

# Appendix 4-N

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Open House Advertisements in Local  
Newspapers

# Housing market remains resilient in Crowsnest Pass

John Pundyk

Our slow and steady real estate market keeps defying the negative economic forces which are crippling the rest of the province and there are very good reasons for this.

Alberta Real Estate Association sends us complete market statistics each month and the latest to land in my in-box, on April 20, makes for bleak reading. Declines are everywhere right across the province but our local numbers tell a different story.

Up until the end of April this year, we had a

total of 37 MLS sales. In 2015, during the same period, we had 36 MLS sales and in 2014 we had 37. Stats which go all the way back to 2005 are interesting.

Our real estate market peaked in 2005, held steady for 2006 and 2007 and then declined with the rest of the markets as the financial crisis and recession took hold in 2008 and 2009.

As Alberta emerged from the recession, we saw a rapid acceleration in the volume of sales and price increases almost everywhere but not here in Crowsnest Pass.

An important reason for this is because our market is tied more to what is happening in

with the low price of met coal for a few years now, and this has been a time which has witnessed the

Metallurgical coal is slowly recovering for the simple reason: the world needs steel.

Just imagine, more than 100 tonnes of met coal goes into manufacturing steel for just one windmill. And the amount of steel re-bar needed for the world's infrastructure projects is hard to envision. Anyone who has seen a foundation poured under a windmill, or an overpass being constructed, has a good idea of the steel needed.

So, while our community missed much of the oil fuelled price rises

in housing, we are not missing the economic contraction which is now underway in the rest of Alberta.

Since the recession of 2009 our prices have not changed much and we remain very affordable when compared to anywhere else in the province. Since our housing market is reasonable, we continue to attract buyers.

While no one has a crystal ball to predict the future, our slow and steady market statistics tell us that Crowsnest Pass is a very good place to be.

**"While no one has a crystal ball to predict the future, our slow and steady market statistics tell us the Crowsnest Pass is a very good place to be".**

**- John Pundyk**  
- Realtor, Royal LePage

British Columbia than in Alberta. As you recall, the price of metallurgical coal retracted much sooner than the collapse of the price of oil.

TECK, our major employer, has been coping

closure of many mines throughout North America and elsewhere. Teck, on the other hand, is emerging not only as a survivor but also as a global met coal industry leader.

## Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project

### Open House and Invitation to Comment

NWP Coal Canada Ltd. (Proponent) is proposing to develop an open pit metallurgical coal mine in the Elk Valley, referred to as the Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project (proposed Project). The proposed Project would be located approximately 12 km northeast of Sparwood, British Columbia, and it is estimated that it would produce 3.7 million run-of-mine tonnes per year.

The proposed Project is subject to review under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Proponent must obtain an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) before work can be undertaken on the proposed Project. Prior to the submission of an Application by the Proponent for an EAC, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) must approve the Application Information Requirements for the proposed Project.

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Emerald Room  
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On: **Wednesday, May 25, 2016**

From: **4:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

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2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – 441 Columbia St.  
Kamloops, BC, V2C 2T3
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**Sparwood Public Library**  
110 Pine Avenue, Sparwood, BC

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## Artists' Tour

**EZRA BLACK**  
Pass Herald Reporter

The Crowsnest Pass Allied Arts Association is organizing the community's first ever self-guided tour of over 30 artists' studios and other venues on May 7 and 8 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The free event allows the public to enter normally private workspaces of the artists who live and work in the Crowsnest Pass.

"I was inspired to organize this tour after a spring visit to Victoria B.C. where we went on numerous art studio tours," said event organizer Lynnette Jessop. "It was so cool to see where and what the artists were working on. I loved the interaction with the artists and seeing artworks in progress."

Jessop said the studio tour will increase awareness of the artistic community in the Pass. It will also be an opportunity to see techniques such as how a piece progresses from preliminary sketches through to final work.

"We have a strong community of incredibly talented artists in the Crowsnest Pass. With more people moving here because of the beauty and affordability. We are also fortunate to have a fantastic art gallery and numerous locations that promote local artists," she said.

A second tour is to take place July 30 and 31 during the Doors Open and Heritage Festival. For more information contact Lynette Jessop at (403) 563 – 8829 or visit [www.cnpstudiotour.ca](http://www.cnpstudiotour.ca).



# Happy Cow is back in Sparwood



Herald staff photo

Tis' the season for ice cream. The Happy Cow ice cream truck is back at the Sparwood Chamber parking lot.

