

## Ring in the New Year with epic snowstorm and extended power outages in Nakusp-New Denver and the Lardeau

by Jan McMurray

Just as many people in our area would have been stepping out to attend a New Year's Eve celebration, the power went out in the BC Hydro service areas of Nakusp-New Denver and the Lardeau Valley, and didn't come back on for up to one, two and as many as five days in some communities. BC Hydro reported that power was restored to the last community, Johnson's Landing, on January 5 at 2:10 pm.

A heavy, wet snowfall caused the outages, bringing down trees and

branches on power lines throughout the Central and Southern Interior. BC Hydro reports that over 60 crews worked around the clock in the region to repair extensive damage and restore power.

Telephone service also went down in some areas. All Telus cell towers, as well as land lines in the Lardeau Valley, require power to operate. Telus has back-up systems in place via batteries or generators to keep the service going during power outages, but in this case, crews could not keep up. "Our crews worked around the clock

to monitor service in the New Denver and Johnson's Landing areas and were deployed to recharge batteries to maintain service for the communities," said a Telus spokesperson. "These were challenging winter conditions, requiring crews to make their way through snow and downed trees to reach the sites, and the battery power did run out before crews were able to safely recharge them, causing a disruption to service throughout the region."

Chris Johnson, Emergency Program Manager at the Regional District of Central Kootenay, said

Johnson's Landing was completely cut off with no phone service and no road access – the road was closed because power lines were down on the road. "YRB can't plow the road if there are downed power lines on it, so YRB and BC Hydro had to coordinate their response and clear the road in tandem. Then Telus could get in there and have a look at its infrastructure. Hydro, Telus and YRB deserve a lot of credit. They were working their tails off."

Johnson also reported that Kaslo Search and Rescue went to Johnson's Landing in their rescue boat to check

in on residents while they were cut off from the outside world, and everyone was okay.

"A big thanks to all crews, Kaslo SAR, and to the residents for being prepared," said Johnson. "Individual preparedness and what it takes. Historically, the region's residents are very independent and I really applaud their level of preparedness to be able to manage this."

The New Year's outages were followed by further outages of varying durations in many of the same communities on January 7.

## New Galena Trail Boardwalk celebrated on December 21

by Kathy Hartman

A couple dozen brave and dedicated souls slogged the two kilometres along the icy, wet, cold, grey Galena Trail from New Denver on December 21 to honour and celebrate the completion of the Galena Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project. There was hot chocolate, two types of chili, and a bonfire. Everyone was in a celebratory mood with stories shared, speeches given, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and even a 'last spike' to pound into the finished boardwalk by Jill Leslie, red seal carpenter and construction manager.

Many of the people present had volunteered their time and services for the project – members of the Rosebery Parklands and Galena Trails Commission, members of the Kootenay Adaptive Sports Association (KASA), as well as members of the Burkholder and Butler families, to name only a few. At the foot of the boardwalk there are two very impressive plaques listing the names of all the volunteers, employees, funders and supporters.

Last April, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) declared the original boardwalk closed due to structural and safety concerns for trail users. By July, RDCK Regional Parks and Operations was working in conjunction with KASA on the Galena Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project, with Janis Neufeld as project manager. Funding was secured to hire

six local workers under Work BC's Job Creation Partnership. There were also contributions from RDCK (\$20,000) and Columbia Basin Trust (\$25,000), with local in-kind support from the North Slocan Trails Society, Shon's Bike Ski Stay, the YRB, Silverton Building Supply, Silver Ridge Earthworks and Arrow Lake Equipment Rentals.

Site preparation and demolition of the existing boardwalk and the old rail trestle footings commenced in August. Tonnes of debris and fill was dug out by hand until the crew hit bedrock. Cement for the footings needed to be packed in by volunteers and workers, galvanized steel I-beams were dropped in by helicopter, and the decking and railings were assembled on site.

## Heavy snow closes local School District 8 schools January 13

by Jan McMurray

Heavy snow on Sunday and Sunday night closed School District 8 schools on Monday, January 13 in the Slocan Valley, Kaslo and Meadow Creek, Salmo and Nelson.

"Students should remain at home or parents should make other accommodations for kids as busses are not running due to snow, roads and difficulty for staff and students to get to school safely," an SD8 press release said.

FortisBC reported power outages in Kaslo and the Pass Creek area due to heavy snow and strong winds overnight Sunday-Monday. The power went out

Before the snows hit in December, the boardwalk was ready for final

inspection. The new boardwalk strongly resembles the historic old train trestle

and will last for 50+ years with little maintenance.



The new Galena Trail Boardwalk was celebrated on December 21 with a ribbon cutting, speeches, a last spike, and hot chocolate and chili. L to R: From Rosebery Parklands and Galena Trail Commission: Wendy King, Hank Hastings, Mike Koolen, Richard Allin, Leah Main, Gerald Wagner. From KASA: Janis Neufeld.

in Kaslo early Monday morning at 2:27 am and was restored at about 1:30 pm, affecting 1100 people. In Pass Creek, FortisBC was hoping to have power restored by 6 pm on Monday – it went out at 1:21 Monday morning. In both cases, a tree downed by strong winds fell onto the power line.

The Lardeau Valley was also without power on Monday from early morning to early afternoon.

Jesse Ellis in weather at the Southeast Fire Centre explained that while Arctic air was blowing down from the north on Sunday, a wave of Pacific moisture was coming up from the southwest – "and

that's a snow-making pattern," he said. Ellis said the cold snap this week

should be the coldest stretch of weather we'll see this winter.



Three brave souls participated in Silverton's Polar Bear Plunge on New Year's Day: Casey Law, Petra Hekkenberg and Clarence denBok.



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## Nelson Library's Centenary Artist featured in exhibition

submitted

Illustrator Douglas Jones has clients across the globe – but he lives right here in Nelson. Last fall, the Nelson Public Library commissioned Jones to create a poster and a series of illustrations in honour of the Library's 100th birthday. These works, and the sketches that were their foundation, are now on display in a special exhibition at the library.

The poster, depicting a young woman reading while Nelson's orange bridge serves as a hammock, has captured Nelson's imagination; the illustration series represents four eras of reading in the library's history, and these will be a part of the library's historic exhibition at Touchstones Nelson this fall.

"We are thrilled to have Doug as our official centenary artist," says Adult Services Coordinator Anne DeGrace. "He's captured the spirit of reading,

and of the library's place in the fabric of Nelson, brilliantly."

Jones has worked as an illustrator for more than 30 years. His commercial clients include *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week*, *Nissan*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, *Bloomberg*, *Fortune*, *Forbes*, *US News and World Report*, *Penguin*, *Houghton Mifflin*, *Fast Company*, *Audubon*, and more.

There's a literary connection as well. His children's book illustration includes two books written by Carol Foskett Cordsen, *Market Day* and *The Milkman*, *It's a Wonderful Life for Kids* by Jimmy Hawkins, and *Madame President: The Extraordinary, True (and Evolving) Story of Women in Politics* by Catherine Timmes.

Jones enjoyed the assignment, which

had special resonance for him.

"It may seem quaint to people who have never known a world without computers, but I would not be where I am in my illustration career today without libraries and the art books that I obsessed over," he says. "They informed and influenced my work, inspired me, and helped me work for far flung clients from this remote little city. It's an honour to have been asked to work on the illustrations for the Nelson Public Library's anniversary."

The library is celebrating with two special events on its birthday weekend: a multi-media ticketed event with an all-star line-up on Friday, January 17 at 7 pm at the Capitol Theatre, and on Sunday, January 19, a free open house from 1 to 4 pm at the library includes entertainment, fun, and cake for all. More information can be found at [nelsonlibrary.ca](http://nelsonlibrary.ca).

Art prints and book bags featuring the centenary poster are available for

sale. The exhibition of Jones's Library illustrations continues through February.



Doug Jones is the Nelson Library's official centenary artist.

## Slight increase in property values in the region overall

submitted

Property assessment notices have been mailed out, reflecting market value as of July 1, 2019. "The majority of Kootenay Columbia homeowners can expect an increase when compared to last year's assessments," says Deputy Assessor Ramaish Shah. "It is important to understand that increases in property assessments do not automatically translate into a corresponding increase in property taxes. As noted on your Assessment Notice, how your assessment changes relative to the average change in your community is what may affect your property taxes."

BC Assessment's Kootenay Columbia region covers the southeast portion of the province from Fernie to Grand Forks and from Revelstoke to Cranbrook. Overall, Kootenay Columbia's total assessments increased from about \$43.6 billion in 2019 to

almost \$46.7 billion this year. A total of about \$571 million of the region's updated assessments is from new construction, subdivisions and rezoning of properties.

The value of residential single detached homes and of commercial properties in the region has changed from -5% to +15% over last year.

In the Village of Kaslo, a typical single family residential property is worth \$268,000 this year, up 6% from \$252,000 last year. In the Village of Nakusp, a typical single family home has increased in value only 1% over last year – from \$235,000 to \$237,000. In the Village of new Denver, a typical single family residential property has increased by 3%, from \$202,000 to \$207,000. In the Village of Silverton, there has been almost no change. Last year, a typical single family home was worth \$247,000 and this year, it's worth \$246,000. In the

Village of Slocan, a typical single family home has decreased 1%, from \$166,000 to \$165,000.

Property owners who feel their property assessment does not reflect market value as of July 1, 2019 or see

## FortisBC electricity rates increase as of January 1, 2020

submitted

As of January 1, FortisBC implements a 1% general, interim increase, recently approved by the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC), and continues to phase out its two-tiered rates. "This is a relatively modest increase and the first since 2017," said Diane Roy, vice-president, regulatory affairs, FortisBC. "Increases are needed to cover increased costs we incur to provide service to our customers, and to monitor, update and invest in the system while reflecting our ongoing efforts to operate efficiently and carefully balance costs."

The rate change will result in an average increase of just over one dollar per month for residential customers, but individual changes will vary based on energy needs. In fact, some residential customers could see bills decrease as FortisBC continues its transition to a flat residential rate.

"We recognize that any changes to rates can be a concern for some customers and we have a number of tools and programs to assist. We encourage customers to get in touch with us if they have questions or need assistance," said Roy.

Customers can use tools available on their online FortisBC account to monitor and better understand their electricity use. For example, customers who heat with electricity can experience higher bills this time of year and are encouraged to take extra steps to reduce heat loss so

incorrect information on their notice should contact BC Assessment as soon as possible. Appeals are due by January 31. The Property Assessment Review Panels, independent of BC Assessment, are appointed annually by the Ministry

of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and typically meet between February 1 and March 15 to hear formal complaints. Property owners can contact BC Assessment at 1-866-valueBC (1-866-825-8322) or online at [bcassessment.ca](http://bcassessment.ca).

BCUC. As a regulated utility, FortisBC's rates must reflect the cost of providing service, from maintaining the grid to generating or purchasing the power its customers need. The BCUC will decide on permanent rates later in 2020 after it completes its review of related filings. Customers can find out more about these interim rate changes by visiting [fortisbc.com/electricityrates](http://fortisbc.com/electricityrates) or calling 1-866-436-7847.

