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Unwelcome netters work to save salmon

By ANDRU McCracken

Putting a net across Swift Creek to catch spawning salmon is not, as Dave Snyder discovered, a good way to meet people in Valemount. But Snyder is part of a band of volunteers who are looking out for Chinook salmon and their future.

Snyder is the director of stock rebuilding programs with the Swift Creek Wildlife Association. The group runs a small volunteer hatchery that is focussed on rebuilding the population of the Upper Fraser Chinook Spring 5-2 run.

Snyder explained that it's called the Spring 5-2 run because they have a 5 year life span and typically spend two years in the area before they make their way downstream to the ocean where they spend three years before returning to spawn. The group of volunteers received dirty looks and finger wagging from locals worried about who was in the water and why at this critical time during spawning.

Snyder said he was pleased to see locals keeping an eye on the salmon and generally being protective of the fish, they need it he says, because as the Rocky Mountain Goat just discovered, the Upper Fraser Chinook Spring 5-2 run has been listed as endangered... since November 2018.

"We have seen a massive decline over the years and they were even harder hit because of the Big Bar slide," he said.

Snyder is in the process of selecting what streams they will operate in long term. The association may or may not decide to adopt Swift Creek.

Had they been successful in collecting eggs and milt, it would have been more likely.

"Our goal in Swift Creek was to get out there at peak spawn and set nets for a short time," he said.

They harvest eggs and milt on site and return the salmon to the stream so as not to rob the area of the nutrients.

The good news is that Swift Creek had a

CONT'D ON P2

Irene Berndsen



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see LISTINGS ON BACK PAGE

Local salmon enthusiast and conservationist Bruce Wilkinson said this year's salmon run in Swift Creek is a good one. One day he saw around 30. He also saw lots leaping at Rearguard Falls. That said, the salmon are listed as endangered and so organizations are looking to intervene and assist the salmon in breeding grounds across B.C. including in the Robson Valley. /MAY GHALIB



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CONTEST

Unwelcome netters... Cont'd from A1

good run this year, Snyder and his team were able to see the redds, nests of eggs left by the salmon in the creek. The bad news was that they were unable to collect spawners, male and female that would have helped them kick off the program.

Hatchery life

Growing up in a hatchery is comparatively a good gig. Snyder said that in the stream the survival rate of the new born eggs to become fry is between 1.5% to 5%. In other words more than 95% of the spawn will die by the time they become fry due to predation, fungus, sediment... more over, fertilization isn't 100%.

"Our facility is a much more controlled envrionment," he said. "Our success rate is 95%."

The Spruce City Wildlife Association - based in Prince George - is becoming a big player in the world of Salmon, partly thanks to the fact that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is not playing that role.

Snyder said they are blazing a trail, filling a void left by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in the early 2000s.

The association is a group of mill workers, restaurant workers, and book keepers, just regular people, who care about wildlife.

"Down the road, if we get stocks to a sustainable point there is the potential for fishing opportunity, but there is a long way to go," he said.

Right now they are calling to cut back on salmon harvest. "With the returns we are seeing, we need to make sure every fish is getting back to the spawning grounds," he said. "DFO likes to harvest fish and count afterwards."

A tough life

Snyder said that the salmon in northern runs like Swift Creek have a much longer incubation time than on the coast where the water is 12 degrees all year long.

"Swift creek probably gets down to less than 1 degree in winter. Once they are hatched, it is a cool environment

and when they head to the ocean, they have a heck of a lot farther to go," he said.

Why volunteers?

Why is something as important as saving an endangered salmon run left to a volunteer organization?

He's similarly amazed at the lack of programs, oversight and action on the part of government.

"It's something we've brought up with DFO," said Snyder. And they are pushing the DFO to their limits.

"As Spruce City we have to look back and see if the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is coming with us."

Permits & permission

Snyder said that the group has all the permits they need to be in the water and they also touch base with the Simpcw First Nation for local knowledge and support.

Local grads

If Spruce City does adopt Swift Creek, those fish will return to Swift Creek.

Their program ensures that they use well water, with good filters and UV sterilization to ensure that when the fry are released to Swift Creek they imprint on the stream, not some random creek in Prince George.

If the program goes ahead, locals will be invited to help release about a thousand of the fry into Swift Creek at the Visitor Info Centre.

He said building relationships between locals and salmon is an important part of their work that helps raise awareness and mindfulness of Salmon.

Feast for killer whales

Snyder said that the salmon play an important role in ecosystems and human economies throughout the province.

"This run is a major food source for southern resident killer whales. A good portion of their reason for falling off

is lack of food abundance," he said.

World travellers

Fish that reach maturity will see the world. Snyder said that once they hit the ocean they will migrate up the inside of Vancouver Island to Alaska and head all the way out into the open ocean to Russia and start showing up at Vancouver Island.

"They do a whole loop around the pacific."

Maybe, maybe not

Whether Swift Creek will be one of the creeks adopted by Spruce City is still up in the air.

"We have to make the decision by December to see if we want to," he said.



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Some young and upcoming mountain bikers met former Valemount resident Hannah Van der Roest on CBT's Monday Grind in Valemount. Hannah is the daughter of one of Valemount's early and really successful mountain bike coaches, Les Van der Roest. Hannah is now studying medicine at UNBC. Who knows what these young kids will get up to? From left to right, it's Amos, Aziz, Tim Haus, Hannah, her friend Alex, and Kestrel. /ANDRU MCCracken

Spring and Summer a tale of two pandemics: Minister



Health Minister Adrian Dix says the COVID-19 pandemic of the summer is distinct from the spring. Lower hospitalization rates reflect the younger age of the people being diagnosed. Dix is pictured at an Aug. 17, 2020 press conference. // Province of BC photo

By FRAN YANOR, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

The summer’s COVID-19 cases have been similar or exceeded the daily heights of spring, but the severity of those infected is as distinct as a second pandemic, said B.C.’s Health Minister Adrian Dix.

“It’s really a tale of two pandemics,” Dix said during a northern B.C. telebriefing on Sept. 4.

In April, when new cases ranged up to 80 a day, about 23 per cent of those diagnosed had been hospitalized, with as many as 150 people in acute care at one time.

Over the summer, new cases swung from the 20s to more than 120 daily. Yet, as of Sept. 3, only 34 people were in hospital and 10 per cent of everyone diagnosed to date had been hospitalized.

“In that sense,” said Dix, “we have a different pandemic than we had before.”

A key driver of the difference is the younger demographic who tested positive over summer. The majority were between 20 and 39 years-old, dropping the median age of diagnosis from 53 years-old in the spring, to 40 years-old by Labour Day weekend. Since symptoms of COVID-19 tend to worsen with age, the increase in cases didn’t cause a commensurate leap in hospitalizations or deaths.

On April 22, for instance, there were 71 new cases and 103 people in hospital. On Sept. 4, there were 121 new cases but only 34 people were in hospital.

Despite an increase in cases in July and August, relatively few people died. No one under 40 has died from COVID-19 in B.C.

Care Facilities

Another distinction lies in the state of seniors’ care facilities. During the spring, the Lower Mainland was beset by upwards of 30 outbreaks in long-term care and assisted-living operations, versus nine outbreaks in early September.

That tends to affect the numbers, said Dix, driving the median age up or down depending how many residents were diagnosed. Over the duration of the pandemic, 443 residents in seniors’ facilities have contracted the disease in B.C., all of whom lived within the Fraser and Vancouver Coastal health authorities.

The North

The story is different in the North, where no seniors have tested positive in residential health care facilities and no one has died from COVID-19 as of early September.