# Coming events for Coalminer Days

**JEFF CHAMBERS**  
Elk Valley Herald Reporter

There are many events and activities coming to the Elk Valley at the beginning of May to help kick-off Coal Miner Days and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sparwood.

Paint it Night is a fundraiser held at the Sparwood Recreation Centre on May 6. Local artist Sue Hanlon will be showing people every step involved in creating a painting with her expertise and guidance.

"This events theme is tulips, the cost is \$45

for a drink, some food, a canvas, brushes and Sue will show attendees how to re-create a painting using her techniques. There will also be a bar so people can have a drink and paint at the same time," said Event Coordinator, Justine Bowen.

This will be the second Paint it Night held, with the first one a great success in February. Both events sold out with 40 attendees eager to learn a few things about the craft of painting.

"We are looking at running a third one in the fall and hope to see the same attendance."

Another event that will be taking place is an Anniversary Party and Cake Cutting on May 12. The party will be from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., followed by a Sock Hop Dance Later in the day from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

"May 12 will be the anniversary of the incorporation of Sparwood which happened in 1966. We are celebrating that day at the Chamber of Commerce so all of the kids from the high school and elementary school will come up although it is open to the public as well. We will be having a barbecue and we plan on doing an arial photograph as well. There will be a sock hop that evening at Frank J. Mitchell Elementary which is also open to the public. There will be prizes for the kids and decorations done by high school and elementary school kids," said Bowen

There are many events coming up in the near future so be sure to check your event calendars and help support the community by coming out and joining in the celebration.

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# Hungry for Life Gala celebrates 13 years

On the wall outside the Zanmitay Health Center in Grand Goave, Haiti, the plaque reads:

"Haiti Arise Ministries desires to express our sincere Gratitude and Honor to Dr. Robert and Jill Cutler and the Cranbrook Community for your Heart, Vision and Partnership in building and establishing The Zanmitay Sant Sante/Friends Helping Friends Health Center to provide excellent health care and education to the communities of and around grand Goave Haiti. Dedicated on this Day, November 13th, 2014.

On February 3rd of this year, Dr. Cutler received the Governor General's see Gala page 4

**Without MINING**

Without mining there would be fewer bed frames and metal chairs.

**MINING WEEK May 8 to 14**  
proudly supported by:

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**MINING BUILDS COMMUNITIES**

**Without MINING**

There would be less jobs to fuel our economy.

**MINING WEEK May 8-14**  
proudly supported by:

Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett  
Minister of Energy and Mines  
250.417.6022  
Bill.Bennett.MLA@leg.bc.ca

**MINING BUILDS COMMUNITIES**

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## 3 FACTS You Need to Know About...

### Hunting Licenses



With  
MLA,  
**Bill Bennett**

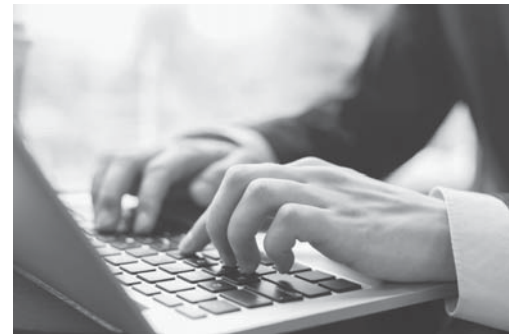
**1** The government has launched a new online portal that will make it easier for hunters to access a number of services, such as limited-entry applications and, eventually, hunting and guide licenses.



**2** The portal gives hunters access to apply for their resident hunting credentials and the new Fish and Wildlife Hunter ID. Hunters who want to apply in person can also continue to do so at Service BC, FrontCounter BC, or an authorized vendor.



**3** You can find the new portal at [www.gov.bc.ca/hunting](http://www.gov.bc.ca/hunting)



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BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Bill Bennett, M.L.A.**  
**(Kootenay East)**  
Province of British Columbia

Constituency Office: Phone: 250-417-6022  
100c Cranbrook Street N. Fax: 250-417-6026  
Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 3P9 bill.bennett.mla@leg.bc.ca



# LETTERS

## In defence of dandelions

Dear Editor:

I wanted to respond to a letter last week written by Doug Tyson regarding this issue of Mecoprop being used in our community.

There was some interesting information presented in his letter that left me feeling more alarmed than ever before. To know that this chemical treatment being applied to our weeds is tested on animals, causing death to half (the animals) and likely severe problems and prolonged suffering to the rest, makes me wish such products were never invented or certainly not used because some people don't like a few unsightly dandelions (or other weeds growing amongst their grass).