## Survey shows rural residents concerned about lack of local health care services

by Jan McMurray

The preliminary results of a survey on the health care priorities of rural residents in BC show that the biggest concerns are the difficulties involved in travelling for care. The survey is open until March 2021 and can be found at [bit.ly/ruralevidencereview](http://bit.ly/ruralevidencereview). It is being conducted by the Rural Evidence Review (RER) project, a joint initiative between the Centre for Rural Health Research at UBC and the Rural Coordination Centre of BC. To follow up on the preliminary results of the survey, the RER team has created a second survey to understand patients' out-of-pocket costs when travelling for health care. This second survey is available until January 31, 2020 and can be accessed at [bit.ly/CostsRural](http://bit.ly/CostsRural).

"The voices and experiences of rural citizens-patients are critical for health care planning," says the RER team. "We will use the findings to create a

complete understanding of what it costs when health services are not available locally. As always, we will share the findings with the Health Authorities and the Ministry of Health, and rural communities across BC."

The first survey reached more than 1500 people in 211 communities across the province, including our area. The summary report of the preliminary findings of the survey can be accessed at [bit.ly/RERsurveysummary](http://bit.ly/RERsurveysummary).

The goal of the RER project is to work with rural citizens, patients and communities to provide high quality and useful evidence for rural health services planning in BC. To do this, the team asks rural citizens about their health care priorities, reviews international evidence to learn about best practices from other jurisdictions, and shares what they learn with policy- and decision-makers and rural communities across the province.

**TARRYS, BC**  
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### Farm & Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Workshop

Tarrys Hall, 2103 BC-3A, Castlegar, BC V1N 4N1.

Register: [bcwildfirepreparedness2019.eventbrite.com](http://bcwildfirepreparedness2019.eventbrite.com)

[agwildfireworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:agwildfireworkshops@gmail.com) for more information

- Connect with local government representatives responsible for wildfire and emergency planning
- Develop customized wildfire preparedness plans that outline what needs to occur before, during, and after a fire

Funding for this project has been provided in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The Climate Change Adaptation Program is delivered by the BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative

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# VWS concerned with Splatsin logging plans near Hills

by Jan McMurray

The Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) is disappointed with the Splatsin logging company's response to concerns about their salvage logging plans in a partially burned old-growth forest near Hills.

The society has asked for a large

reserve in the proposed cutblock to provide protection for a potential black bear den in a 300- 400-year-old cedar tree, as well as a small wetland used by black and grizzly bears and likely a breeding site for Pacific chorus frogs.

Wayne McCrory, bear biologist and VWS director, brought the den tree and

wetland to the attention of Splatsin Forest Manager Brad Sindlinger, noting that a new road is planned to run right next to the den tree. McCrory recommended that Sindlinger relocate the proposed road and create a wildlife tree patch to protect the den tree and its high biodiversity values.

In a follow-up letter to McCrory, Sindlinger says the potential den tree will be investigated for bear occupation prior to road construction, and construction will not go ahead unless and until the den is unoccupied. He notes that "road locations are not easily moved due to terrain constraints, and the additional site disturbance that they would require." The den tree will be retained, he says, or stubbed and capped. He also says advanced regeneration will be retained around the tree if feasible, and they will look for other leave trees in the vicinity of the den tree. Sindlinger further notes that "most streams, depressions and water features have been avoided in the careful planning of this block."

"I hope the Splatsin Chief and Elders will live up to their mission statement instead of roading and logging such a high biodiversity hotspot," McCrory says in a press release, which also quotes from the Splatsin mission statement: "The Splatsin people are inseparable from the land. It is this deep sense of responsibility that engenders the heartfelt need to be stewards of the land and resources of Secwepemc'ulucw."

McCrory says very little old-growth forest remains to provide good denning sites for bears and other wildlife, due

to the BC Forest Service's old-growth liquidation policies in the 1970s. "The society recently told the government's Old-Growth Panel that all old-growth left in the province now needs to be protected as one of the best ways to protect biodiversity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the face of the planet's climate emergency," McCrory said.

The planned logging in the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor near Hills is a salvage operation to remove trees with compromised root systems after the 2017 wildfire. The letter from Sindlinger says these compromised trees "have been falling, and creating obstacles and barriers to connectivity. Prompt regeneration of the site will provide for long-term wildlife habitat."

## Nakusp-Duncan caribou recovery: wolf and cougar reduction programs being considered

by Jan McMurray

A predator reduction program for the Central Selkirk caribou herd may begin this winter in the New Denver-Nakusp-Lardeau Valley region.

The BC Caribou Recovery Program is considering wolf and cougar reduction programs in our area, and has just wrapped up a 30-day consultation with Indigenous communities and targeted stakeholders.

"Predation by cougars and wolves has caused a decline in the Central Selkirk herd, as demonstrated by its reduced herd size, poor calf recruitment, and high rates of adult female mortality. Unless there is an immediate reduction in the loss of caribou to predation, recovery is not likely," states a document from the

BC Caribou Recovery Program, inviting input from targeted stakeholders.

The document explains that high rates of wolf removal – greater than 80% – are necessary to be effective, and the best way to achieve this is through radio collaring and aerial shooting. Aerial shooting is "the most effective and humane method to thoroughly reduce wolf populations," the document says, and radio collaring allows scientists to ensure all members of a pack are killed.

Cougar reduction is done on the ground by experienced houndsmen. Aerial shooting is not effective with cougars because they are not typically found in open areas, and cannot be spotted from the air when they take cover or climb trees.

"Although landscape-scale habitat management is needed to support self-sustaining caribou populations, it may be decades before the benefits of such decisions are realized. Direct management of predators has the most rapid effect," the document says.

The Province will be holding herd planning meetings in early 2020 for the Central Selkirk herd, but recognizes that the herd planning process takes time that the local caribou herd can ill afford. "While herd planning is the preferred, comprehensive method for engagement on caribou recovery, it is time-consuming. Declining herds like the Central Selkirk herd cannot afford delay... To this end, the Province has initiated this consultation, outside of herd planning, specifically on predator reduction since it is an urgent recovery action."

## Fentanyl and carfentanyl detected in Nelson

by Jan McMurray

ANKORS sent out two community warnings on January 9 regarding recent reports of overdose in the Nelson area associated with the use of two different substances. One substance, sold as meth, contained meth and fentanyl. The other, purple pebbles and grey pebbles sold as fentanyl, contained fentanyl and carfentanyl. ANKORS offers free, fast and anonymous drug checking using an FTIR spectrometer and fentanyl test strips at its Nelson location at 101 Baker

Street. Naloxone kits are also available at the ANKORS site.

ANKORS (AIDS Network Kootenay Outreach and Support Society) was established in 1992 as a non-profit society and provides a multitude of services. ANKORS programs are based on the belief that services are provided in a non-judgmental manner without prejudice that ensures individuals right to anonymity and confidential access. They serve those living with and at the greatest risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS and/or HCV.

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## JOB POSTING

### Landfill Attendant

#### Area 2 - Rosebery & Slocan

Part-Time, As and When Needed  
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is inviting applications for a Landfill Attendant to work shifts at the Rosebery and Slocan Transfer Stations (Area 2).

Reporting to the Resource Recovery Operations Supervisor, the successful candidate will be responsible for directing public activity, collecting user fees from customers and ensuring the site is kept in a safe, secure and orderly manner. This is a part-time position with no minimum guaranteed hours and the successful candidate will be available to work during the operating hours at this site.

**TYPICAL HOURS OF OPERATION:**

ROSEBERY TRANSFER STATION	SLOCAN TRANSFER STATION
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**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Demonstrated ability to deal courteously and effectively with the public.
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- Demonstrated ability to understand & adhere to set policy, bylaws and cash/bookkeeping procedures.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and outdoors.
- Proven ability to lift 18 kilograms and carry for 5 meters.
- Willingness and demonstrated ability to maintain Level One Occupational First Aid certification
- Basic computer skills including MS Outlook & Internet Explorer and demonstrated ability to learn new software programs such as Pacweigh.
- Must maintain a valid BC drivers license and possess reliable transportation
- Satisfactory Criminal Record Check

This posting, along with a detailed job description, can be found on our website at [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca) under Administration, Jobs & Employment Opportunities. Your application must include a resume and cover letter with your qualifications and experience relative to the position included. The internal competition will be reviewed and completed prior to consideration of external candidates. **Applications will be accepted until 8am Tuesday January 21, 2020.**

This is a part-time position working up to 24 hours per week. The successful candidate must be available to work a varied work schedule at the site. This is a union position and the rate of pay for a fully qualified individual is \$19.79 per hour plus 15% in lieu of benefits as per the Collective Agreement between the RDCK and CUPE Local 2262, Castlegar Arenas, Aquatic Center and Landfill Attendants.

**Human Resources, Regional District of Central Kootenay**  
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4  
E-mail: [humanresources@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:humanresources@rdck.bc.ca) Phone: (250) 352-1546

The RDCK is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Thank you for your interest in working with the Regional District of Central Kootenay. All submissions will be acknowledged although only those individuals shortlisted to participate in the interview/testing process will be contacted again.  
This posting may be used to fill similar positions within the RDCK over the next six months.

# Voices from the Valleys

## Monstrous madness

A mindboggling 292 square km open pit mine in northern Alberta is quietly working its way through the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's approval process.

This behemoth relies on relentless growth in oil demand at a time of growing climate instability.

Frontier would pump out an annual 4.1 megatonnes of climate-heating pollution, adding to this country's already surging oil sands emissions.

The world's leading climate scientists have warned there are fewer than a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty.

Canadian health care providers are sounding the alarm that the health impacts of climate change on a global scale are already devastating.

Approval of this colossal project is heading in exactly the wrong direction.

How can the federal government ignore such dire warnings from those who know most about it? Is it because climate inaction is fundamentally about political economy? This inaction will determine the level of loss of lives in poorer countries that rich countries, like Canada, are willing to accommodate.

Have your say; the federal cabinet must deliver its decision before March.

**Dona Grace-Campbell**  
Kaslo

## Retallack Resort proposal ridiculous

In this era of climate change, the kind of development proposed by the Retallack Resort is ridiculous. Helicopters should not be used for recreation. These are the high carbon footprint activities that are driving climate problems and they are not solved by putting more helicopters in the air. I am also concerned about the impacts of helicopter noise and activity on animal habitat, particularly in the

winter when mountain goats, denning grizzly and wolverine and other animals are vulnerable.

Also, I am concerned about the cumulative impacts of all of the ski proposals (Zincton, etc.) in the area. The area around the Highway 31A corridor has high wilderness values and provides crucial habitat for species like the grizzly. Decisions to expand any operation cannot be made piecemeal but must take into consideration all other recreational and resource activities in the vicinity.

Furthermore, in complete violation of our local Sinixt Indigenous rights and responsibilities, they have not been informed or consulted about Retallack's proposed expansion. The recent BC Legislature's decision to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People requires free, prior and informed consent by Indigenous people for any activities on their lands. Furthermore, the Autonomous Sinixt have a mapping project aimed at broadening core protected areas in the Sinixt *tum xula7xw* into a Climate Change Conservation Network. Until this ecologically based and responsible planning is complete, based on their UN-affirmed Indigenous rights, any developments in their territory must be put on hold.