In fact, for most of June and into July, the North didn’t log a single new diagnosis. The Interior and Lower Mainland regions began logging new diagnoses in mid-July. One week later, the virus reared up again in the North. By the end of July, Northern Health’s pre-summer total of 65 positive cases had grown to 88.

In the early days of the pandemic, when just six people had been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the North, Northern Health had the oldest median age – 65 years-old – at diagnosis. By mid-summer, that age had dropped to 37, the youngest in the province (along with the Interior), before climbing to 42 years-old in early September.

“It’s more difficult to draw conclusions that are specific to Northern Health,” said Dix. “Because the absolute numbers are low.”

While summer cases in the North increased since June, only 174 people out of the 6,162 provincewide COVID-19 total had tested positive for COVID-19 in Northern Health by Sept. 4.

A good portion of the July increases were from a community exposure on Haida Gwaii, which ultimately infected about 25 people.

Since then, other hot spots have cropped up like in northeast B.C. As of early September, nearly 20 British Columbians and their close contacts in the Fort St. John area had tested positive after returning from an evangelical gathering in Alberta.

Danger Zone

Still, cases per population in B.C. remain well below the danger zone provincially, says Henry, citing European and American sources which use a measure of 25 cases per 100,000 population as the point when businesses and schools should shut down.

“We can see across BC, we are well below that,” Henry said.

As of Sept. 3, the Lower Mainland region had the highest rates with a 16-person per 100,000 rate of diagnosis, while Vancouver Island and the North were the lowest with about two people per 100,000.

“In most of BC, our community transmission rates are very low,” said Henry.

Which doesn’t mean we can relax.

“We’re at that precipice, if you will,” Henry said, “where we need to take the actions to ensure that we can move forward into the fall and keep our curve low.”

Henry suggests avoiding parties and minimizing close contacts.

“There’s no magic number,” she said, “but we know the fewer people, the better.”

Fran Yanor / Local Journalism Initiative / fran@thegoatnews.ca



Village of McBride Chief Administrative Officer

The Village of McBride is small and friendly rural community nestled in the beautiful Robson Valley between Jasper and Prince George and is seeking an energetic and innovative Chief Administrative Officer. McBride has a wealth of diverse outdoor attractions for all seasons. During the winter months, the area has a variety of cross-country skiing trails, snowshoeing, back country skiing, heli-skiing, as well as world-famous and award-winning snowmobiling opportunities. The other seasons provide for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, ATVing, camping and fishing. McBride offers an affordable housing market, a family friendly community and walkable access to local amenities, cultural events and leisure activities.

The CAO will provide advice and support to the Mayor and Council in developing and implementing policies and strategies that address the needs of the Village of McBride, as well as maintaining the efficient and effective management of the Village of McBride and will positively impact the management and success of the Village’s Strategic Plan. The CAO will be expected to provide leadership to the municipal staff and will identify opportunities for improvement of staff and services within the available budget. The incumbent will also fulfill the duties of Corporate Officer for the Village.

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For a complete job description please contact the Village at cao@mcbride.ca

To apply for the CAO position, please submit in confidence your cover letter stating your salary expectations and resume by mail or email **before 12:00 pm on September 18, 2020** to:

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Village of McBride
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Editorial



ANDRU MCCRACKEN, EDITOR

It’s centralized, anonymized and it sure ain’t localized

Our recent inquiries into the prevalence of suicide in our community - and what’s being done about it - aren’t being answered in a timely way by the Northern Health Authority, and although I really want to cry foul, I try not to look for a bad guy, because I know it’s complex. In a nutshell, our communities are so small that our health authority necessarily keeps some information from us, because sharing it would compromise people’s privacy.

On a provincial level, the coroner can make a big list of what people died from, for example, and the province is so big that, if she excludes names, she won’t reveal any private information of individuals.

In Valemount, on the other hand, if she published a list of what people died from, you could reasonably figure out what everyone in town died from if you had some clues and insights to bring - even if the list was anonymous.

If you reveal too much data and the dataset is small and in a narrow timeline, you might give away information that someone wouldn’t likely choose to give away.

Privacy is a value I cherish. I don’t want my banker broadcasting how much money I have, I don’t want the liquor store sharing what I drink, and I certainly don’t want doctors broadcasting anything about my health. So I understand why the Province of British Columbia requires Northern Health to obey the Freedom Of Information And Protection Of Privacy Act. It suits me just fine, until I try to hold that organization accountable as a journalist.

When my wife gave birth to our child we learned about the extraordinary rate of Cesarean sections in the community through our peers. The rates were far above the provincial average. Experts believe there is a connection between the Cesarean rate and how far women have to go to get prenatal care.

It took a lot of angling and ultimately a Freedom of Information request to get even very general data. But it showed that the Cesarean rate was unusually high.

What’s probably most interesting here is that the data was not

being kept at a local level.

It is hard to track because here, women can easily choose to deliver their babies in three separate health authorities spanning two provinces. When that data isn’t being tracked, how is it possible that we can keep the Northern Health Authority accountable for their decisions to reduce maternal care in the valley, like their 2019 decision to stop providing prenatal classes?

My concern is that the health care experience of people in Valemount and McBride are being averaged into all of Northern BC. The reality is our communities are very different from the 80,000 people living in Prince George, and while it might parallel the other 140,000 people who live in the Northern Health’s jurisdiction it is in many ways unique.

While local physicians, nurses and support staff are excellent and will provide us with an extraordinarily high standard of care, it is shocking that some really important health statistics like the Cesarean rate weren’t being tracked... I’m still not sure whether a local suicide rate is being kept.

Centralization plays a role here. In the olden days, the province had many small health units including one just for the Robson Valley that did the work of administering health care. I won’t make the case that was always better, but I will point out, a local health unit could very well do a better job of keeping tabs on trends. Health officials would likely compare their Cesarean rates and a local coroner would likely note the suicide rate compared to other jurisdictions.

Northern Health is highly centralized and they are required by law to take privacy very seriously, but both come at a cost, a cost that could jeopardize their core mission “to provide exceptional health services for Northerners.”

Our health authority is, in my experience as a patient and a father, an awesome institution, but even good institutions need to be able to be held to account. My fear is that a singular focus on privacy and the centralization of administration has made that impossible.

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We welcome all letters to the editor
Write to us! goatnewspaper@gmail.com



Reckless driving from work truck not ok

Dear Editor,

Last Wednesday I was driving south on Blackman Road between Tete Jaune and the intersection with Highway 5. I had to stop at the CN crossing to let a very long train go by. There were three or four vehicles behind me. When the train passed I proceeded south and found myself behind a Ledcor work truck with yellow lights flashing on the roof.

The truck was going about 60 to 65 kms per hour. The stretch ahead was clear of traffic so I turned on my signal to pass and pulled out. Just as I found myself in the left lane the work truck swerved into it to prevent me from passing. I pulled back in confusion, wondering why I couldn't pass. There were no construction signs or speed limit signs, there was no oncoming traffic, there was nothing to indicate any danger on the straight stretch ahead. So again I put on my turn signal and pulled out again. And again the work truck swerved into the left lane to prevent me from passing.

I put on my brakes and my emergency signal and stopped in the middle of the road. The driver of the work truck also stopped there and the passenger got out and started yelling at me, "What are you doing trying to pass a work truck with the lights flashing?"

As I feebly explained the lack of danger ahead, the lack of construction, the cars behind me passed by. The passenger of the work truck continued to defend the driver's actions in a very aggressive tone. At that point I got back into my vehicle and drove on towards the intersection with

Highway 5. I was really upset.

