

Society to plan community hall



With a look of supreme ecstasy, Tom Rothel plants a pie in Mayor Toto Miller's face during Fernie's Griz Days celebrations.

Sparwood's Mayor Miller faced pie challenge

By MAYOR TOTO MILLER

Politicians have been known to throw many things — promises, the wind and nightmares that have been termed "dreams". Yes, the "haloed" angels of the political arena play around with a "devil's delight" and relish it; for the perfect political child is a times known to be the perfect brat. It's all a matter of interpretation and on which side of the "issue-fence" you sit on.

For me, I've been known to throw my tantrums, cigarettes, lighter and the wind at my colleagues who sit as the "servants of the people." To be sure, I've made my fair share of contacts with a measure of success and pride on the achievements. It's not every local politician who's received a letter from a former formidable politician (Bill Van der Zalm) simply saying, "I give up!"

Anyway, every once

in awhile the true masters (the electorate) gets its chance to seek revenge under the label of a good cause. For me, last summer was the dunk tank during Coal Miner Days and Fernie's Griz "pie-in-the-face" Days.

It's probably best to start at the beginning — an innocent request via phone to be a "Dignitary" participant. Of course, this brought a feeling of joy and importance — "Me, a dignitary!" All that, of course, was short-lived when the full event was revealed: "You're participating in a pie-throwing contest." Now, I don't mind throwing a few pies. I had never done it before. "No," they corrected, "They'll be throwing them at you."

"Oh. They'll be coming at me instead of away from me?" It wasn't a question. It was more like shock.

Now, never having had the opportunity to

avail myself of a pie in the face, I received the invitation with a bit of apprehension, but there was the opportunity for rewards and a sense of victory that I shall clarify later.

Even though I had consented, reservations began to set in . . . could I take the brutality of a whipped-cream aggression? True, I can put up a good political fight, and I've T.K.O.ed a number of good competitors. But when it comes to physical combat, I've thought that walking away was the better part of valor — and less painful, too. But the challenge was there and the honor of Sparwood was at stake. (I had to make it sound noble to convince myself).

Sunday came and Griz Days had arrived. A commitment had been made, and, if I was not ready to drive myself to the firing squad, Keith Brooks was ready to volunteer, proudly

commenting all the way that he'd get me there in plenty of time.

During the drive to Fernie, I tried to tell myself that it was only a cream pie. Then the thought struck me, "What if they switched it to apply pie with the cores still firmly intact and the seeds menacingly jutting out? Could I then decline with the excuse that I wear glasses? . . . That wouldn't work. They'd just tell me to take 'em off. Couldn't I then tell 'em I'd like to see where they're coming from? . . . Maybe a blindfold?" Nothing seemed to work. There was only one way out — stepping into the jaws of whipped cream and playing the role of "the victim of the curse". My epitaph could simply read — "He never flinched. He never whimpered. He took the 'licking' like a man!"

It was Tiny Shatosky

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A community centre for Sparwood moved a step closer to becoming a reality on Sunday when a group of 17 persons gathered in the Black Nugget to form a society to put the much-talked about plan into action.

The new society, to be known as the Sparwood Community Development Society, elected Len Gundlock as president, with Glen Leyden as vice-president, Bud Graves, secretary, Eldon Johnson, treasurer, and directors Rosi Rocca, Marlene Muir, Bill Moir, Luigi Amerio and Alfred Obray.

The main goal of the society, Mr. Gundlock explained, is to create a community centre which can be used to extend services and activities presently not available.

"Our priorities at this time," Mr. Gundlock continued, "are to define the activities of the centre which will insure

the construction and operational costs can be met from revenue produced through the use of the facility."

To this end, he said, the society has formed a development and design committee co-chaired by Eldon Johnson, of the B.C. Wildlife Federation and Glen Leydon of the Lions Club.