I encourage folks to visit the FLNRORD site and weigh in on this development before it is too late.

**K.L. Kivi**  
New Denver

## Response to 'New technology protects local caribou herd, allows sledders access,' VV, Dec. 19

The modern snow machine is wrecking creation. It is upper middle class madness. The extensive two stroke polluting recreation play time in the high alpine with snow machines is a Canadian/ Yankee middle class (M/C) privilege. Zero cost to pollute alpine air and water.



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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.

At high altitudes in the winter months with no photosynthesis, the heavy metals produced by the snow machine exhaust has devastating impacts on sensitive alpine flora/fauna and the future of a healthy planet. It should be outlawed. Period. Canadian/ Yankee M/C are relatively rich, educated and are finding the way to complete moral corruption. It has happened before to advanced cultures.

In less than 30 years, BC's NDP and Liberals with complacent voters have successfully endangered all wide-ranging species in BC. It was obvious 30-40 years ago that BC's remaining wilderness was quickly being knocked down with thousands of miles of resource road access.

"All roads lead to Rome." Why? Now this recent proud announcement by BC's socialist minister of extinction, Doug Donaldson: to collar the last 24 Selkirk Mountain Caribou so thousands of snow machines can continue to track into our alpine meadows unfettered. Pitiful.

Last year, new massive clearcuts on Trout Lake's west side targeted important Selkirk Mountain Caribou habitat. These clearcuts along with many others along our narrow valleys

are changing wind, water and erosion patterns. We are literally playing with planetary fire.

The very corporate municipal, provincial, federal government employees and boy clubs that have intentionally driven the Mountain Caribou and all of BC's wide-ranging species to the near brink of existence, now pay themselves grant dollars to come up with a scheme to collar and finally capture and tame caribou. This a dangerous game of political weakness. Nepotism at its finest hours.

What beast do we circus next?

What about mule deer, elk, wolverine and grizzly? Collars and cages as well. They are all quickly disappearing from BC's landscape because of access roads, clearcuts and snow machines that pack snow for easy predation by man and other lesser carnivores.

The international 'extinction rebellion' locally has timidly raised a voice. Standing at Nelson's courthouse, waving at huge trucks loaded with old growth wilderness ecosystems, they will have to decide if they want to get serious or just wave mournfully as extinction drives by.

**Tom Prior**  
Nelson

## Open letter to Splatsin Development Corp re: Bonanza Face logging

As the Matriarch of the Sinixt *Smun iem* (traditional governance system), I am writing concerning the proposed logging by your corporation in Hills on the Bonanza Face. As an Indigenous People divided by an international boundary, our rights in Canada are upheld by Article 36 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Further, according to Articles 26 and 32, not only do we have the right to the resources in our *tum xula7xw* (traditional territory), anyone operating in our territory must obtain our free and informed consent for any development activities on our lands.

In complete violation of our Sinixt Indigenous rights and responsibilities, we have not even been informed by you of your proposed logging in our *tum xula7xw*. Furthermore, we are opposed to your development activities in that site and elsewhere in old growth and high value wildlife habitat.

Your forestry planning is clearly outdated as it does not take into account the full range of ecological services provided by the forest, including provision of water as well as mitigating climate change impacts. These services also include the protection of key habitat for the other animals such as the toads. The proposed logging around the black bear den identified by Wayne McCrory including the stubbing and capping of that tree is unacceptable to us. Putting engineering considerations and company profits ahead of adequate Wildlife Tree Patch protection, a 300- 400-year-old black bear den tree and biodiversity old-growth hot spot are in violation of your

*continued on page 5*

### 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.

## The Valley Voice

Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

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# Voices from the Valleys

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own "Caretakers" mission statement. It states that your corporation feels a "...deep sense of responsibility that engenders the heartfelt need to be stewards of the land and resources of Secwepemc'ulucw. We will balance conservation and utilization of our resources in a sustainable manner for current and future generations."

I doubt that Mary Thomas, a relative of mine and one of the elders from Splatsin who was probably involved in writing these protection statements, would have thought that logging is a practical way to uphold that responsibility. Perhaps your lack of attention here is because this is not the traditional territory of the Secwepemc'ulucw, but of the Sinixt. Though you are protected by the colonial government who has given you license to log in our *tum xula7xw*, the Sinixt Nation upholds justice for all species and for those who will suffer the consequences of misguided planning.

We continue to work on our mapping project to broaden core protected areas in the Sinixt *tum xula7xw* into a Climate Change Conservation Network. Until this ecologically based and responsible planning is complete, we will not allow, as per our UN-affirmed Indigenous rights, any resource development in our *tum xula7xw* and certainly not without our prior, free and informed consent.

**Marilyn James  
Sinixt Smum iem Matriarch**

## Open letter to Premier Horgan re: UNDRIP

I was pleased to note from your website that implementing the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in BC is about ending discrimination, upholding basic human rights and ensuring more economic justice and fairness.

Given your government's willingness to implement this Declaration, I would like to draw your attention to two issues: that of the construction of the Site C Dam and the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline.

1) In 2014, you stated in a filmed interview that First Nations in the Peace region of the Site C Dam had entrenched constitutional rights that were "going to be violated by this dam." However, on December 11, 2017, your government announced its decision to complete the dam. Following six months of confidential talks with the BC government and BC Hydro aimed at avoiding litigation, the West Moberly First Nations has announced it will proceed with a Site C dam court challenge, saying it infringes on their treaty rights. Apparently, the talks went nowhere.

2) Indigenous groups involved in the court challenge against Trans Mountain are the Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish Nations in Metro Vancouver, the Coldwater Indian Band in Merritt and a coalition of First Nations in the Fraser Valley. Although the court has ruled that upcoming arguments can only focus on whether the latest round of Indigenous consultation was adequate, the Tsleil-Waututh and three environmental groups

sought leave to appeal that ruling in the Supreme Court of Canada, claiming the federal court was wrong to refuse to hear arguments about the risk of an oil spill or threats to endangered southern killer whales.

Lastly, when the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted in 2007, it introduced the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent for Indigenous Peoples. FPIC is one of the fundamental aspects of the UN Declaration and is included in six Articles. While all six Articles are significant, Article 32.1 is of particular interest to the extractive resource sector in Canada:

### Article 32.1

States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

If the government of BC is indeed implementing this Declaration, how is it that we are continuing to build the Site C Dam and the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline?

Is this not duplicitous on the part of the government?

It's not possible to pick and choose. Implementing the Declaration means that Indigenous peoples have the right to free, prior and informed consent regarding any utilization or exploitation of resources, including the building of the Site C Dam and the expansion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline across Indigenous land.

I would very much appreciate a reply to this letter.

**Sandra Hartline  
Nelson**

## We can learn from what happened in Samoa

As of Christmas Day, the recent measles epidemic in Samoa has killed 81 people – almost all children under 4 years of age. To put this in perspective, Samoa has a population roughly the same as the Kelowna area. It is difficult to imagine the shock, grief and outrage the death of so many children would cause if it happened so close to home – and if it was entirely and easily preventable.

The direct cause of the Samoa measles epidemic is a low vaccination rate – estimated by the WHO to be as low as 30-40%. It is interesting that Fiji, Tonga and American Samoa, where the vaccination rates are 90-95% and to which the measles spread, did not suffer epidemics nor any deaths.

Why was the vaccination rate in Samoa so low? According to many sources including a *Guardian* article published December 7, 2019, "The outbreak is in part blamed on people spreading false information, claiming vaccinations are dangerous." Indeed, two of the anti-vax poster children, Robert F Kennedy Jr. and Taylor Winterstein, the charismatic wife of a rugby star, visited

Samoa as recently as June. A \$200 a ticket talk by Winterstein to promote the anti-vax message had to be cancelled – ironically – due to the measles epidemic. By Christmas, Samoa had successfully vaccinated over 90% of its population and the epidemic has been halted.

There is an element of risk in everything. The art lies in assessing the risk against the benefit. It has been proven over the past half century that vaccinating against infectious diseases has a huge benefit in terms of lives saved and crippling injuries prevented.

Some of the points made in two of the letters last edition were either or both false and absurd, such as that vaccines had "an insignificant effect" on the decline in mortality from infectious diseases, or "when nurses wear masks, it is likely because they chose not to get a flu shot." There are many airborne infectious diseases – including the common cold – that masks prevent spreading or contracting.

Yes, make an informed choice on vaccination. But make sure the facts you rely on are true and come from credible sources. Start with your doctor or nurse. Sites such as [www.who.int](http://www.who.int) (search 'measles'), [www.chop.edu](http://www.chop.edu) 'vaccine education centre,' and even 'vaccination' in Wikipedia all lead to helpful information.

When all is said and done, remember the nearly 80 infants and children who died in Samoa simply because too many parents were frightened by misinformation and chose not to vaccinate their children. Measles is not the deadliest disease that will reappear here, either, if we lose 'herd immunity' by letting our vaccination rates decline too far. As well as measles, polio and many others are only a plane ride away. There is sad irony in the fact that the effectiveness that mass vaccination has had over the past half century may have created a cultural amnesia about the dangers these disease epidemics pose.

**Rory Lindsay  
Lemon Creek**

## True world dominance

The last Republican president proclaimed America's 'right' to kill anyone, anywhere, anytime they think there is a threat to Americans. This is true world dominance, that has been sought and dreamed about by every war-mongering dominator since the invention of war. The fact that all of the so-called US allies are afraid to speak out against this proclamation is shameful. Our tacit agreement to keep Americans safe by putting everyone else in the world at risk of sudden death at the hands of the Americans is just wrong in every way.

Unfortunately, the Democratic president who followed him was happy to engage in the same international homicide. It was biblical. Barrack Obama invaded Pakistan to murder his brother Osama bin Laden in cold blood, after allowing a corrupt and dishonest 'intelligence' agency to convict him, with the help of an unprincipled, so-called 'free press.' Why wasn't he brought

back to stand trial... isn't that one of the principles that western democracies are founded on?

I believe our prime minister's father would have spoken out against America's drone attack that killed General Soleimani. Unfortunately, his son does not have the principles or the testicle fortitude to stand up for what is right. He is content to suck up to Donald Trump and the Pentagon begging for favour from the Great Power in order to keep our economy pumping strong. Sending our Canadian troops around the world to teach other people how to kill their enemies more effectively is not peacekeeping. How about we re-deploy them to the middle of the Pacific to clean up the mess we have made there.