As I approached the pull out on the right side of Highway 5 I noticed another white Ledcor truck. I needed to talk to someone, so I pulled over and stopped beside him. I explained to the driver what had just happened. As I was finishing giving the description, the work truck with the flashing lights pulled in. I said, "That's the truck, those are the guys!" He said, "Fine, just go now, I will deal with this." As I got back into my vehicle I said to the two guys, "I am reporting this to the RCMP"

And I did. I went directly to the Valemount RCMP Detachment and gave a statement. As it turned out, the man I talked to in the pull out was their supervisor. He also followed up with a visit to the detachment to say the guys in the work truck were definitely in the wrong. RCMP staff called me back to let me know.

I have lived here for more than 40 years and the changes due to the construction of the Trans Mountain Pipeline along that stretch of Highway 5 are unprecedented. I am grateful for the option of Blackman Road. Last Wednesday I was faced with a careless human-caused danger there. Fortunately a serious collision was avoided.

I have years of experience as a trauma therapist. I recognize the trauma response in my body from being harassed by another driver and yelled at by a guy much younger than my adult children, even now as I write this. I am thankful for the reassurance I got from the RCMP and the Ledcor supervisor. I understand there is zero tolerance for misbehavior by Trans Mountain workers in

the community and I am glad I reported the incident. I encourage others in the community to do the same if they experience transgressions that make them feel unsafe. I believe living in our amazing mountain community is a privilege for the Trans Mountain workers, with that comes the responsibility to ensure safety and respect for all the local residents.

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Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

Losing Both Elections

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

To lose one parent...may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness," wrote Oscar Wilde in his play 'The Importance of Being Earnest' in 1895.

In somewhat the same spirit, British journalist Robert Fisk wrote last week "At some point in the next two months we are going to have to decide whether we absolve the American people if they re-elect Donald Trump." Losing one election to Trump is unlucky; losing two in a row may be saying something about the national character.

Fisk has been Middle East correspondent of various British newspapers since 1976, so he was not on familiar ground when he wrote that about the United States in 'The Independent' last Friday. On the other hand, he was expressing a mostly unspoken but widespread attitude among all Europeans except the extreme right. Let me quote some more:

"Like all snobs, we've taken the view that Trump did not really represent American values – any more than the Arab dictators reflect the views of their people. We've hoped and prayed and fooled ourselves into believing this was only a temporary autocracy, a deviation, an old and reliable friend suffering from a serious but ultimately curable mental disease.

"Yet...I wonder how we are going to react to Americans if the Trump years become the Trump era...if the America we felt we could always ultimately rely on – once they've straightened out their little Trump misadventure – turns into the nation we can never trust?"

There is still a deep well of respect and trust for the United States in Europe. Fisk is probably right that a second Trump election victory would finally poison that well, which would be a pity. But would two terms of Trump mean the end of American democracy? Not necessarily. Not even likely.

What Trump has triggered – and somebody was bound to trigger it around now, because every political niche is always filled – is a final reckoning on the 'race problem,' about 150 years after the American Civil War.

At the time of the Civil War (1861-65), black Americans accounted for around 12% of the total population, and four-fifths of them were slaves. Whites accounted for almost all the rest.

'African-Americans' still account for the same 12% share of the population today, and many of them are still victims of the same white fear, exclusion and official violence that their ancestors experienced 150 years ago.

But since US immigration law changed in 1965, allowing people from the entire world to immigrate, the 'non-Hispanic white' share of the population has dropped to only 60%.

That share will to drop to 50% by 2044, according to forecasts based on current birth rates and immigration trends. This has triggered a huge panic among working-class white Americans, who often compete for the same jobs and used to depend on their whiteness as a competitive advantage.

Trump is a cynical populist, and he would be exploiting white fears right now even if he wasn't really a racist. But his behaviour is finally dragging the vicious legacy of the Civil War, which ended slavery but not white privilege, out into the open.

Having been so exposed, it will probably finally be extinguished – but not necessarily in time to thwart Trump's re-election. This is not the end of the United States, nor the advent of a new Hitler either. It is a necessary evolution of American history, for which some people living elsewhere may also pay a substantial price.

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Former student “missed out on a lot” withdrawing from school community

By FRAN YANOR, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

James was never thrilled with school. Social settings made him anxious. His parents broke up when he was seven and he attended five different elementary schools. He recalls having a handful of casual friends, mostly in the early grades.

“People said it would be better in high school,” said James, who asked that his last name not be used. “And it was completely worse.”

He didn’t know his teachers. The students he did know were in different classes.

“I would never go into the cafeteria because I didn’t have anyone to sit with,” James said. “At some point, I just gave up eating lunch.”

He skipped a lot and found solace in online gaming, playing for hours, sometimes many days, straight.

“When I found something that gave me a reason to be in another situation, I guess it just completely took over,” he said.

In Grade 9, he stopped going to school altogether and switched to remote learning.

Now 27 years old with a successful career in Vancouver’s television industry, James doesn’t recommend it.

“Remote learning gets rid of the one thing that could possibly keep kids at school,” said James. “They may have no interest in learning – most of them don’t – but there’s still that social aspect where they want to interact with their friends.”

With the social environment removed, students are left with the learning aspect. “That could be dangerous,” he said, and some kids will give up.

Students in B.C. returned to full-time in-class instruction this week. Two thirds of students in the province didn’t attend part-time classes in June and have been away from the school setting for 175 days.

Some experts worry about the effects of being out of school for so long.

“We know that kids benefit from having that structure in place,” said Dr. Alison Spadafora, a registered psychologist from Kelowna who has worked with adolescents for 10 years. “When that structure is taken away, it’s harder to cope with stress.”

Schools provide a very important feedback loop for identity development, said Dr. Trevor Corneil, a UBC clinical professor in population health whose work spans mental health and social justice. “As much as we loved or hated our middle and high school experiences, that’s the



Registered psychologist Dr. Alison Spadafora says parents who are worried about how their children are coping with remote learning should watch for sudden changes in behavior and be reassured that being supportive builds resiliency. /PHOTO COURTESY ALISON SPADAFORA

point,” said Corneil. “They do help form who you are, or give us a safer space where you can do that.”

There are some things your parents can’t teach you, he said.

“All children, as they begin to consolidate their identity, go through what’s called phases of identity crisis,” said Corneil, “trying out different things that people around them may or may not appreciate or like.” From that experimentation, they learn how the world reacts to them and how they want to react to the world.

The danger in remote learning for some students, is the social isolation that may accompany it. “Identity foreclosure is where, without any exploration, you’ll come to the conclusion that you don’t know how to do math because people have been telling you you’re bad at math,” Corneil said. “When you’ve never actually been given the space to explore math and come to that conclusion yourself.”

That strikes true for James. “I think I missed out on a lot of stuff,” he said of his withdrawal from the high school community.

“The most successful learning for most individuals is learning in relationship with others where they feel safe and cared for, and welcomed,” said Anita Richardson, Superintendent of Prince George School District. “For many kids the difference maker is that caring adult that they have, and or the caring peers, or the social environment that they learn in.”

Each year in SD57, students who should have graduated, don’t. “Every time a student transitions from one school to another, there’s an increased risk they won’t reengage,” said Richardson. One of the current priorities of the school district is to catch those kids, reach them earlier, and support them and their learning in a way that works better for them, she said.

Teachers can provide valuable support and insight, said Spadafora, who reviews teachers’ observations on report cards when she conducts psychological assessments of children and youths.

“Teachers usually have a pretty good sense of when children are struggling,” said Spadafora.

They may notice reduced concentration, a drop in academics, an unusual amount of absences, or a new pattern of not completing homework.

For James, disaster was ultimately averted. His family mobilized and after a thoroughly disagreeable stint with online learning, he found a purpose in school and forced himself back into the classroom. While he never felt comfortable socially with his peers and still skipped a lot of school, he eventually graduated after an extra year of classes.

