



INFORMATION REPORT

DATE: March 8th, 2021
SUBJECT: Mayor's Monthly Report
FROM: Mayor Zeleznik

February 9, 10, 12th 2021 – Attended 3 meetings on the Arrow Lakes Caribou Society ALCS board
Maternity Pen Project – February 9th - First Nations outreach – we had a very positive Zoom meeting with Westbank First Nation with the maternity pen as a main point of discussion. They wish to work on this project with us, will continue discussions during the early part of 2021. Discussion with Splatsin (part of the Shuswap Nation) – they were involved in shepherding at the Revelstoke pen so have a keen interest and experience in maternity penning.

February 10th - Zoom meetings with the province; Russ LaRoche Executive Director, Species at Risk Recovery FLNRORD, Darcy Peel, Director of BC Caribou Recovery Program FLNRORD, Leo Degroot, Southern Group Leader, Caribou Recovery Program FLNRORD Dr. Helen Schwantje, Provincial Wildlife Vet, FLNRORD.

This call with the province **was a COVID related “pause” in the maternity pen project – government sees unacceptable risks in assembling and deploying a caribou capture team safely in this area under current provincial COVID guidelines. Therefore, the capture cannot be completed in time to utilize the ALCS maternity pen this year. This was unfortunate news; however we did receive assurances that the pen would be used next year (capture in late March/ April 2022).**

February 12th - ALCS followed with a Zoom meeting with the federal MP for the area - Richard Cannings – MP Darcy Peel – FLNRORD Russ LaRoche – FLNRORD.

The purpose of the call was to update Richard on the ALCS and seek support for funding applications. Being a biologist, Richard was extremely interested in the project. He offered his full support.

February 24, 2021 – BC Hydro Arrow Lakes Reservoir Debris Committee Meeting.



2021 Program Recommendations - depending on COVID-19 – Will work closer to Castlegar area.

- Mobilize in late March to early April (weather permitting).
- Mobilize in lower reservoir; work north toward Needles area. Pingston area has wood debris and situation could work North to Windy Point (Beaton Arm) and in MacDonald Boat Ramp area.
- There is not much work planned for the Nakusp area at this time.
- Tom reports that there is a large amount of debris in front of Nakusp.
- South of Octopus Creek, there is quite a large area that needs to be cleaned up also.

- MacDonald Park is a good collector of debris due to winds

February 16th – GOOD NEWS STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD TO THE COMMUNITY!!

Councillor Ken Miller and I were asked to do a newsletter of Nakusp that will be featured in the BC Rural Health Network's Member of the Month in the upcoming March 2021 edition.

The BC RHN provides rural British Columbians with a strong and unified voice advocating for the improvement of healthcare services across the province.



THE VILLAGE OF

N A K U S P is situated on the picturesque shore of the Upper Arrow Lakes. Municipal population of 1600 residents, another 1700 residents on the outskirts of the village. The Village is extremely fortunate to have its very own Arrow Lakes Hospital. The hospital supplies services to approximately 5,000 people, including patients from several surrounding communities. The hospital receives

strong financial support through two volunteer groups who supply extensive funding for modern medical equipment and other benefits that would otherwise not be available through normal government funding.

They are the Arrow Lakes Healthcare Auxiliary Society (ALHAS) and the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation (ALHF).

The ALHF receives funds via donations and legacies from patients, family members and other generous donors. Focus mainly is the hospital, but offer bursaries to students following in medical fields and have assisted with local cancer support groups etc.

The ALHAS raise funds through the operation of their local Thrift Store which is supplied through generous local donations. The store is so popular that people literally line up at the door before opening. They offer funding in a wider scope than the Foundation to include the long-term care and seniors' facilities etc.



In the last year alone these two groups have joined together to buy equipment for the newly renovated Trauma/Emergency rooms completed in June 2020 in the amount of \$225,000. These local contributions have enhanced the 2.1-million-dollar investment that the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District and the Provincial Ministry of Health have invested in our local hospital to assure quality healthcare to our rural areas.

The Foundation has recently funded a \$70,000 renovation to the palliative care room and committed over \$21,000 more for equipment that is already on order at the hospital. At the same time, the Society has supplied approximately \$140,000 for an elevator and automatic doors in the newly built senior living complex.



.....**When the community was in dire need of physicians these two groups united to purchase a house.** They offered three years free rent to attract doctors. This was a successful venture. The first recruit served Nakusp for three-year term and then moved on, the second Doctor served his three years and now purchased the home from the groups and has become a part of our community. Our community and area have also been extremely fortunate with battling the recent

pandemic, most people are complying with the Health orders and are trying their best to support local businesses.

February 23rd – The village of Nakusp and area were informed recently in the latest edition of the Valley Voice that Dr. Norm Lea is slowly winding down his practice in Nakusp.

Dr. Norm Lea came to our little community of Nakusp in 1988 and was given the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 for his dedication for ensuring medical coverage and services to residents. His efforts to ensure the emergency room was and is to this day kept open that literally made the difference between life and death.

Dr. Lea is extremely compassionate, caring, supportive, and attentive.

He is active in the community and has, and still is a great support advocate in the doctor and nurse recruitment for our community and area.

We are so fortunate to have to have Dr Lea in our community, and when decides to leave (hopefully not) will be a sad and emotional day.

I also enjoyed the times playing sports with Norm and was always a good sport, especially in hockey to let me have the puck, and not share.

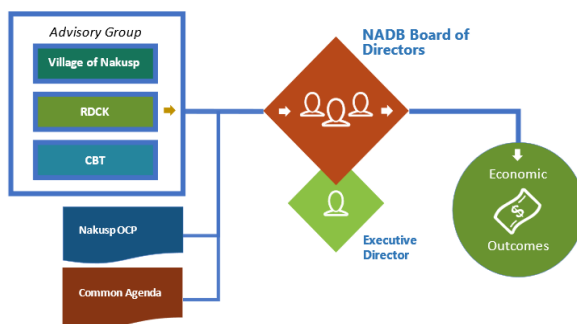
Take care!

All the best in future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Mayor and Council
Village Staff and Employees.

February 10, 2021 – Attended a Nakusp and Area Development Board meeting with councilor Miller. Discussion mostly on the new Executive Director and funding structure that will represent all sectors of the community and area. Applying for new funding opportunities through SIDIT, the village will also provide a letter of support. That will help supplement priority projects that align with the OCP and strategic planning goals.



Sincerely,

Tom Zeleznik, Mayor
Village of Nakusp