**Rod Retzlaff  
Glade**

## Exposing the true colours of the Smart BC Hydro Team is just beginning

Some time ago I had an opportunity to read an article dated Tuesday October 8, 2019 in the *Province*. Although it has taken me some time to respond, I am compelled to make the effort. The title of the article was 'Senior Tangled in Smart Meter Dispute' written by Cheryl Chan, email address [chchan@postmedia.com](mailto:chchan@postmedia.com). In brief, Howie Harrington, a 72-year-old retired electrician stood up and questioned BC Hydro on what he preconceived to be important. He took a courageous simple stance against the tactics of a corporation known as British Columbia Hydro Corporation. His simple defiance was not to protect some interest in a foreign country against some unknown tyranny, but right here at home. His oppressor is holding him and the ones he loves as electrical hostages, in my opinion under legislated coercion and duress. This corporation at arms length, under multiple political stripes over the decades, has operated an electrical Crown entity subject to various regimes who understand that know-how is worth a dollar and labour is worth 10 cents. Together the people behind the scenes of this entity and the various governments have dictated to the working men and women how they will be forced to comply. Depending on your hat and the uniform you wear, opinions vary in a free society, as they should, but good energy policy must prevail. Facts and suspicions suggest it has not been in the citizens' best interest socially or financially. I can appreciate and acknowledge the difficulty in running a massive energy corporation but some things you just do not do when it comes to energy sovereignty. There are good deals and bad deals. Even the British Columbia Utilities Commission should know better.

If world history presents any mounting current evidence holding any weight whatsoever, then be assured when a government or a corporation ignores one Howie Harrington, how long will

it be before they ignore you in some form or fashion. Perhaps it has already happened to you on some issue that is very important to your life, liberty or security of person in Canadian society. Do not be naïve; it can and does happen in your neighbourhood, in your home, to the ones you love. Energy, specifically electricity, is a primary collective issue and it affects every aspect of our lives, minute by hour, cradle to grave. One of many reasons I have taken the time to write to this newspaper and say good for Howie Harrington is because I know. His story has merit; I've lived it. Outside the Lower Mainland, BC Hydro has a problem also. I have had no hydroelectricity in my home for the past five years. This is because the government, BC Hydro executives and the regular employees working within BC Hydro deemed it to be and admit to nothing, are just following instructions. This is a BC reality, more than most people want to acknowledge, have the time to comprehend or is freely exposed. Hydroelectricity, smart meters and smart grid issue is smeared with international egos, control, greed, power, hypocrites, legislation, fear, double talk, pass the buck, lack of communication and on and on it goes. I cannot begin to express my support for Howie's frustration because I am still learning the depth of this issue myself. I have barely survived five years dealing with these people with no hydroelectricity to my home. It started out as a simple matter which grew and grew. When winter or mid summer arrives and your electricity is out for an hour, a day or a week or more, I can empathize. I can only hope time will reward integrity, principles and morality but I fear these qualities are gone. Where has common sense and logic disappeared in this so-called civilized modern age where energy is essential. If you cannot support and appreciate what is happening to two individuals in BC then at least protect yourself from whatever is coming your way for it has already arrived, you may just not see it yet.

**Dal Stromquist  
South Slokan Valley**

SOLID PLAN



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**DRAFTING AND DESIGN**

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# Silverton council, January 8: CBBC provides update on broadband project

by Moe Lyons

With Councillors T. and K. Gordon not able to attend, Councillors Main and Yofonoff entertained each other by taking turns making and seconding motions.

• A detailed update on the Slocan Valley broadband project was received from the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC). The corporation is still waiting for permits to allow for the fibre-optic cable to be buried along the Slocan Valley Rail Trail, sunk into Slocan Lake, and strung on utility poles from Hills to Nakusp and Shoreholme. CBBC has put out three RFPs for underground, marine and aerial fibre construction. As for project

schedule, the update says: “As noted in previous updates, we are beholden to the permitting process the time necessary for the issuance of required permits. In addition, given weather, environmental and recreation construction windows the most precise we can be at this stage is to provide a range: construction will likely take place between the Spring to Winter 2020.”

Included with this was a referral from the BC government’s Water Stewardship Officer inviting questions and comments on CBBC’s application to place fibre-optic cable in Slocan Lake and cable vaults on the foreshore.

Council approved a Development

Permit Application for a cable vault on the foreshore in Silverton.

• Councillor Main raised concerns arising from the recent storms and resulting power outages. “The weather-related power outages we recently experienced — one of over 50 hours duration, and one of 18 hours — bring to my attention the situation that we as the Village government have no organized or formal way of helping folks who might need some assistance with heat and light, cooking, communications and transportation. It is less than a full-blown ‘emergency’ but is a challenging situation and I worry that some of our elderly or less active residents might need some help but we have no way of connecting with them.” Councillor Yofonoff agreed strongly. Council agreed to put some energy into coming up with strategies. The discussion was deferred until Councillors K. and T. Gordon return because it fits with their responsibilities as municipal emergency management appointee and alternate.

Main suggested looking again into solar power for Village buildings, and updating the Village’s solar study.

Councillor Yofonoff asked for permission to talk with MLA Katrine Conroy and any other governmental source to find out whether there is any possibility of obtaining generators for the various Village buildings that could use them in the event of more power failures. Council informally agreed.

Since the council meeting, an ad hoc group has formed to offer assistance to residents needing

help coping with the harsh weather conditions. Call Arlene (250-505-8210), Leah (250-551-6173) or Johanna (250-551-5898).

• Main said she has had a couple of concerns presented to her by local residents about the logging Splitsin is doing above the village, particularly in relation to old growth, and exacerbated by the fact there has been a recent news story concerning their logging practices near Hills. Mayor Clarke said the Village has found that Splitsin has been very cooperative about communicating about the logging in the Village watershed, and that he and staff would arrange a discussion with Brad Sindlinger, the Forestry Manager with Splitsin, to check in and see how things are going.

• A Development Variance Permit was approved for an addition onto Memorial Hall for storage, which will extend onto the boulevard. This upgrade and other Memorial Hall upgrades were approved in the 2019 budget, and are being funded with the assistance of Columbia Basin Trust.

• Council voted to partner with the RDCK in a joint application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF). The RDCK has asked all municipalities in the region to participate. The application is for flood risk assessment, mapping and mitigation, and is an extension of the Regional Natural Hazard and Risk Reduction Strategy work that has been ongoing since 2017 with BGC Engineering as consultant. If the CEPF application is successful, the RDCK will manage the grant funds. CAO Elliott pointed out this project does not include

structural work on the dykes within the village.

• A letter from the RDCK informs council that \$150,000 in funding has been secured for the Regional Housing Needs Assessment Report Project, and asks the Village if it would like to participate on an advisory committee, in key stakeholder meetings and focus groups, or in targeted interviews. Council deferred this to the next meeting, as they’d like more information and a full council present for the discussion.

• The rezoning process for the former Zion United Church property from Park and Institutional to Residential is underway. The rezoning will facilitate the sale of the building in the spring to a couple from Tsawwassen, who will convert the building into their second home.

• Council received notice that the AGM of the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments will take place April 24-26 at Radium Hot Springs, noting that the deadline for resolutions is February 1.

• Mayor Clarke indicated that he has not yet set up a meeting with the Healthy Community Society to talk about the compost project but that he will do so.

• In the public input period, Don Broughton suggested a public meeting for people to discuss what should be done about the various trees that are threatening to fall on the lines and cause more power outages. He also inquired when some of the trees designated as dangerous in the campground will be coming down. Mayor Clarke said the Village will look into this.



## VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER PUBLIC NOTICES

### 2020 COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meetings are held at 7:00 pm in the Village of New Denver Council Chambers on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The schedule for 2020 is as follows:

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

### 2020 UTILITY BILLINGS

Invoices for 2020 water and garbage charges have been mailed to property owners. Payments can be made in person at the Village Office (cash, cheque or debit) or through Kootenay Savings Credit Union’s online banking. Please note that a 5% penalty will be applied to all amounts that have not been paid by **February 18<sup>th</sup>**, 2020. An additional 5% penalty will be applied to all amounts that remain unpaid at October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

### DOG LICENCE RENEWAL REMINDER

Dog owners in the Village of New Denver are reminded that all dogs residing in the Village of New Denver are required to have a current dog licence, which can be obtained from the Village Office. In accordance with the Village of New Denver’s Animal Control Bylaw, there is a \$15.00 reduction in the licence fees, if the licence for the current year is purchased prior to January 31<sup>st</sup> or within 30 days of the date that the owner first comes into possession of the dog.

### BUSINESS LICENCES

A current Business Licence is required for all commercial undertakings of any kind within the Village of New Denver, including home-based businesses, professional, personal or other services for the purpose of gain or profit. Available for the first time this year is the **Inter-Community Business License (ICBL)**. ICBL allows eligible businesses to operate across participating communities without having to buy a separate business licence for each community. For more information or to obtain a business licence, please contact the Village Office.

### ASTA PUBLIC SURVEY

The Arrow Slocan Tourism Association (ASTA) is undertaking a regional branding process to help them communicate to visitors who the Arrow Slocan is and what our area has to offer to visitors. To do this, local residents are invited to share their thoughts and input. To participate in the public survey go to: <https://forms.gle/L3p4eowPt5PQGCPf7>. The survey is open until **February 10<sup>th</sup>** and can also be found on the Arrow Slocan Tourism Association Facebook page.

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## From the Hill – Message from MP Richard Cannings

It’s a new year, a new decade, and a time to look forward.

The new parliament sat for two weeks in early December, time enough to get an indication how the government intends to move forward. Most Canadians want the government to work collaboratively with other parties to tackle the issues of our time, and the NDP is very willing to work with the government to enact policies that will help all Canadians.

The government’s intentions are spelled out in the Speech from the Throne of course, but they are also revealed in a more subtle way by personal interactions on Parliament Hill. I was heartened by the collegial attitude of several ministers I met in December. While relationships between MPs from all parties are generally more cordial at the start of a Parliament, I’ve never found meetings with ministers to happen so promptly, and the conversations more open and frank, than the ones I had in December.

But will this translate into a cooperative session this spring? And what did the Speech from the Throne promise? I’ll mention a few of the

salient points.

It specifically mentioned pharmacare as “the key missing piece of universal health care in this country.” What it failed to say was whether this would be a fully public program, a subtle but important distinction since a patchwork, public-private system would forgo the significant cost savings that a single payer program would create.

The Speech also talked about affordable housing – one of the most important issues across the country. The Liberals promised this in the last parliament, but according to the Parliamentary Budget Office they ended up spending less on housing than the Harper Conservatives did. Hopefully that will change this time around.

And there was the eternal promise of lower taxes for the middle class. This was also promised in the last parliament, but that change only helped the upper middle class – the lower limit for benefits was an annual taxable income of \$45,000. Since the average income in this riding is around \$40,000, less than half of the residents came out ahead. The new promise aims to cover all Canadians, but unfortunately, the vast majority of benefit falls to those who make well over \$100,000 per year.

The NDP has put forward a plan

to limit those tax cuts to individuals making \$90,000 or less. That would benefit the people who need it most and free up billions of dollars in savings (yes, tax cuts cost money just as much as new programs do). Again, the Parliamentary Budget Office has calculated that those savings would be enough to implement a new dental care plan for all Canadians who need it. Now that is something that would literally change lives.

In her speech, the Governor General mentioned that “Canada’s Senate is increasingly non-partisan, and measures will be taken to help it continue along that path.” I met with Diane Griffin in December, one of the senators who had formed the new ‘Canadian Senators Group,’ to discuss some of these changes and how they might affect legislation passing through the House of Commons. She re-introduced my private members bill on the use of wood in government infrastructure into the Senate in mid-December, where hopefully it will move more quickly through the system and come back before the House of Commons in the spring.

