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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

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Cranberry Marsh at Valemount is a wetland with much to offer at this time of the year: stunning scenic beauty, amazing wildlife and it can be an unforgettable educational experience for all ages, says local wildlife cinematographer Leon Lorenz. The nesting Canada Goose above was spotted from about 75 feet away. A zoom lens was used to capture this shot. Lorenz says he highly recommends hiking slowly, bringing binoculars and gazing deep into the marsh which will reveal much more wildlife. /LEON LORENZ

## UNDERHOUSED: No defining answer to McBride's rental shortage

By ANDRU MCCrackEN

A resident raised a stir on social media when he singled out vacant properties in McBride as a solution for housing people who can't find a place to live. The man was referring to four families he knew personally who were unable to find housing. The online thread quickly grew to over 100 comments and eventually the Discussion Board moderator turned off comments and deleted the thread altogether.

Lina Thompson used to rent in McBride, but moved to Valemount partly in search of good affordable stable housing, something she wasn't able to find in McBride. Reading the thread, the stereotypes of renters as

negligent house trashers bother her, and she wonders if this is affecting the lack of rentals.

Thompson is the Executive Director for Robson Valley Community Services and she meets people for whom housing, a basic need, is not met.

"We see folks come in who are struggling with childcare, we can help these people as much as we can with as many resources as we can offer to reach their full potential... but if they have insecure housing it all falls apart," she said.

"We are constantly band-aiding situations. The underlying issue is how are they going to provide a safe place for themselves and their families."

Thompson said McBride's deep capacity to share and help their neighbours may be masking the problem for provincial agencies in charge of housing.

"McBride will not allow people to be in the street; because of that kindness and generosity, you don't show the numbers to reflect the need," said Thompson.

Thompson said without hard homelessness numbers it's difficult for BC Housing to act.

But a lack of appropriate housing, across the board, interferes with people's lives.

"We see seniors who need a little bit of support not able to get into housing and who have to be removed completely from the community, removed from everything they know and love ... and you have young people who don't have anywhere to be unless they can buy a home."

Thompson said the lack of secure long-term rentals also pushes out anybody who isn't ready to buy in the community - the same reason she and her husband

moved to Valemount.

"When they leave that's a loss to our community," she said.

"If you don't start recruiting young professional families here, who is going to grow the economy?"

"We need the wisdom of our seniors and the labour of the young families- you need both. We are not addressing that," she said.

Thompson said the Robson Valley Community Services don't have anything to offer people who need homes.

"We can do our best to try and find something, but we don't have rental stock here and that's hard," she said.

"As an agency, we are pursuing affordable and supportive housing because we believe it is a compliment to the services we already offer. Unfortunately, the process takes time and many families can't wait."

### AWKWARD DISCUSSIONS

Linda Fry characterized the online discussion about housing as awkward. She said McBride's many vacant and vacant-looking homes aren't appropriate to house residents experiencing homelessness in the community.

Fry, a long-time resident and a member of the McBride and District Housing Society said some of the homes are in probate after the owner has died, other homes are in disrepair or have suffered water damage.

"A number of them are not good-quality homes," said Fry. "Each one of those empty homes has a story."

But Fry said that there is definitely a need for housing.

"We need affordable housing in this community; a range of housing from seniors supportive housing, family

CONT'D ON P5

Irene Berndsen



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see LISTINGS ON  
BACK PAGE

# WALK ANOTHER MILE IN YOUR SHOES



Above: Ryan Vale works on a pair of cowboy boots, using an “outside stitcher” or “C-stitcher.” The machine is used for sewing leather soles onto footwear./ANDREA ARNOLD

Above right: Ryan Vale works on a pair of shoes / ANDRU MCCrackEN

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

Cobbler Ryan Vale has set up his small shoe repair shop in the corner of the building that houses the McBride Hotel and is open for business.

“I am at an age where I am looking for a place to slow down,” he said. “A good place to retire.” He heard about McBride from a friend, and at the time only knew that it was close to Mount Robson and that it was a small community.

“I thought it was a rural area with people who may appreciate the services I offer,” he said. “Traditional, face-to-face services.”

“I was astounded as I arrived, to see one cattle ranch after another,” he said. “The valley is right for agriculture.”

This was a delight for him to see, as farmers and ranchers wear out their boots, and Vale can help them get more mileage out of their footwear.

He moved from the Edmonton area where he operated shops in malls for several years. A former teacher, Vale had the opportunity to take over an existing cobbler business 12 years ago and learn the trade.

“I didn’t realize at the time how many different things a cobbler does,” Vale said.

He had a lot to learn from watching and working with others. In Canada, there is no official schooling available for the profession, so the skills have to be passed on from others.

Vale also has a variety of items for sale in the shop, including used footwear available and a line-up of shoe care products. He carries a few brands of new products ranging from therapeutic slippers to boots and sandals. His walls also display prefabricated orthotics, foot halters or heel grips to make your feet as comfortable as

possible.

“Footwear is something that you need to tend to no matter who you are or where you are,” Vale said. “Everyone has a foot issue or a shoe issue that can be dealt with at a reasonable cost.”

Vale is able to perform custom work on all kinds of footwear. Since his arrival in the valley, most of his clients have been work boot or cowboy boot repairs. His abilities are not limited to those however. He can repair/replace soles on just about anything.

“Boots usually come with polyurethane soles,” he said. “These begin to crack and crumble after a year and a half or so.” The soles Vale uses to replace the damaged ones are made of high abrasion rubber. These wear down slowly, and do not crack or crumble.

He is a powerwalker himself, and has resoled and altered his walking shoes many times.

Stretching shoes, mostly women’s, is another service he offers. He commented that especially with footwear purchased online, women specifically find shoes fitting tight. He can custom stretch, creating the perfect fit.

His skills are not solely limited to shoes. He can also reinforce eyelets on hockey skates, or recommend insoles specifically made for skates.

Vale is enjoying the slower pace of life in the Valley. He enjoys the work he is doing as it is relaxing and hands-on. As long as he has the supplies on-hand, turn-around is usually one day for each pair of footwear, he says. Anyone with a shoe issue is welcome to stop by and chat with Vale regarding their shoes. The shop is open seven days a week: 6am-9pm Monday-Friday, 9-5 Saturday and Sunday 12-5.

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# Tax assistance, recycling

By ANDREA ARNOLD

McBride Council members met May 12, 2020 via video-conference for their regular meeting. Mayor Runtz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Councillors Frederick, Hruby, Green and Smith were present, along with CAO McCutcheon.

## Recycling

Council moved to receive a letter from Maja Tait, President of the Union of BC Municipalities regarding the provincial response to 2019 resolutions put forward by McBride Council members. Last year Council requested that UBCM lobby the provincial government to ensure the intent of the recycling regulations is met and that Extended Producer Responsibility programs deliver service to communities regardless of size and location. In the page-long response, the Province says local governments are instructed to contact extended producer responsibility (EPR) organizations to request support for collection services/events in their community. Recycle BC is conducting depot accessibility and cost studies in correlation with the recent approval of their renewed plan. The plan provides greater flexibility in how services can be provided to smaller, rural and remote communities.

## BC Hydro Pricing Structure

Council requested that UBCM lobby the Province to make the necessary changes to BC Hydro to restructure their two-tier pricing model for Northern regions of the Province of BC and create an equitable pricing structure for all BC citizens. The provincial response states that a number of British Columbians feel that tiered rates can be unfair for households in parts of our province where alternative fuels are not readily available to meet their space and water heating needs. BC Hydro responded stating that they have heard the concerns and are starting to examine different options, especially in light of the

government's Clean BC goals. Both parties state that changes to rate structure must be made through public processes before the British Columbia Utilities Commission, and that if this advances further, there will be opportunities for customers, and stakeholders, including communities, to participate in consultation and provide submissions on potential new designs.

