

Slocan council, August 8: Microhydro and seniors housing projects top of mind

by Barbara Curry Mulcahy

• Council decided the microhydro and seniors' housing projects are the main issues to discuss with provincial ministers at the UBCM (Union of BC Municipalities) convention in September. Mayor Jessica Lunn commented that the microhydro project "seems to be stuck" with the Ministry of Forestry, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations. She said there had been "no movement for a year and a half" to approve permits for the project, and "we need to figure out why."

Council directed the CAO to find out which minister Slocan should meet with about accessing the recently announced funding for affordable housing.

• Council decided not to schedule a private meeting with the Education Minister to discuss rural schools. Councillor Madeleine Perriere said she thought council would just get the run-around. She called the recent process to close and then not close a Valley school "really kind of bizarre." Mayor Lunn agreed and added, "The negative impact on our subregional

community is huge – it's devastating for our valley." She spoke about the importance of maintaining support for rural education "as opposed to a crisis every three years."

• Amendments to the zoning and OCP bylaws to change the zoning designation for the site of the proposed seniors' housing project from Parks, Open Spaces & Institutional (P) to Multi-Family Residential (R-3), and to increase density in the R-3 zone to 49 units per hectare, were given first two readings. Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed bylaw changes on September 12 at 6:30 pm. At the council meeting at 7 pm that same night, council will consider the completed Development Permit Application for the seniors' housing project. Councillor Perriere reported that MP Richard Cannings joined the seniors' housing society board for a walk-about of the site on August 7.

• Slocan will host a 'Quartet meeting' (Slocan, Silverton, New Denver, and Area H) on August 24. The group will see if there are common issues they can discuss in meetings with provincial ministers at UBCM. Mayor Lunn reminded council about the petition in favour of cell phone service council received shortly after the last election and suggested cell phone service might be a common issue among the group. MP Richard Cannings has been invited to attend a barbeque after the Quartet meeting.

• CAO Michelle Gordon reported that the Job Creation Partnership (JCP) project is going well. The project will

enhance tourism by improving the waterfront and campground. Steve Whitby is managing the project. Four participants have been trained in tool and machine use, chainsaw safety, first aid, and CPR. They have learned about wildfire mitigation. They cleared and brushed out the Owl Walk site and two new parking areas at the beachfront; cleaned up the beach; sanded, stained and assembled park benches; weeded and pruned around Expo Park; re-leveled paver stones around two gardens; and bucked and split firewood for the campground. This is a training program and one worker has already found a permanent job elsewhere, so the Village plans to hire a replacement. Mayor Lunn said that the UBCM Small Communities Forum has asked for 'success stories' and suggested that Slocan could submit the JCP Owl Walk project as a success.

• In her mayor's report, Lunn thanked staff for all their late night work after a mudslide above the water plant caused the Village to ask residents to limit water use. Every household was phoned. The Village now has a directory listing name, phone number, and address of each resident.

Lunn also talked about the need for bear awareness. Councillors reported that a bear had been seen all over town, at the grocery store, the bakery, and the skate park. Councillor Joel Pelletier said a resident had complained to him that someone had shot at the bear while kids were playing in the skate park. CAO Gordon said residents should be directed to contact the RCMP in cases like that.

• The Village will write a letter to the British Columbia Utilities Commission informing them that Slocan should be listed as a community that does not have access to natural gas. BC Hydro and FortisBC have reduced rates for customers in communities without access to natural gas.

• Council agreed to post notice of proposed changes to the liquor license of the Slocan branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. The Legion recently fenced in an outdoor patio and would like the area licensed. With the new area, the Legion's capacity will increase to 100 people.

• The Village will write to the Spirit of Slocan committee confirming that the antique fire truck will be fixed and able to be in the Labour Day Parade on September 3. A plaque in honour of the late Bernie Czelenski, former mayor, will be installed at Expo Park and dedicated at the event.

• The Village will write to the prime minister supporting the City of Victoria's opposition to the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project and requesting that the project's application be denied.