If you would like to get in touch with me about any issues or concerns, email [richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca](mailto:richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca) or call 250-770-4484. Happy New Year!

**Climate change deniers  
Collect air miles**

# The long road to the completion of Johnson's Landing water system

by Harvey Armstrong, Johnson's Landing resident

On July 12 & 13, 2012, a mudslide, followed by a huge debris torrent, scoured Gar Creek in Johnson's Landing, destroying several homes, killing four people and wiping out the water system serving the community south of Gar Creek.

Due to the loss of life, Emergency Management BC quickly established a presence to look for missing residents. MOTI rebuilt the road and power was restored within a week; fortunately, telephone service was not affected.

In the meantime, we needed water. Neighbours volunteered the limited use of their spring. We formed the Gar Creek Water Users Association to be able to source funding, and the RDCK provided support and emergency money.

We explored all the options we had to find potable water. We drilled a well, but the flow was low and the water high in fluorides. We examined Kootenay Joe Creek and found the water good but the intake unsuitable, and we explored bringing up water from the lake. Ultimately, upper Gar Creek (outside the slide zone) proved

to be the best option and was approved by Interior Health (IHA). However, that intake source was 1000 vertical feet up the mountain and a mile from the community.

Then RDCK director of Area D, Andy Shadrack, negotiated with IHA to allow Point of Entry (POE) treatment of our water, which was coming from a temporary intake installed in the lower Gar Creek hazard zone. This was a first for the province and is now legislated as permissible treatment in BC for small systems.

David Wilks, MP at the time, suggested applying for the New Build Canada Fund. These grants have significant bureaucratic hurdles but Aimee Watson, Area D director, found us funding for a grant writer, necessary for a project of this size. The application was supported by both the RDCK and Union of BC Municipalities, and subsequently approved with tripartite funding (federal, provincial and local) and the RDCK helped with our one-third portion.

The engineered design was approved, permits secured, and in April 2017 we were ready, as was our project manager Rik Valentine, who oversaw

the fusing and burying of over a mile of pipe. Kaslo Building Supply and Clint Carlson installed two 12,000-pound pressure-reducing valve vaults while Lily Schell and Jeff Scott (Brenton Industries) managed the excavating tasks. A mix of local volunteers and paid labour bedded and backfilled the pipe, assisted with fusing over 100 50' sections of pipe and mixed seven cubic metres of concrete

required for thrust blocks. In 2018, forest closures delayed work until the fall, when we completed the intake and tie-ins. It snowed before we could test and do last tasks, but by September 2019 we were finished.

We logged over 2500 volunteer hours over the six-year period, which helped our project finish under budget. We were fortunate to have such good

community support and wish to thank all involved for their expertise and willingness to participate. Completing this project lifts the cloud that hung over our community since the slide. Now we are able to provide reliable, high quality water for all users, and hopefully, neither another earth movement nor more avalanches (as we had in 2003 and 2012) will affect our water supply in the future.



Some of the many volunteers on the epic Johnson's Landing water system project.

## 2019 Kaslo Christmas Bird Count a successful day

submitted

The 19th annual Kaslo Christmas Bird Count (CBC) brought fair weather and bird enthusiasts together with a good size group of winter birds for a successful CBC count day and count week. The group counted 35 species and 1141 individual birds, which is very close to the long-term average (2001-2019) of 35 species and 1147 individuals.

The CBC is a North American winter bird count and in Canada it is coordinated by Bird Studies Canada. It's a great citizen science opportunity

and data has now been gathered for 120 years. Each CBC is conducted on a single day between December 14 and January 5. Counts are carried out within a 24-km diameter circle that stays the same from year to year. The Kaslo and Area Birders, first organized by Dirk Pidcock, hosted our local Kaslo count day for December 28, with count week being three days on either side of the count day. The count included a field survey with teams observing for species and number, and feeder watchers doing the same.

Kaslo count day landed between major storms, and was fairly clear, not

too windy, not too cold – just right for good bird activity and for six intrepid count teams to be in the field for about 4-5 hours of walking, driving, listening, and looking for birds. Bird feeder watchers choose a specific time of day to watch for a period of time. The Kaslo count circle is divided into four quadrants: Upper Kaslo, Lower Kaslo, Kaslo Bay North to Shutty Bench, and Kaslo South to Ainslo Road.

The most common birds in 2019 were pine siskin and bohemian waxwing. The most uncommon bird, surprisingly, was the Canada jay (our national bird),

observed during count week, and not seen during Kaslo CBC counts since 2001. Similar to the 2019 Lardeau count, an American three-toed woodpecker was seen (first recorded sighting for Kaslo CBC) during count week. We saw only two common redpolls, which seem to be declining in number for the Kaslo CBC. Over the total Kaslo CBC period, the most frequent birds seen (between 17-19 times over 19 years) go to mallard, bald eagle, northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, stellar's jay, black-capped chickadee, chestnut-backed chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper,

American dipper, American robin, European starling, bohemian waxwing, song sparrow, house finch, and American goldfinch.

A big thanks to the feeder watchers and field participants!

## Highlights of the 23rd Lardeau Christmas Bird Count

submitted

On December 27, 30 participants counted 41 bird species in the 23rd annual Lardeau Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and an additional five species during the count week.

The CBC tradition began 120 years ago, and Gail Spitler of Johnson's Landing started the local Christmas bird count centred on Lardeau in 1997. The CBC is coordinated by Bird Studies Canada and the count data is used

to assess the population trends and distribution of birds.

The highlights of count day included a marsh wren for the first time, three great blue herons, five woodpecker species (downy, hairy, pileated, American three toed and northern flicker), gray (now called Canada) jay, evening grosbeaks, pine grosbeaks and red-winged blackbirds. Compared to the past couple of years, there were not any crossbills, waxwings or redpolls on count day.

Although there were a lot of ravens and wild turkeys, the highest species number was the black-capped chickadee.

The Lardeau CBC average is around 37 species and has been increasing over the years. Species seen during count week but not on December 27 include six swans, barred owl, bohemian waxwings and a lone dark-eyed junco. To see the count data for Lardeau and other CBCs, go to <https://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/cbc/index.jsp?targetpg=index>



A grey (Canada) jay in Argentina.

## Holly Hyatt Trio live in concert at the Langham

submitted

Exceptional Kootenay-based, blues/ soul singer, bassist and songwriter Holly Hyatt performs at the Langham with an acoustic trio celebrating the release of her debut solo album, *Wild Heart*.

*Wild Heart* reached number 2 on Roots Music Report's Soul Blues charts for 2019, garnering rave reviews. The album's first single, 'River Flows,' won the 2019 Kootenay Music Award for best Rhythm and Blues Song.

"Not only is Hyatt a singer with a Bonnie Raitt-style vocal range, she is a monster bassist as her playing throughout the album proves." - *The Vancouver Sun*.

For this special 'un-plugged' show,

Holly is joined by Clinton Swanson on horns, and Jon Burden on guitar for a night of soulful tunes steeped in the

R&B tradition, rich with themes of positivity and love.

Friday January 24, 7 pm. Advance

Tickets \$15 at Sunnyside 250-353-9667 or Willow 250-353-2257 in Kaslo; \$18 at the door, 6:30 pm.



Holly Hyatt Trio plays the Langham January 24.

Chinese Medicine in Kaslo

Leni Neumeier  
TCM.P, R.Ac

info / book: lenineumeier.ca

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425 Front Street, Kaslo  
Ph/Fax: (250) 353-2436

# Winter ski day on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail

submitted

This year, the annual Winter Day on the Trail will take place on Sunday, January 19 from noon to 2:30 pm at the Winlaw Station. The crew from the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) will once again partner with Slocan Valley Recreation to offer a fun-filled afternoon. Volunteers will offer a ski waxing demo; you can get your skis waxed for a \$15 donation. Volunteers groom and track-set the rail trail so you can enjoy a great ski.

Slocan Valley Recreation will bring along skis and snowshoes for those needing an introduction to a great winter pastime. There may also be individual and group lessons offered to round out your afternoon experience. If conditions allow, a track could be set

up around the Winlaw School field for some fun races and games.

Of course, everyone is invited to come out and explore the rail trail and see what winter has to offer this year. The swans have been seen all along the Slocan River and you might find a few hanging around. There'll be a bonfire going and refreshments plus veggie chili and hot dogs will be being sold – with proceeds helping the volunteer group maintain one of the most popular recreation resources around. You'll be able to find out what's been happening on the rail trail and what the future holds in store.

The Winlaw trailhead can be reached from Highway 6 in the Slocan Valley. Watch for the large directional signs located on the highway. If

requiring more information, you can contact the SVHTS at 1-888-683-

SVRT, or Slocan Valley Rec at 250-226-0008. Visit the rail trail Facebook

page or website to get the latest update on trail conditions.



This year's Winter Day on the Trail happens January 19 at the Winlaw Station, noon to 2:30 pm.

## Award-winning improviser preaching 'Unscripted' at the Vallican Whole

submitted

If you were to create a religion out of thin air, what would it be called? Start thinking, because this weekend Travis Bernhardt comes to the Vallican Whole, and you could be part of a fresh flock of devotees. In *Unscripted*, the award-winning improviser and performer gets audience prompts which he uses to improvise a religion on the spot. The show then becomes a sermon, with Bernhardt and his accompanist leading the audience through prayer, scripture, and song.

A seasoned improviser who has won "pick of the fringe" among many other accolades, Travis Bernhardt is a brilliant and compelling performer who skillfully weaves story out of the collective experiences in the room. *Unscripted* is a spontaneous meditation on meaning and spirituality, a reverently irreverent experiment in collective worship.

"He's taken the best parts of public devotion – congeniality and hopefulness and joining together in song – and removed all the messy judgement and damnation bits to create a singularly joyful experience for his audience with great care and consideration. FIVE STARS." (Melanie Tromp-Hoover, Check the Program Victoria).

The Vallican Whole is excited to host what promises to be a thought-

provoking night of entertainment by one of this country's finest improvisers. Come out for a spontaneous Saturday night church service, and see what you might be compelled to believe.

*Unscripted* plays at the Vallican Whole Community Centre on Saturday, January 18 at 7:30 pm (doors at 7 pm), and you can purchase tickets online at [www.vallicanwhole.com](http://www.vallicanwhole.com), or at the door, for \$20.

## Individual advocacy: up close and personal

submitted

Here's food for thought. We've all stood up for something or someone – believing it the right thing to do. Reasons and circumstances that prompt us are as unique as each individual. Personal values guide us through daily lives, often without rising to the conscious level. At other times societal attitudes, actions and words collide with those values, making us take notice.

At some level it takes courage to question and stand for one's beliefs. The price for speaking up and seeking accountability can be insignificant and

fleeting. On other occasions fallout can be crushing, eroding confidence and damaging relationships. The inaugural speaker for the 2020 Food For Thought series knows this all too well.

Susan Dunnigan has over 35 years of professional and personal experience in the dual roles of social worker and parent. She will facilitate an exploration of individual advocacy, strategies, pitfalls and pathways to sustaining oneself. The Hidden Garden Gallery invites you to attend this Food For Thought presentation on Sunday, January 26, 7:30 pm at the Knox Hall. Admission by donation.



