ca (subject line: Zincton Resort)

If you require more information contact Kelly Northcott at (250) 312-7235.

Mountain Resorts Branch
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
#510 – 175 Second Avenue
Kamloops, BC, V2C 5W1

Village of Silverton **Lakeside Campground Input**

Questions:

1. We had 20 campsites at the Lakeside Campground: should we have that many in future, or fewer (keeping in mind that we may HAVE TO plan for fewer campsites for various reasons)?
2. We had 4 waterfront campsites: should we plan for waterfront campsites in the future, or should we reserve the shoreline for communal enjoyment?
3. We had 20 campsites in the Creekside Campground: should we have that many in future, or fewer (keeping in mind that we may HAVE TO plan for fewer campsites for various reasons)?
4. Should we continue to allow RVs in the Lakeside Campground, or should we allow them only in Creekside?
5. Should we plan for power and/or water hook-ups to some sites in Lakeside?
6. Should we plan for power and/or water hook-ups to some sites in Creekside?
7. Anything else?
8. Other amenities you think we should provide?

Please provide input: by **scanning or taking a photo of your input** and **emailing** to: info@silverton.ca **OR** drop it at the **Village** office **THROUGH THE MAIL SLOT ON SOUTH DOOR OR MAIL** it to us at **PO BOX 14, Silverton BC V0G 2B0** **DEADLINE June 1st, 2020**

Nakusp sets up temporary camp sites for transients

by John Boivin, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Village of Nakusp has set up a makeshift campground for transients moving through town.

"They can come in, camp the night, and then they move on," says Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Martens. "We just felt it was the right thing to do."

It's not like there's a wave of wanderers moving through town. Martens said Village staff recently noticed a few people camped out in their vehicles down by the beach, and in a school parking lot. Other campers were encountering problems hanging out at provincial parks outside of town.

With campgrounds closed during the pandemic, Nakusp has recently set up temporary sites to serve transient campers.

Rather than have people parking randomly (and illegally) around town, the Village decided to construct a vehicle parking area for transient users. They used some old fencing they had in storage, and built a series of parking stalls at the arena.

The area is little more than fencing with setbacks for social distancing. There's a bear-bin for garbage, and signage about respecting social distancing. There's no water or washroom facilities. But with the municipal campground shut down because of the pandemic, the makeshift site seems to have found a use.

"We had someone from out-of-town staying there the other night," says Martens. "I thought, 'That's great.'

"It helps us know who's coming into the community. It's not like we are policing it – I'm not writing down licence plates or anything – but it lets us know who is in the community, and we can have them all in one spot in a designated area where they are not bothering anybody."

It'd be better if they could open public washrooms up for people to use, says Martens, but it's just not practical now.

"The problem we are facing is how we keep them sanitized," she says. "We'd have to hire someone sitting there non-stop, because people are in and out. So we haven't opened them at all."

The sites will be available until the Village can reopen, or partially reopen, the main municipal campground. But Martens says it's not likely to happen until June 1, and that won't be confirmed until they receive direction from the provincial government. Even then, they may only allow self-contained RV travellers into the campground.

Correction

In the article, 'No access to proposed Kalesnikoff cutblock in Slocan Park' last issue, we reported that the proposed harvest area would yield less than 20,000 cubic metres of wood. In fact, the correct figure is less than 2,000 cubic metres.

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The New Denver Hospice Society would like to acknowledge and honour the contributions of our long-time member, volunteer and friend Sally Lamare. Sally was a consistently loving and cheerful presence in the Pavilion and in the community and we will miss her dearly.

Mary Ellen Hazel Bangma (nee Goold)

1947-2020

In loving memory of Mary Ellen Bangma, who passed away at her much-loved home, in Nakusp, BC February 26, 2020.

Mary Ellen (AKA Mame or Mamie by her immediate family) was born in Smithers BC, to Eileen and Joseph Goold. The family of three lived in Houston, BC for a few years before moving to Sudbury, ON, where she first obtained the title of "older sister" and would reign as such, six times over. The family move to Alliston, ON, also saw Mary Ellen finish grade school and high school before moving to Port Arthur, Ontario (now known as Thunder Bay, ON) where she received her nursing degree. Mary Ellen pursued her career first in Owen Sound, ON and then Deep River, ON.

Having met her future husband Louis Bangma, while visiting her family home (now Kenora, ON) the two later married and settled in Nakusp, BC. Mame had worked in various areas of the healthcare field and her move to Nakusp found her working in New Denve,r BC, in Long Term care and in Trail, BC before her retirement eight years ago.

Any place that she stayed, even for a short time, Mary Ellen would make it her home, cozy to her liking. Her crave for reading found at least three books by her side, in-between experimenting at one of her passions which included cooking, baking, knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, and craft painting that were just some of the talents she pursued as a pastime. Mame was always critical of herself of what she was creating because her plans were to give these creations, from the heart, as gifts or a thank you to those she loved and was grateful too.

It was Nakusp, where Mary Ellen truly put down her roots. Friends, colleagues and the townspeople shared much of her passions. She also volunteered and in return one can hear the gratefulness from those she helped along the way.

Mary Ellen was predeceased by her parents, Joseph and Eileen Goold and her former husband Louis Bangma. She is lovingly remembered by her siblings Suzanne Davies (Simon), Patrick Goold (Leah), Michael Goold (Debbie), Timothy Goold (Jeannie), Maureen Goold, and Kelly Goold, as well as 17 nieces, nephews and 15 great nieces and nephews. The immediate family would also like to offer our condolences and deep appreciation to Liz Cann and family, a longtime friend of Mary Ellen's in Nakusp. There were very few stories from Mame that didn't start with, "Liz and I…"

We would also like to acknowledge Mary Ellen's graduating nursing class, who will be missing her at their 50-year reunion, this summer. Party on earth angels!

Cremation has taken place and a celebration of Mary Ellen's life will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers: Hug a nurse (masks and gloves in tack) and please donate to a nursing home or a charity of your choice.

The Vallican Whole Community Centre seeks a new live-in Caretaker, the 5th in our 49-year history.

The successful candidate will be organized and resourceful, with varied maintenance, grounds keeping, and people skills. They will be responsible for general Hall and grounds care and event support.

This person must be comfortable with rural life in a semi-public location. This job averages 20 hours per month, and compensation is in the form of a rent reduction. The Caretaker must have flexible availability that can accommodate event needs at the Hall.

This is a unique opportunity to live in the quirky hexagonal log house adjacent to the Vallican Whole! Couples and families are welcome.

Please send a cover letter & resume, as well as professional and rental references to info@vallicanwhole.com by June 5th, 2020. A detailed job description is available at www.vallicanwhole.com or by email.

NACFOR NAKUSP AND AREA COMMUNITY FOREST

Virtual Open House

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

6:30 – 8:00 PM via Zoom Virtual Conference*

* For more information and for the Zoom meeting location and password, please call the NACFOR office at 250-265-3656 or email info@nakuspcommunityforest.com.

A summary of 2019 activities will be presented, along with a look into 2020 and beyond.

Members of NACFOR's Board of Directors and management group will be available to answer questions and discuss the projects

There will also be a presentation explaining the various **wildfire mitigation projects** that are underway in the Village and surrounding area.

www.NakuspCommunityForest.com

THE VILLAGE OF NAKUSP