Speaking on behalf of the Lions Club, president Keith Brooks said, "the Elk Valley Family Leisure Centre, Lions Park, Kinsmen's Ski Hill, Sparwood Wildlife Association's rifle range, as well as other community projects, have shown that the people of Sparwood can achieve anything they set their minds to."

The next general meeting of the new society will be at 1 p.m. on March 4 in the Black Nugget Motor Inn. Those interested in attending should contact Bud Graves at 425-6455 before March 1.

Mine opening set

Recovery work at the Westar Panel Six underground mine has not yet been completed, following last Saturday's fatal accident.

A spokesman said the companies "best estimate is that the recovery work could be completed by as early as Wednesday, February 15."

Meanwhile, Christopher Humble, director of Human Resources and Public Affairs, announced that Westar Mining and the Office of Technical Employees Union have ratified a new three-year collective agreement covering approximately 114 office and technical employees

at the Balmer Operations.

The ratification vote was held Thursday, February 9, 1984 at a well attended meeting at which a majority of the members approved the new agreement. The agreement covers the period January 1, 1984 through to December 31, 1986.

The new terms provide for a zero per cent wage increase in the first year and four per cent in each of the subsequent two years. In addition, the agreement provides for improved job security, an income protection plan in the event of layoffs, and the return of all present employees to a five day work week effective Monday, February 13, 1984.

Everybody ganged up on the poor little mayor (pity)

From page 1

who beckoned me forward to fall victim to the pie. He had a big grin on his face, relishing the thought of the Sparwood mayor in the hands of the Fernie mayor's territory. He tried to console me by saying that he did his stint earlier. I would have been glad to volunteer my time for his repeat performance, but it seemed hopeless to even attempt to negotiate that.

Of course, I was a bit disappointed when I saw it was only whipped cream on a paper plate with an extra buck seeing it topped with chocolate sauce. I had anticipated there'd be a crust and some custard. I figured that if I was to fall victim to the pie, then at least I could eat the crust.

Keith Brooks, the public-spirited citizen of Sparwood, suited me in a cream-covered coveralls and pinned a Griz Days pin on me. He patted me on the back and I was off to take my place before the firing squad.

I ducked for the first projectile that crossed the firing line. Then came a pie-throwing pro who knew how to make mince meat of a novice like me. There was also the trio who beckoned me to kneel before them while they plastered my face and hair; the trio being Valerie Brooks, Tony Brooks and Bonnie

Miller, a woman I am quite familiar with.

When Gus Boersma, racoon-cap and all, did fire his pie, I ducked and he missed. But I figure Gus should have known better. Politicians know when to duck when facing other politicians.

I did quake when the disgruntled Fernie radio station employee stood menacingly before me complaining about how tough it was to get a racquet ball court in Sparwood. Of course, CFEK's radio personality did not take pity at the trembling wreck that stood before him. In other words, he let me have it!

Into my session I was joined by two courageous souls — Rick Grieves, Alderman of Elkford, and John Irwin, Mayor of the Crowsnest Pass. I grudgingly thought it was highly unfair that Rick Grieves got kisses from the women who plastered him with pies. That breached the line of discretion as far as I was concerned. As for John Irwin, I did feel comfortable with him; after all, he is a doctor and could assist if I feel victim to the "whipped-cream mortar shells".

But the coup to the ordeal was Tommy Rothel who sought my face with unmerciful vengeance. But, being the true Sparwood gentleman that he is, Tommy did buy me a beer

chaser to wash it down.

I did manage to muster some satisfaction when I purchased my two whipped-cream projectiles after my stint before the masses. I landed one on Rick's face and the other on John's. It feels nice for politicians to share memorable experiences.

Ski hill opening

Official opening of the Kinsmen Winter Recreation Area in Sparwood will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18.