## Less access in-person gov services

Council requested that UBCM lobby the Province to provide equitable access to in-person provincial government services for all small, rural communities in B.C. The province's response came from the Ministry of Citizens' Services. They said the government's goal is to provide services within reasonable travel time where citizens can walk in and get face-to-face help but that it is a major challenge to provide this in every rural community. There is access to a number of critical government services available at the shared provincial government office in McBride and a Service BC office in Valemount. Service BC is working to install a Community Access Terminal (CATs) in McBride. This would provide phone support with direct contact to the Service BC Contact Centre. Future pilot projects starting through the Contact Centre would include SMS texting, co-browsing and web chat.

Council agreed that they were not done petitioning these topics on behalf of the community.

## 5-year financial plan

Council passed the motion to give third reading and further approves the adoption of the both the Five-Year Financial Plan (2020-2024) Bylaw No. 793.2020, as well as the 2020 Municipal Property Tax Bylaw No. 794.2020.

## Tax assistance

Council passed the motion to receive the report to council – COVID-19 Municipal Budgeting, Taxation and Financial Reporting, for information and future consideration. This report outlines the measures the Province is taking to provide critical assistance through 2020 for businesses and local government. There will be information included in the



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2020 tax notices with more detail on the following points:

- The Province has provided \$720 million in school tax relief through a reduction in 2020 school tax rates.
- The Province will postpone the application of late payment penalties for property tax on commercial properties to October 1, 2020. In instances of split classification buildings (business and residential for example), the entire property is eligible for the extension.
- The Province is delaying municipalities' remittance of school tax and police tax to the end of 2020. This will effectively free up money for any summer financial needs.
- The Province will allow inter fund borrowing from one or more capital reserve funds. This money needs to be paid back into the capital budget within five years. At this time, the Village has a balanced budget and is not projecting any shortfalls.
- The Province will enable municipalities to delay the statutory date of property tax sales (and redemption) by one year.
- The Province will not be enforcing the May 15 deadline for local governments to submit their audited

financial statements and Local Government Data Entry (LGDE) System Reports. Also delayed, is the requirement for annual reports, and for the Statement of Financial Information Reports, to August 31, 2020. Administration plans to submit the LGDE by May 31, 2020.

## Hazardous structures

Council passed the motion authorizing staff to deliver a notice to the property owner of 1177 4th Ave stating that all hazardous structures must be removed no later than May 31, 2020. If this deadline is not met, and the property owner has not requested an extension from the Village, remedial action will be taken at the expense of the property owner as per Section 77 & 78 of the Community Charter.

## In camera

Council passed the motion that in accordance with Section 90 (l) (c) labour relations or other employee relations, and (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communication necessary for that purpose, Council moved into a Closed In-Camera Meeting. Council passed a motion at 7:21 pm in order to conduct the Closed In-Camera Meeting.

# Council reverses backhoe decision; notes \$2M surplus

By ANDRU McCracken

The Village of Valemount will purchase a new backhoe this year after all, and not in spite of the global pandemic, but because of it. At the May 12 council meeting, council reversed their April 28th decision to defer purchasing a backhoe. Staff brought a report to council explaining why they feel replacing backhoe is necessary and part of a sensible response to COVID-19. The report provides an interesting lens on village finances and obligations.

In their report, staff said providing safe drinking water and sewage disposal is critical and that money is available for the village to carry on their obligations.

"As the purchase of the backhoe has been budgeted since 2018, the funds have already been set aside and budgeted in the five-year financial plan capital expenses. 2020 Tax rates will not be affected from the deferment of this purchase."

"As the Province now begins to re-open, it is even more imperative that staff have the necessary equipment required to continue providing these essential services."

The report from the department of finance said that even if the village was unable to collect any of the \$1.5 million of 2020 tax revenue, there are resources and processes available to ensure a positive cash flow.

Currently the village has \$3.6 million in capital reserves (in excess of capital projects scheduled for 2020) and \$2 million in its general surplus.

"Staff is reviewing the budget on a regular basis and deferring projects and/or purchases that are able to wait, allowing access to that associated funding," wrote staff. "Currently, the paving of main street in the amount of \$250,000 has been deferred to 2021."

The Province is allowing the village to hold on to money it collects from residents and usually forwards to the

Province for education until December 2020. The result is effectively a short-term loan to municipalities.

While holding off on the purchase of the backhoe leaves money available for other uses, staff say there are sufficient funds available in the capital reserves and general surplus accounts.

Public works said that not replacing the backhoe could result in unexpected costs, including rental of a replacement.

"The current backhoe is 21 years old with 7,672 hours. In the past 3 years approx \$8,150 has been spent on maintenance and repairs."

Despite regular maintenance, public works said that the risk of more failures rises.

Larry Stewart, the executive editor of Construction Equipment (constructionequipment.com) said businesses that can afford very little risk of downtime should consider the statistics.

"Half of the [engines in backhoe-loaders] have failed

by 8,500 hours, and most of the remaining half fail within the next 3,500 hours," said Stewart.

Staff said the longer this purchase is deferred, the more probable a major breakdown will happen.

"This will cause the Village to spend monies on a rental machine, and/or a loss of service to the public, and may prevent the sale of the current machine which is to meant to offset the costs of a newer purchase."

Staff listed the backhoe's uses and how it would impact village services:

- Emergency repairs
- Snow removal
- Loading sand truck for ice control measures
- Digging graves
- Loading gravel trucks
- Spring clean up
- Debris removal
- Baseball field maintenance
- Road repair
- Unloading and loading of heavy equipment
- Ditching
- Maintaining planters on

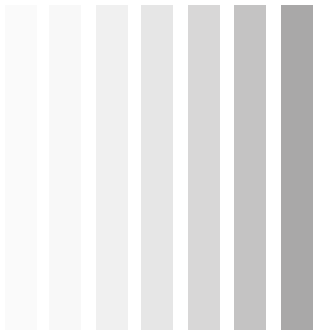
5th Ave

- Maintaining Village Welcome signs
- Moving rocks/bollards
- Water Treatment Plant/Intake
- Changing and unloading chemical totes at
- Cleaning of intake screens
- Removing and adding of blocks for weir level control
- Installing services
- Cleaning of retention pond
- Sewer Treatment Plant/Lift stations
- Screen repairs
- Screen removal
- Installing services
- Pulling sewer pumps

In a letter to council read before the decision was made, resident Rashmi Narayan made a comment. Narayan said that public works needs to be provided with good reliable tools to do their work and also that the capital reserves and general surplus should feature prominently when utility rates and taxes are discussed.

# Editorial

## Backlash in Blue



ANDRU McCracken, EDITOR

Last week my article about the violent confrontation between three men and a woman and the Tiny House Warriors provoked a strong reaction from some in the community of Blue River. Missing from that piece was the experience of the locals. That was an oversight, and thanks to the backlash, we may have found some folks who are willing to go on the record with their experiences of the protest group.

We're going to try and do a better job of covering the Tiny House Warriors and the impact they are having on Blue River.

The community's perspective on the Tiny House Warriors to date has been underreported.

We'll examine some of the reports we've heard about the movement and their interactions with residents and visitors, including their May 2nd call for an end to all tourism between Jasper and Kamloops.

I'm hoping that the Tiny House Warriors will engage, despite the fact that they have on several occasions refused to talk to the Goat.

We want to open lines of communication, but even if we are unsuccessful we need to take a look at their impact.

I've mostly experienced the warriors through their videos on twitter. The warriors are abrasive and confrontational like a really bad community member. It's unpleasant, but it certainly qualifies as community news.