### Eleanor Bessie McNaughton

Eleanor Bessie McNaughton passed away on December 19 at the age of 91 at the Minto House. Eleanor was born in Hanna, Alberta and resided in New Westminster, Harrison Lake, Nakusp and Vernon, BC.

She was an avid gardener, loved her many beloved pets and rescues, was known for her generous heart, and her sometimes salty language. She enjoyed time spent with her many friends and family. Some of her happiest times were spent surrounded by nature at Harrison Lake.

Eleanor is predeceased by her husbands William McNaughton and Roland Todd and her daughter Wendy Priebe. She is survived by her daughter Cindy Schroff, Cindy's husband Craig and her grandson Angus.

Thank you to staff and doctors at the Minto House and to Dr. Pond for their unwavering care.

She will be dearly missed.

No service will be held at Eleanor's request.

*You're at home here.*

## FOOD SPECIALS

Cauliflower <small>Produce of Western Canada</small>	EA	<b>\$3.99</b>	Radishes <small>Packaged</small>	1 LB	<b>\$2.49</b>
Pineapple <small>Get some Citrus!</small>	EA	<b>\$3.99</b>	Pink Lady Apples <small>Get some added Sweetness too!</small>	PER LB	<b>\$1.99</b>
Co-op Gold Pure Juices <small>Healthy Greens - Ink - Be Well</small>	354ml	<b>\$4.99</b>	Co-op Gold Ice Cream <small>A whopping 19 different flavours!</small>	1.5 L	<b>\$5.99</b>
Co-operative Coffee <small>Columbia - French Roast - Breakfast</small>	340g	<b>\$5.99</b>	Kellogg's Corn Flakes <small>Breakfast Cereal</small>	440g	<b>\$3.99</b>
Co-op Gold Canola Oil <small>Bottled</small>	1.42 L	<b>\$3.99</b>	Co-op Gold Basmati Rice <small>Excellent dinner side choice</small>	900g	<b>\$2.99</b>
Co-op Gold Juices <small>Apple - Orange - and six other flavours</small>	1 L	<b>\$1.29</b>	Classico Pasta Sauce <small>Try the Sausage Pasta Sauce Variety!</small>	650ml	<b>\$2.99</b>

TIRED FROM ALL THAT DARNED SHOVELING?

With a fantastic selection of beer, wine and spirits, we are sure to have what you need while you relax after shoveling out your driveway every time the snow falls. It's also no surprise that most of our customers prefer the local ale and lagers, straight from the Kootenays. Our massive, walk-in cooler also has a huge selection of tasty ciders, coolers and chilled, white wine available all year long.

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Prices effective January 17 - 23, 2020 - While supplies last  
Sun 8 AM - 9 PM \* Mon - Sat 6 AM - 9 PM

.... We've survived 2020 so far....

What better time to celebrate with our friends and neighbours and revel in our Local Culture?

So let's join the crowd & enjoy one other's company at the

## Slocan Lake Arts Centre

(aka the Silverton Gallery)

### Saturday, January 18 ~ 7pm

Music, tap dancing, poetry and who knows what else!

Fiddle Dee Dee - Heather Huether & Judy Maltz, Cello & Piano (joined by Sue Mistrretta)  
Shifting Winds - Patrick & Friends - Rebecca Laity, Songwriter/Pianist

... & more to come ...

~ Yummy treats and beverages will be available for your enjoyment ~

Admission by donation - Fundraiser for the Slocan Lake Arts Council  
[www.slocanlakeartscouncil.ca](http://www.slocanlakeartscouncil.ca) - Facebook: Silverton Gallery





PHOTO CREDIT: FOREVER NATURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Valhalla Hills Nordic Skier, Raya Kipkie.

## Valhalla Hills Nordic Skiers are enjoying the snow

submitted

The Valhalla Hills Nordic Skiers have been taking full advantage of all the snow that has arrived since late November. The Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Trails on Highway 6 are necessarily being frequently packed and tracks reset and parking lot reploughed. Record-breaking early member sign-ups have earned the club an award from Cross-Country BC. Participating children from Winlaw to Nakusp started the Jack Rabbit and Bunny learn to ski programs on January 4. School groups started coming this week also.

Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club (VHNSC) racers began their racing December 28-29 at the BlackJack Ski Club trails in Rossland. There were nine racers signed up in the weekend's BC Winter Games trials (12-13 year olds) and Kootenay Cup Races #1 and #2. From 9 to 60 years, racers wore the attractive blue, white and green suits while gliding around on their skis.

Kolibri Drobish (U18) from Hills, who has been training and racing with Revelstoke, skied for Valhalla Hills, and strided the 7.5 kms into first place on Saturday in the classic style race. Also racing for Valhalla Hills were: Ayla Kipkie (taking 5th U14) and Raya Kipkie and, Cullumn, Maeve, Eamonn and Pdraigh Hawksbee. Sunday's races in the ski skating style yielded a 3rd from Valhalla Hills skier Kolibri Drobish in the U18s with local Rossland favourite Jasmine Drolet taking first. Drolet is now at the 2020 Youth Olympic Games representing Canada in the cross-country skiing events.

Drobish will be competing in the Western Canadian Championships at the Whistler Olympic Park

this weekend. Late January, she will fly to races in Mt. St. Anne, Quebec vying for a place on the Canadian team attending the World Junior/ U23 Championships in Germany in late February.

The younger Valhalla Hills Nordic skiers will be attending Kootenay cup races in Kimberley, Nelson, and the Midget Championships in Kamloops during February. Local ski clubs host these family-oriented fun races where participants' performances are supported regardless of their skill or speed, encouraging personal and physical development, and establishing habits for an active lifestyle. There's loads of room out there on the ski trails for more skiers and the barriers to participation are very small.



A small but dedicated group of dippers and supporters showed up for Kaslo's Polar Bear Dip fundraiser for the Langham, and Kaslo Search and Rescue attended for safety. After the event, SAR held a swift water practice in the river.



### Apply now!

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND AFFECTED AREAS PROGRAMS (CIP/AAP)

**APPLY ONLINE**

Wish to apply for project funding? The guideline, worksheet and online application are available on the RDCK website at [rdck.ca/cip-aap](http://rdck.ca/cip-aap)

**Apply by 4:30pm, Friday, February 28, 2020.**

Applicants are expected to present their proposal at public meetings during the month of April 2020.

ADMINISTERED & MANAGED BY



Inquires to:  
Nancy Kalawsky  
Grants Coordinator  
[rdckgrants@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:rdckgrants@rdck.bc.ca)  
250.352.8170

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## Wedding Announcement



Dan Nicholson and Jan McMurray are pleased to announce the marriage of their son Ivan Curtis Nicholson to Delia Villaseñor Orozco, daughter of Higinio Villaseñor Torres & Laura Orozco Oregón.

The wedding took place in the bride's hometown of Pantla, Guerrero, Mexico, December 27, 2019.

**Got the winter blues?**

*Feel the heat!*

- SATURDAY -  
**FEB. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**



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Featuring:

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**INFO: 250-358-2284**

Proceeds to the The Outlet Youth Center

Doors open at 7:30 pm - Music from 8 pm - 1:00 am

# New affordable homes for families, seniors coming to Nakusp

submitted

Families and seniors with low to moderate incomes will soon have access to 19 new affordable rental homes in Nakusp with construction underway on two housing projects. Ground-breaking ceremonies for the affordable housing developments took place on December 17.

"It's a special day when we can break ground on not one, but two affordable housing projects in one small community," said Johnny Strilaeff, president and

CEO, Columbia Basin Trust. "These 19 units will make a significant difference to many people who choose to call Nakusp home, and will strengthen the foundation of the entire area. We thank the Province, the Village, the two local societies and all other contributors for partnering with us to improve quality of life in the basin."

Construction has started on the Arrowtarian Senior Citizens Society's phase 5 project – a three-storey, wood-frame building located at 206 7th Ave. that will provide nine affordable rental homes for seniors. The adaptable and accessible one-bedroom units will add to the 43 rental units owned and managed by the society on the same site. The projected rent for units in this project will be \$730 per month. The building is expected to be complete by October 2020.

Work is also getting started on 10 new affordable rental units for individuals, seniors and families at 101 1st Ave. NW, adjacent to the Village office. The townhouse project will be operated by Arrow and Slokan Lakes Community Services Society. Monthly rents are projected to range from \$590 for an accessible one-bedroom unit to \$1,450 for a three-bedroom unit. This project is also scheduled to be complete by October 2020.

The Arrowtarian project is being funded by the Province (\$1.45 million in capital funding and \$587,000 in construction financing), the Columbia Basin Trust (\$275,000), the Arrow Lakes Health Care Auxiliary (\$100,000 for the elevator), Kootenay Savings Community Foundation (\$10,000) and the Arrowtarian Seniors Citizens Society (\$170,000 plus the land, valued at \$72,000).

The Arrow & Slokan Lakes Community Services project is being funded by the Province and the Columbia Basin Trust with

a combined investment of \$1.88 million and the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, with

\$757,000 via the National Housing Co-Investment Fund. Arrow & Slokan Lakes Community Services Society is contributing the land, valued at

\$70,000, which was purchased at a discount from the Village of Nakusp for the purpose of providing affordable housing.



The Arrowtarian Senior Citizens Society held a ground-breaking ceremony for its phase five seniors housing development on December 17.

L to R: Bob Parkinson (Kootenay Savings), Nakusp Mayor Tom Zeleznik, Cornie Froese (president, Arrowtarians), MLA Katrine Conroy, Lynda Lafleur (CBT), Georgia O'Brien (president, Arrow Lakes Health Care Auxiliary).

## Circle of knitting and crochet enthusiasts starts up in Edgewood

submitted

A new organization of enthusiastic yarn artisans recently formed this October in Edgewood to celebrate everything knitting and crocheting. They are self described as a circle of knitting and crochet enthusiasts, happy to share their love of colour, texture, and the joy of creating handmade items for family, friends and those in need. Members from the area join together once a week to share their skills, projects and love of this beautiful and practical art form.

"One of the group's goals from inception has been community projects for those less fortunate," says

spokesperson Judy Boling, who praises the members for their generous donations of time and materials to create beautiful, practical items for people of all ages in need. "We are all very pleased as to what we have accomplished in such a short time, and look forward to the potential of the coming year," she said.

The circle has also reached out to the local Edgewood Elementary School, offering to instruct interested students. Vice Principal Brent Cook enthusiastically welcomed their offer of community skills integration into the classroom. Classroom supplies have been purchased and instruction is set to

commence early in the new year.

The circle is looking forward to sharing their knowledge with young hands and minds, and turning the students' beginner practice projects into blankets for those in need.

The circle is currently soliciting donations of surplus yarn or finished squares that can be used for continuing outreach projects. The circle meets every Wednesday and new members and beginners are always welcome. There is no cost involved. For more information regarding donations or receiving the weekly Country Knitter e-newsletter, contact Judy at 250-269-0005.