To quote author Robert Fulghum: "Dandelions are everywhere and don't need us and kind of do what they please. So we call them 'weeds', and murder them at every opportunity. Well, I say they are flowers, and pretty fine flowers at that. And I am honoured to have them in my yard, where I want them. Besides, in addition to every other good thing about them (including the fact that bees favour them and the result is high-class honey), they are magic. You can blow their seeds off the stem and make a wish, or twine them nicely into a wreath for your friend's hair. I defy my neighbour to show me anything in his yard that compares with dandelions."

Our town is so innovative and forward-thinking that surely we could come

up with a more natural way to reduce weeds and help put an end to chemical testing on animals.

I am also still not convinced that these animal-killing chemicals are as friendly as you make them out to be, Doug. Anything that can be sprayed once and have such a lasting impact to kill the weed for most of the season surely has to stick around for a while. And although, as you state, it requires very high doses of Mecoprop to kill the animals they test on, doesn't the accumulation of chemicals used by various people throughout the valley, region, province and country all leach into the same soil, the same groundwater, the same ecosystem and lead to a cumulative toxic effect? I, for one, would rather we simply not take a chance.

One last comment before I close. I would like to applaud the efforts of all employees at *The Pioneer* and *Echo* newspapers for working constant overtime trying to produce balanced and fair articles on the issues concerning our valley. It would appear you do a tremendous job trying to reach a variety of sources to provide us with such great newspapers and it's no doubt that, with such tight deadlines every week, not all stories might be to the best of your abilities. Cheers, for your hard work and commitment to our community!

Kind regards,

Jenny Hillman  
Invermere

### We want to hear from you

Email your letters to [info@columbiavalleypioneer.com](mailto:info@columbiavalleypioneer.com) or visit our website at [www.columbiavalleypioneer.com](http://www.columbiavalleypioneer.com).

Mail your letters to Box 868, Invermere, V0A 1K0, or drop them in at #8, 1008-8th Avenue.

Letters to the editor should be sent only to *The Pioneer*, and not to other publications. We do not publish open letters or third-party letters.

Letters for publication should be no longer than 400 words, and must include the writer's address and phone numbers. No attachments, please.

Letters may be shortened for space

requirements. We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity, civility and accuracy.

Please state your connection to the subject you're writing about so that readers can judge your credibility and motivation. Please ensure that the facts cited in your letter are accurate. You are entitled to your own heartfelt opinion, but not to your own facts. Errors of fact mean either that we can't run your letter or that we will have to run it with an accompanying correction.

Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not *The Pioneer*.

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# PROVINCE

## Arson investigated in northern B.C. fires

### BLACK PRESS

As many as 10 wildfires in northeast B.C. this spring may have been deliberately set.

Environment Minister Mary Polak said Tuesday evidence an apparent string of arsons has been turned over to conservation officers to track the source of the fires.

The B.C. government has tripled the fine for not complying with burning restrictions to \$1,150, but deliberately set fires are more serious.

"Arson would result potentially in criminal charges, and if some-

body was convicted, they would see jail time," Polak said.

Rapid snow-melt and an early warm spell created high fire hazard in areas of dry grass, sparking forest fires north of Fort St. John that forced hundreds of people to evacuate.

Evacuees were allowed to go home on Sunday after rain and snow slowed the fires. Crews and aircraft in Alberta and B.C. continue to work on the Siphon Creek fire, which grew to more than 50,000 hectares as it crossed the provincial border.



B.C. WILDFIRE SERVICE

The Siphon Creek fire spread from northern B.C. into Alberta on the weekend, and by Tuesday was estimated at 58,000 hectares, 20 per cent under control.

## B.C. schools open to Alberta kids

### BLACK PRESS

B.C. schools are preparing to take in some of the 12,000 children of school age who have been forced to evacuate Fort McMurray due to wildfire.

Education Minister Mike Bernier said he has been in touch with the Alberta minister to keep track of students who come to B.C., so they can return to some of their normal routines.

"We sent a letter to all of our school districts

that when we have students coming from Alberta into B.C., that we're going to open our arms, make sure that they're welcomed into the school system and try to help them complete the end of the school year," Bernier said.

The Fort McMurray fire destroyed homes and businesses as it swept through the town, but schools were spared, as were the hospital and airport.

## B.C. Mounties heading to help Fort McMurray

### CANADIAN PRESS

Mounties from across British Columbia are heading to northern Alberta to help in fire-ravaged Fort McMurray.

B.C. RCMP spokesman Staff Sgt. Rob Vermeulen says about 150 tactical troop members and traffic service officers are being sent.

He says the Alberta RCMP requested help from their B.C. counterparts.

