



Trail | Millions needed for fixes

A recent report calls for nearly \$5 million to fix Trail area facilities.

"Five million dollars is a lot of money, but for this number of facilities and with the age of some of them, that isn't bad," said Area A director Rick Hardie.

The report, compiled by Fairbank Architects of Nelson, stated that of the 16 buildings funded by the Greater Trail services commission, \$2.3 million is required in immediate fixes, with another \$2.4 million to be spent in the next 10 years.

At the top of the list is the Oasis Community Hall, followed by the old Cominco bunkhouse, which could use around \$200,000 in repairs.

The Rossland Arena and Trail Memorial Centre are other targets for repairs, with a short-term expenditure of \$400,000 being needed to bring the facilities up to fire standards.

Before any work commences, the commission will evaluate the facilities in question.

The chamber has also covered the expenses of the manager to be involved with the tri-cities promotion of Trail, Castlegar and Nelson. More dialogue with government is also on this year's agenda.



Crescent Valley | HeatWave inks deal

A Crescent Valley company has recently inked a deal valued in excess of \$15 million.

HeatWave Technologies Inc. signed the contract with Hampton Lumber Mills Inc., for multi-unit sales of e-field vacuum kilns. The first unit, which is a 75 cubic metre, 300 kilowatt power kiln will be used to re-dry wet hemfir lumber using a process targeted at difficult to dry lumber species.

"We are extremely pleased to be working with Hampton and we are confident that HeatWave's Q-sift hemlock re-dry solution will provide them with impressive economic results," said Robert Zwick, vice president of technology for HeatWave.

The Q-sift process and HeatWave kilns are applicable for drying hemlock and all other wood species that experience similar drying problems. Using radio frequency technology, the kilns dry wood uniformly. For more information, visit www.heatwave.com.



Cranbrook | Dress for success

Millions of eyes across the globe were recently treated to some of the Kootenay Knitting Company Ltd.'s fashions as they tuned into the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The CBC sports commentators wore the sweaters and vests made by the Cranbrook-based company and corporate Olympic sponsors, such as Xerox, wore hats made by the company that was started by area resident, Cathy Rella.

The company makes distinctive vests, sweaters, pullovers and hats. Carol Jeske, sales and marketing with the company says, "It's a great experience for us. It definitely was a team effort." There's more than one way to win Olympic gold.



Creston | Perfect igloo building

A trio of Creston Valley entrepreneurs has recently produced a novel take on igloo-building.

Warren Huscroft, Bob and Howard Graham are the inventors of the Eskimold, a heavy-duty plastic mold that produces blocks of snow, shaped and sloped for easy igloo building.

The idea came to Howard some years ago as his children were trying to build their own igloo outside. Noticing they weren't having much success, he gave them a plastic waste bucket, which gave them all the help they needed.

From that point, the design has evolved to produce a perfect igloo every time. Visit www.eskimold.com.

Nelson | Chamber action plan

Based on a membership questionnaire, the Nelson Chamber of Commerce has developed a number of action plans for 2002.

These plans included a buy local campaign and discussions with Selkirk College for programs dealing with the hospitality and retail sectors. Expanding the www.discovernelson.com business directory to include all the businesses in the area and to have a key word search program put on the site were also discussed.