

THOMPSON HEADWATERS SERVICES COMMITTEE
A G E N D A

Tuesday, July 8th, 2014

Time: 4:30 pm.

Place: Blue River Elementary School

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPT THE July 8th, 2014 AGENDA

Recommendation:

That the Thompson Headwaters Services Committee approves the agenda for the July 8th, 2014 regular Committee meeting.

3. ADOPTION OF May 13th, 2014 MINUTES

Pg. 1-6

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the Thompson Headwaters Services Committee meeting dated June 10th, 2014 be approved as circulated.

4. DELEGATIONS/GUESTS

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) North Thompson Valley Brand Positioning and Website Re-Development Pilot Project Update
- b) Update of Lifeguard at Eleanor Lake
- c) Don Forsyth Beach House Concession Agreement
- d) Update on Blue River Tourism Operators Meeting Scheduled for July 14th

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. REPORTS

- a) Coordinator's Report

Pg. 7

Recommendation:

That the Service Coordinator's Report dated July 4th, 2014, be received for Information.

- b) Director's Update

Pg. 8-12

Recommendation:

That the Director's Report for June 2014, be received for information.

- c) Member's Updates

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) North Thompson Mountain Bike Corridor Concept
- b) Blue River Community Park Playground Replacement

Thompson Headwaters Services Committee
Agenda – Tuesday, July 8th, 2014

- c) Blinds for Avola School House
- d) 2015 THSC Budget Planning Process

9. **NEXT MEETING DATE** **August 12th, 4:30pm, Blue River Elementary
BUDGET PLANNING MEETING**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT

Thompson Headwaters Services Committee

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

MINUTES of a meeting of the THOMPSON HEADWATERS SERVICES COMMITTEE of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District held at Avola School House, Avola, BC on Tuesday, June 10th, 2014 commencing at 4:45 PM.

PRESENT: Chair W. Macdonald Director, Electoral Area "B" TNRD
C. Schenstead Vice-Chair
K. Bruce Representative, Avola
D. Deuling Representative, Blue River
R. Dykeman Representative, Blue River
J. McRobert Representative, Avola
S. Tobin Representative, Avola

STAFF: S. Madden Services Coordinator, TNRD
J. Vermeer Recording Secretary

PRESS: E. Deckert, North Thompson Times

OTHERS: 3 Members of the Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Macdonald at 4:45 PM.

2. ADOPT THE JUNE 10TH, 2014 AGENDA

**Moved by C. Schenstead
Seconded by R. Dykeman**

That the Thompson Headwaters Services Committee approves the agenda for the June 10th, 2014 regular Committee meeting.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MAY 13TH, 2014 MINUTES

**Moved by J. McRobert
Seconded by D. Deuling**

That the minutes of the Thompson Headwaters Services Committee meeting dated May 13th, 2014 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS/GUESTS

None.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Don Forsyth Beach House Janitorial and Maintenance Agreement Award
- The Request for Quotation was advertised for 2 weeks on multiple platforms.
 - Only received one application. The 3-year contract was awarded to the Blue River General Store Inc.
 - As required by legislation, a report regarding the contract award has been forwarded to the Thompson-Nicola Regional District Board of Director's because of Glen Macdonald's (owner of Blue River General Store Inc) relationship to Director Willow Macdonald.
- b) North Thompson Valley Brand Positioning and Website Re-development Pilot Project Update
- Project has moved forward. The Service Agreement for the initial projects has been signed. (Tourism Sun Peaks, Lower North Thompson Tourism Society, Tourism Wells Gray, Thompson-Nicola Regional District Area "B" and Tourism Valemount).
- c) Thompson-Nicola Vignettes Update
- The Services Coordinator emailed the Thompson Nicola Film Commission Executive Director and provided the Committee's ideas.
 - It was determined that economic development needs further progress and the focus would be solely on tourism for this area.
- d) North Thompson Valley Tourism Alliance – Memorandum of Understanding
- Report, dated June 9th, 2014 provided to the Committee.
 - Report was reviewed by the Committee.
 - Discussion occurred regarding the Memorandum of Understanding and the report provided.
 - Services Coordinator explained how TOTA fits into the alliance, i.e.: staff time and oversight.
 - Shows how locations are complimentary to each other rather than just iconic destinations and moving to advertising themes ie: winter activities.
 - Value for funding provided is excellent.