The ceremonies will begin in front of the chalet at 1 p.m., and after the ribbon cutting ceremony, Kiwanis

As I earlier noted, the day did offer a personal victory . . . see, my good Doctor Lane has given me firm instruction — "No desserts!" Three weeks without sweets on my palate is a curse. It's like having an "ice cream" monkey on your back. I licked some of the paper plates and didn't duck as often as I

president Len Gundlock said, there will be "a few speeches and an explanation of the facilities."

The ceremonies will close with the presentation of the keys to the Ski Hill Society.

Liberals to nominate

The Kootenay-East Revelstoke Federal Liberal Association has set Friday, March 23 as the date on which it will select a candidate to contest the riding in the next federal election.

The party is the third to nominate. The New Democrats nominated incumbent MP Sid Parker late last year and the Progressive Conservatives had nominated

former MP Stan Graham over two years ago.

The Liberal convention is to be held in the Town and Country Motor Hotel in Cranbrook.

Guest speaker at the convention will be Jean Chretien, Minister of Mines and Resources in the current Liberal government. The event gets under way at 7:30 p.m. on March 23.

could. So, you see, defeat at the hands of "pie" does have its own brand of "sweet" victory. And, if my good doctor frowns, I can always blame it on my civic obligations.

Ask my if I'll do it again? . . . Yes. I had a great time. Besides, it's a long time between desserts for someone who has been diagnosed as a diabetic.

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Humble Tiny to face 'Mad Hatter'

A "humble" Tiny Shatosky, mayor of Fernie, will stand before council at an undetermined date to publicly admit that Ald. Lola Chapman wore a better hat than his at Fernie's Griz Days celebration last week.

He and Ald. Chapman, who he described in a letter to council, as being "The Mad Hatter" made a bet as to who would wear the most spectacular hat during Griz Days, and when the votes were counted, Mrs. Chapman's was declared the best.

The bet was that the winner ask permission from the other council to admit, in all servility, that he or she had lost.

Now, Mayor Shatosky has taken the initial step in his grovelling to Sparwood council by writing a letter, which read:

Dear Lola:

O.K. — so the Judge saw fit to choose your "hat" as the winner although there are those that think he was badly mistaken.

To carry out my (los-

ing) end of the deal, I request permission to appear at your council meeting and duly declare that, yes, indeed you had the better "hat". (Please disregard the tear stains on the page).

I would like to inform you at this time that there will be a "however" attached to this Act of Humbling Aggression. This "however" will be in the form of a request to even the score and will be revealed at a later, more suitable date, after I have gotten over my "crushing... defeat"! G.M. Shatosky.



Tiny Shatosky

"Like it Lumpitt"
 Junior Achievement teens will be selling their pet piece of coal "Lumpitt" in the following businesses:
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EDITORIALS

Singing coal

The youth of Sparwood are to be congratulated on forming a Junior Achievement Group to be known as TIB (Teens in Business) Enterprises. They will be producing what they call Lumpitts, but you may ask, what is a Lumpitt.

Lean closer and I will tell you the story of the Lumpitt, and how it came to be. As long as there have been underground miners, there have been Lumpitts. But the miners have kept this a secret, because they were afraid that others might mistreat these gentle creatures that lives so deep beneath the earth.

The Legend says that underground miners, while digging for coal deep in the ground, sometimes hear a tiny voice in the darkness and when they shine their hardhat light into the stillness they have found a tiny Lumpitt, looking at them with great big eyes. The underground miner is always careful to treat the Lumpitt very gently because miners know that the Lumpitt brings them good luck. Once a miner has discovered a Lumpitt he knows he will have company for a very long time because Lumpitts love to sing in the softest little voice so that only the miner who takes care of them can hear them. And they are oh so easy to take care of, all a Lumpitt needs to sing and be lucky is a bit of love every day. The miners even give them names, like Louella Lumpitt or Lester Lumpitt.

Over the years the miners have come across more and more Lumpitts underground until sometimes you cannot hear the equipment working because of all the Lumpitts singing. That is why the miners have agreed to let the Junior Achievers find very special homes for the Lumpitts, where they will be loved and cared for, and where they may sing as loudly as they please. Once you give a home to a Lumpitt, however, you must fill out the little card in the Lumpitt's box so that you officially own one of the cute, little creatures.