What gets me is that the people of Blue River have become the target of the protestors.

Antagonizing the residents of the place that you have chosen to protest seems beside the point.

Blue River residents cannot veto the pipeline, so what gives?

Are they just a part of Kanahus' reality TV show, props used to get more hits?

In last week's piece I paraphrased Naomi Klein's assertion that the fight for Indigenous rights and title is inseparable from the fight for a habitable planet.

In a tweet linking the story we wrote about the attack, Kanahus Manuel pulled that line.



Is there another place where Naomi Klein sanctions being a dick to low-level pipeline workers and the residents of the community where indigenous people are protesting?

One thing is for certain. Tension at the protest camp will increase as construction forges ahead. That's something we'll be keeping an eye on and covering.

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# Visitor Centres and tourism services adopting strategies for summer

By LAURA KEIL

With non-essential travel still being discouraged, local Visitor Centres have delayed their openings, but that may change beginning in June.

Dannielle Alan manages the McBride Visitor Centre and says she's been fielding calls from would-be travellers who wish to visit McBride.

She's been relaying the Province's edict to limit non-essential travel, but once that edict lifts, she says they will have precautions in place. The visitor centre will re-open once they install a plexi-glass divider at the information desk, she says, but they are making other changes as well. The visitor centre visits aren't a quick exchange like at a till. "It's lengthy personal interaction. So that's why I want to have that physical barrier there."

They have also removed the brochures from the main part of the station

"If somebody asks for something, we'll give it to them. But we're just trying to limit the points of contact."

She notes the Whistlestop Gallery (across the hall) is already open but they are limiting the number of people in the gallery and making sure they stay 6ft apart. They also have a sanitizing station set up near the entry.

Alan says when the visitor centre opens staff will wear masks and she encourages visitors to wear masks as well and to leave their contact information in order to conduct contact tracing should someone test positive.

"We're encouraging and asking everybody who comes into the station to put their name down, their contact information," she said. "We're not using it for anything other than if there's a positive topic case identified amongst staff or guests at the station, we can contact everyone to let them know or at least be able to give that list to the health authorities."

She says they are hoping to open the visitor centre June 1st. This is the same day Valemount hopes to open its Visitor Centre as well. Village of Valemount CAO Wayne Robinson said they are also waiting for plexi-glass barriers to arrive before opening.

"Of course there has been a backlog in the order because

everyone is requiring them to open in phase 2 of the province's reopening of the economy," Robinson said.

The Village also still needs to conduct interviews for information counsellors.

"We have been on a holding pattern for some time because everything has changed regularly and we could not confirm when we would get the 'green light' to open," Robinson said.

Robinson said they will only hire one additional staff member to work in the VIC this season; last year they hired five. He said they are not expecting many visitors.

"By all indications there will be no international tourism this year," he said.

VIC will operate only during Village Office hours this year and will not be open weekends or holidays and the public washrooms will remain closed.

"The idea behind fewer hours and less staff is to save on operating costs because the forecast for this year is limited tourism traffic. Generally a lot of the VIC operating costs are covered by merchandise sales – we are unlikely to reach our forecasted sales target this year," Robinson said.

The Goat reached out to the Mt. Robson Visitor Centre operators but did not hear back by presstime.

BC Parks says the Mount Robson Visitor Centre will also remain closed until further notice. There are a few rest areas throughout the corridor with bathrooms that the public can use, a government spokesperson said – facilities maintained by BC Parks and MOTI. We reached out to the Mt. Robson Visitor Centre operator, but did not hear back by presstime.

The Mt. Robson Cafe manager Jill Philpott told the Goat they are looking at opening June 15th.

"That could change if non-essential travel is being somewhat promoted. Key factors being (the) parks and campground are open," she said.

The Mt. Robson Gift Shop opened May 15th and current hours are 9:00am-4:00pm. Store owner Annie Baker said they are taking one day at a time.

"It will be a different summer for us for sure - a large percentage of our business is the overseas market. Looking forward to seeing more Canadians but I have to really think differently about what to bring in!"

# Underhoused Cont'd from A1

housing, housing with subsidized rents," she said.

The McBride and District Housing Society is working on a solution, but nothing is imminent.

"If we should be able to push this project down the road and get to the place where we could build housing, we not only need a property manager but to school tenants in how to look after a place. Not everybody knows what to do when a roof has a leak, or how to clean the gutters," she said.

"When people are housed we are much further ahead financially, morally, spiritually. There is such an impact on our health care system, life would be better for everyone."

Fry said the current BC Housing model demonstrated in the Beaverview Lodge leaves much to be desired.

"Most of the people who are looking for housing are accustomed to seeing you up town and asking about a vacant unit; they are not used to dealing with BC Housing in Burnaby," she said.

## THE MAYOR'S VIEW

Mayor Gene Runtz believes the answer to housing starts with getting the community's economy going.

"If it ends up happening that you have much more money around, you have private people who will buy these low cost homes, and put in \$30,000-worth of work," said Runtz.

"It's not an easy answer where there is just plain no money around."

Runtz isn't stoked on building new low-cost housing, though he said it would help.

"I'm not against it, but I hate to think that's what we have to do," he said.

Runtz is working on a project to bring a major industrial project to the community. Boreal Bioenergy has said they'd like to build a black pellet plant which would ship local wood processed into a sort of coal substitute to Japanese markets.

# Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

## Basic Income: A Done Deal?

The First World War speeded up the emancipation of women; the Second World War led to the creation of welfare states in all the industrialised countries. What great change will the coronavirus crisis bring us?

One great change will be in the pace of automation. As Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella put it, we have seen "two years' worth of digital transformation in two weeks," as tens of millions of people stayed at home and worked online. But for the considerably larger number of people whose occupations do not allow them to work at home, the news is not so good.

For them, the digital transformation means automation and unemployment. In a recent survey of company executives in 45 countries, auditors Ernst and Young found that 41% of them are investing in greater automation of their work processes. More will follow.



Gwynne Dyer is a Canadian-born independent journalist whose column is published in more than 175 papers in 45 countries.

The service industries (apart from retail sales) have largely escaped automation so far because the new technology is expensive, disruptive, and annoys the customers. But now the crisis is forcing the customers to get used to that kind of service, at the same time that the owners and managers are realising what a nuisance it is to depend on human employees.

The process that has already destroyed the assembly lines (and given us Donald Trump) will continue through the workforce until around half the existing jobs have been destroyed, as Carl Benedikt Frey and Michael Osborne of Oxford University predicted in their famous 2013 study. Their prediction was for the year 2033, but the coronavirus may be bringing that date forward.

However, the other great change wrought by the coronavirus works in the opposite direction. When

unemployment suddenly leapt to 30% as lock-downs spread across the world, we were suddenly confronted with a working model of that future – and the social and economic changes that might cope with the mass destruction of jobs by automation are actually being road-tested right now.

In some countries, like the United States, it is real unemployment, only slightly alleviated by hand-outs like a \$1,200 cheque signed by Trump. In most richer countries, it is some form of 'furlough', with the government paying 75%-85% of people's wages, up to a limit that is high enough to let them live in modest comfort, until their jobs resume in two or three or four months' time.

Either way, it does concentrate people's minds. A lot of them will have noticed a) that this is the level of unemployment that already lies in wait for them down the road; and b) that there is still enough money around to keep them going anyway. Or, in the case of the US, that there could be if the government was willing to try.

It's a small step from there to the concept of a guaranteed basic income as the long-term solution for a society where half the jobs have been destroyed by automation but productivity is higher than ever.

There are, of course, a number of codicils to this conclusion. The current levels of income support could not be sustained long-term without a significantly higher rate of tax. Widespread job-sharing would be needed to avoid creating a permanent under-class of the unemployed and to keep people connected. There are no magic bullets.