S. Tobin leaves the meeting at 5:09 PM.

- This document formalizes an agreement that has been in place informally previously.
- The agreement term is 5 years, budgets to be decided annually.

**Moved by R. Dykeman
Seconded by C. Schenstead**

That the Thompson Headwaters Services Committee requests the Thompson-Nicola Regional District Board of Directors enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the North Thompson Valley Tourism Alliance, on behalf of Electoral Area "B" (Thompson Headwaters), as it relates to providing a coordinated approach to promoting the destination corridor between Barriere and Mount Robson.

CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a) For Information

i) RCMP – Area B Statistics for January 1 – June 4, 2014

- Discussion occurred regarding the report.

S. Tobin returns to the meeting at 5:15 PM.

- The RCMP detachment is currently short one constable and the shift schedule has been modified to reflect this.
- Cst. Tonn has been transferred from Clearwater to the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team in Surrey. His replacement is Cst. Schynder from the Surrey detachment.
- Cpl. Labossiere is transferring from the Sunshine Coast detachment to fill the newly created position Cpl. Position in Clearwater.
- Arrival dates for the new members have not been determined yet.
- Strategic priorities were discussed. The 2014/15 Annual Performance Plan priorities are:
 1. Traffic Enforcement – Aggressive Drivers
 2. Traffic Enforcement – Impaired Drivers
 3. Organized Crime – Drug investigations
 4. Community Policing – Police visibility
 5. Recruiting/Ride Along Program
 6. Crime Reduction/Curfew Checks
- Director Macdonald will be trying to get more police presence in Blue River. Is trying to set up at meeting at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention in September.

S. Tobin leaves the meeting at 5:18 PM.

S. Tobin returns to the meeting at 5:19 PM.

ii) Destination BC – 2014/2015 Community Tourism Funding Announcement

- Services Coordinator advised how the \$8400.00 funding use broke down.

Moved by R. Dykeman

Seconded by J. McRobert

That items 6 a) i) and 6 a) ii) be received for information.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS

a) Coordinator's Report

- Services Coordinator's Report dated June 6th, 2014 provided to the Committee for information.
- Discussion occurred regarding the Services Coordinator's report.
- Services Coordinator confirmed that the Avola playground delivery was delayed. The amended install date is Wednesday, June 18th, 2014. The preparation is complete and the installation will be complete prior to July 1st, 2014.
- All residents of Avola will be notified of the playground bid for the old playground equipment which has been removed.

**Moved by C. Schenstead
Seconded by R. Dykeman**

That the Services Coordinator Report dated June 6th, 2014, be received for information.

CARRIED

b) Director's Update

- Director's Report dated May 2014 provided to the Committee for information.
- Discussion occurred regarding the Director's report.
- Mud Lake is now a designated public crossing – upgrades still to be completed.

**Moved by D. Deulling
Seconded by S. Tobin**

That the Director's Report dated May 2014 be received for information.

