# Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

#### Let's celebrate together

Both Valemount and McBride are hosting dinners on Christmas Day. Whether you are a new family to town, a single person or a couple, you are invited to join in.

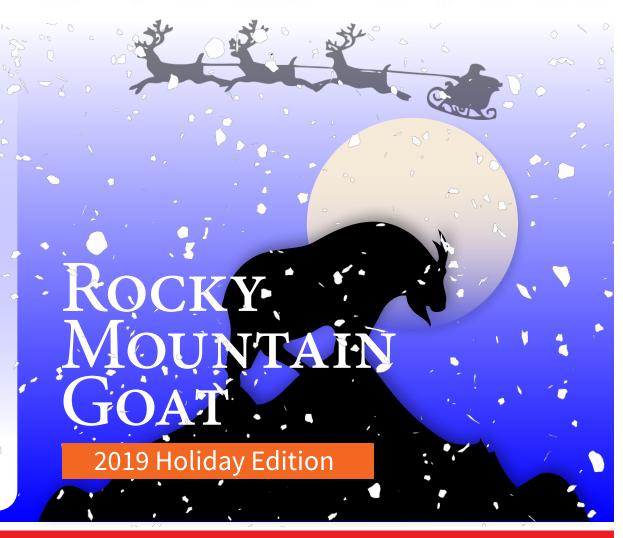
#### **McBride**

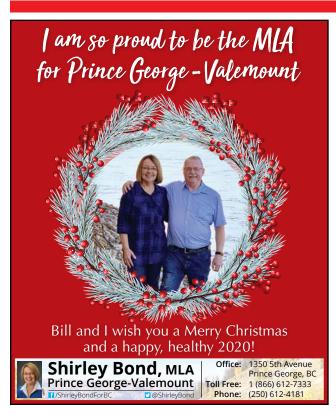
In McBride Christmas Day dinner is at the Evangelical Free Church on December 25 at 4 pm. The dinner is sponsored by community members and the churches of McBride. If you would like to help in the kitchen or donate desserts, or if you need a ride or the meal delivered to your house just call Betty at 250-569-3386.

The McBride Royal Purple and Elks will be distributing Christmas Food Hampers to families and individuals in need again this year. There is always a need for items to help fill the hampers. Please donate non-perishable food items, toys, books (new or gently used), etc. If you know of a family or individual in need, or have anything you would like to donate, please contact Flo Mynio at 250-569-3254 by December 13th. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Kathy Molendyk at 569-3239 (evenings).

#### Valemount

The Valemount Food Bank is making sure you don't have to spend Christmas Day alone. Valemount's Community Christmas Dinner is on December 25 from 2-4 pm at the Valemount Community Hall. Everyone is welcome, the event is sponsored by The Valemount Food Bank. Please RSVP to 250-566-0033 or 250-566-1840. President of the Valemount Food Bank Marian Plummer said she is willing to pick those up who would have trouble getting out. The dinner is open to everyone.





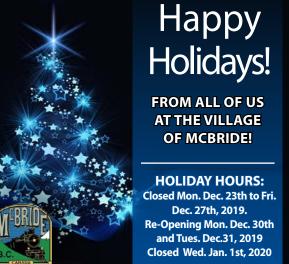


Valemount & District

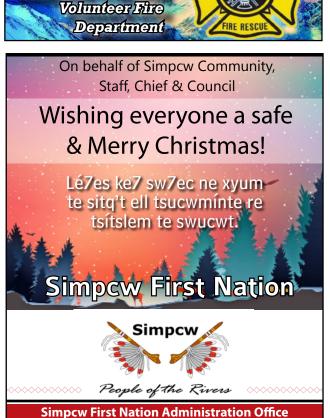
A Very Merry

Season!









7555 Dunn Lake Road Barriere, BC | 250-672-9995 | www.simpcw.com



# Merry Christmas

















Anyone unsure how many days left until Christmas need only swing by the house

and read the sign by the Rejman's home. They update it daily./ANDREA ARNOLD





accumulated over the 40 years

they have been married./

ANDREA ARNOLD



## Happy Holidays



### McBride's Christmas house

By: Andrea Arnold

display as a young child.