We were already sleep-walking towards this level of unemployment anyway, just over a much longer period. At least now we're awake to the fact that such things can happen, and we know that they can be managed.



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## Council: tax rate, appointments

Valemount Council held their regularly scheduled meeting on May 12. Councilors Donnie Maclean, Pete Pearson, Sheri Gee and Hollie Blanchette were in attendance, Mayor Owen Torgerson presided.

### Public Comments

Rashmi Narayan wrote a letter in support of council purchasing a newer backhoe. At the last meeting council had made a motion against the purchase in response to a letter by another resident.

Narayan also commented on the village's healthy surplus and said the current surpluses should be brought to council when they make decisions about taxation rates.

Narayan said that judging art is not part of council's responsibilities.

"Council's role is to consider maintenance costs, public works considerations of maintenance and safety," she said.

After reviewing a report from staff about the importance of the backhoe, council rescinded a motion to defer the purchase of the backhoe for another year unanimously.

The Valemount Farmers' Market sought and received approval to place a temporary storage shed near the market.

Council received the Accounts Payable Report and Building Inspection report

"Nice to see that there is some business going on," said Blanchette.

Council signed a one year lease with the Valemount Learning Centre to take over space from the Valemount College in the Community Services Building.

Council gave staff permission to source a bulk water fill station and septage receiving station to Urban Systems.

"My understanding is that this is a unique product and there are not a lot of sources for this," said Pearson.

Council approved appointing Jules Philip as a member and Sharon McKay as an alternate to the village housing committee.

Pearson asked whether the village would compensate the Simpcw representative for travelling to the meeting, or whether they would attend by teleconference.

Robinson said it's a volunteer committee, so there are no expenses paid for travel.

"We could set up remote attendance if it was requested," said Robinson.

Council briefly discussed making changes to their procedure bylaw to make electronic meeting attendance more flexible after the extraordinary rules that apply during COVID-19 lapse.

Council agreed to implement a rotating chair for the housing committee.

Members will nominate a chair at each meeting for the following one.

Funky Goat was looking for leniency regarding street vendor fees. As it turns out the permit has a number of different options, including a 21-day operating license. The Goat would be able to operate 21 days, from end of May to August with a \$200 license.

Council accepted their 2019 audited financial statements and passed their Five Year Financial Plan.

Council set the 2020 tax rate using legislative tools allowed during the global pandemic and passed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and the final reading all at a go. Torgerson noted this as unusual.

Staff explained the move in their report.

"Staff has delayed providing the Tax Rate Bylaw prior to this council meeting in order to ensure all legislation was being met, as many changes have occurred in order to accommodate tax payers during the Covid 19 pandemic."

One substantial change is that penalties for late payment won't start accruing until September 30.

Council concluded with their reports.

## Tete Jaune resident extinguishes derailment fire



BY ANDRU MCCrackEN

When Neil Mumby saw smoke rising near the Lakes District Maintenance yard, he did what people in his neck of the woods do: he ran towards it.

Mumby said the fire started as a result of a 16-car derailment in the area on May 11.

Mumby was the first on scene and went running with buckets.

"I was really worried it was going to catch the coal on fire," he said. "Then we'd have one hell of a mess."

Two fires were burning between 600 and 800 square feet down a steep embankment towards the swamp.

Mumby is a positive guy, so instead of expressing frustration with the rail line he focussed on the good work of the people who helped him.

He said the RCMP showed up and used a fire extinguisher to help quench the blaze.

"The RCMP did a really good job there," said Mumby. "I'd like to be kind to those guys and the firefighters."

Garry Wallace wasn't on the scene but

he said area homeowners are concerned about incidents like this.

He's part of a group of Tete Jaune homeowners that are working collectively prepare for fires in the area. So far, homeowners have focussed on FireSmarting their properties, but they are also interested in purchasing a fire fighting wagon.

For a number of years the Ministry of Forests had provided a small fire fighting wagon with a thousand litres of water and a fire fighting pump on it, but that's no longer the case.

"There are so many restrictions; the only thing you can have is a bucket brigade with a little pump and wagon," said Wallace.

He said if they become too organized, there are a raft of insurance and liability issues.

"The minute you are organized you are liable and insurance might come after you," said Wallace.

Wallace said that about 24 people showed up to their first meeting

CONT'D ON P7

www.valemount.ca

### Village Office Reopening

The Village Office will reopen to the Public on June 1, 2020.

- At this time Public will be required to maintain safe physical distancing based on Public Health Organization guidelines (markers on the floor will guide you).
- No more than two members of the public will be allowed in the Municipal Office at one time.
- Hand sanitization stations must be used as you enter the building.

We encourage the public to continue contacting us via phone or email; make payments through online banking, email transfer, or cheque; and complete your Home owner grant online (new this year).

Please visit the Municipal Office only as a last resort. Anyone with cold, flu, or COVID-19 symptoms must not come to the office and will be turned away.

We appreciate your a patience and respect for the measures put in place to protect you, the community, and Village employees from the spread of COVID-19.

### Property Tax Information

Tax Notices will be mailed out by the end of May. If you do not receive your tax notice by June 12, 2020 Please contact the Village Office at 250-566-4435.

Home Owners Grant applications can be completed online this year. Please visit [www.valemount.ca/home-owner-grant](http://www.valemount.ca/home-owner-grant) and follow these steps:

1. Download and save the PDF to you computer, laptop, or device
2. Enter the required information in the application
3. To email the form, just click the "Submit Form" button

Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation email.

### Business Façade Improvement Program

The Village of Valemount 2020 Façade Improvement Program is accepting applications.

**To support local businesses, the requirement to match funding for the 2020 program had been waived.** If you own or operate a business located in the Central Business District (5th Avenue, Main Street and Commercial Drive) and Highway Entry & Highway Corridor area and you would like to make improvements to the exterior of your building, you may be eligible for a grant up to \$5000 (any eligible projects costs above \$5000 will be paid by the applicant).

For more information, please visit the Village website at [www.valemount.ca/grants](http://www.valemount.ca/grants) or email [grantclerk@valemount.ca](mailto:grantclerk@valemount.ca).

### Notice Disposition of Land: Valemount Learning Society

Pursuant to Sections 26 and 94 of the Community Charter, notice is hereby given that the Village of Valemount intends to lease to and the **Valemount Learning Society**.

The building is situated at **Lot 9, District Lot 7354, Cariboo District Plan 21237** and comprising of office space on the second floor, for a term of 1 year from June 1, 2020 to June 1, 2021. The annual rental fee for the space is **\$8.60 per square foot of leased space for the year 2020, and \$8.77 per square foot of leased space for the year 2021.**

For more information please contact:

**Wayne Robinson**  
CAO, Village of Valemount  
735 Cranberry Lake Road  
Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0  
(T) 250.566.4435  
(E) [cao@valemount.ca](mailto:cao@valemount.ca)

### Reminder to Residents

Please ensure that **ALL** garbage is bagged before placing it in your garbage bin. Some of the items you should not put in your garbage bin include:

- Recyclable or compostable materials
- flammable or explosive material
- Free liquids, petroleum based oils, motor oils or containers
- Batteries, hazardous waste, paint or pesticides.

## Library patrons can now get “take-out” books



Library Director Abi Ward stands behind the take out table as Isa Gasser Casutt, and her children, Rave and Franky leave with their book having used the new “Take Out” service provided by the McBride and District Public Library./ANDREA ARNOLD

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

One of the things that people turn to during times of isolation and slow living is reading. So for McBride's newly-appointed Library Director, Abi Ward, figuring out a way to get books into the hands of the Valley residents has been important. After a week of trial runs, Friday May 15, marked their first official book take-out day.