Support between parents and children, between the family and school officials, all makes a difference, said Spadafora. “Supporting each other... really helps people be resilient during this time.”

James’ social isolation finally eased slightly when he was 23 attending a specialized program in a small post-secondary setting. For the first time since early elementary school, he spent time with students outside school. “I was carried by the social people, basically,” he said with a laugh.

Nowadays, his busy job has given him a lot of practice interacting with co-workers. While it still feels awkward sometimes, he knows he’s improving. “But, I still feel like I’m only catching up to where the majority of people were halfway through high school.”

Fran Yanor / Local Journalism Initiative / Fran@thegoatnews.ca

www.valemount.ca

Valemount Planning Week

Join us for Planning Week September 14-16 as part of the update process for our Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaws. Events will be held as follows:

- September 14 – Lunch Stroll (12:00 – 1:00 pm).** Take a walk on 5th Avenue with the OCP team to discuss Valemount’s downtown. Meet in front of Home Hardware.
- September 15 – Outdoor Workshop (7:00 – 8:30pm).** Put your vision for Valemount on the map! Meet at Centennial Park for an interactive visioning session.
- September 16 – Big Ideas Reveal (5:00 – 6:00 pm).** The OCP team will present and discuss early ideas, maps, and illustrations. Meet outside Rocky Mountain Goat News.

You may RSVP to these events, although it is not necessary. If you wish to RSVP please email OCP@valemount.ca. All are welcome to attend.

If you would like to sign up for project updates via email, please email OCP@valemount.ca

Invitation to Tender

The village is seeking tenders for the supply and delivery one (1) new 2017 or newer Backhoe Loader with Trade-In Unit. As part of this RFT, the Village request tenderer provide trade in allowance for a 1999 Caterpillar 416IT, with approximately 7700 hours of operation.

All enquiries must be directed to: Lori McNee, Director of Finance 250-566-4435 or dof@valemount.ca.

Closing date is 12 pm local time September 18, 2020. Full details are posted on BC Bid at www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca.

New Enforcement Measures for COVID-19

Police and other Provincial Enforcement Officers are being given the ability to issue violation tickets for owners/organizers and individuals who refuse to comply with requests to follow Public Health Officer (PHO) orders or safe operating procedures, or respond with abusive behaviour.

New enforcement measures will focus on \$2,000 fines to owners, operators and organizers for contraventions of the provincial health officer’s order on gatherings and events. This includes hosting a private party or public event in excess of 50 people, failing to provide appropriate hand sanitation and washroom facilities, failing to

Continued...

provide sufficient space in the venue for physical distancing, failing to obtain a list of names and contacts at large event or having more than five guests gathered in a vacation accommodation.

When required, police and other provincial enforcement officers will also be able to actively enforce the order and ticket a series of other infractions, including:

- \$200 violation tickets for individuals who actively encourage others to attend gatherings or events that do not comply with established requirements, or refuse to leave or disperse when directed to do so by enforcement officers; and,
- \$200 violation tickets for individuals who refuse to comply with requests to follow the PHO order or safe operating procedures of a restaurant, bar or other licensed establishment, or respond with abusive behaviour towards employees.

Learn more at:
www.news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0046-001568



VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT
Let the mountains move you

735 Cranberry Lake Road
250-566-4435 PO Box 168



The Pine Marten is most active during the summer months, but are mostly nocturnal and therefore difficult to spot. Breeding season occurs during July and August, but the embryos do not implant until late winter. Pine Martens live up to 15 years. Trapping is the greatest threat to their populations. /MAY GHALIB

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED TELUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY 45-METER TALL SELF-SUPPORT TOWER STRUCTURE

PROPOSED STRUCTURE: As part of the public consultation process required by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), TELUS is inviting the public to comment on a proposed telecommunications facility consisting of a 45-meter tall self-support tower and ancillary radio equipment situated on private land at the Valemount Industrial Park south of Valemount, BC in the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

COORDINATES: 52.802754, -119.246348.

ANY PERSON may comment by close of business day on October 19th, 2020 with respect to this matter.

TELUS CONTACT: Further information can be obtained by contacting:
Brian Gregg, SitePath Consulting Ltd.
2528 Alberta Street, Vancouver, BC V5Y 3L1
Email: briangregg@sitepathconsulting.com

SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS

therockymountaingoat.com/subscribe

School zones are back in effect, slow down!

By ANDRU McCracken

Has it already been 6 months since students started staying home from school due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic? Starting Tuesday, September 8th school zone speed and safety enforcement will begin again and the BC RCMP have reminders for students, drivers and guardians of their responsibilities to keep everyone safe.

This year's return to school will be different from all others, with many schools and school districts having varying start and end times. Drivers will have to be extra vigilant when travelling in school zones, as students may be picked up or dropped off at unconventional times depending on the school's efforts to limit students in class rooms.

Drivers should be extra careful when approaching crosswalks as students may be distracted by putting on masks, and may not be as careful when crossing at crosswalks, or designated areas. Pedestrians should always stay alert when crossing streets and watch for traffic even if you have the right of way!

It's a great idea to wear brightly coloured clothing or put reflective decals on bags & backpacks, especially once it starts to get dark earlier. Being seen as early as possible by a driver can allow them time to slow down and allow you to cross safely.

The BC RCMP wishes all students, staff, parents and guardians a safe and healthy 2020-2021 school year!

New titles in store!

NON-FICTION

THE GOLDEN SPRUCE

A true story of myth, madness and greed
(2005 Governor General's Literary Award winner)

KIDS

KIDS' TRAVEL JOURNAL

Record special memories, funny moments, weird events

NON-FICTION

ORIGINAL HIGHWAYS: Travelling the Great Rivers of Canada In 16 portraits

Roy MacGregor weaves together a story of Canada and its rivers, including the Fraser River.

The

RMG

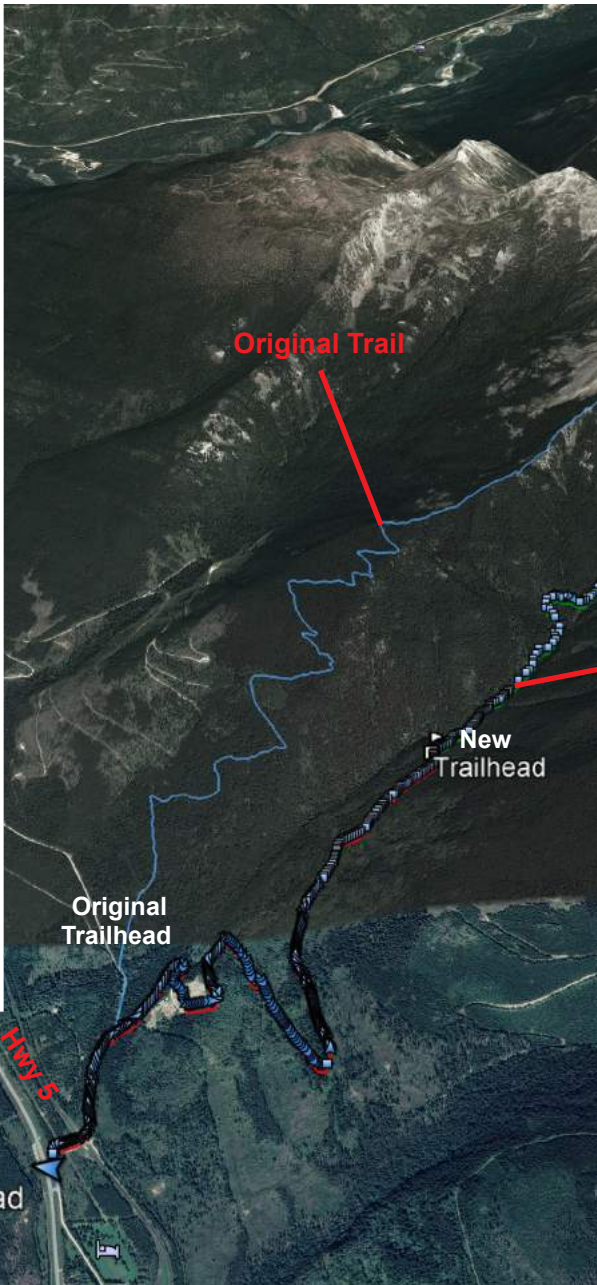
Bookstore

To order a book
email laurashere@gmail.com
Located at 1170 5th Avenue, Valemount, B.C.
ACROSS FROM THE IGA DOWNTOWN