**y**elowheac

40 years ago, during the first Christmas season that Dennis and Irene Rejman celebrated as a married couple, their decorations were along the lines of what people would expect to see in a home. Two years later, they started building their now-famous outdoor display: they built their first yard ornaments, Santa's sleigh and

The collection has grown exponentially since. "We had no idea it would grow to what it is now," Irene

said. "It just happened as the years went by." Both Dennis and Irene grew up in families that celebrated together. Dennis' family would all stay over at one house (even though they all lived in the same town) on Christmas Eve and they spent Christmas Day together making memories. Irene remembers decorations and celebrations. She recalls admiring Mrs. Bizicki's outdoor

Season's

all our valued

customers and friends!

250-566-4401

Irene starts the inside decorating the day after Remembrance Day. "I bring up one box and set up the contents each day," she said. "The hope is to be set up by the end of November. As the end of the month gets closer, the number of boxes has to increase."

The items in the house are organized by type. A nutcracker area, glass figurines, small villages, and lots of Santas. Irene says her favorite is the Santas.

Turning on each display used to involve manually plugging in each electrical cord, but Dennis now has remotes for almost everything.

People bring them items from all over. The item that

"There is Ukranian Christmas and Italian Christmas and... the house feels really empty when it's all put away."

travelled the furthest is an almost-life-size Santa that Terry Kolida picked up in Winnipeg. Irene can tell you the story behind every item that has been gifted to her, or the story of where she found it. The couple's three cats even understand the importance of the items and leave every glass and otherwise fragile item untouched.

Once the inside is complete, work on the outside begins December 1st. The set-up looks complicated and hard, but Dennis says it isn't that bad. They have been doing it for so long, there is now a method. Sometimes, things don't go as planned though, like the two times Santa flew off the roof. Once, he narrowly missed a pedestrian. Some new hardware has prevented a third incident.

The Rejman's say it isn't uncommon for them to arrive home and a box of decorations will be sitting by the door. The new additions often find a home among the seasoned decorations. In past years, a new wooden figure or scene would appear each year, handmade by Dennis and Irene. The couple still makes new figures sometimes, but not as often. This year's new faces in the yard are items that Irene has refurbished after such a delivery.

The Rejman's say they love to hear about kids who grew up admiring the display who are now sharing the experience with their own kids.

The goal for the lights to go on for the outside display is the day school lets out for the holiday. They are on for several hours each evening until the day after New Years.

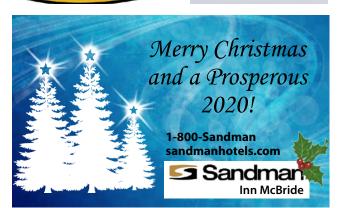
On January second, they start early in the morning and by the end of the day, all the happy figures and lights are back in storage until the next year. Inside takes longer. Four days if they stay on it. But there isn't really a rush.

"There is Ukranian Christmas and Italian Christmas and...The house feels really empty when it's all put away," Irene says.

The pair will continue sharing their love of Christmas with the community as long as they are able.



Year!











Season's Greetings from the Staff at Scotiabank!



Our warmest wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a very **Happy New** Year!







**HEALTHY NEW YEAR!** 

## Merry Christmas

# Late-night FUN

Friday Dec. 6th was Valemount's annual late-night shopping event that kicks off with a tree lighting at Centennial Park followed by shopping at local businesses that stay open late. Homebased businesses and non-profits also had a presence at several locations.