“People are free to borrow books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, board games, the children's story kits, etc.” said Ward. “No restrictions.”

Patrons can contact the library either by email or by phone and place their order. Library staff will pull the items and quarantine them for a minimum of 72 hours before pickup. Pick up appointments on Tuesdays and Fridays are booked in 15 minute intervals to help maintain social distancing. Library staff ask that when picking up your order, you wait until the staff member backs away after setting your books on the table they have just inside the door. There is also a bin for returns, however, at this time, fines have been suspended, and Ward wants to encourage people to keep their items for as long as they need. Anything that is returned goes

through another 72 hour quarantine and is disinfected before being reshelfed. The drop box remains closed outside of pickup hours, and staff ask that returns only happen during those hours.

“It is a lot more work getting items to patrons in this way,” said Ward. “But we are all very happy to be lending items again, and seeing people for collection! It's been hard having the doors to this lovely building shut, and cataloguing new books we couldn't lend. This service seems like a step in the right direction towards reopening.”

She said while they hope to be able to open their doors soon, this service will continue to run as long as patrons would like to use it.

North Vancouver was the first BC Library to set up such a service. Ward says it took some time to work through the logistical challenges of meeting current COVID-19 regulations and guidelines.

Patrons who want to use the service but are unwell, or self isolating, can call the library, 250-569-2411 or email to arrange a safe, no contact delivery.

At this point inter-library loans are not available, limiting the available selection to the current inventory.

## Derailment cont'd from A6

and they wrote out a list of names and determined who has what equipment.

He said COVID-19 has slowed the group down. They have had the hall designated as an emergency area and are hoping to get a grant to get sprinklers on the roof.

Elke Vogelpohl of Mica Mountain Lodge said the derailment was scary, but it's not uncommon.

“It really freaked me out. It is not acceptable to not service the tracks properly. It was just coal, but if it was gasoline or propane everything would have gone up in smoke,” she said.

She said the company should do better near communities.

“Please make sure your tracks are in good shape alongside every community, there is no excuse for putting business and trains first and the livelihood of people at the end,” she said.

The derailment in Tete Jaune inflamed the neighbourhood not just literally but figuratively too. Resident Chris Henderson was working two province's away, when he received word that CN was on his property without his permission and had fallen some trees to gain access.

Henderson was outraged that CN didn't ask for permission first before entering his property on Jackpine road.

He alerted the police, but they didn't intervene.

“I never got a phone call from CN,” said Henderson. “The cops won't do anything, but they are blatantly breaking the law.”

In our May 14th story about the 16 car coal derailment, CN Spokesperson Jonathan Abecassis said that there weren't any fires as a result of the derailment. That was inaccurate.

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Use Transfer Stations Responsibly

COVID-19 is changing our world, but one thing that hasn't changed is the amount of garbage and recycling people generate. While now could seem like a perfect time for spring cleaning or finishing home renovations, those projects will create a lot of additional waste.

We understand the importance of having transfer stations and landfills open and we are pleased to keep our sites in McBride and Valemount open to serve you.

### But we need your cooperation.

Reduce unnecessary trips to the transfer station. If it doesn't need to be disposed of immediately (ie food waste), do you have room to store it for the time being?

Respect social distancing and keep at least six feet from away from staff and others.

Some recycling depots are closed. Call ahead for the updated operating hours or visit the Valemount Recycling Center online at [www.return-it.ca](http://www.return-it.ca).

### TRANSFER STATION HOURS - Summer 2020

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	<b>9am - 5pm</b>
Wednesday	<b>closed</b>
Saturday & Sunday	<b>9am - 4pm</b>
Canada Day & BC Day	<b>closed</b>

## Waste & Recycling Tips

- **Eliminate unnecessary trips to transfer stations**
- **If immediate disposal isn't required, keep waste at home or use curbside waste & recycling collection where available**
- **Practice social distancing at transfer stations & landfills by staying 6 feet away from others**

For more details, visit us online at [www.rdffg.bc.ca](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca)



**REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
of Fraser-Fort George

## NEWS

## In Brief:

## Lucille Mountain Rescue

Robson Valley Search and Rescue responded to a call from three snowmobilers on Lucille Mountain at 11:30pm May 2nd. According to the weekly incident report, two members of the SAR team responded to the call and met the snowmobilers on their way out. One of the snowmobilers reportedly had difficulties and the other two called SAR to assist. The three were able to get most of the way out on their own, but SAR escorted them the rest of the way to the trailhead. The men were reportedly area residents. The local SAR team reports it has had very few calls over the last two months and they have noticed people are behaving responsibly and reducing risky behaviour.

## Daycare re-opens

Valemount's daycare is reopening June 1st, 2020 after being closed since mid-March due to COVID-19.

The Valemount Children's Activity Society says it will not be resuming preschool this school-year (it usually runs September-June).

The society is encouraging returning and new families to call the daycare with a request for time slots.

"We are of course always putting children and families safety first so more information will be brought forth before the 1st. We appreciate all your support and look forward to seeing everyone!!"

VCAS Manager Krista Voth said the board will be meeting this week to determine any changes to the structure of operations in light of COVID-19 restrictions.

## Berg Lake Trail update

BC Parks has updated its information regarding Mt. Robson Park. Last week the Goat reported that the Berg Lake Trail is closed to day-use. The trail is also closed to overnight use until further notice (reservable Berg Lake campsites usually open on June 1st).

The Visitor Centre has no opening date as yet, but it may re-open this year. "It will open once we can safely do so and ensure that the Provincial Health Officer's recommendations can be followed appropriately," a government spokesperson told the Goat. Check BC Parks' website [bcparks.ca](http://bcparks.ca) for updates.

## Mt Robson Marathon cancelled

The Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association (YORA) has made the decision to cancel this year's Mt. Robson Marathon slated for September 12th along the Berg Lake Trail. YORA President Patricia Thoni said it was a hard decision.

"They were talking about all events in summer, but we're so close to summer and really the beginning of September is considered summer, and with everything going on we thought let's cancel."

She said they had 250 people signed up, roughly half of their capacity. They are now issuing refunds through the Running Room booking system, minus the \$2 booking fee collected by the site. Thoni said it's a big chunk of money YORA will forfeit, but they will be able to pull through.

# WorkBC

**FINDING THE RIGHT JOB FAST?**  
**WORKBC VALEMOUNT**

We help job seekers train the skills they need for the right career!  
**Contact us or visit our centre to learn more.**

**WorkBC Valemount**

99 Gorse Street, Valemount  
 (250) 566-9107 • [workbccentre-valemount.ca](http://workbccentre-valemount.ca)



# ICE CREAM season!



Petr and Petra Herstik, along with daughters Valerie and Olivia visited Crazy Cones in McBride on Friday May 15, their opening day for 2020. Owners Kevin and Jenny Taphorn (behind the counter) have made adjustments to the venue and some of their procedures to comply with current restrictions in order to open for the Long Weekend. They hope to be open every day 11-5./ANDREA ARNOLD

# Province starts Phase 2 of re-opening

BY ANDRU MCCrackEN

In Doctor Bonnie Henry's weekend update, she offered reassurance to people stressing out about moving into Phase 2 of BC's reopening plan. Henry shared her own misgivings about having friends over this weekend.

"I had a small number of friends over and it was awkward and strange, and thought-provoking not having socialized in months," said Henry.

Mistakes will be made, but Henry offered sympathy for everyone trying to follow the public health orders keeping themselves and friends and families safe.

"We may not always get it all right 100% of the time, but that's okay, we will work together."

The Province is in Phase 2 of its plan to restart BC. While the government asks people to continue to stay close to home and avoid nonessential travel between communities, much is opening up.