YORA members Art Carson and Patricia Thoni celebrate the new hiking trail to Mt Terry Fox from atop “Big Rock”

New Mount



The Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association (YORA) would like to send out a huge thank you to the Valemount Community Forest (VCF) for the help they have given us over the years.

The 5-Mile Road would not be what it is today if it wasn't for the collaboration, support, donations and many complementary gradings which have made this road a more pleasant drive for those going to YORA's trailheads. Mountain bikers are also appreciative of the improved road for their shuttling.

As well, generous contributions have been made to improve the Swift Mtn. Road and the road to the new Mt Terry Fox Trail. The improvement of these roads will make access to these highly valued hikes more accessible to the general public.

The ski tourers would also like to give VCF a shout out for plowing parking spots when they are logging in the Westridge area.

BY ARTICLE PRINTED IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH YORA

The Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association (YORA) is excited to announce they have received approval to develop a new trail to the summit of Mt Terry Fox via Teepee Creek, as the existing trail is very steep and dry.

The idea to look at an alternate access to the summit came about when some YORA members were cutting the never-ending deadfall from the existing Terry Fox Trail. While on a break at the viewpoint, they noticed some old logging roads across the valley that might possibly allow higher elevation trailhead and access to Mount Terry Fox via the Teepee Creek drainage. Four years and a whole lot of bushwhacking later, that possibility is becoming a reality.

In addition to the summit trail to Mount Terry Fox, there is a trail which takes hikers to a couple of lovely alpine lakes. Both routes feature gurgling alpine streams, beautiful wildflower meadows and great views.

The trails are currently rough-flagged routes with bushy sections, lots of steep hill terrain and an un-bridged creek crossing. YORA is not sure at this time how long it will take to develop the trail to a higher standard, as YORA is just starting to look into potential grants and/or fundraising options.

The new trail is shorter and has less elevation gain than the original trail. From trailhead to peak and back, the old trail took hikers 10-12 hours to complete. The new trail will take less time and, like the original, does not have any technical climbing sections.

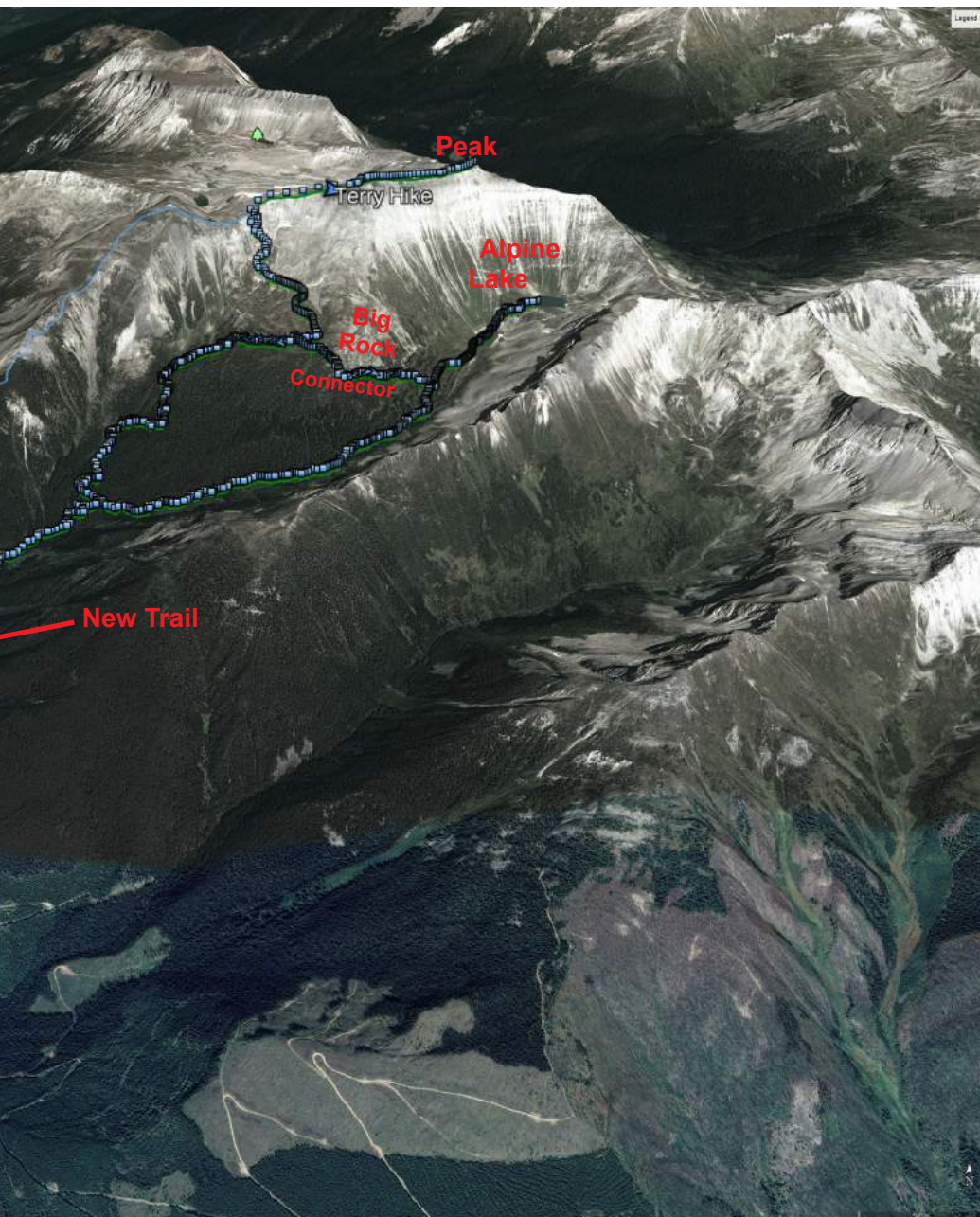
Thanks to funding from the Resort Municipality Initiative program through the Town of Valemount, and a generous contribution from the Valemount Community Forest, the access road to the trailhead was rebuilt and graded, and a regular 2-wheel-drive vehicle should have no problem driving to the trailhead.

Since the annual fundraising Mt Terry Fox Trek was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, YORA is looking for ways to raise funds for the trail development.

STAY UP
Subscri

250-566-4606 / bil

Terry Fox Hiking Trail



The above map shows the original Terry Fox trail and the roughed-in new trail which forks off to an alpine lake about halfway through and later rejoins it via a “connector trail,” as shown on the map above. /MAP CREATED BY RMG

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COVID-19,
YORA is
planning a hike
on the new trail.
This year marks the 40th
Anniversary of the Terry Fox
Marathon of Hope and the tagline is
“TryLikeTerry,” so we thought it would
be fitting to “try” to hike to the summit of the
mountain named in his honour. There will be two
options: the summit of Mt Terry Fox which will be a
very full day, or a second shorter hike to a spot in the alpine
called “Big Rock.”
The hike is planned for Sunday September 13th. If you would like
to participate in either hike, please call Patricia Thoni at 250-566-8244 for
more information. For those wishing to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation a
pledge sheet will be available the day of the hike, or donations can be dropped
off at the Caribou Grill.

