

Volunteers help save migrating adult toads at Fish Lake

submitted

Imagine a dark stormy night with some rain and fog blowing across the rays of your headlamp as you scan the roadway. A branch snaps as a moose crashes around in a nearby wetland. You are carrying bear spray (hoping you

don't have to use it) because you know this area along Highway 31A between Fish and Bear lakes is in an active black bear and grizzly bear corridor. And, rather than looking up and scanning all around, your focus is low and fixated on locating adult toads along the road, small dark objects against the black pavement.

That's what seven stalwart volunteers braved this spring as Toad Ambassadors of the Fish Lake Western Toad research project. Between May 18 and June 22, they spent several hours after dark locating and moving migrating adult toads off the highway in order to help reduce the likelihood they would be squashed by vehicles as they moved towards their breeding grounds at Fish Lake.

The Toad Ambassadors program was initiated by the Valhalla Wilderness Society this year as a way to increase the number of adult toads that made it safely cross the highway.

"As researchers we are up at Fish Lake twice a week doing our night surveys noting the toads' sex, GPS location, direction of travel and other observations that we enter into our database to help us understand where

the migration hotspots are located and how many are still killed by traffic," said Marcy Mahr, a biologist on the project. "Over the last three years, each night we are up at Fish Lake doing our surveys, we have moved every toad we encounter off of the highway. This effort led us to invite volunteers to help us this spring to move even more toads off the highway between our scheduled surveys." The volunteers dedicated more than 44 hours moving a total of 334 toads off the highway. Of those, 80 were confirmed females; and for every female moved off the road as many as 12,000 to 17,000 eggs are saved, meaning future tadpoles are saved.

"Studies show that most breeding-phase adult toads migrate from after dark until about midnight and it just so happens that in the first few hours after dark there is still enough traffic between New Denver and Kaslo to cause levels of mortality that are of concern," says biologist Wayne McCrory. "This information is important to helping our toad study team identify the best areas where toad-crossing underpasses and directional fencing might be installed to help secure the future of this blue-listed species."

Given the amount of breeding and large schools of tadpoles, the researchers are anticipating quite a few toadlets this year. In August, thousands will migrate across Highway 31A to their upland habitat from several different breeding sites. Unlike their parents, toadlets migrate only during the daytime. During this migration, research biologists and Toad Ambassadors will be on hand at Fish Lake to monitor toadlets using the diversion fence through the rest stop.

For more information on the project or to volunteer, please contact Wayne McCrory, waynem@vws.org 250-358-7796, or Marcy Mahr, marcy@netidea.com 250-358-2660.

The Fish Lake Toad Ambassadors program is supported by the Columbia Basin Trust and the Kootenay Lake

Local Conservation Fund, which is sponsored by the Regional District of

Central Kootenay and administered by the Kootenay Conservation Program.



A toad who made it safely across the road thanks to a Toad Ambassador.

Edgewood craft beer pioneer short-listed for the Taste Canada Awards

submitted

Frank Appleton, Edgewood resident and author of *Brewing Revolution: Pioneering the Craft Beer Movement*, is a finalist for the Taste Canada Awards, recognizing the best culinary books published in Canada each year. He is shortlisted in the Culinary Narratives category, which includes titles that explore culinary history, politics, social awareness and memoirs or biographies relating to food or beverages.

This is the second honour of the year for Appleton, who was longlisted for the prestigious National Business Book Award earlier in 2017.

Brewing Revolution is the inspiring story behind today's craft beer revolution. In this entertaining and informative memoir, the English-trained brewmaster, who is considered by many to be the father of Canada's craft-brewing movement, chronicles 50 years in the

brewing business, from his early years working for one of the major breweries, to his part in establishing the first cottage brewery in Canada, to a forward look at the craft beer industry in an ever more competitive market. Appleton has been a consultant brewmaster to 20 operations, advising on aspects such as design, start-up and training. In 2009, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Craft Brewing from CAMRA Victoria Chapter.