The officers will

come from communities across the province to make sure local detachments aren't left short-handed.

Vermeulen says the officers are used to being redeployed on short notice for serious events.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley says Fort McMurray is not yet safe for residents to return after a wildfire ripped through the city, torching 2,400 buildings.

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### Protect our earth.

The Cranbrook Daily Townsman and the Kimberley Daily Bulletin promote recycling.

We use vegetable-based inks, and our newsprint, tin and aluminum waste is recycled.







## Town Talk RENEWED

As most people in the community will remember my mom Gail Sygutek had a weekly column called "Town Talk." It was probably the most widely read article every week in the paper. My mom had no issues telling people exactly what she thought about anything. Whether you agreed with her or not, you had to respect her upright, honest ability to tell everyone exactly what she thought – such a rare commodity in today's world of hypocritical passive aggressives.

There are issues in the community that need to be addressed, so I'm considering a Town Talk resurgence. Not weekly, probably not monthly but whenever I feel passionate about an issue I'll pipe up. Similar to my mom, I have big shoulders – figuratively speaking – and I'm willing to put myself out there and give you an opinion. Not everyone is going to like it, but I'm okay with that.

### Location of the new lodge:

I am upset with the decision to build the seniors' lodge that will replace York Creek in the old trailer park in Coleman. I have yet to speak with any senior who thinks this is a good idea. My mom lived at the York Creek Lodge for a period of time before having to go to long term care at the hospital. Let me tell you straight, it's difficult for a person when they're forced to leave their home and move into any of these places for medical reasons. It can be a traumatizing experience. After a lifetime of autonomy, these seniors are forfeiting their independence and their homes. They are at the mercy of staff, doctors and their own failing bodies.

I understand that many of these seniors can no longer take proper care of themselves but I bet it still sucks.

It was one of the hardest days of my life to watch my mom leave her home, her life and move into those places. It hurt to watch it unfold.

One of the only solaces was her proximity to her family. York Creek Lodge is in the heart of Blairmore. It's close to a doctor's office, drug stores, the mall, a grocery store, and the post office, a park, the pool, a beautiful river to listen to and main street Blairmore.

True, some residents of York Creek Lodge are bed bound but a good number like walking or scootering about. Some have families that can take them for walks

# Seniors come first?

in their wheelchairs while some are independent enough to travel on their own.

Our community has the oldest population in the province and I celebrate the federal and provincial governments for stepping up and building a new lodge. I would have loved for my mom to have lived in a new facility.

But they want to build this new facility up a hill in Coleman, far from anything, in the old trailer park by the Sports Complex that was initially torn down to make room for parking. Yet, this place is good enough for our seniors. Sure, there's a good view but the seniors I've spoken to say they'd rather a walk around the community than stare at pretty things out a window. It feels like we're shunting our seniors away on top of some hill.

These seniors might not

be as self-possessed as they once were but remember that today's seniors were yesterday's leaders. They have worked, raised children and paid taxes in this community for many years. These same seniors built this community from the ground up. They deserve this facility. They deserve to spend the last part of their lives in a clean, safe and beautiful environment, close to amenities, close to the hub of the community.

There has been no official announcement on the exact location of the new lodge though provincial employees have confirmed that it will be built in Coleman but our sources have confirmed that the old trailer park is the place.

There has been a conspicuous lack of transparency from the Crowsnest Pass Senior Housing Board and the municipality on this

issue.

The municipality would say nothing. York Creek Lodge wouldn't talk. If the people in charge of making important decisions insist on making them in the dark instead of using honesty and transparency, then maybe they shouldn't be making those decisions.

The Senior Housing Board's ad we ran a few weeks ago announcing the new lodge made no mention of the new location. Instead it focused on how the new lodge would be sustainable and green. Well, slow clap for the greensies but why did the ad fail to mention something as important as a plan to locate our seniors at the top of a hill?

Were the existing residents even consulted about the move? Were they told they were being sequestered away from anything? One source said to me, "It's fine," the seniors are provided three meals a day so really they don't need to leave. Are you kidding me? It's not a

jail, this is their home and in some cases it'll be their last home.

If putting the seniors in Coleman is a money issue because the municipality own the land, we need to rethink the plan. I don't care what it costs. We as a community can fundraise for a better spot. I would lead the fundraising myself. This is a priority. I don't care if we get a brand new pool. I would give all that up for our seniors to have a home in a centrally located place where they can access life.

This is not a Blairmore vs. Coleman vs. the rest of the Pass. This is an issue of what is best for our seniors and I highly doubt being put on a hill in Coleman is the answer.