CARRIED

c) Member's Updates

i) C. Schenstead

- Two garage sales and community cleanup were held in Blue River. Thank you to the Thompson-Nicola Regional District for the clean-up equipment.
- Two informal trails meetings have been held. They were not well attended but people are working well together. The trails work is all volunteers working in a coordinated effort to clean up the trails. The next meeting will be held June 21st. Green Mile is already done – Leigh Budgell is keeping maps up to date on work done.

ii) S. Tobin

- A couple of plots in the community garden have been donated with seeds for people to use – this is due to people moving. The cold frames are falling apart. Boxes are fine. Services Coordinator will look at cost to fix the cold frames.

iii) K. Bruce

- A location scout arrived at the Log Inn Pub last week scouting for a specific location to film. All inquiries of this nature should be referred to the Thompson-Nicola Film Commission.

iv) R. Dykeman – Nothing to report

v) D. Deulling – Nothing to report

vi) J. McRobert – Nothing to report

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Vandalism at Blue River Community Park

- Vandalism occurred on the Monday of the May long weekend. Grass was torn up by a vehicle, a fence knocked over, rocks moved. The damage was minimal.
- RCMP opened a file but has since closed it without laying charges – they cannot tie an individual to the damage.
- Discussion occurred regarding the incident.

b) Bylaw to Establish Fees and Charges for the Use of the Avola School House

- Current rates and the suggested bylaw rate schedule were presented for Committee member information.

- Under the Local Government Act a bylaw must be established for charging fees.
- The Services Coordinator explained the breakdown of charges and user fee bylaw. Reviewed the user fee bylaw with the Committee.
- Discussion occurred regarding the user fee bylaw.

Director Macdonald moves to adjourn to a break at 6:19 PM
Director Macdonald moves to reconvene the meeting at 6:24 PM

- The following changes to the suggested bylaw were agreed upon by Committee members:
 - Add the 673 telephone exchange;
 - Remove the separate "Meetings" charge;
 - Remove the cleaning cost of \$60 and replace with "Cleaning is the responsibility of the user based on the provided checklist.";
 - Leave the damage deposit at \$100 but remove the wording "Event without Alcohol Served" and "Event with Alcohol Served";
 - Amend the note at the bottom of the bylaw to read: Rental fees may be waived for functions organized and advertised by non-profit groups, or the Avola Improvement District, where it is deemed to be a function open to the public (free of charge) and is considered beneficial to the community of Avola. A waiver of the user fee does not relieve the function organizer from requirements and obligations relating to insurance, licenses, permits and any other condition of approval.

Moved by D. Deulling
Seconded by R. Dykeman

That the Thompson-Nicola Regional District Board of Directors utilize the amended Avola School House fee schedule for new Avola School House fee bylaw.

CARRIED

- The Services Coordinator will update the proposed schedule to reflect the Committee's recommended changes and will forward the amended schedule to the Thompson-Nicola Regional District Corporate Officer for incorporation in to the Avola School House fee bylaw.
- c) Update of Lifeguard at Eleanor Lake
- Last year's lifeguard will not be returning this year.
 - Advertising has gone out to multiple locations. There have been no applicants to date and closing date is 4 pm June 11th.
 - A swim instructor may be brought from Clearwater for 5 days per week for 2 weeks if the funding is available to do so.
- d) Don Forsyth Beach House Concession Agreement
- Advertising for this agreement will be shortly.
 - The Blue River Community Association will be using the Beach House on Canada Day if there is no contractor in place.
 - In the event there is no contractor the Blue River Community Association will be approached to operate the concession on long weekends.

- e) 2014/2015 CTO Funding Project Update
- \$8400 awarded.
 - \$3,000 to the North Thompson Valley Tourism Alliance regional marketing projects.
 - \$2,000 for Image Bank photography.
 - \$500 for registration at the 2014 Alberta Snowmobile & Powersports Show.
 - \$1350 for registration and travel for the 2015 Edmonton AB RV Show.
 - \$1550 to support the global geopark feasibility study.
- f) Blue River Tourism Operators Meeting Input to Graphic Design Project
- The Community Tourism Opportunities project is moving forward.
 - An email will be sent to tourism operators with a potential meeting date of July 14th, 2014.
 - Service Committee members are also requested to participate in the July 14th, 2014 meeting.
- g) Tourism Valemount – Discover Valemount – Opportunity to Showcase Blue River
- Tourism Valemount has a segment on a cable channel. It can also be viewed on YouTube. They have worldwide access.
 - Jennifer Robinson spoke to the Services Coordinator with respect to doing a segment on Blue River. She is interested and there would be no cost involved.
- h) Update on 2014 THSC Budget and Projects
- Services Coordinator provided the TNRD Electoral Area “B” (Thompson Headwaters) 2014 Project Update dated June 6th, 2014.
 - The Services Coordinator answered questions regarding the update.
 - Director Macdonald requests that the Services Coordinator provide her hours worked and driving times in the next report.