P TO DATE
be today:
lingrmg@gmail.com



Financial Systems Staff Position

Since 2008, the Valemount Community Forest has become known as an efficient and progressive community forest model in British Columbia.

We are now looking for a reliable, self-motivated individual to work in the VCF office. The successful candidate will enjoy a balanced mix of office work.

Duties Include:

- General office administration for both the Valemount Community Forest LP and the Valemount Industrial Park LP
- Company accounting/payroll/financial systems
- Working under a safe certified system
- Working under an Environmental Management System

Ideal Candidate Qualities:

- Demonstrated excellence in written and oral communication
- A willingness to learn; energetic with a positive attitude
- Ability to foster an effective teamwork environment
- Accounting experience; SAGE software program an asset
- Ability to prioritize workload, multitask and manage time effectively
- Excellent computer skills

Applicants will send a resume, a cover letter with contact details and references, in confidence to: Craig Pryor, Manager, Valemount Community Forest LP
c/o P.O. Box 1017, Valemount, BC. V0E 2Z0, cpryor@valemountcommunityforest.ca,
no later than September 21, 2020.

Thank you for your interest; however, only those applicants invited for an interview will be contacted.



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deadline to book your ad.
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proof your ad.**



**If you're a new business, get in touch with
Deanna to make sure you are included. You
can reach her at dmickelow@gmail.com or
250-566-3152**

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Local Chinook Salmon listed as endangered... before Big Bar slide



BY ANDRU MCCrackEN

In 2018 the Committee on the status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada [COSEWIC] classified the Chinook salmon that spawn in the valley as endangered. And that was before the Big Bar slide of 2019 that blocked the Fraser River to an extent that challenged salmon returning to their streams that year.

Mayor Owen Torgerson was shocked that federal fisheries hadn't alerted the municipality that the local salmon were in such great peril. "From a municipal standpoint it is well outside our jurisdiction but

[...] when news like this becomes available we need to have a chat," he said.

Torgerson said he would follow up with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, when a species is classified as endangered it can invoke a sweeping regulatory regime that mandates action to restore the species. In special circumstances it can be done unilaterally without consideration of local economic impacts.

"Honestly if they are on the endangered species list, [the Species At Risk Act] could be activated much like the caribou has," said Torgerson.

"We need to remain proactive and build back up those relationships [with DFO]."

COSEWIC gives the reason for designation as a decline in abundance.

"Declines in marine and freshwater habitat quality, and harvest, are threats facing this population. Anticipated changes to North Pacific weather systems that affect groundwater availability, will impact spawning sites and overwinter survival."

JUNIOR CANADIAN RANGERS Registration 2020-2021

For children aged 12 -18 years old.
Revised format for this season to adhere to COVID Regulations.
Please contact one of the following people to make a registration appointment for **Saturday September 19th** to provide signatures and copies of your child's ID:

SHERI GEE: rgr.sheri.gee@gmail.com or 250-566-3777
EUGENE JAMIN: eugene.jamin@gmail.com or 250-566-1374
EMILY CANNON: ecannon@ualberta.ca or 250-566-5200

PARENTS please let them know if you are interested in volunteering. Thanks!



Gardening with Pete

More on Green Manure

Even though I have mentioned it in previous columns, I think it is time to remind all you good readers about the importance of using "green manure" to protect and cover bare soil in the garden. If soil is left bare and exposed to the sun and wind, there is a good chance that you are losing a good bit of the organic material that keeps the soil population of worms and beneficial bacteria happy.

It is the action of these little creatures that make nutrients available for the plants that supply us with our food and flowers. If there is not a constant supply of compost, manure and other organic materials, the plants will soon run out of food and become weak and sickly. This is when the diseases and insects move in to get rid of the weak plants.

In late summer and early fall, as many of the crops are harvested, areas of the garden are left "with their bare soil hanging out"! That is the time to cover, cover, and cover!

Even small weeds can be considered green manure if they are turned under before they go to seed, but the two main crops used in this area are buckwheat and fall rye. However, many gardeners use barley, oats, clover and other crops to cover the bare soil and add humus to the garden.

The buckwheat is really good in the spring and early summer as it is a really fast grower and tends to smother out the weeds before they can get established. However, at this time of the year, fall rye is by far the best choice.

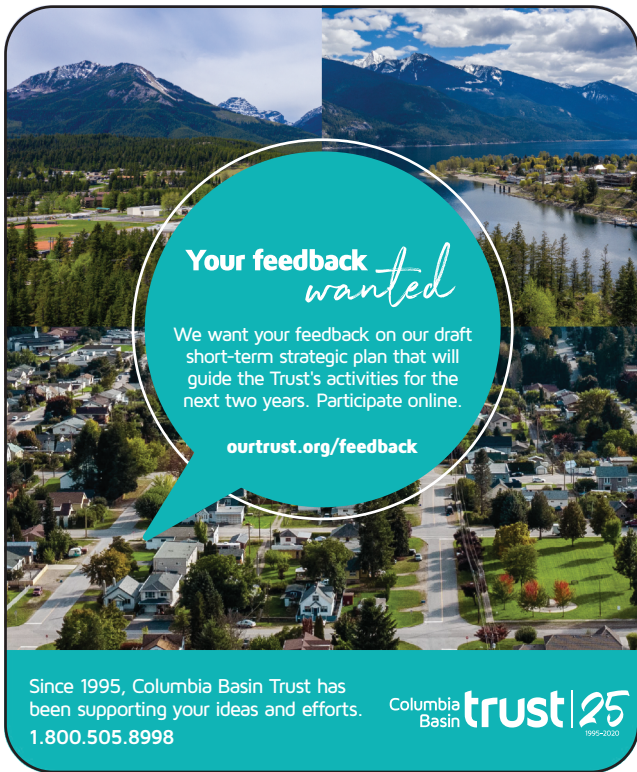
If sowed between now and the middle of October, it will germinate and get growing before the frost hits and then in the spring will come back to life and put on a great spurt of growth before the middle of May. The fall growth will also tend to keep the soil warmer and let the worms and other organisms continue to break down the soil nutrients so they will be available as soon as your seeds and plants go in the ground in the spring.

Before planting, you can either till or just rake the area and broadcast the fall rye seed quite thickly. With enough moisture, it germinates in a matter of days. It will grow until heavy frosts and lie dormant throughout the winter. As soon as the snow goes and the ground thaws in the spring, growth will start again. Around the first of May, you can run through the green manure crop with the lawnmower and mulch all the top growth leaving it spread on the garden. Then about two to four weeks before you intend to plant, till under the tops and plants on a dry sunny day so they will not take root again. A few may survive the tilling, but they are easily pulled. Don't leave the tilling under until the last minute before planting. Studies have found that fall rye gives off a germination inhibitor (stops germination of seeds) for a few weeks after it is tilled under. Try to leave two to three weeks between tilling under the fall rye and planting your seeds.

It is good to get in the habit of thinking "green manure" whenever you see a patch of bare garden soil.



Pete Amyoony 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.



Your feedback wanted

We want your feedback on our draft short-term strategic plan that will guide the Trust's activities for the next two years. Participate online.

ourtrust.org/feedback

Since 1995, Columbia Basin Trust has been supporting your ideas and efforts.