• The Village will participate in the RDCK's 2016/17 Woodstove Exchange program, which offers rebates to people replacing old inefficient woodstoves.

• Council allowed a memorial bench to be placed at the Slocan Cemetery. The bench will be constructed by Public Works and the \$750 fee paid by Debbie Guerin.

• Not enough funds were raised to paint a mural on the beach washrooms this year, so council retracted the \$200 discretionary grant supporting the project.

• About a dozen people have signed up to buy rain barrels. The Village needs to buy a minimum of 100 barrels to go ahead with the project. The CAO is getting the word out that anyone in the valley is welcome to sign up.

• During public participation, a resident suggested that council increase taxes on vacant land in order to encourage development.

Ski track setter found and recovered

by Jan McMurray

The Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski Club's track setter has been found.

A local resident was out enjoying the rail trail and spotted the piece of equipment in a creek about 1.5 kilometres north of where it had been stowed on the trail in Hills. It appears that someone transported it by quad and dumped it over the rail trail bridge into the creek.

The track setter has been recovered and is still usable.

It went missing around July 30 and was found about two weeks later.

PIANO LESSONS
booking for Fall 2016

Kevin Heshedahl
250-551-6060

I am still searching for a location to rent for lessons ~ if you have any suggestions, please contact me. THANK YOU

Thank you!

VALHALLA FINE ARTS

would like to thank all of our participants, donors, and volunteers this past season.

Many thanks to our community, School District #10, Rec Commission #6, the Village of Silverton and local businesses for their support.

Because of your contributions, our programs - Suzuki Valhalla Institute,

Valhalla Summer School of Music, ViSTA, Creative, Peak & Experience Dance, and Music Explorers - were a huge success!



We look forward to 2017!

www.valhallafinearts.org

HILLS FOXFIRE

Seen recently by a local naturalist in Hills: a birch stump glowing a soft blue-green in the pitch black night. This bioluminescence (called foxfire) is created by a chemical reaction within a fungus present in decaying wood. An enzyme reacts with the compound luciferin (also found in fireflies), causing it to oxidize and emit light.



Slocan Lake Stewardship Society
slocanlakess.com



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN
PO Box 50, 503 Slocan Street, Slocan BC, V0G 2C0
250-355-2277 | cao@villageofslocan.ca

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: Monday, September 12th at 6:30 pm

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held
Monday, September 12th, 2016 at 6:30 pm
At the Village of Slocan, Council Chambers, 503 Slocan Street, Slocan BC

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider amendments to the Village of Slocan Official Community Plan Bylaw 616 and the Village of Slocan Zoning Bylaw 633. These amendment bylaws, if adopted, will re-designate the subject property legally described as Lots 13-20, Block 22, DL292, Plan496, from 'Parks, Open Space & Institutional' to 'Multi-Family Residential', for the purpose of facilitating construction and development of a 12-unit seniors and affordable housing complex on behalf of the Slocan Valley Seniors' Housing Society.

Background information on the proposed development and amendment bylaws may be inspected at the Village Office during regular business hours. Written submission on the matters contained herein will be received until 4pm on Thursday, September 8th, 2016.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

Notice

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Residential Property available For Sale

The RCMP is inquiring as to the immediate availability of residential property for sale in New Denver or Silverton. Property should be in good condition, have a minimum of 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, with preference to a property built 1988 or later and with a garage or detached out building.

Please provide street address, house and lot size, asking price; include Contact Name and telephone number, and possibility for a viewing sometime in August, 2016.

Information must be received by **Friday, August 12th, 2016 at 4:00 PM.**

Send to: Leifka Vissers Cell: 604-318-4889 Email: Leifka.Vissers@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca

This is only an inquiry as to the availability of the real property and RCMP or their agent will not necessarily invite offers or acquire any of the said real property. RCMP reserves the right to invite offers for this or similar projects from any of the interested vendors or any other vendors.