Using enhanced protocols to maintain social distancing and following new WorkSafeBC guidelines, the following is allowed to happen:

- Restoration of health services
- Re-scheduling elective surgery
- Medically related services like Dentistry, physiotherapy, registered massage therapy, and chiropractors
- Physical therapy, speech therapy, and similar services
- Retail sector
- Hair salons, barbers, massage therapy and other personal service establishments
- In-person counselling
- Restaurants, cafes, and pubs (with sufficient distancing measures)
- Museums, art galleries, and libraries
- Office-based worksites
- Recreation and sports
- Parks, beaches, and outdoor spaces
- Child care establishments

A reporter asked about playing informal summer sports, and Henry was for it if it happened out of doors. She said that briefly being in contact with another person, say on the basketball court, was not necessarily terrible if the duration of the interaction is short.

As of May 19 restaurants can be open given that their tables are 2 metres apart and can have a maximum of six people per table.

Henry confessed there wasn't a lot of science behind these rules.

"This is trying to put together a rational approach to reopening," she said. "Part of it is trying to find that physical space depending on how your tables are configured."

She encouraged restaurants to take the shift slow and said she would do her part.

"We will monitor carefully to make sure we aren't creating situations for this virus to transmit rapidly through our communities," she said.

The virus may flare up, but with expanded testing and contact tracing, Henry said that the province is ready to proceed.

"There is an onus on all of us to monitor ourselves very closely for symptoms."

Henry is asking that rural folk respond to a provincial survey about the impact of COVID-19 measures.

She said they're asking about respondent's ages, sex, income level, education, race and ethnicity to see how the measures they have taken have impacted different groups.

Henry also asked people who are victims of family or partner violence to access VictimLinkBC, a toll free confidential, multilingual telephone service available across BC and the Yukon at 1-800-563-0808. You can

CONT'D ON P12



## Grass fire

On Tuesday May 12, 2020 a local farmer was burning off some of what was left from last year's crop in preparation for this year's seeding. He had applied for a permit for this, and had been granted permission. The flames jumped into grass a good distance away, and for a short time burned some of the trees and grass that divide the fields. Fire Chief Dave Hruby said that the landowner, along with the help he had onsite had the fire managed by the time they arrived. "However," he said. "If you are in a situation where you think you might need help, do not hesitate to call us. That is what we are here for. We'd rather show up and not be needed then have a real emergency on our hands." Hruby also stated that, although it seems wet, it is a lot drier than it appears. The fire burned across the top layer of vegetation very quickly, leaving green and untouched straw under the char./ANDREA ARNOLD



**VALEMOUNT INDUSTRIAL PARK LIMITED PARTNERSHIP**  
**DIRECTORY OF TRADESPEOPLE**  
**INVITATION**

The Valemount Industrial Park (VIP) is preparing to rebuild the purchased mill.

At this time the Management is developing a **DIRECTORY OF TRADESPEOPLE** for invitations to Tender-projects or hourly work.

**CONTRACTORS, TRADESPERSONS**

(CONSTRUCTION, WELDING, ELECTRICIANS, SKILLED WORKERS)

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUME:

Attention to:  
 Valemount Industrial Park,  
 c/o Directory, PO Box 1017,  
 Valemount BC, V0E 2Z0

Or email to: [jweeks@valemountcommunityforest.ca](mailto:jweeks@valemountcommunityforest.ca)

## Did You Know?

Robson Valley Community Services offers...

### Indigenous Literacy Program

- Low-barrier, holistic indigenous literacy support for oral, reading, writing, math and computer use via drop-in, outreach, or through workshops.
- Increase understanding of social services and program promoted by our outreach initiatives.
- Advocacy and Support
- Budgeting, interview prep, social awareness, health & nutrition, form filling, & navigating advocacy systems.
- Community understanding and awareness of local land, environmental, plant, and animal habitats and knowledge bases.
- A variety of workshops and programs with a focus on traditional and holistic methods: cooking, crafts, handwork, gatherings, foraging and the healing arts.

Give us a call at **1-844-324-2004**

By ANDRU McCracken

The four entrepreneurs behind VALE Coffee share an abiding love for good coffee and the village they're making it in. VALE Coffee is a small batch coffee roastery based in the Trading Post on Main Street in Valemount.

Two couples, Rena O'Brien and Ryker Indjic and Megan Vicente and Elliot Ingles say they decided to get into business with each other because of their interest in Valemount.

"We bonded over our love for this place and our certainty of its potential," said Megan.

Megan and Elliot moved to Valemount from Jasper without a concrete plan, the major motivation was a notion: to get "on the Valemount train."

"When we started coming to Valemount and visiting and going to the brewery, it just felt kind of magical and we wanted in," said Megan.

Rena and Ryker were looking to buy a house in Valemount, but they worried about finding work, so they decided to buy a commercial building instead and make jobs for themselves. What kinds of jobs they would be, they figured out later.

"It was hard to think about that before we bought the building, we had to come and live here for a little while to

get a feel for the town," said Ryker.

"Buying this building, our goals were to fill it with businesses and make the opportunity for us to be employed and create jobs," said Rena.

It was after the move and after purchasing the building that coffee roasting revealed itself as the thing to do.

Rena said everything they do confirms their choice.

"The willingness of people here to be supportive, to be community-minded - it's an absolute breath of fresh air," said Rena.

When they first moved in and started working outside, people would stop by and offer help, or a tool to make the work easier. To Rena, it was a sign they were on the right path.

"What's happening here is heading the direction that aligns with what my values are," said Ryker.

Though the global pandemic caused them to pause their opening, it wasn't for too long, and has forced them to start slow. It seems to be working out.

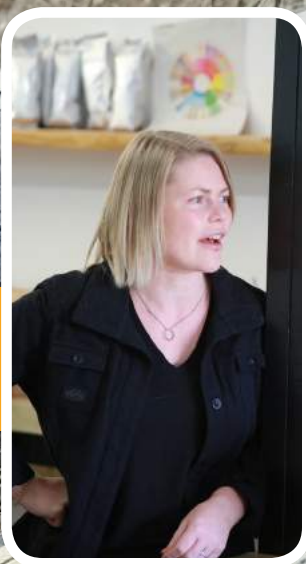
The couples are serious about coffee: they hired Doug Graf, a co-owner of Vintage Coffee who works internationally to help them set up their roaster and to teach them how to roast.

To order, find them online at [valecoffee.ca](http://valecoffee.ca)

# Roasters un"vale"



L to R: Megan, Elliot, Rena and Ryker



## Gardening with Pete

### Super Leeks

In previous columns, I have discussed the growing of onions and garlic in some detail. These, along with leeks, are all "alliums" – members of the Lily family.

Because we usually grow the onions and garlic for storage, it is best to give them lots of nutrients and water at the beginning of the season (until mid July or so) and then withhold water and further feeding to encourage the large bulbs to form for storage. The drying down of the tops into the bulbs until the outer skins (onions) and "papers" (on garlic) are crispy and crackle will give the best keepers. As mentioned before, I keep my garlic and onions in a warm loft or beside the furnace until Christmas to be certain they are well cured..

Leeks, however, are grown for their large stems that have such a mild onion flavour. If you haven't tried leek and potato soup, you still have a new treat to look forward to. Some years ago, a dear old friend from

Valemount gave me a great recipe that has become one of my favourites.

All the members of this family grow best in a rich, loamy soil with lots of old manure and compost. Because we want the leeks to grow lots of stem and top growth right up until harvest, we do not need to worry about curing and drying. If you want super leeks, you have to start plants from seed in February or March, or get some extra plants from a friend or your local nursery. The first two to three months only gives you a few inches (8-10cm) of growth, but once these little seedlings are planted out, they really take off.