1.800.505.8998

Columbia Basin **trust** | 25

Jupiter Truth Quest

A longing for the truth is part and parcel with human DNA. We set sail to find the truth about what's on the other side of the ocean. We blast off for the truth about moon rocks and develop a Large Hadron Collider to learn the truth about subatomic particles. We often believe we have nailed those truths only to learn years later how wrong we were. All we can do is try. Jupiter goes direct this week, offering small prizes for the effort.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). All energy goes somewhere. Try and stop energy by meeting it directly, and you just might sprain a wrist. Try redirection instead. Much can be changed with a simple, observant, well-timed move. Is your aggressor coming at you in a headlong charge? A sidestep alters destiny, and the charger falls face first.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In the dark night, a small flame can be seen from miles away. And yet, at a greater distance, warmth and light will be swallowed up by the deep darkness. It is necessary at times to protect your brilliance by keeping it hidden until your fire is hot enough and big enough to combat the measure of darkness it will face.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you get stuck, return to motive. Ask yourself about what you are trying to accomplish. One outcome could be produced by a number of different motives, but it is the motive, and not the outcome, that matters. Intention has a vibration. How a thing gets to the destination is much more important than its arrival.

CANCER (June 22-July



22). Free yourself from the tyranny of your own unreasonable expectations. Why should you demand yourself to do and be so much more than you'd ask of your dear ones? You may think it counterintuitive, but your success will depend on greater self-compassion and a relaxed approach.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You

think you know yourself. Though, this week, you might be caught off-guard by how little you can actually speak to your own preferences. Are they really what you like, or are they just the things you've ranked a tick higher out of the small sampling of a limited experience? Gather more experience to find out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To have a superfan is most excellent -- a gift, an annoyance, a challenge, an extraordinary ego-boost. A superfan sees you in a particular way, which prevents the clarity that objectivity and nonattachment can provide. In short, supporters are wondrous, but they are the wrong people to ask for honest feedback.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Decisions will be as dramatic or subtle as your approach. You can rock back, forth and all over the place between options or make a choice and live with the consequences. There is no correct way, but there's a faster and less emotional way if you really want to make a clean escape to the next page.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be increasingly awake to how the order and timing of events matters. The very same expression can be

taken as approval or disapproval depending on context. Timing can be the difference between a reward and a request, a punishment and an opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Everything vibrates at a frequency -- people, things and places. To be in a place that is vibrating at the same frequency as your soul is invigorating. While you can also thrive in an environment that is mismatched with your frequency, a sense of hope and possibility is magically alive in a more resonant place.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Here it comes, the vague notion that something needs to be done, followed by a strong instinct about precisely what, and by whom. Before you know it, you realize that this job is all yours -- not because it squarely lands in your jurisdiction, or even your expertise, but because you are the one it chose.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This week's deal includes an emotional variety pack. What an excellent time to remind yourself that feelings are neither wrong nor right, and it's healthy to experience whichever kind comes to you. The skill to develop is one of processing, regulating and expressing your emotional self for the health and benefit of all.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's natural to assume that the people we like are more or less the same as us, with similar strengths and abilities. Just because a lot of people have a certain set of life skills doesn't mean everyone does. You will do what the less self-aware find impossible. You'll drop your assumptions and really get to know a person.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: You'll set your mind to the task of imagining a world you want to live inside. Your vision has power. Through the next 12 months, you'll see detail after detail come together reflecting that world. Relationships will grow in trust, intimacy and fun. The closer you get to another person, the easier it will be to lighten up. The same is true of taking on a subject of study or a skill. The more you know, the easier it is to be playful, experimental and, ultimately, brilliant at the thing.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.
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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.



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Answers on P13

Across

- Likely
- City transport
- Conductor
- Not either
- Time span
- Catch
- Ice
- Most jubilant
- Fashionable
- Where trash goes
- Broke off
- Smelter input
- Cash alternative
- Begone
- Listeners
- Chief
- YMCA offering
- Recipe direction
- Glass container
- Varieties
- Most melodious
- Glacier material
- Imply
- "I told you so!"
- Definite article
- Breaks off
- Feeling blue
- "Matthew and ___" Cat Stevens song

Down

- Aardvark fare
- Whitman, for one
- Service platter
- It sets very hard
- Live
- Family reunion activity, perhaps
- Pocket change
- Score on an aced hole
- The "I" in T.G.I.F.
- Realtor's offering
- Relieve
- Minus
- Feelings of anxiety
- Be indebted to
- Farm animal
- Artist's asset
- Hanging place
- Stretched out
- Common tattoo spot
- Military corps
- Praised, in a way
- Was ensconced
- Hot tub features
- Peach or cherry centers
- Comeback of a sort
- Gone out with
- Ewe or sow
- Victory
- Cease all action
- Yellow, for one

THE TOUGHIE

by Myles Mellor

Answers on P19

Across

- Letter ender?
- King or jet
- Fore-and-aft sail
- Yellowfin tuna
- Gumbo goody
- Iroquois tribe
- Child of your unc
- School sound
- End a phone call
- Singers of a kind
- "___, Baker, Charlie"
- Hoisted, as a sail
- Someone who provokes
- Outside dining area
- NYSE banner events
- Jewish mo.

- It's difficult to figure out
- Mayberry man
- Pack down
- Titled again
- Narrow strip of land bordered by water on both sides
- Linear
- Macbeth's burial place
- Where to see Yanni or Chic Corea
- Time to spare
- U.S. coin word
- "___ the Season"
- Tell
- Actor, Gooding

- Party time, maybe
- Sylph-like
- "Magnet and Steel" singer Walter
- ___ Moines Register

Down

- Video game
- One of the friends on "Friends"
- Steakhouse sound
- Timber wolf
- Manages, with "out"
- "Alice's Restaurant" singer ___ Guthrie
- "The Honeymooners" character

- Southwest desert that includes Death Valley
- A little more silly
- Paradoxical Greek
- Turns sharply
- College internet address ending
- Time out?
- Last letter, in London
- Spoil
- Rapper prefix
- Prefix with dermis
- Actor-director Howard
- Southern soldier
- "___ for one and one for ___" Three

- Musketeers cry
- Ball director
- Shade tree
- Military rank, abbr.
- ___ favor (please, in Spanish)
- Colorado natives
- Californian wine, popularly
- Actress Gabor's first name(s)
- ___ gow poker
- Classified abbr.
- Be decisive
- "The Impresario" composer
- Pepsin, e.g.

- Dict. offering
- Immune system virus
- Ditched a castle
- Have a day over again?
- Disrespects
- Low card in poker
- Spanish chief
- Gone from the company, maybe
- Cozy
- Big brass
- Model who wed David Bowie
- Calais lily
- Postal delivery, abbr.

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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	A	P	T	4	C	A	B	7	C	O	I	L
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14	T	E	A	15	M	E	R	16	R	I	E	S
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TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	P	P	S	2	L	E	A	R	3	M	I	Z	Z	E	N
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FRIs Valemount Family Place- (0-5 years with their caregiver) is now in-person for the month of September, not on Zoom. Call 1-844-324-2004 to attend new and exciting themes each week in both communities. Social distancing protocols will be enforced.

SUNs, ongoing, **Pancake Breakfast** has returned to the Valemount Legion! 8am-11am. By donation. Social distancing and COVID-10 protocols in place.

SAT/SUN Oct. 24 & 25 - CORE Hunter Training - Cost: \$220.00 + GST = \$231.00. Please call 250 566 4601 to register Valemount Learning Center.

MCBRIDE

WED. **McBride Family Place-** (0-5 years with their caregiver) is now in-person for the month of September, not on Zoom. Call 1-844-324-2004 to attend new and exciting themes each week in both communities. Social distancing protocols will be enforced.