A circle of knitting and crochet enthusiasts has started up in Edgewood. Clockwise from lower left: Crystal Spicer, Judy Boling, Beata Ganton, Jan Thomas, Shandree Grace, Kate Moore. Absent from photo Penny Penner, Donna Murray, Colette Beaulieu.

## RDCK expands dog control service in Area K

submitted

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has implemented a one-year trial period for additional dog control services in Electoral Area K.

The trial period is being implemented at the request of Paul Peterson, Director of Electoral Area K, for services under Section 49 of the *Community Charter* to address complaints involving dangerous dogs that are reported as behaving in an unprovoked, aggressive manner towards persons travelling on a public roadway or while on public property.

"There should be no reason why folks walking on roads in Arrow Lakes should fear being attacked or injured by dogs," said Director Peterson. "We have had a few such incidents recently, so I asked RDCK staff to expand the dog control service to address these particular issues with problem dogs in our community." The one-year trial period began on November 14, 2019, and will include responses to dangerous dog complaints in Burton, Edgewood, Fauquier, Arrow Park, Crescent Bay, Whatshan Lake, Needles, Halcyon and

Inonoaklin Valley. The costs will be covered by an Area K grant.

Dangerous dog complaints can be reported to Jackie Kilburn, Dog Control Officer on contract with the RDCK for Electoral Area K and the Village of Nakusp. Kilburn can be contacted at: 250-265-1580 or dogsense@hotmail.com. For more information about dog control bylaws in the RDCK, including Frequently Asked Questions, visit the RDCK website at <https://rdck.ca/EN/main/services/bylaw-enforcement-animal-control.html>.

### Nakusp Public Library Board of Trustees

#### Notice of Annual General Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2020  
at 7 pm in Nakusp Library  
All Welcome



#### CHICKLETTE & CYNDI

PALS is in need of forever homes for two special pets. Chicklette is blind, but is a healthy and happy kitten. She has been trained to walk on a leash, is socialized with other pets. Cyndi is the most adorable bunny ever! She is an indoor-only house bunny, litter-trained, socialized with people and absolutely lovable!! To find out more about Chicklette and Cyndi, call PALS today at 250-265-3792.

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The Society for Nakusp Community Events would like to thank the following for a wonderful Celebration of Light 2019:

- CBT and the Village of Nakusp and crews
- \$\$ Store, Shon's Bike & Ski, Hoss and Jill, Nakusp Home Hardware
- All the businesses that participated in the festivities
- Santa and Mrs. Claus
- The wonderful float entries in the parade
- The food vendors and musicians
- Our always go-to people – Patty Riley and John Guild
- Steve & Carol Bankes for the tree and Kevin Starratt for setting it up
- And a HUGE thank you to the many volunteers that made the evening possible – greatly appreciated.

The Board of Directors: Tom Zeleznik, Christy Dodd, Stephanie Dieterman, Donna Rebman, Gord Matchett, Anya Harrison, Shannon Low, Dustin Raskob, Mary Hamling, Jo Law

# Arrow Slokan Tourism Association is up, running and kicking off regional branding

submitted

The Arrow Slokan Tourism Association (ASTA) is a new not-for-profit organization to support management and sustainable development of the Arrow Lakes and Slokan Valley region's visitor economy. Starting in January 2020, ASTA is kicking off a regional branding process to help the organization communicate to visitors about who the Arrow Slokan is and what it offers.

In the regional branding, ASTA wishes to reflect community values when they tell visitors about the region. The more that is understood about how local communities see the region, the more authentic the regional branding. This means visitors are

attracted that appreciate the region for its unique character and identity. To take ASTA's online branding survey, visit Arrow Slokan Tourism Association on Facebook or the organization's Google My Business landing page.

Regional visitors play an important role in contributing to the local community's economic vitality and vibrancy. In partnership with all regional communities, ASTA works collaboratively to undertake effective marketing, programs and projects. These efforts will increase the sustainability and economic benefits of tourism while providing a level of coordinated regional management. Coordination will help stabilize seasonal fluctuations, enable local

job creation and business success and enrich recreational opportunities, arts and culture.

Most tourism businesses are small businesses. In addition to direct benefits to tourism-based businesses, there are wider-spread benefits for many other areas of the local economy. Small businesses buy goods locally, hire locally, and retain their profits locally, which is good for the whole local economy.

ASTA serves Areas H and K of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, as well as the Villages of Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton and Slokan. The region starts on Upper Arrow Lake at Edgewood, covering over to Nakusp, east to Halcyon, and south down the Slokan Valley to Playmor junction.

The volunteer ASTA board has 12 directors. This includes two directors from each of the four industry sectors – accommodation; outdoor recreation; food and beverage; arts, culture and heritage. Two seats are held for representatives from local government and two from each of the Chambers – Nakusp & District and Slokan Valley. An Executive Director has been hired to spearhead day-to-day organizational management and marketing.

ASTA, and the activities it undertakes, are funded by the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) program that raises revenue for local tourism marketing, programs and projects. The MRDT is a 2% tax paid by the region's visitors when they purchase short-term accommodation. There is no cost to local communities for ASTA's efforts. ASTA is a member-based organization. Starting in 2020,

local professionals, businesses and organizations that become members will have the benefit of promotion under ASTA's regional branding. In 2020, ASTA will be developing a promotional website, guidebook and map for the region.

Check back regularly with ASTA to see what projects are underway. ASTA will be providing notifications and updates via social media and their mailing list. Follow Arrow Slokan Tourism Association on Facebook or send them a message. For more information or to get involved with the organization phone: 250-265-7144.

## BC Rural Health Network appoints Connie Howe as administrator

submitted

The BC Rural Health Network (BCRHN) has announced that Connie Howe has been named as its new administrator. After almost two years of development work by a dedicated board of directors, Howe becomes the first paid staff of the Network.

BCRHN provides rural British Columbians with a strong and

unified voice advocating for the improvement of healthcare services.

"An administrator endowed with Connie Howe's background and skills comes along all too seldom," says Ed Staples, BCRHN president. Howe has just stepped aside from being executive director of Princeton and District Community Services Society. She is well versed on the needs of rural residents and the

operations of a major not-for-profit society.

Funding for the administrator is supported by the Rural Coordination Centre of BC and the British Columbia Academic Health Science Network. Both organizations recognize the valuable contribution the BC Rural Health Network is making in the enhancement of rural health services. BCRHN will now have the professional administrative skills needed to meet its goals and objectives. "Howe's 30 years of experience with community services programs is just what the doctor ordered," adds Staples.

The Villages of New Denver, Silverton and Slokan, the Slokan Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Kaslo and Area D Health Care Select Committee are all members of the BCRHN.



Connie Howe, the BC Rural Health Network's new administrator, with Ed Staples, BCRHN president.

## CKCA and the Trust announce 2020-21 arts and culture grant programs

submitted

Artists in all disciplines – as well as arts and culture organizations – are invited to apply for funding through the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA), which delivers the Arts and Culture Program on behalf of Columbia Basin Trust.

For 2020-21, CKCA is receiving \$750,000 from the Trust to directly support arts and culture projects. Funding is available for individuals and groups through several grant programs; applications are adjudicated by local arts councils and the CKCA steering committee. This funding also supports the development of a regional arts and cultural publication and the popular Columbia Basin Culture Tour, which will occur in August 2020.

"We are pleased to continue supporting artists and strengthening the arts and culture sector in partnership with CKCA," said Michelle d'Entremont, Manager, Delivery of Benefits. "Together we are supporting and growing arts and culture in local communities and contributing to the unique culture of Basin life that so many of us enjoy."

Visit [www.basinculture.com](http://www.basinculture.com), for more information about programs and application procedures. Please note, applications will now be submitted online for most programs. Call CKCA at 250-505-5505 or 1-877-505-7355 for any additional questions.

CKCA applications must be received by March 6 or March 13, 2020, depending on the program.

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**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**  
CBCs are done locally in Edgewood, Fauquier, Nakusp, Slokan Valley, Kaslo, Lardeau, Nelson & Castlegar. Data guides bird conservation actions. CBCs informed a recent report warning of the threatened extinction of 64% of NA bird species if temperatures rise 3° by 2100. Protecting large tracts of breeding habitat in the northern boreal forest will be crucial.  
Slokan Lake Stewardship Society  
[slokanlakes.com](http://slokanlakes.com)

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Dec 25th CLOSED  
Dec 26th 10 - 3  
Dec 31st 10 - 4:30  
Jan 1st CLOSED  
Jan 2nd CLOSED

## Opportunity for Review and Comment

### BC Timber Sales – Kootenay Business Area 2017-2022 Forest Stewardship Plan, Amendment #5

BC Timber Sales, Kootenay Business Area, hereby gives notice that proposed Amendment #5 to its 2017 to 2022 Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) is being made publicly available for review and written comment before it is submitted for approval to the delegated decision maker for the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

The FSP is a landscape-level plan that identifies how the holder of the plan will be consistent with government objectives for managing and protecting forest and range values through the results, strategies and measures proposed in the plan. The FSP guides forest development planning and operations, road construction, timber harvesting and silviculture activities.

FSP Amendment #5 proposes a number of new and amended results, strategies and measures that will apply to BC Timber Sales' planning, operations, licences and permits within the Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District and the Selkirk Natural Resource District, covering areas of the Boundary, West Kootenay and East Kootenay regions.

A *Compendium of Changes* document, that summarizes the revisions proposed through Amendment #5 to the currently approved BC Timber Sales 2017-2022 FSP, will be available for public review and written comments from January 2, 2020 to March 2, 2020, during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday) at the office address noted below. The above FSP amendment document can also be viewed at the following website address: <https://bit.ly/2LRPwRX>

In order for comments to be considered prior to submission of the FSP amendment for approval they must be received on or before March 2, 2020. Written comments may be mailed, faxed or sent by email to:

Kathryn Howard, Planning Officer  
BC Timber Sales - Kootenay Business Area  
1907 Ridgewood Road, Nelson, B.C., V1L 6K1  
Fax: 250-825-3411 Email: [Kathryn.Howard@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kathryn.Howard@gov.bc.ca)



## Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society announces grant intake

submitted

The Slocan Valley Community Legacy Society has announced that applications for 2020 grants are now available.

“If you are involved with a group that is creative, works smoothly with others, appreciates diversity, translates problems into solutions, and enriches interconnectedness, you will want to check out the information about the application process at [www.slocanvalleylegacy.com](http://www.slocanvalleylegacy.com). The information on the website includes the application form, the granting guidelines and criteria, and lists the grants awarded in the past,” says SVCLS board member, Evelyn Goodell.

This year, one large grant of \$5,000 will be awarded along with smaller grants of up to \$3,000. Applicants may decide which type of application to submit.

The Slocan Valley Legacy Fund is supported by gifts from individuals in the community, and has had founding and supporting donations from Kootenay Savings Community Foundation. The Legacy Fund is an endowment fund—that is, donations to the fund are held in perpetuity, and the interest accrued is used to award

grants each year. The Kootenay Savings Community Foundation has been very generous each year in helping to top up the money available for grants.

The application deadline is March 20, which may seem like a long way away. However, grant applicants must either be a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency or must partner with a registered charity, and these arrangements require time and consideration; information about partnering is on the website [www.slocanvalleylegacy.com](http://www.slocanvalleylegacy.com).