Does the government of Alberta think this is the best place? Does council? I don't care if the Crowsnest Pass Senior Board thinks this is the best place and I don't care if the people running the lodge think this is the best place. It's not the best place

for our seniors.

I suggest the people of the community stand up and say this is not right. They need to be vocal for the people who can't. When my mom was in long-term care I had many wonderful caregivers and many who were not. I often told the ones who were terrible that I hoped that when they get older, that they had someone like themselves to care for them. Karma can be fickle that way. God willing if we all live long enough to have to move away from our homes into these institutions. I pray for all our sakes' that it'll be located in a place that is central to help give us a modicum of independence.

Government leaders will come and go, municipal leaders and staff will come and go but a building can last a lifetime. I urge those making this important decision to remember that.

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members."

## Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project

### Open House and Invitation to Comment

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# Modern day voyageur honours veterans with epic trans-Canadian paddle

**EZRA BLACK**  
Elk Valley Herald Reporter

A gregarious modern day voyageur made his way through the Elk Valley and into Crowsnest Pass last week on a cross-country voyage.

Wearing a birch bark hat and accompanied by his dog Spitzii, trans-Canadian paddler Mike Ranta hauled his canoe along Highway 3 before putting in at Crowsnest Lake on May 6.

The 44-year old is canoeing his way across the country to honour the nation's veterans and to raise funds for his hometown's youth centre.

"Next time you see a veteran, shake their hand, say thank you," said Ranta as he rested on the shores of the lake. "They didn't serve for the money, they served for our country."

Hailing from Atikokan, Ontario, which bulls itself as the "Canoeing Capital of Canada," Ranta's kevlar canoe is covered with the signatures of over a hundred veterans. More are collected from the servicemen and women in Royal Canadian Legions that he visits along the way.

In 2014, he crossed the North American continent solo, by canoe, in seven months. Canoe and Kayak magazine recognized the accomplishment as the longest solo canoe expedition in a single season in history.

"It was quite the haul," he said.

This time he wants to break his own record by reaching Dominion Beach in Cape Breton in six months.

Ranta left on the cross-country journey on April 1 from Richmond B.C. He battled strong currents on the Fraser River and faced an uphill battle after leaving Hope B.C. about two weeks ago.

A group of cadets gathered by the highway to greet him as he passed through Sparwood, B.C.

"They were clapping for me as I walked by," said Ranta. "All these kids clapping in uniform and I was taken aback by it. That's what I live for, that's what we have in Canada."

And now, with the continental divide behind him, it'll be a mostly downhill paddle through

the river systems that will take him all the way to Winnipeg and beyond.

For the next leg of his journey, Ranta said he'd shoot down the Crowsnest River, portaging

the Lundbreck Falls and paddling to Lethbridge.

Ranta said he'd be paddling through Ottawa to lay a specially crafted wreath at the Tomb of the

Unknown Soldier. He'd also like to drop by Hamilton and take Spitzii for a walk in at the Cpl. Nathan Cirillo Leash Free Area, a dog park named after the fallen reservist.



Herald staff photo

Mike Ranta and his dog Spitzii are paddling across the country in honour of veterans.

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Contact Rick Allen to discuss your project at 1.250.417.3665 or 1.800.505.8998.

Learn more about this program at [cbt.org/recreationapply](http://cbt.org/recreationapply).

Deadline for this intake is **Monday, July 11.**

Connect with us

[cbt.org/recreationapply](http://cbt.org/recreationapply)

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## COMMUNITY

# Events galloping along at Creston Flats Stables

BY FRANCES COLLISON

Joanne Peters runs Creston Flats Stables (CFS) and puts on gymkhanas in her huge indoor arena on Indian Road. These events include different kinds of horse racing like pole bending, figure eights, barrel racing and a dash for cash.

I have been to one of the gymkhana events to watch my sister, Erin Collison, on her own horse, Banjo. She is a loving, caring horse who loves attention. I had fun watching all the riders and events.

Peters also holds a variety of horse clinics, as well as cattle sorting. Sometimes in the summer, these events host barbecues as part of the event, with music. This makes them more enjoyable to watch and participate in.

She mainly offers western riding but also English riding at CFS. The stables have been running since 2008. On her 30 acres, she provides lessons for beginners all the way up to professionals, as well as horse boarding. She has an indoor arena (200 feet by 80 feet) for when the weather is bad, but enjoys the open outdoor arena more. It is hard to believe that Peters lives right next to the stables with her horses.