**Moved by C. Schenstead
Seconded by D. Deulling**

That the Services Coordinator update on 2014 Electoral Area “B” projects be received for information.

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

July 8th, 2014 at 4:30 PM, Thompson Headwaters Services Committee, Regular Meeting, Blue River Elementary School, Blue River, BC.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by D. Deulling

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Services Coordinator

O: Thompson Headwaters Services Committee July 4th, 2014
FROM: Sherri Madden, Services Coordinator, Electoral Area "A" & "B"
SUBJECT: TNRD Electoral Area "B" (Thompson Headwaters) Services

Recommendation(s):

That the Services Coordinator Report dated July 4th, 2014, regarding TNRD Electoral Area "B" (Thompson Headwaters) services, be received for information.

Parks/Cemetery

- Working with MFLRNO Initial Attack Crews for danger tree assessment and removal at various parks/cemetery.
- There will be no lifeguard at Eleanor Lake this summer.
- Avola playground replacement has been completed. Substantial site rehabilitation had to take place as a result of damage to the soft ground during rain events during installation. The contractor will return in the fall to top up the pea gravel within the playground area and will be responsible for site rehabilitation due to the return trip.
- Concession and Blue River Community Park were utilized by Blue River Community Association for the Canada Day Celebrations.
- The Blue River Blues will be hosting their annual Slo-Pitch Tournament on the August Long Weekend at the Blue River Community Park ball field.
- Playground equipment from Avola Children's Park will be put up for bid and removed from site before September.

Blue/Avola River Trails

- Working to establish contact with new person at Rec Sites Trails BC to work towards trails partnership agreement for Blue River area.

Avola School House

- Nothing to report.

Area B Rebroadcast

- Nothing to report.

Street lighting

- Waiting for repair on Avola frontage road streetlights. This can take some time as it is completed as the contractors/BC Hydro are in the area.

Blue River Water System

- Nothing to report.

Economic Development

- Working to organize agenda and facilitation for the Blue River Tourism meeting July 14th.
- Attended Kinder-Morgan Emergency Planning Meeting in Clearwater June 17th.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Madden

Services Coordinator, Electoral Areas "A" & "B"

DIRECTOR MACDONALD'S REPORT

JUNE 2014

JUNE 4 - BURSARY AWARD, VICE-CHAIR DUTY, 100 MILE HOUSE

- In the Chair's stead, I was asked to go to Peter Ogden Secondary Schooling 100 Mile House, to award a bursary to the winning applicant of the TNRD Area Bursary in School District 27. There were 130 in the 2014 graduating class, and 60 students received bursaries and/or scholarships totalling \$60 000. I asked Sally Watson to attend with me since the winning student, Kathryne Cunningham is from Area E.
- Below is my speech presenting the bursary:

My name is Willow Macdonald, and as the Vice -Chair of the Thompson Nicola Regional District, I am pleased to be here with my colleague Sally Watson to award a bursary to Kathryne Cunningham.

In the gracious invitation from Principal Brett, I was asked to give a brief history of regional districts in the Province. So to quote Wikipedia, who wrote better than I could ever say, "BC is partitioned into regional districts as a means to better enable municipalities and rural areas to work together at a regional level."