Good thing

We look forward to hearing good things coming from the newly formed Sparwood Community Development Society in its quest to build a community hall in Sparwood.

Behind the project are the various community service clubs, and in all their projects they have come out winners. Thus, we can expect to get some good news from them in the coming months.

BOOK NOOK

FROM THE SPARWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Jim Bertola, Librarian

Of the many services offered by the Sparwood Public Library, books for the blind is one. We may not have them in stock, but we can get them for you without any problem.

Louis Braille, who developed a system of reading for the blind that is used throughout the world, was himself blind.

The ill luck that struck him at the age of three when he accidentally caught himself in the face with an awl in his father's leather workshop has turned out to be a blessing for millions of people.

Braille was born in January 1809 in the village of Coupvrai not far from Paris, where his father was a maker of leather belts.

After the accident which caused his blindness, the family did everything to lighten the boy's load. There were enough brothers and sisters to help him learn and he progressed well enough eventually to be able to go to an advanced school for the blind.

At the beginning of the 19th century, there were ways for blind people to become educated, but it was an extremely difficult process.

Three hundred years before Braille was born, an Italian Jesuit priest called Francesco Lana-Terzi had developed a script for the blind.

His system used combinations of squares and right angles and between one and three dots to represent each letter.

But the text was difficult to manufacture and difficult to read. Even reading short pieces was a long-winded process and the method did not make a break-through.

The next development was experimentation with letters that could be gripped, much like those used by printers in hot-metal setting.

The first book using this relief script was published in 1789 during the French revolution by Valentin Haüy, who ran a school for the blind in Paris.

The idea caught on and became a welcome source of income for printing firms. Before long relief-script

books were being published in many parts of Europe.

Braille was among the many blind people who learned from these books, although reading remained slow. Some works needed months to read.

The only way to increase reading speed was to increase the amount of information in the space available in easily perceptible form.

While Braille was still at school, teachers in Berlin, Vienna and Zurich had begun experimenting with punched holes, following the letter contours.

But the first real development towards a basically new method of script for the blind came from a French artillery officer, Captain Nicolas Barbier de la Serre.

He had purely military reasons. His problem was how to give orders at night without talking and without burning lights.

He used thin metal plates, subsequently made out of tin or aluminium alloy, and worked out a comprehensive system of dots which were engraved between scored parallel lines.

Louis Braille knew all this. As a 16-year-old he began simplifying the systems then available and worked out that the tips of the fingers could not at one time handle more than six dots.

He developed a method of grouping dots in such a way that 63 different combinations were possible — enough for not only the letters of the alphabet and the numbers but also for all sorts of symbols and stenographic abbreviations.

It was easy to learn and quickened the speed of reading. But the response was not enthusiastic. One reason was commercial. Publishers were still producing the profitable relief-script books.

So in 1829, Braille went ahead himself and published a book with the Braille system. Immediately he won support.

There was no going back. In the second half of the 19th century Braille writing caught on in Europe, North America and eventually the rest of the world.

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

By DON WILSON
Sparwood Fire Chief

Every year many people are badly burned or killed in fires where they live. The victims of fires are often children, older people, or handicapped persons. Many of the fires, such as those caused by smokers or faulty appliances, are accidents that could have been prevented.

You can stay safe from fires if you do two things: learn about fire safety, and plan ahead for fire emergencies.

If you have special handicaps (you are in a wheelchair, wear leg braces, have poor hearing or sight, for instance), you need to discuss the situation with your family, your nursing home or senior citizens' residence administrator, a friend, the fire department, or social service agency. Together you can make special plans so that you will know

what to do in a fire and how to prevent fires.