Charlene (Bean) Alexander was the lucky winner of the Lucerne PAC 50/50 Raffle. She received her sack of cash worth \$1,757.50 at the Lucerne Winter Concert December 18 from PAC President Leda Botting and member Julia Greenlaw. PAC now has the same amount to support great programs for Lucerne students.



The Silverton Community Club presents a \$700 cheque to the Slocan Community Health Care Auxiliary to go towards equipment for the health centre.



## Be part of the budget process.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) invites the public to provide input into the development of the 2020-2024 RDCK Financial Plan.

WHAT  
DO  
YOU  
THINK?



### MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA

**NAKUSP & AREA K**

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020

**Location:** Nakusp Village Chambers  
91 – 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW

**NEW DENVER, SILVERTON, AREA H**

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Date:** Thursday, March 12, 2020

**Location:** Slocan Village Chambers  
503 Slocan Street

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**2020 GRANT APPLICATIONS** from the Slokan Valley Community Legacy Society are now available at [www.slokanvalleylegacy.com](http://www.slokanvalleylegacy.com). Grant guidelines and criteria and other information are on the website. Check it out!

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**CARDS OF THANKS**  
**A HUGE THANK YOU** to those who donated food, gifts, money, & time towards the ND Christmas Hampers. Our community support is amazing and very much appreciated.

**LUCERNE PAC** wishes to thank everyone who supported the 50/50 Raffle. Special thanks to the Apple Tree, Rutabaga's, New Market Foods, RHC Insurance and

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**COMING EVENTS**  
**SQUARE DANCING!** 5 piece band 'Eldorado Hoedown' and live caller January 25, February 22, March 14, 6:30-9 pm at the Bosun Hall in New Denver. Beginners are welcome. Call 358-7158 for information.

**THE SLOKAN LAKE GARDEN SOCIETY** 2020 AGM will be on February 23, from 2-4 pm at the Silverton Gallery, Silverton, BC.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION:** Sunday, January 26, 2020, 7:30 pm at Knox Hall, New Denver. Presenter Susan Dunnigan will explore *Individual Advocacy: Up Close and Personal*. Admission by donation.

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**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT** - Megamind (2010). All ages welcome. Friday January 24 @ 7:00 pm, Lucerne Elementary Secondary School Library. Concession will be available with homemade treats, and lemonade (GF available). Donations are welcome. All funds go to sending LESS students to Shakesfest in Vernon in April 2020.

**COFFEE HOUSE** (& fundraiser) sponsored by the Slokan Lake Arts Council. Saturday, January 18 at 7 pm. Admission by donation. Come out and enjoy local talent!

**TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT** Saturday, February 8, 6:30 pm sharp at the Slokan Valley Legion Branch 276, 502 Harold St. Slokan. Tickets at Mountain

Valley Station or phone 250-355-2672 to reserve. \$30 Buy-in. BC Gaming rules will apply. The Legion welcomes members & guests.

**UNSCRIPTURED: TRAVIS BERNHARDT'S** improvised sermon from a made-up religion! At the Vallican Whole, Saturday January 18, 7:30 pm. [Vallicanwhole.com](http://Vallicanwhole.com)

**VALLICAN WHOLE'S WINTER LOCAVORE'S FEAST!** Saturday February 8, doors at 5 pm. Local food potluck, silent auction & Six Slokan Minutes! [Vallicanwhole.com](http://Vallicanwhole.com)

**READY, SET, LEARN!** FREE preschooler (ages 3-5) program. 4 Fridays: Jan 24-Feb 14, 9:30-12:30 at The Whole School - 5614 Highway 6, Winlaw. The Whole School invites preschoolers, parents/caregivers and their families to a morning of crafts, cooking, songs, games, outside play, and story time dedicated to Kindergarten readiness with teacher, Rose Hodwitz. Drop-ins welcome. [www.wholeschool.ca](http://www.wholeschool.ca). 250-226-7727. [wholeschool@gmail.com](mailto:wholeschool@gmail.com).

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Nakusp and Kaslo. The job entails writing all types of community news stories, and includes covering council meetings, school board meetings, court hearings and community events. We are looking for a self-starter with a desire to live in the rural West Kootenay region, and who is committed to writing informative and accurate articles in a clear and engaging style. Journalism degree/ diploma and/ or experience required. Email cover letter and resume by January 6 to valleyvoice@valleyvoice.ca.

**NOTICES**  
**RHYTHM OF LIFE:** You can find the path to love, wisdom, and spiritual freedom by singing Hu every day. Singing Hu helps us align with our own spiritual Rhythm of Life. <http://eckankarblog.org/sound-of-soul>  
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**HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW** been sexually assaulted and want help? Call the Interior Crisis Line 24/7 at 1-888-353-CARE to discuss your options or go directly to Arrow Lakes Hospital or your local emergency room for confidential care.

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## Wildfire risk reduction workshop for the agriculture sector

*submitted*  
 A workshop on wildfire preparedness for agricultural producers is taking place on January 22 from 8:30 am to 3 pm at Tarrys Hall (2103 BC-3A, Castlegar). The workshop is hosted by the BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative.

The workshop is aimed at agricultural producers from all sectors, wildfire response and emergency personnel, and local government representatives. Producers will gain vital knowledge to prepare themselves and their operations for wildfire.

Producers will have the opportunity to learn local wildfire behaviour, threat, and history, and how to apply lessons learned to

structural protection. They will also learn to develop customized wildfire preparedness plans for their operations that outline what needs to occur before, during, and after a fire. The workshop provides an opportunity for producers to connect with local government representatives responsible for wildfire and emergency planning, as well as local wildfire and emergency response personnel.

This workshop is free, with lunch and refreshments provided. For catering and planning purposes pre-registration is requested: <https://bcwildfirepreparedness2019.eventbrite.com>

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# Gaming grants support wetlands restoration, protection

submitted

When Margaret Hartley signed up for a Wetlandkeepers workshop with the BC Wildlife Federation in 2012, she wasn't fully aware of the variety of life flourishing in the wetlands near her home in New Denver.

As a member of the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, Hartley was aware that the lake was fed by those wetlands and streams. The workshop, which featured plant specialists, biologists and entomologists, opened her eyes to the wetland's biodiversity, sparking a multi-year journey to protect and restore the wetlands within the Slocan Valley Watershed.

"Our wetlands are marvelous little clusters of biodiversity. Hearing stats about how many wetlands have been lost due to development and being on a stewardship group really generated a lot of enthusiasm to protect these areas," said Hartley, who helped found the Slocan Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Project (SWAMP), which has mapped several wetlands in the valley. "It makes me feel very anxious that wetlands are areas that don't have a lot of protection unless you have some kind of rare plant or animal living there."

Hartley is among more than 3,000 workshop participants and stewards who have participated in the

BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Education Program since it began in 1996. Through collaborations with non-government organizations, local community groups, naturalist clubs and First Nations, the program supports and organizes teams to restore, enhance and conserve wetlands around the province. It also offers courses educating the public about wetland mapping, plant and animal identification, soil sampling, wetland classification and other stewardship skills.

According to Neil Fletcher, program manager, about a third of species at risk are associated with wetlands for a portion of their life. But wetlands only make up 5% to 6% of BC's land base. Many are being lost in the southern part of the province because of development.

"We often thought of wetlands as being these wastelands, so there's a huge need to educate the public that, 'No, they are not wastelands.' They have a tremendous amount of value, not just for wildlife, but also for society, from water filtration to buffering our communities from extreme weather events through flood control," said Fletcher, noting about 47% of wetlands in the Columbia Basin have been lost. "Our underlying goal is to reach as many British

Columbians as possible and make them feel proud about the natural environment. We want to make people inspired and care about the outdoors and nature so they become stewards."

So far, teams with the Wetlands Education Program have directly completed 39 projects and continue to take on more. One team is working on a multi-year project with the Lower Kootenay Band to reconnect wetlands to flood plains in a large area altered by dykes and ditches that were built in the 1970s and '80s. More than 1,000 waterfowl have already been seen using some of the habitat restored last year.

The BC Wildlife Federation recently received \$123,500 in community gaming grants from the Province to support four programs, including the Wetlands Education

Program, along with several youth programs aimed at getting kids off screens and into the great outdoors.

Every year, commercial gambling generates revenue that the BC government invests in key services. A portion of the revenue is allocated via the \$140-million Community Gaming Grants Program, which helps fund over 5,000 not-for-profit organizations throughout the province. For 2019-20, approximately \$4.6 million from the program was

allotted to 135 organizations in the environment sector.

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**Marilyn P Burgoon**

Marilyn P Burgoon passed away surrounded by loved ones on December 18, 2019.

Marilyn was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. She will be dearly missed by her children, grandchildren and her nieces and nephews.

Marilyn was a passionate gardener. She loved to hike, canoe, swim and ski. She enjoyed doing these activities with her children and grandchildren.

Since Marilyn moved to the Slocan Valley in the early 1980s she was actively involved in the environmental community, concentrating on the protection and preservation of clean water.

Marilyn passed away in the Okanagan, but she wanted her ashes to be in Sinixt territory. In lieu of flowers donate to the Lemon Creek prosecution [lilina@lysenkolaw.ca](mailto:lilina@lysenkolaw.ca)

# Music, munchies and meteorology in Silverton: Here comes the coffeehouse!

*submitted*

Some 40 years or so since it all began, it's time for that ever-popular winter event where everyone gets together to listen to friends and neighbours make beautiful music and to talk about the weather. The Slocan Lake Arts Council is hosting its annual coffeehouse at the Slocan Lake Arts Centre (aka the Silverton Gallery) on Saturday, January 18 at 7 pm. This year the conversation will be even more interesting than usual, what with our recent dramatic weather events and power outages!

Interspersed with all the catching up and lively visiting will be several musical acts and a few surprises. Returning after

a considerable hiatus, Heather Huether and Judy Maltz will be performing together on cello and piano, later joined by Sue Mistretta on cello. Shifting Winds, a delightful and accomplished female quartet from both up and down Valley, will also be gracing the stage. As well, patrons will be entertained by Patrick Mc Govern and Friends, always good for a rollicking good time, and will be treated to the beautiful vocal stylings of Rebecca Laity, accompanying herself on the piano.

Dotted throughout will be small gems of performance and unexpected pleasure, such as a prize-winning tap dancing routine by Penelope Stuart, a tiny segment from a vocal trio, and

a chance to sing along with a catchy little tune and Amelie Tremaine will perform original music. The evening also includes having fun leaping about to the catchy tunes of Fiddle Dee Dee – Irene Whitfield, Liz O'Neill and DJ Wright.

This event will be emceed by Moe Lyons, previously a mainstay in this role at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, now making her up-Valley debut in this capacity.

The concession will be offering a variety of culinary delights and beverages.

Admission is by donation. This event is a fundraiser for the Slocan Lake Arts Council.

PHOTO CREDIT: SALLY LAMARE



A renovation and reorganization at Sew Much More in New Denver was celebrated on January 11. Owner Kathy Provan shows off the new yarn wall.

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