Michelle and Jenna were ready for the Christmas season rush at Infinity Office & Health. /ANDRU MCCRACKEN /ANDRU MCCRACKEN



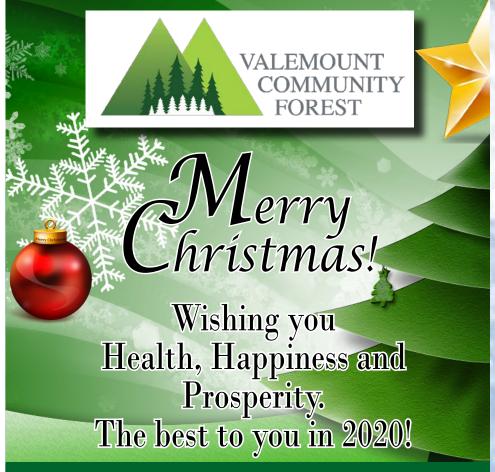
Ezra and Aiden compare guns in the toy section of the local dr according to the storekeepers, it was the place to be early in the

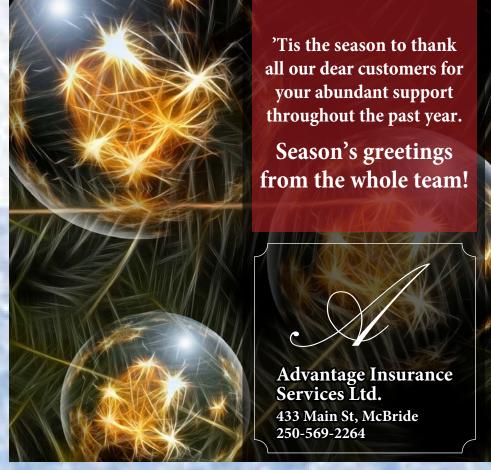


Aisling Ives at Late Night Shopping in Valemount. She is selling homemade wreaths, crafts and jam to fundraise for the Live Different Program where students travel to Mexico and build a new home for a family in need. /JEAN ANN **BERKENPAS** 



BFFs Locklan and Leo got a good visit with Santa during late-night shopping Dec. 6th. "Santa's beard is tunny (funny)!" Locklan, 3, said after touching it. /LAURA KEIL





### Happy Holidays



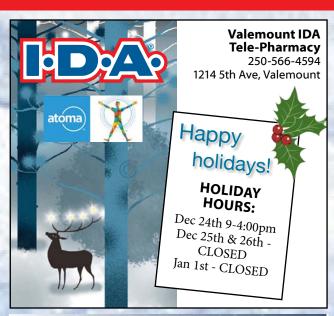
ug store at Late Night Shopping, evening. /ANDRU MCCRACKEN



Hunter caught the thrill of Valemount's Late Night Shopping but it wasn't the big ticket items that were getting his attention. /ANDRU MCCRACKEN



Keianna, Manjoo and Jenny weathered the shopping storm with aplomb. /ANDRU MCCRACKEN







250 - 566 - 0067

Valemount College











# Merry Christmas

### Dreaming of a Green Christmas



Isis Hiroe and Sarah Boyd at Valemount's Late Night Shopping selling upcycled crafts and homemade Christmas cards.

#### By Jean Ann Berkenpas

Christmas is a favorite holiday for many, with gifts exchanged and celebrations with family and friends. For children, there is a lot to love, with the thrill of new toys, games, treats, colorful lights, and a magical world of make-believe. For many though, the most important part of the season is the shared experiences and connection with family and friends

Christmas has also become a time of increased consumption, which can contribute to stress and create a lot of waste. Ads for holiday shopping start in earnest right after Halloween, and we are pushed to buy, buy, buy. Many items very quickly end up in the trash. The pressure to purchase can be overwhelming.

There are many ways to enjoy favorite parts of the holiday season, without being drowned in the consumptive bustle of the season. By being a little more thoughtful about how and what we give, we can decrease the amount of waste created and reconnect with our favorite parts of the

There are many ways to enjoy the best part of the holidays, while being a little easier on the planet. When giving physical items consider the lifetime of the product, how long it will be used and where it will likely end up. Consider alternatives to plastic and heavily packaged items. Many plastic items end up in landfills, where they can release toxic chemicals into the environment or eventually end up in the ocean. Choose items made of recyclable or biodegradable materials to reduce your environmental

Buying locally is a good way to reduce the carbon footprint of your purchase, especially if it is a handmade item. Supporting local businesses and artists keeps dollars in the community and can have a cascading positive impact. Don't just think of physical items as gifts. Consumables such as food and beverage are often appreciated and can contribute to real needs instead of clutter. Local services can also make great gifts and reduce garbage produced. A gift certificate for a local business, such as a salon, retailer or restaurant, is likely to be used and appreciated.