If you cannot move quickly, you should try to live on the ground floor and, if necessary, have a special exit door or ramp constructed for emergency escape. Because you need extra time to escape or call for help, a phone and the fire department number should be by your bed. Detection equipment will give you the warning time that could save your life.

Remember, the key to saving your life is to learn about fire safety

Letter to the Editor

Sir:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Sparwood and Elkford Home-makers Service Association I would like to express our appreciation for the article on our services printed in your February 6th, 1984 edition of the Crowsnest Clarion.

now and to make whatever special escape arrangements you need before fire strikes.

A fire is no fun, but practicing fire safety really can be. Here are some fire safety rules that the whole family can practice together:

1) Plan two escape routes from every room. It is important. Fire often blocks a door or a window, but you will not lose a minute if you have planned escaping two different ways from each room.

2) Practice home fire drills. Planning and thinking about what you

We have received many good comments about the article and are more than happy with the exposure your article gave our association.

Thanks, again, and have a Happy Valentines Day!

Lavona C. Clarke
Secretary/Receptionist

will do in case of an emergency is really not enough. You have to practice escaping, each and every member of the family, and meeting in a pre-planned place outside and away from the house where you can count noses and see that one and all are safe.

If you have small children in your home, pick up some "Tot Finder" stickers from the Fire Department.

Place on your child's bedroom window or on the inside door to the bedroom, will alert a searching fireman that a child may be found in the room should a fire occur and you are unable to get the child out beforehand.

A room with a "Tot Finder" sticker on it will always be the first room searched by the Fire Department in a fire emergency. These stickers are available from our fire department free of charge, so pick up yours today.

SPARWOOD YOUTH PAGE

Sparwood youth enter the world of business

A new product has emerged from Sparwood's latest enterprise, TIB Enterprises an organization formed last week.

TIB Enterprises is short for Teens in Business, and is part and parcel of a Junior Achievement organization.

The first of the

products, a Lumpitt, was presented to Mayor Toto Miller on Tuesday and soon they will be going on sale in the community.

TIB Enterprises is being sponsored by Westar Mining, and according to Mayor Miller, the Lumpitts will sell well.

President of TIB is

Lori Myrer. Vice-president, administration, is Heather Klemm; vice-president, personnel, Erin Gorda; vice-president, marketing, Susan Seaton, vice-president, production, Joanne Wyld; vice-president, finance, Owen Kusniruk, and in charge of public relations is Lisa Langevin.



Mayor Miller with members of the TIB Enterprises executive.

CORE courses change hands

The provincial government has decided to turn delivery of its popular and highly-touted Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) program over to the Open Learning Institute (OLI) and the B.C. Federation of Shooting Sports (BCFSS).

OLI will offer a correspondence course covering the academic part of the program and BCFSS will provide the gun handling aspect. The turnover is effective April 1.

The CORE program, which has cost the gov-

ernment about \$300,000 a year, was set up in 1969 and designed to help people get as much enjoyment as possible from outdoor activities and to do so safely and with concern for the environment.

In 1974, it became mandatory for all first-time hunters 14 years of age and over to have taken the course of instruction and passed an examination before obtaining a hunting licence.

Since it started, more than 100,000 people have taken advantage of the program, 80 per cent of

them for the purpose of obtaining a hunting licence. Last year, more than 12,000 students enrolled in the program which is attracting about 20 per cent more participants every year.

Tegid Jones, acting director of information for the Ministry of the Environment which administers the program, says the government will retain the legislation which makes it mandatory for first-time hunters to take the program. As well, the government will

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Alcohol, drugs are major social problems in B.C.

Alcohol is probably the oldest drug known to man. It's so much a part of our culture, people don't even consider it a drug.

But health workers in British Columbia's Ministry of Health are concerned that alcohol, and a wide range of drugs — prescribed over-the-counter and illicit — are so ingrained in our society that the serious health problems they cause are being ignored.