Come see us at the 2016 Blossom Festival  
**COWBOY CHALLENGE HORSE SHOW**

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Submitted  
**Creston Flats Stables owner Joanne Peters (left) with this article's writer, Frances Collison.**

Thirty-five years ago, Peters started her path with horses. She began training in Langford, Victoria and Chilliwack. She also trains with Jim Anderson, a two-time world champion, through the clinics.

Peters likes to start training horses using groundwork. She believes in building up a relationship of respect with the horse on the ground before getting in the saddle. In 2015, Peters won tenth in the world at the Extreme Cowboy Challenge competition in Texas.

The Creston Valley Blossom Festival is coming next week, and Peters is putting on an exciting event called the Extreme Cowboy Challenge on May 21 and 22. She sets up an obstacle course in the arena and the fastest riders get a chance to win prizes and money. The judges will come from Alberta and anyone can enter.

The CFS near Lower Wynndel Road is a beautiful place to ride horses. There are green grass, straight blue skies and sand filled arenas. There are large white fences housing her horses, plus the boarding ones. The indoor arena can be rented for private functions too. Horse lovers can enjoy all the many opportunities at Creston Flats Stables.

It is a wonderful place to watch many events. For music she has country, pop and rock. I enjoyed watching these events, which include a jackpot for the first, second and third place winners in each division. The jackpot allows riders to win prize money. You have to pay a fee to enter the gymkhana and those who run the fastest times win. Watching these events makes the Creston Flats Stables a better place to be!

For more information on CFS and its upcoming events, visit [www.crestonflatsstables.com](http://www.crestonflatsstables.com).





# Conservation officer warns of chronic wasting disease

By Leah Scheitel  
Free Press Staff

With the warmer temperature, more people are venturing outside for recreational activities, including hunting.

Currently it is open season for many species, including black bears and bearded turkeys. There are some things to be aware of before hunting, including obtaining a proper hunting license.

BC Conservation Officer, Frank deBoon, says there are regulations in place to protect B.C. wildlife, including a ban on bringing animal carcasses in from other provinces.

"From out of province, any ungulates, like moose, elk or deer, hunters can't bring any into B.C. They have to be cut and wrapped and then the antlers can be brought in but they need to be bleached out of the skull so there is no brain tissue that comes along," said deBoon.

This is protection from Chronic Wasting Disease, a disease similar to Mad Cow Disease.

"That is what most people relate it to. If it does

reach B.C., there is just no way to stop it. Just animals coming into contact with each other can spread it or the pathogens can be dormant in the ground for 10 years or more so the animals feeding would pick it up," said deBoon.

Conservation officers regularly patrol the Alberta/B.C. border to check for people failing to respect this regulation. The disease spread into Alberta from Saskatchewan, and authorities are hoping to keep it out of B.C.

deBoon wants to remind anglers that fishing on the Elk River is currently closed to allow for spawning. However, fishing in lakes is permitted with fishing at Summit Lake on the Alberta/B.C. border is popular at this time of year.

## Greenhills

### Operation receives safety trophy

Submitted

Teck's Greenhills Operations has been awarded the John T. Ryan National Safety Trophy as the safest coal mine in Canada for 2015. This is the third consecutive year that the Greenhills steelmaking coal operation has received the award, which goes to the mine that experienced the lowest reportable injury frequency per 200,000 hours worked in Canada.

"This award recognizes the hard work of employees at Greenhills Operations to ensure their safety and the safety of their coworkers," said Robin Sheremeta, Senior Vice President. "I commend everyone at Greenhills for this outstanding achievement, which demonstrates their commitment to achieving the goal of everyone going home safe and healthy every day."

This is the fifth time that Greenhills has received the John T. Ryan National Safety award since its inception.

## Boats intercepted with zebra mussels

By Jeff Nagel  
Black Press Staff

Authorities remain on high alert for invasive species after intercepting four boats in recent weeks that arrived in B.C. infested with live zebra mussels.

One contaminated boat was towed by a vehicle that failed to stop for inspectors on Apr. 28 near Elko, where many vacationers pass by while travelling through B.C. from southwestern Alberta and northwestern Montana.

A conservation officer tracked down the vehicle and diverted it back to the inspection station, said Chris Doyle, deputy chief of provincial operations for the B.C. Conservation Officer Service.

"The boat it was towing was found to have zebra mussels on it," Doyle said. "That watercraft was detained and impounded and as well the driver was charged for failing to stop at the inspection station."

Inspection teams have checked 1,200 boats so far this year. Of those, 64 were flagged as coming from high-risk locations, resulting in 12 decontaminations.