Giving experiences instead of things is another way to combat consumerism and waste. Planning a family outing as the main part of your holiday instead of it being centred on gift opening is one way to do this.

Consider buying used. Many children's toys outlive the child's interest or age and can be found used, in excellent condition and at a fraction of the new price. Your child will enjoy it just as much used as new and will

likely be unable to tell the difference.

Offer your time and skills. This can be something as simple as chopping firewood, doing some house cleaning, or making a meal. If you have special skills and talents, all the better!

The packaging, wrapping and holiday decor also play a big part in the amount of garbage resulting in Christmas celebrations. To minimize this, try to do-it-yourself, instead of purchasing. Gift bags, cards, and wrapping paper can easily be made at home. You can create your own wrapping paper from old comic strips, last year's calendar, or add a little color to paper destined to be recycled to make a unique and personal wrapping paper. Another fun idea is, instead of wrapping gifts, hide them in the house and give recipients clues to find them. It can become a fun treasure hunt.

For decor, try to use natural biodegradable objects such as plants, wreaths, and evergreen boughs. Beautiful ornaments can be found through local crafters, or homemade of wood, bone, egg, salt dough, and paper instead of plastic. If you already have decorations, but no longer appreciate the style, consider if you can repurpose or paint them, instead of throwing them away.

Finally, set limits. Leading into Black Friday there was a quote floating around the internet: "Look around. All that clutter used to be money. All that money used to be time." It is our time that is the precious commodity. Consider the best way to spend it. Have a happy and joyful holiday with the important people in your life doing things you enjoy.



















## Happy Holidays

### Holiday Cheer





Above & Left: The Old Age Pensioners Organization in McBride hosted their annual dinner for their members in the area on Wednesday December 4, 2019. This year approximately 85 people attended the dinner hosted by volunteers from the Scotiabank, Elks and Royal Purple. The dinner has been an annual event for more years than anyone present at the dinner could remember. In past years they have been able to offer it free of charge, but in recent years, they have had to charge a fee for a plate due to funding cuts. They would like to get back to a position of offering it to not only OAPO members, but also all members of the community 55 and over./



The Annual McBride Hospital Auxiliary Extravaganza was held on the evening of Saturday December 11, 2019. The snow accumulation throughout the day may have affected the festive atmosphere inside. Attendees were invited to walk, and to sit and enjoy dessert and coffee while visiting. All funds raised will go to direct patient care./ANDREA ARNOLD

Right: Ladies of all ages and from all walks of life enjoyed the Annual Ladies Christmas Tea hosted by the McBride Evangelical Free Church on the evening of Thursday December 5, 2019. The ladies String Ensemble, words of encouragement, a Christmas music sing-a-long and two Esther performed sign language to the Casting Crowns. /ANDREA ARNOLD















# Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays



### With bells on...

Ruth Hanus and Barbara Kelly got into the spirit of Local Shopping on Plaid Friday November 29th. They said they are tired of hearing complaints about there not being enough to do in town, so they are trying to show people what participating can look like. "Our intention is to shop til we drop and have fun tonight," Hanus said. Plaid Friday is a shopping event that encourages buying from independent local businesses such as many local businesses you can find in the Rocky Mountain Goat! /LAURA KEIL





#### **HOLIDAY NEWSPAPER DATES**

Dec. 12th \*Includes special Christmas/Holiday section

Dec. 19th \*Last paper of the year

Dec. 26th NO PAPER

Jan. 02nd NO PAPER

Jan. 09<sup>m</sup> \*1st paper of the new year

RMG OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 17<sup>1</sup> -JAN 1<sup>51</sup>