Alcohol and drug abuse is one of B.C.'s major health problems. The Ministry has several programs in place to deal with effects of this abuse, providing outpatient counselling services in 29 communities,

detoxification facilities in five communities and residential treatment programs in many centres.

About half of these services are delivered through funding to local private societies, such as the Salvation Army.

In addition, the ministry conducts research into the causes and effects of alcohol and drug abuse.

Alcohol depresses activity in that part of the brain that controls our inhibitions, judgment and co-ordination. Its effects are felt quickly because it is not digested like other food, but is absorbed into the blood stream through the lining of the mouth, throat, stomach and

intestines.

The liver deals with alcohol in the blood, metabolizing it in an average adult at about one drink per hour. If you take in more than that, alcohol begins to affect your heart rate, body temperature, appetite and bladder. If you drink regularly more than your body can handle, your liver and other organs can be damaged.

Excessive drinking also creates other health problems. It disrupts eating patterns and, because alcohol contains no vitamins, minerals or proteins, chronic use often results in diet deficiency disorders. Heavy alcohol use is a leading cause of heart disease, circulatory disorders and damage to the nervous system.

When a pregnant woman drinks alcohol, she takes a serious risk of causing physical and mental defects in her unborn child. In fact, fetal alcohol syndrome can kill. In children that are born live, it can cause growth deficiencies, small brain sizes and a variety of permanent nervous disorders.

Added to all of these health-related problems is the danger of driving while under the influence of alcohol. The danger seems obvious when we are sober, but alcohol doesn't just impair our co-ordination but our judgement to know that our co-ordination is impaired.

Alcohol abuse alone is a serious problem, but even more disastrous consequences result from mixing it with other drugs, even seemingly harmless drugs. Some combinations, such as barbituates and alcohol, can be fatal.

Many think drug abuse is related only to the illicit kind, such as heroine and cocaine. Any drug is abused when it causes a problem or is used excessively.

For instance, some pain-killers cause serious problems if they are taken after they are needed. Taking drugs prescribed for another person is also extremely risky.

Drugs, both prescribed and non-prescribed, can also cause drowsiness and impair co-ordination, making it just as dangerous to drive as when one is impaired by alcohol.

For more information on dealing with drugs and alcohol safely, contact your local provincial health offices.

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Questions answered

Questions about the hiring policy for hiring lifeguards at the Elk Valley Family Leisure Centre put to council by the Sparwood Ratepayer's Association, have been answered by secretary-treasurer Fritz Broeckel is not entirely satisfied.

Deputy municipal clerk Brian J. Erickson

provided the answers, stating that various applications were received both from Sparwood and from out of town. Mr. Broeckel wanted to know how many were received from Sparwood, and the reply was "it was council's position that they were not prepared at this time to specify the number of applications received."

But he did say that of the 15 lifeguards hired, five were from Sparwood.

The 15, he said, who were hired as full or part-time lifeguards were determined by an examination of their qualifications.

Mining classes altered

Because opportunities for employment in the coal mining industry are limited, a mining career preparation program advisory committee has recommended the course at Sparwood Secondary be expanded to encompass a broader range.

The report, presented to Sparwood council Monday night, noted that none of last year's graduates received employment in the coal industry, noting that in the past 80 per cent of the students have been able to obtain jobs.

A spokesman for Westar Mining, who is on the committee saw little hope for employment of graduates because of the large number of people on the recall list as a result of recent layoffs and cutbacks.



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REACTIONS IN SPARWOOD

THIS WEEK: OUR TOWN IMAGE

1. What year did you arrive in Sparwood?

2. Do you work in a coal or directly coal related business.
() Yes () No
3. Is Sparwood keeping its promise as "the clean coal capital of Canada?"
() Yes () No
4. To better Sparwood's image our town should
() Promote our businesses and services
() Promote the Leisure Centre
() Provide more services for the elderly and aged.
5. Do you belong to a club, community organization, or church which makes you feel Sparwood is a special place for you?
() Yes () No

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