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3:00 pm - Close (never before 9:00 pm)



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Inspection teams have checked 1,200 boats so far this year. Of those,

64 were flagged as coming from high-risk locations, resulting in 12 decontamination orders and seven 30-day quarantines.

Bears emerging from their dens and searching for food continue to be a problem, particularly when people fail to secure their food and garbage, Doyle said.

He said conservation officers are continuing to respond to reports of “bear jams” where vehicles are stopped on a highway where people are deliberately feeding bears or taking photos.

Even when the bears aren’t being fed there’s concern that people in close proximity may make the bears habitu-

ated.

There have also been multiple complaints in Kitimat of grizzly bears feeding on garbage, he added.

He urges people not to remove fawns or other wildlife babies but instead contact conservation officers if there’s reason to suspect they’re abandoned.

Animal rescues are a regular part of the job for conservation officers.

One of the latest operations saw Kamloops officers join forces with local volunteers to retrieve 1,000 rainbow trout that had become stranded in a field after Jacko Lake flooded on April 24.

“Those live rainbow trout were all returned to Jacko Lake.”

Hefty fines have been handed out in recent months against poachers who shot wildlife illegally.

About \$2,500 in fines were issued to a group found hunting without licences April 29 in the Kispiox River area.

Another \$5,800 in fines were handed out to two Lower Mainland men convicted of hunting deer in a closed season near Rose Prairie in 2013. Conservation officers used DNA evidence to link the poachers to the scene.

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As part of the Application Information Requirements, Valued Components must be identified, which are environmental, economic, social, heritage, and health components that may experience potential effects as a result of the proposed Project. The Valued Components are outlined in the Valued Components for Environmental Assessment document, which details components to be studied and the areas in which the studies would occur.

#### Open House

EAO invites the public to attend an Open House about the environmental assessment process, the proposed Project, and the draft Valued Components. An open house will be held:

At: **Causeway Bay Hotel  
Emerald Room  
102A Red Cedar Drive, Sparwood, BC**

On: **Wednesday, May 25, 2016**

From: **4:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

EAO and the Proponent will be present to provide information and respond to questions about the proposed Project at the Open House.

The comment period for the submission of comments by the public in relation to the draft Valued Components document is 30 days. **The comment period will begin May 13, 2016 and end June 13, 2016. All comments received during**

**this comment period in relation to the draft Valued Components document will be considered.**

The intention of seeking public comments is to ensure that all potential effects – environmental, economic, social, heritage and health – that might result from the proposed Project are identified for consideration as part of the assessment process. At this stage of the process, the primary intent is to receive feedback on studies or information required for a comprehensive assessment.

After taking public comments into account, the Valued Components document will be finalized.

EAO accepts public comments through the following ways:

- **By Online Form at**  
<http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca>
- **By Mail:**  
Terry Pratt  
Project Assessment Manager  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – 441 Columbia St.  
Kamloops, BC, V2C 2T3
- **By Fax:**  
Fax: 250-387-2208

An electronic copy of the draft Valued Components document and information regarding the environmental assessment process are available at [www.eao.gov.bc.ca](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca). Copies of the draft Valued Components document are also available for viewing at the following locations:

**Sparwood Public Library**  
110 Pine Avenue, Sparwood, BC

**Fernie Heritage Library**  
492 Third Avenue, Fernie, BC

**Cranbrook Public Library**  
1212 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North, Cranbrook, BC

If you are unable to participate at this time, there will be an additional comment period during the Application Review stage when you will also be able to provide comments to EAO on the proposed Project.

**NOTE: All submissions received by the EAO during the comment period in relation to the proposed Project are considered public and will be posted to the EAO website.**



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# 3 FACTS

You Need to Know About...

## Hunting Licenses



With  
MLA,  
**Bill  
Bennett**

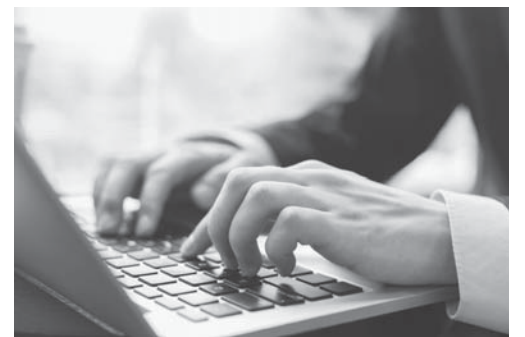
**1** The government has launched a new online portal that will make it easier for hunters to access a number of services, such as limited-entry applications and, eventually, hunting and guide licenses.