In my short political career, I would have to say that I have seen this system at its best, almost every day that I go to work. The TNRD consists of 10 Areas, 9 municipalities and two cities. It covers 45 thousand square kilometres and has 122 thousand residents. Regional districts started to be created in 1965 and are still evolving today, the last changes at the Regional level occurred in the Lower Mainland in 2008.

The difference between Areas and Municipalities or Cities, is that Areas have one level of government to bring their concerns to, while Cities and Municipalities can deal with their local issues internally. As an Area Director I am beholden to my colleagues living hundreds of kilometres away to support what I think is important in my community.

In being an Area Director with one of the smallest populations and the second largest land mass in the region, I can only hope that my fellow Directors and staff will be generous with me as I pass the proverbial hat when asking for their help. They have come through every single time.

In contemplating this speech over the last few weeks, I would like to say a few things about what I have learned that would be relevant here. When I bring my best to the work that I do now, it is because of four things.

1) PREPARE

In doing what I do, in being the underdog, in running against incumbents, I have noticed that those who "wing it" don't succeed. Even if preparing only means to be clean, and showing up on time, because you don't know what you are doing and no one has told you yet, be clean and on time. It matters.

2) GIVE 100%

In whatever you do, give your all, show up. Care. Sometimes you're sick, or you have exams or whatever, and all you have is 50%, give 100% of your 50. And try for 100 of your 100 tomorrow. The universe will reward your effort. People notice.

3) BE GRATEFUL

Focus on what is good and lovely about where you are. Say thank you. Even if you can only find one good thing right now, good smells, pretty things, or only if it's your pay-check, be grateful for that. Write it down, remind yourself of what is good. Tomorrow your list will be bigger, I know it.

And most importantly

4) ASK

Ask for what you want, dream, pray, make a list, write it down and make it real in your heart. Tell people. Trust also that you can grow and change your mind and dream new dreams. Be True. You will be rewarded, I know that too.

Kathryne, I am honoured to give you this bursary because you asked, and you asked well. My colleagues and I talked at great length about why we wanted to give and why our Area students mattered to us and to our futures. So thank you for allowing us to give.

Principal Brett, thank you for asking me to come. I believe it is my job as the Vice -Chair of the TNRD to tell our all of our communities, our citizens including our youth, that we care. I care.

So thank you again.

JUNE 5 - BC WILDLIFE PARK, KAMLOOPS

- All TNRD Directors were sent an email with an invitation to attend the opening of the new Fawcett Family Wildlife Health Centre at the BC Wildlife Park. Although we were all invited, I wanted to take the time to show my support.
- Thanks to Mayor Milobar for acknowledging my presence as Vice-Chair.
- I spoke with Tara Geiger, Animal Care Supervisor, and was happy to know that my locals from Blue River and Avola often call or drop off injured animals found in my Area. Thus, I am happy know that my decision to go on my way home from 100 Mile was a good one.

JUNE 6 - SILGA EXECUTIVE MEETING, KAMLOOPS

- We mostly sorted out who was on what committees and started brainstorming for the next convention in Kamloops

JUNE 7 - THSC, AVOLA

JUNE 12 - AIRPORT AUTHORITY, KAMLOOPS

- Talked about parking lot improvements, 52 employee parking spaces will go in this summer, an additional 180 spaces should be approved for construction next summer. At present the airport parking is over full 3 days a week in the winter.
- They will be purchasing new tractors to haul the new mower units that we repurchased earlier.
- Airport passenger numbers are up.