SAT Sept 26th, 11 to 4. Join us for the first ever **Dome Creek Fall Market** Located at both the hall and rec centre, we will have new and used yard sale items, fresh veggies and eggs, home baking, crafts, Watkins, Epicure, and more. Tacos-in-a-bag and pop available for purchase. Epicure fund-raiser for our McBride neighbours affected by the mud-slide (contact Robin Levant for more info.) We are looking for more vendors! If you'd like to set up a table, please contact Kaitlyn Svistovski (on FB) or Laura Trimble (at latrimble@outlook.com). ***Please practice COVID-19 guidelines.

DUNSTER FOCUS

Tell us about your favourite Dunster hike. Or consider writing a short poem about your favourite Dunster place. Maybe a sketch of some wild flowers or wild animals. **The Dunster Fine Arts School Society** is still collecting Dunster Stories & Such for our Fundraiser Book. We would love you to share your Dunster Memories! Email submissions to gridless@hotmail.com

A place for health care complaints

By ANDRU McCracken

If you have a complaint about the health care you have received the best thing you can do is to speak with the person providing the service or a manager at the time, but, if your complaint is not dealt with, the province has a mechanism for registering and dealing with health care complaints.

“Complaints are best addressed and resolved at the time and place they occur. If we have not met your expectations, we are committed to working with you to find a reasonable solution,” according to the Northern Health’s Patient Care Quality Office.

If your complaint continues to be unresolved, you can contact the Patient Care Quality Office itself at 1-877-677-7715 or by email: patientcarequalityoffice@northernhealth.ca.

The Patient Care Quality Office’s job is to formally register your complaint and work with you to identify a reasonable resolution to the concern.

They will also provide you with a response to your complaint and an explanation about any decisions and actions taken as a result of your complaint.

It is possible to call on behalf of a family member if you can demonstrate that you have their consent.

If you still aren’t satisfied you can contact the Patient Care Quality Review Board. The board is composed of residents in Northern Health who are independent of the health authority.

COMMUNITY FARMERS’ MARKET INFORMATION

DUNSTER

Location: Dunster Community Hall
Dates and Time: Saturdays from July 11 - end of September, from 11am-1pm
Vendors: The Dunster farmers market does not have a regular list of vendors, but there are typically a handful of farmers, gardeners and bakers. There is no fee to sell at the market, and ample space for drop-in vendors.
Market Manager: Pete Amyoony, 250 968 4334, peteam@telus.net, or Loretta Simpson at 250 968 4453

VALEMOUNT

Location: Field beside Valemount Visitor Information Centre and Village Office
Dates and Time: Thursdays from June 18 - September 27, from 4pm - 7pm
Vendors: Regular vendors include Balsam Ranch: vegetables and meat; Crooked Creek Farm: vegetables, canned goods and plants; Maria Lerch: vegetables, baking, canned goods, plants; Grace’s Wild Things: canned goods and other foodstuffs made from local wild plants; Robson Valley Gourmet Mushrooms: specialty mushrooms; Vale Coffee Roasters: locally roasted coffee beans; Deb’s Meat Pies: frozen pre-made meat pies; as well as many other vendors are often present on a drop-in basis.
Market Manager: Christine Peltier, 250 566 3766, valemountmarket@outlook.com

MCBRIDE

Location: Pavilion at Steve Kolida Village Park
Dates and Time: Fridays from July 3 - September 11, from 11am - 2pm
Vendors: Jackie Edwards: home canning and veggies; Leigh Jackson: veggies; Barb Baer: veggies; Rose Birky: home baked goodies; Yann Assamat/Roots and Thyme: sourdough breads; Sarah Simonton, crafts; Dorothy Simpson: plants. Not everyone will be there every week but updates will be posted on Facebook.
Market Manager: Jackie Edwards at 250 569 7101 or jackie.c.edwards@gmail.com

NH: A formal complaint would be investigated

By ANDRU McCracken

The Rocky Mountain Goat News has been working on a follow up on a distressing account from Dale Felton about his wife’s medical treatment when she experienced a stroke.

In August, Felton wrote a letter to this newspaper that the response to his wife’s stroke was slow and disorganized.

“We waited around for a long time, but there was not a doctor on call to come and see her,” said Felton.

He believes she could have received a clot-busting shot that could have helped reduce the impact of the stroke. Northern Health has said they are unable to comment on or discuss individual patient circumstances for privacy reasons.

After waiting in Valemount, Felton said they were sent to McBride, with the same result:

“There was no doctor on call to see her and give her a shot,” reported Felton. “Then they send us on our way to Prince George.”

Felton said there was confusion and a delay about which ambulance to take her.

“By the time we got to Prince George, the window to receive the clot-busting shot was closed. It was too dangerous by then to give it to her,” said Felton. “What kind of system do we have in this town that could let that happen? Where were the doctors on call? Did they even get called? Did they not respond to the call?”

Eryn Collins, Regional Manager, Public Affairs & Media Relations said that while she could not comment on the specific case, doctor coverage is and has been solid.

“I can share that the Robson Valley has had (and continues to have) physician-on-call coverage on a continuous basis; there have been no gaps in that coverage,” said Collins.

Collins said that a complaint to local administration or the Northern Health’s Patient Care Quality Office would be followed up on with the individuals concerned.

Felton says they deserve answers.



Maddisyn swept the prizes in the 13-15yr old category for largest rainbow 4.91lbs, largest kokanee, and grande aggregate. The 39th annual family fishing derby was held at the Kinabasket Lake Marina September 5&6 2020.

Maddisyn Smith wins **BIG** at Valemount Fishing Derby



By TRISH DUNN

The 39th Annual Family Fishing Derby was held at the Kinbasket Lake Marina September 5 and 6th. Maddisyn Smith won a bevy of prizes including the 13-15 year old category for Largest Rainbow at 4.91lbs, the Largest Kokanee .45lbs, and Grand Aggregate 13.38lbs.

Aaron Dyck won in the coarse fish category with a fish weighing 1.88lbs.

Youngest Fisher Boy went to Shane Lewis 3 years old with a Kokanee weighing .38lbs.

Youngest Fishing Girl went to Myla Ryder 16 months with a Rainbow Trout weighing .96lbs.

In the 6 years and under category Nora Fox won for Largest Rainbow at 2.25lbs.

Largest Kokanee went to Shane Lewis at .38lbs.

Grand Aggregate went to Nora Fox 2.25lbs.

7 to 12 years old category winners are Mica Pelletier Largest Rainbow 2.85lbs.

Largest Kokanee Jaycee Towers .32lbs.

Grand Aggregate Mica Pelletier 8.52lbs.

Ladies Largest Rainbow went to Courtney Lewis 1.84lbs.

Grand Aggregate Erika Dewey 5.84lbs.

Men's Largest Rainbow Tad Dennis 3.77lbs.

Largest Kokanee was a Tie between Keven Baggett and Fitz Plamondon .54lbs.

Grand Aggregate is Ron Hunchuk 5.00lbs.

Hidden weight was won by Erica Dewey with a fish weighing 1.78lbs.

Overall winners were Largest Rainbow Maddisyn Smith 4.91lbs.

Largest Kokanee Keven Baggett and Fitz Plamondon at .54lbs.

Grand Aggregate Maddisyn Smith 13.38lbs.

Congratulations to all the winners.

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COVID-19 protocols in place. For more info:
Michael Peters 250-566-8288 or tv@vctv.ca.



You're invited to our virtual **Annual General Meeting**

September 18, 2020

4 to 5 p.m. PT/5 to 6 p.m. MT

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