**2** The portal gives hunters access to apply for their resident hunting credentials and the new Fish and Wildlife Hunter ID. Hunters who want to apply in person can also continue to do so at Service BC, FrontCounter BC, or an authorized vendor.



**3** You can find the new portal at [www.gov.bc.ca/hunting](http://www.gov.bc.ca/hunting)



**Bill Bennett, M.L.A.**  
**(Kootenay East)**  
Province of British Columbia

Constituency Office: 100c Cranbrook Street N. Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 3P9  
Phone: 250-417-6022  
Fax: 250-417-6026  
bill.bennett.mla@leg.bc.ca



## Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project

### Open House and Invitation to Comment

NWP Coal Canada Ltd. (Proponent) is proposing to develop an open pit metallurgical coal mine in the Elk Valley, referred to as the Crown Mountain Coking Coal Project (proposed Project). The proposed Project would be located approximately 12 km northeast of Sparwood, British Columbia, and it is estimated that it would produce 3.7 million run-of-mine tonnes per year.

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## Four artists featured

### Whassup at Pynelogs

By Joey Vanderwel  
Pioneer Columnist



Looking for a fantastic night out on the town? Head on down to Pynelogs Art Gallery this Thursday, May 19th and check out our bi-monthly art opening! The gallery opening runs from 7 until 9 p.m., and is located at the historic Pynelogs Art Gallery at Kinsmen Beach.

We have works hung by four featured artists: Rita Rankin (Northern Alberta), George Oliver (Invermere), Paula Cravens (New Denver), and Patrick Markle (Fernie), all of whom are fantastic and experimental in their treatment.

The breadth of the show will include portraiture, photography, pastel work, paintings, and p... well, sculpture. Get a cold beer or a glass of wine from our cash

bar and spend the evening rubbing shoulders with our local artists. If you can't make the opening, there is no need to fear, this exhibit will be running from May 17th to May 29th with all pieces being available for purchase.

Still looking for that perfect Mother's Day gift? (You can only use the excuse

that it's in the mail for so long!) We have a fantastic array of local products and printed cards available for purchase at our gift shop. Feel good knowing that your purchases are supporting local artists and craftspeople, and feel even better that you're getting unique one of a kind East Kootenay treasures. Remember to pick up a CV Arts Membership while you're here, and support great art in the Columbia Valley with ease-L.

Joey Vanderwel is the Assistant Gallery Curator at the Pynelogs Art Gallery and Cultural Centre. Email [pynelogs@telus.net](mailto:pynelogs@telus.net) or call 250-342-4423.

## Contractor can do it all

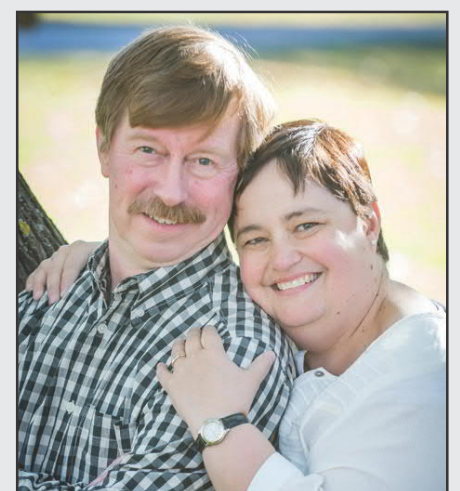
By James Rose  
Special to The Pioneer

After operating Fjordland Contracting for many years in Calgary, David Webster is glad to establish his company in the Columbia Valley as part of a full-time move to the warmer side of the Rocky Mountains that he and his wife recently made.

"My wife and I wanted to slow life down a little and we were familiar with the valley already as we have been coming out to the valley for the past 15 years, so for us it was either moving to the Columbia Valley or to the north end of Vancouver Island to semi-retire, and I think we made the right choice," Mr. Webster said with a laugh.

With experience working as site supervisor for a major Calgary homebuilder early in his career, Mr. Webster felt confident in the early 1990s to establish his own contracting company and forge ahead as an independent contractor.

"Nineteen ninety-three was when Fjordland was first established and I knew that even if I didn't have the expertise in a particular matter, that I



*ON VALLEY TIME* — David Webster of Fjordland Contracting has moved his business to the valley from Calgary with his wife Jolene. Photo submitted

could still reach out to the many contacts I already had in the business for help," Mr. Webster recalled. "Luckily, I tied in with a property management company within the first six to eight months on my own and they kept me busy with all their properties and homes over the years, as well as all my other clients, too."

*Continued on page 29...*