JUNE 13 - 15 BC RURAL COMMUNITIES SUMMIT, KASLO KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

- This year's Summit was held in beautiful Kaslo. It started with an address from the Formerly Honourable Corky Evans (his own moniker.) Mr. Evans spoke of why he thought BC was ungovernable, and what we could do about it as citizens, as volunteers and as political people. The ungovernability of our fair province boiled down to three main reasons:
 - 1) Decisions are made in Victoria (and BC is a big place.)
 - 2) BC residents expect government to enact policy that will make them prosper (and people expect equality not prosperity in other parts of our fair country.)
 - 3) The population centralization in the GVRD, the FVRD and the CRD means that the major cities to the South can vote Rural BC into oblivion.
- Mr. Evans' engaging address often had me thinking of the veracity of popular economic themes like big business is good business or monopolies makes good capitalism. Notwithstanding his Orange Leanings, he made a good and lively arguments that often had me gazing on toward those bright hues of his idealistic glory. His main solution to the above problems focused on creating a more regional approach to governing so that our issues can be discussed more locally, rather than have we of Rural BC go begging to the Big Guys on Big Rocks to the South. I would be interested in seeing what that idea would look like.
- **BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**
 - 1) The Accidental Tourist

Cheryl Chapman is the Vice Chair of the BC Rural Network and she gave a talk on how to attract more tourism in our areas, or rather how to stop those who drive by and entice them to stay a while. Working as the Co-Chair of the New Pathways to Gold Society, Cheryl is working to promote heritage trails from Hope to Barkerville (aka the Gold Rush/Spirit Trail.)
 - 2) Beam Me Up, Scotty

Amber Hayes and Don Scarlett discussed why broadband technology was important to the future of Kaslo. In 1996, Kaslo started to offer internet technology to its residents as an alternative to the poor service that was being offered by the phone company, and started with better dialup in '96. In 2006 the municipality offered ADSL and is now building capacity for a 700mb/s fiberoptic line in town with repeater towers/hardline service to the outlying areas (70km of outlying area no-less.) Ms. Hayes, talked about our increasingly technologically focused world and offered a myriad of reasons as to why municipalities should offer broadband as the "Fourth Utility". Her arguments were best illustrated by two real, neighbouring and rural towns; one town put in broadband, the other didn't. The broadband municipality had 20 new residents after five years for every one new resident in LudditeVille.

As to cost, Kaslo's initial financial input for such infrastructure was high, especially as fiberoptic is costly to put in the ground; however, Mr. Scarlett noted that once in, maintenance costs can be fairly low, especially if there are relatively few repeater towers. Thus one could use the income from providing the existing service to finance and expand it to outlying areas.

Worthy to note:

 - The Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation is wanting to put in broadband service in municipal areas all the way out to Valemount.
 - GasTax now covers infrastructure and broadband could apply.
 - Under the FOIPPA regulations, if one stores information in the Cloud, be aware that that Cloud could be an American company and the server on US soil. As such the data storage is not secure under FOIPPA. Please check your service provider to ensure compliance.
 - Air Fibre is the name of the company that Kaslo used for their repeater towers to provide rural service. The range of those towers is roughly 30-40km, obviously dependant on terrain.

- There are many 'landless' technology workers who are looking to live in small-town-BC. These people are those we want to live in our areas, as they have high incomes, are educated and are interested in living the good life away from the city. They can live and work anywhere, and as such, offering good and reasonably priced broadband would greatly enhance our attractiveness to those wishing to move.
- Kaslo started a non-profit internet company, the Kaslo Infonet Society, to provide internet service in the 90's through to now, and thus is an arms-length enterprise.

3) The Grass Is Always Greener

- Amenity Migration is a concept of urban planning that looks at populations differently in their interests and functions. A good example of this is tourism versus migrants, as tourists visit and amenity migrants are looking to stay. Dr. Laurie Moss spoke of how our ever changing cultural values affect how we should direct our Municipal Planning Departments. In the 70's people migrated out of urban areas into rural BC because land was cheap. That value no longer exists, so what are today's values that we could identify and direct policy toward.
- Dr. Moss spoke at great length of why planning offices are not doing their jobs correctly as they are concentrating on being service providers rather than amenity planners, they are reactive not proactive. And, as politicians we are not very cognizant of what the planning office actually does (or should do,) and thus we do a poor job of directing and overseeing what is done, therefore Municipalities and Regional Districts get poor value for money.
- Dr. Moss and his wife Dr. Romella Cloriosio wrote a book, The Amenity Migrants: Seeking and Sustaining Mountains and Their Cultures. It is good to mention that Dr. Moss, when asked, was unable to produce and implement a successful sustainability plan that was in line with his lofty ideals. Furthermore, Moss pointed out that only one book has been written on this subject in his entire 25 year career. Guess who's? Perhaps if one of you is feeling lofty intellectually, you could read it and then explain it to me. Please talk slow.