If you want "super-leeks", you can take the time to dig a trench about 12" (30cm) deep and the same width and fill it half full of compost and well-rotted manure. Use your trowel to make small holes every six inches or so (15cm) and set one of the small plants into it. They look like a few lost blades of grass in the big



*Pete has lived, worked & gardened in the Dunster area for 35 years. He tries to deal with the "down to earth nuts and bolts of organic gardening" in his columns.*

trench, but when they get established, they will grow like mad!

With all members of this family, if you grow them from seed or buy small seedlings to transplant, it seems to work best if you cut the tops back with a pair of scissors to about 2 inches (5cm) before transplanting. Because you always damage some roots when transplanting, cutting back the tops gives less leaves for the roots to feed. The little plant will send out new roots for the first few weeks and then you will see tremendous growth from then on.

As your leeks grow, fill the trench in around them but always leave the growing tips above the level of the soil. Each time you fill in the trench a bit more, you can side dress with a little more compost and manure around the plants. Leeks are real gluttons for food! With any luck, you should be harvesting giant leeks by the fall.

# New Moon Perspectives

The first manned lunar landing occurred in the Mare Tranquillitatis, or Sea of Tranquility. No, it's not a real sea, but it's easy to understand why the shadowy basin could be mistaken for one. The lunar influence enters a dark serenity with the Gemini new moon, recalling how perspective can make all the difference. Maybe the ocean is just an indentation -- bad news for fish, great news for landing astronauts.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Ambition, the attention of strangers, praise from your colleagues and peers -- you've cared about it before, but this week it's not the least bit interesting to you. What you'll do, you'll do for the sake of quiet trying and incremental improvement. Every day, you're getting better.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). If mistakes happen to bring good fortune to someone in the form of a valuable lesson, a job or setting some fortuitous course of action in motion, can they be called mistakes? Your open mind allows you to see benefits everywhere and is a key reason why your stress levels plummet this week.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). In a sense, it's not a story until you've told it to yourself. And in doing that, the actual events get rewritten to fit into your broader narrative. You'll process recent occurrences and decide how you're going to frame them to complement the design scheme you're rocking in the mansion of your mind.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You know you're loved. It's not just a feeling you



There are those who seem predisposed to irritate you and others who consistently bring out your kind, compassionate and friendly nature. Regardless, you take full responsibility for how you operate in the world and work to build up your core so that you can maintain your balance around anyone and everyone.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Splendid raconteur Quentin Crisp once defined entertainment as, "The spectacle of someone doing something the beholder could not do." You'll provide just this sort of show this week and be met with well-earned applause, or more likely with likes, loves, hearts and retweets.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're getting stronger in every way. Excellent habits make it so. It is a worthy pursuit. You're not in it for the muscles, be they physical, spiritual or intellectual. Rather, you're

in it because it makes for a smoother life. You can more readily handle the rigors of life and help others out, too, putting everyone at ease.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe there is an art to breaking up, though who would want to be in that position enough times to perfect it? The art of reconciliation, on the other hand, is a joy to master, as the emotions of hope and inclusion tend to be worn comfortably, and after feeling disconnected, the relief of union is soul-fortifying.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sure, you're known for your ambitions. Even so, it's usually about being the very best person you can be and not about showing anyone else up. You're not interested in feeling superior. There's power in fitting in. You have high standards and will do what it takes to raise the collective vibration of the group.

# SUDOKU

1		9						2	
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	7					4			6

**HOW TO PLAY**  
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.  
Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.

# CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
10				11				12		13
14				15					16	
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42	43			44	45	46			47	
48				49					50	
51						52				53

Answers on P13

**Across**

- 1 Embellish
- 4 Harry Potter's messenger
- 7 "Maggie May" singer Stewart
- 10 Time chunk
- 11 "How about \_\_\_!"
- 13 Pointy body part on a Vulcan
- 14 Shakespeare division
- 15 "\_\_\_ Springs Eternal" (Pope poem)
- 16 Word with fish or small
- 17 Give form to
- 19 What candles may signify
- 21 Some hangings
- 23 Reef buildup
- 26 Handyman's need
- 29 Gymnast, e.g.
- 31 Orchestrate
- 33 Safe document
- 34 '60s greeting
- 35 Be in a different form?
- 37 Pristine
- 38 Phased out
- 42 Place for leaves
- 44 "Who \_\_\_ is coming?"
- 47 Last-minute party purchase
- 48 Be beholden to
- 49 Marsh growth
- 50 Car, affectionately
- 51 Cry of success
- 52 Fill 'er up stuff
- 53 Lively dance

**Down**

- 1 Stew veggies
- 2 Instep feature
- 3 Lab details
- 4 Wise leader?
- 5 "Doctor \_\_\_"
- 6 Once around the pool
- 7 Arbitrator
- 8 Crewman
- 9 Oenophile's "sec"
- 12 Enlighten
- 18 It's fit for a king
- 20 Eagle type
- 22 Dog's ID
- 24 Had a helping
- 25 Went ahead of
- 26 Keg insert
- 27 You may want to get a lode of this
- 28 Vitamin C sources
- 30 Kind of party
- 32 Updated
- 36 Clarinet vibrators
- 39 Plate
- 40 Repeat the words of
- 41 Low-bottomed
- 42 \_\_\_ George
- 43 Super-impress
- 45 Thigh locale
- 46 Poseidon's domain

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10
11			12		13				14		
15				16					17		
				18				19			
				20		21		22			
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31						32				33	34
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40						41			42		
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						45	46	47			
50						51	52		53	54	55
57						58	59				60
61						62				63	
64						65					66

## THE TOUGHIE

by Myles Mellor

Answers on P19

- Across**
1. Grumpy companion
  4. "X-Files" character
  8. Hospital unit
  11. Promising words
  13. Provoke
  14. Notes that follow do
  15. Country reps
  18. Agents making busts
  19. Summer tops
  20. \_\_\_ man
  22. Beauty products provider
  23. Rumba relative
  27. Excite
  31. Depleted
  32. Dr.'s orders

33. Suffix with "Boston" or "Paris"
36. HQ for the US abroad
40. Colo. clock setting
41. Has \_\_\_ with
42. Cleans up, in a way
43. Beauty brand, Elizabeth \_\_\_
44. Wish-granting spirit
45. Soybean extract
48. Wonder
50. In a virtuous manner
53. Five-time All-Star second baseman Chase
57. Spokesperson for Versace, for example

- Down**
1. "How \_\_\_ this happen?"
  2. Norse war god
  3. Manilow song setting
  4. Life basic
  5. It's the law
  6. Ravel's "Gaspard de la \_\_\_"
  7. Segments of a circle

8. "It ain't over till it's over" speaker
9. Drain
10. Speak to rudely
12. Snapper's selection
13. The Pointer Sisters' "\_\_\_ Excited"
14. Badger
16. Sushi bar selections
17. When doubled, it means "quickly"
21. Antonio Banderas, in "Interview With the Vampire"
23. "Just the facts, \_\_\_"
24. Modern mall features
25. Convene

26. Small bit used in dentistry or surgery
28. Cookie Monster cohort
29. European city that is a musical and artistic center
30. Mil. branch
33. "Beauty \_\_\_ the eye ..."
34. Goes with Spumanti
35. Wall St. letters
37. Bug
38. Sires
39. "Lemon" or "orange" ending
43. "\_\_\_ Lang Syne"
45. Medieval light

46. Hold the floor
47. Clappers
49. Coward
50. Budding entrepreneurs, for short
51. Stretched out
52. Pool site, maybe
54. Time delay
55. Bart's teacher Krabappel
56. FYI part
58. Gaudy scarf
59. Taylor of fashion
60. Alphabet segment

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Everyone likes and needs a certain amount of attention. For you, it's a matter of getting the right kind. Right now, you don't want anything too serious or demanding. A lighthearted inclusion with a side of honest appreciation will suit you just fine. Though, you'll get a bonus: laughter, compliments and a caring act.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Exciting developments will occur soon after you take a few practical steps to clear the way. You know what to do. You've known for a while now what needs to be dropped, rearranged or sent on. Execute the process of getting your internal and external world in order, and then open your arms.

**THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:** Your support is worth more than diamonds. Give it to yourself first and you'll have more to give others. Your heart will be emboldened, and the renewal of a childhood interest will have you following a path you hadn't dared to until now. In early 2021, the answer to your prayers will come in the form of a person -- likely an air sign (Gemini, Libra or Aquarius.) Thus begins a novel phase for you, and you'll be newly creating yourself as you apply your talents in different ways and places.

Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis.com](http://HolidayMathis.com).  
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## McBride boil water advisory ongoing

By ANDRU McCracken

A year ago engineers finished installing a new water intake system for the Village of McBride, replacing an old above ground concrete intake that was beyond its useful life.

While the new system aims to settle out sediments suspended in Dominion Creek before it enters the water treatment plant, a challenging spring runoff is forcing the community to initiate a boil water advisory.

Chief Administrative Officer Sheila McCutcheon said they are working on reducing the length of the boil water advisory by monitoring the water more closely.

"Every spring is different and higher flows during the few weeks of freshet generally do not allow the finer particles to settle out of the water before entering the treatment plant," said McCutcheon.

"This is a reality of surface water sources."

She said the village is looking for solutions.

"We are starting the process of determining if a filtration system is warranted based on water quality data," said McCutcheon.

## COVID Phase 2 cont'd from A9

also send an email to VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca.

There is also a toll-free kids helpline: 1-800-668-6868. It can also be reached by texting 686868.

Henry appealed for consideration and generosity. "Let's show patience and compassion for ourselves and for those around us," she said.

She also said wearing a cloth mask can help you from accidentally transmitting the virus to others.

"If you are using transit or going into a smaller store, consider wearing a cloth based mask to reduce risk for others," she said.

Henry said that for people with family members going through cancer treatment or another illness should take further precautions.

Health Minister Adrian Dix said that our individual well being is within our hands. He said frequent hand washing, physical distancing, coughing into sleeves and wearing a nonmedical mask when appropriate will reduce the risk of transmission.

"Sticking with these now will give us every opportunity to make this a summer that renews BC," he said.

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7	4	8	3	5	2	1	6	9
4	8	2	9	3	7	6	1	5
5	3	7	8	6	1	9	4	2
9	1	6	5	2	4	3	7	8
8	9	4	6	1	5	2	3	7
6	2	5	4	7	3	8	9	1
3	7	1	2	8	9	4	5	6

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**TUES & THURS. Virtual Stories and Songs.** Hey parents! Since we are all safely tucked inside our homes, the McBride and District Public Library and Community Literacy Program are bringing storytime to you! We’ll be sharing stories and songs on the ukulele. Come to the McBride and District Public Library page @ 11am on Tuesdays & Thursdays and look for the Facebook Live video to join the fun!

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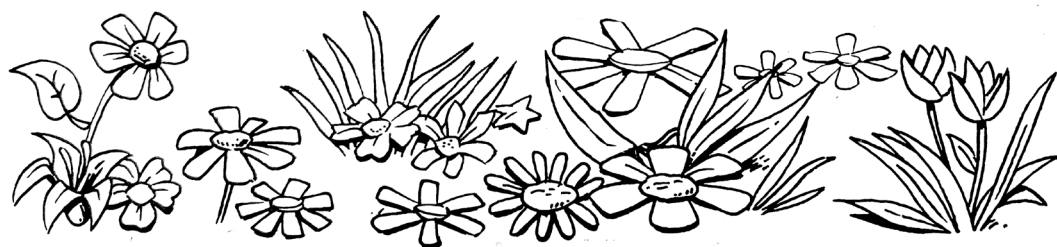
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# Brightness of Spring

BY KESTREL R.

**N***ew life colors*  
**E***verywhere I see!*  
**W***hat great sights*  
**L***iving in the Robson Vlley.*  
**I***s the brightness of spring*  
**F***or us to*  
**E***njoy, like bunnys hopping*  
*in the meadow?*





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## WELCOMING a baby during a pandemic



Jill Flavel-Keim and Hannah spend some time recovering at her parents' home in Prince George, before heading back to Valemount.



Back home with Flavel-Keim's family in Prince George, the girls spend some time bonding with their dad / SUBMITTED.

BY JEAN ANN BERKENPAS

Giving birth during a global pandemic is not a situation most people expect to be experiencing in their lifetime. Nonetheless, it is a situation many families currently face. Despite the rapid and ongoing changes in our medical system, local families are still feeling well taken care of. Medical practitioners are working hard to provide the best care they can during this challenging time.

Jillian Flavel-Keim and David Lerch welcomed their second child, Hannah Grace on April 19th at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia in Prince George.

"There were only a few restrictions," said Flavelle-Keim. "David wasn't able to come to check up appointments and one non-stress test. He was allowed to attend Hannah's birth, as was my doula."

Despite women being required to labour and birth alone in some parts of the world, and severe restrictions in some Canadian hospitals, this is not the case in British Columbia. Because Covid-19 has not spread extensively in BC, the medical system has not been facing the same strain and risk of transmission as in other areas. Aside from additional screening and safety measures, it would appear that women in BC, and in the Northern Health region, are able to access the usual medical services.

Prenatal appointments continue as scheduled prior to the pandemic, with extra measures in place to prevent transmission of the virus. Some of these measures include additional screening, and options for virtual or phone-in check-ups. There are fewer people in waiting rooms with more space between seating, to allow for physical distancing. Staff in hospitals and clinics are also using additional personal protective equipment, and there is more extensive sanitation and cleaning.

"At first I was super stressed about appointments," says Melanie Bryant, "but now I kind of enjoy going into an empty clinic." She is expecting her third child this summer. After having twins in her first pregnancy, this time is much different, with or without the pandemic. "It is a lot easier this time," said Bryant.

Registered midwives and doulas continue to work in hospitals. Women are still allowed a support person, such as a partner, in the delivery room. Cesarean sections are managed on a case by case basis, but in many situations the partner or support person is still allowed in the surgery.

Perhaps the most difficult part of welcoming a new baby and family member during this time, is the requirement to maintain physical distancing after the birth.

"We weren't allowed any visitors after Hannah was born" says Flavelle-Keim "and David was unable to leave the maternity ward while I was

recovering, or he wouldn't have been allowed back in."

In a time when mother and child are usually surrounded by family and friends, post birth during the coronavirus crisis looks a lot quieter. It can be lonely for some parents of new babies, and a strain without the usual help many rely on from their community. Reaching out to meet, hold and support families with new babies looks different in today's world.

"Even though the care looked very different this time, I still felt very well cared for," said Flavelle-Keim of her birth experience. They were also able to stay with her family in Prince George before and after the birth, and receive some immediate support from her family.



Emma meets her baby sister Hannah, after she is discharged from the hospital. In hospital visits were not possible with the coronavirus related restrictions in place



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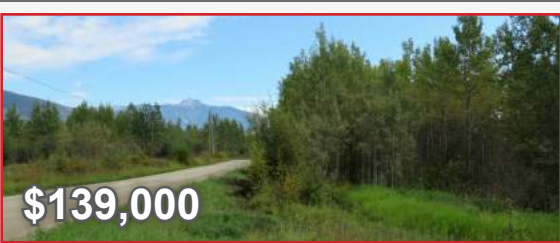
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