The other books shortlisted for the Culinary Narratives Taste Canada Award are *Food Artisans of the Okanagan* by Jennifer Cockrill-King, *Food to Grow: A Simple, No-Fail Guide to Growing Your Own Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs* by Frankie Flowers, *100 Million Years of Food: What Our Ancestors Ate and Why It Matters Today* by Stephen Le and *150 Years of Canadian Beer Labels* by Lawrence C. Sherk.

Silverton council, July 11: Another grant comes through for Silverton Gallery renovation

by Claire Paradis

A \$25,000 grant from the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust (SIDIT) has been approved for the Silverton Gallery renovation project. Although there is no date for the reopening of the building, Mayor Clarke said he was personally hopeful that it would be opened by next summer.

Work on Silverton's water mains is done for the moment, until late August or early September when the contractor will return to complete the last section of the water main replacement. "The big push for us was to get the main street done in advance of the paving crews starting to work," said Mayor Jason Clarke.

Silverton's payment for fire protection with the Village of New Denver will be looking forward and not retroactively from now on, said Mayor Jason Clarke. New Denver requested that the costs of each Village's share be based on the current year's budget rather than the previous year's costs, and Silverton agreed to the proposed change.

There are no further power outages planned in the Silverton area before fall 2017, said a letter from BC Hydro representatives. According to the letter, 20 crews were on site on June 4 replacing 288 automatic sleeves on the transmission lines, and 93 of the 196 automatic sleeves on the distribution line conductors between the Monashee

and New Denver substations. The new sleeves will allow crews to continue to work replacing poles and equipment along the line without turning the power off. BC Hydro crews also completed 13 structure reframes, upgrading crossarms and insulators. More outages are planned in future, but the power isn't scheduled to go out before fall of this year.

Silverton's application for a fuel management prescription grant for south of town and Red Mountain Rd. has been approved. The total project cost is \$15,000. The grant covers 75% (\$11,250).

Lotic Environmental's review of the Slokan Lake Stewardship Society's (SLSS) water monitoring of Silverton Creek concluded the group was doing a good job. The report said that higher than normal E. coli, cadmium and zinc levels should be investigated to see if they are due to human activity, as they have potential effects on humans (E. coli) and aquatic animals (zinc and cadmium), but that high levels could just be normal for the water source.

The Village of Silverton's 2016 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) report is now available for perusal at the Village office. Among other things, you'll find the amounts of remuneration to councillors (\$1,600 each) and the mayor (\$3,000), and payments to suppliers.

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WE WALK!

23% of Silverton and New Denver residents walked to work in 2006 (CBT statistics), compared to only 8% in the Columbia Basin as a whole in 2012. In the villages, cities and towns of the Columbia Basin, transportation is by far the biggest producer of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas which is a major contributor to climate change.

Slokan Lake Stewardship Society
slokanlakess.com

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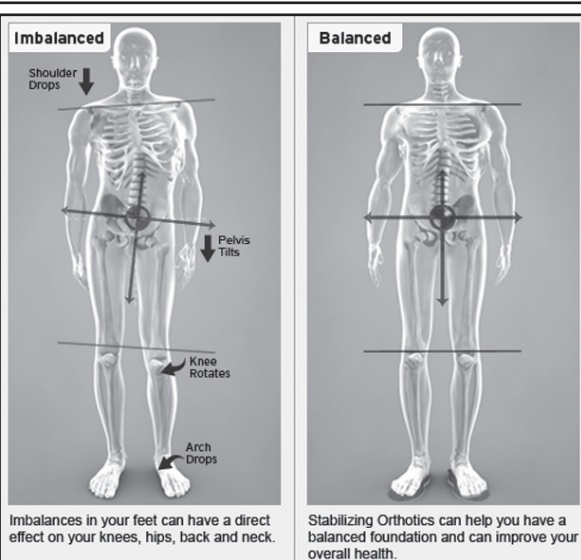
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On August 1st and 2nd Dr. Brennan will be bringing a 3D laser foot scanner to the hospitals in New Denver and Nakusp. The laser produces images to make custom orthotics, footwear and sandals. The sandals are great if you have existing orthotics but would like something more practical for the summer heat! If you have foot issues that may require custom orthotics or would like to have a foot scan performed, please contact Dr. Brennan's office at (250) 352-5135. Appointments must be scheduled before August 1.