4) Is There a Doctor in the House?

- Maggie Winters spoke of the challenges the Kaslo Hospital is having in attracting and retaining Doctors. Her recruitment strategies are as follows:
 - 1) Don't do it alone- use HealthNet or the Health Authorities to help.
 - 2) Stay away from incentives, Ms. Winters spoke of how offering incentives gives doctors false reasons to move to an area, so once the glow of the incentive wears off Doctors will often leave.
 - 3) Don't complain online. This may be difficult to implement, but why would a Doctor want to move to an angry community. Doctors can do a Facebook search too.
 - 4) Find a good fit and don't succumb to a warm body, good for now is not always good for now.
 - 5) Advertise your community - focus on why it's a good idea to live there, why it is different or better than another community.

5) Happy Trails to You

- Stu Heard of the Kaslo Trailblazers, spoke of why trail building is good for the health of our constituents and communities. The Trailblazers started building trails in the late 90's and wanted to build a loop trail along the Kaslo River in 2000. As a result of this trail, Kaslo now has a mountain bike club, a nordic club, a running club and more. Kaslo partnered with the Community Forest to build a bridge across the Kaslo River and a warming hut in the mountains. At present further plans to build two more bridges across the river are subject to modern red tape, and trail building has slowed a bit.
- A tourism plan is now in the works with about \$30k of private investment, from the Kaslo Hotel owner John Eckland, to start a private Japanese tour to Kaslo so that the mega-city dwellers in Japan can experience our mighty forests up close and personal. According to Japanese studies, city dwellers can benefit for months afterward from just one two-hour walk in the forest.

Affects are magnified if the walkers can hear running water. The Japanese call this shinrin-yoku or forest bathing.

- Two hundred new tourists a year to Kaslo would be a success, 400 per year would have a major impact on Kaslo's local economy. These tourists do not necessarily have to come during Kaslo's summer season, and could extend revenues past traditional boundaries. Mr. Eckland has also run into governmental red tape as his Japanese employee that would come and provide the tours has been denied a visa by Service Canada as they feel the Japanese speaking and writing requirements are not necessary, since the languages falls outside of the Canadian bilingual constitutional protections. Mr. Eckland is appealing this decision.

6) AGM

- To briefly note, the BC Rural Network is going to launch a study looking the Health Regions in BC and if moving to a regional system was of benefit.

JUNE 16 MUD LAKE FOREST SERVICE ROAD TELECONFERENCE, BR

- This was an update call. No estimates as of yet on how much the crossing upgrades will cost or how much will be asked of me.

JUNE 19 – THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, KAMLOOPS

JUNE 20 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP, KAMLOOPS

JUNE 26 - NT MOUNTAIN BIKE CORRIDOR CONCEPT TELECONFERENCE, BR

- This phone conversation was to see if there was interest to proceed. Marc Imus from the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training. Is gathering a bit more information as to other possibly interested parties in this plan, so a formal request for money has not been given yet. That being said, I am interested in participating in this pilot study. Tom Eustache from the Simpcw will spearhead the project and relevant funding applications.

JUNE 28 - BR REUNION, BR

- Worked with The Legion, Branch 213 Ladies' Auxiliary and the BR Community Assn to host the event, namely I gave them \$1000 in Discretionary Funds and showed up to help the day of the event. It was well received by the present community and old timers alike. A family dance after dinner was held also.