Pump the rainbow

As if having a pump track in his front yard on Dogwood Street wasn’t cool enough, Aleks Kowalski built a wall ride against his shed. His partner, Kelsey Brick, painted the rainbow. It’s a symbol of solidarity with the LGBTQ2+ community. Each time Kowalski makes a lap he chooses a colour on the wall and tries to ride. Here, he’s riding red. /ANDRU MCCRACKEN

Resucitated three times
STUART MCKIRDY LIVES

BY ANDRU MCCRACKEN

Against the odds, Stuart McKirdy is alive. McKirdy was found in an alley behind Cranberry Place, his body black and blue and his face unrecognizable on July 10th. Police attended the scene and an investigation is underway. McKirdy has no memory of what happened to him. “I don’t have a clue. I woke up dead,” he said. McKirdy said he was resuscitated three times, a claim backed up by officials. “I guess I died three times,” he said. McKirdy believes he was intentionally beaten and left for dead, but has no memory of a
Stuart Lives... Cont’d from A1

fight or altercation. What we know for sure is that McKirdy was in a terrible accident in the weeks before. He was passing another vehicle around a corner and he flipped his van upside down in the middle of the road. He did not go to the hospital after the incident. He said he’s walked away from worse.

Days later he was found in an alley in Cranberry Place by his brother and a neighbour and shipped to the hospital.

“It was about a week, week and a half before I even realized I was in a hospital,” he said. He has had a number of skin grafts done and has been on dialysis for kidney failure. He said it will be some time before he can come home.

“It will be another 2 weeks. I can lift my left leg, but I can’t sit up,” he said.

McKirdy is a year away from retiring. When asked what has kept him alive, he was quick to answer:

“I’ve got five grandchildren. Thank god for my mom and my brothers and sisters,” he said.

“I’m alive and kicking, and I’ll be back.”

Stuart McKirdy is conscious, online and reaching out to his friends in Valemount after a life and death ordeal.

/ANDRU MCCCRACKEN

NOW HIRING:
Trans Mountain Expansion Project

Fulltime positions in a wide variety of roles!

Contact us to apply or learn about available supports

WorkBC Valemount
jean@rvcsbc.org • (250) 566-9107
workbccentre-valemount.ca

ROBSON VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES

SEPTMBER PROGRAMMING

Some events are delivered via ZOOM. To join, please email events@rvcsbc.org or call 1-844-324-2506 to obtain the ZOOM link and password.

FAMILY PLACE

Join us outdoors and enjoy stories, songs, interactive games to do with your kids. New theme each week.

Wednesdays and Fridays: 9am-12pm

COVID FRAUDS & SCAMS WORKSHOP

SENIORS FIRST BC hosts this Zoom workshop on common scams, how to detect them and what to do if you suspect, or have been victimized by, fraud. Email events@rvcsbc.org to sign up.

PET COURSE

For McBride: Sept. 19 & 20 email charlene@rvcsbc.org
For Valemount: Sept. 26 & 27 email sherri@rvcsbc.org
$80.00 Non-Refunded. $80.00 Refunded

ADULT LEARNING ASSISTANCE

Need help with navigating adult learning platforms or beginning your online education? Call Jill at (250) 566-9107 or email jill@rvcsbc.org

RVCS AGM

Join us in the Valemount Classroom via Zoom. To attend, email sydney@rvcsbc.org for the Zoom link and password. September 21st 10am - 12pm via Zoom

HARVEST TIME

Join RVCS staff in the Valemount Community Garden located behind the highschool where you can help yourself to the bounty of produce. MidSeptember 12pm - 2pm

WorkBC...
Back-to-school: the new health and safety protocols

BY FRAN YANOR / LEGISLATIVE REPORTER

Students will have new health and safety protocols to embrace when they return to school in September, but Robson Valley high school students will face less change than their peers elsewhere in the district, said Prince George School District Superintendent Anita Richardson.

Most other high schools in SD57 will shift from two semesters a year to four, with only two classes per semester, but McBride and Valemount high schools will keep the two-semester structure.

“The two high schools will have a regular semester timetable,” said Richardson following the release of the SD57 guidelines last week. “It’ll look like a regular school year.”

Learning Groups (Cohorts)

Under the Ministry of Education back to school plan, students and teachers will belong to learning groups and primarily interact with each other for the semester or year. Learning groups limit interactions to the same people every day, allow students greater freedom with those in their group, and give public health fewer close contacts to trace should someone in the group test positive for COVID-19.

Elementary school learning groups will be limited to a maximum of 60 people. Students in the same class will belong to the same cohort, and may spend lunch and recess with another class within the same learning group. High school learning groups will have a maximum of 120 people. At McBride and Valemount secondary schools where the total enrolment is less than 120, the whole school will make up a single cohort.

Within a learning group, social distancing won’t be required, although physical contact will be minimized. Hand-washing hygiene, high-touch surface disinfection, and contact tracing will be maintained.

Masks

Little kids are less able to distance than adults and teenagers, and they’re less likely to wear masks appropriately. Under the new school protocols, elementary school students won’t be expected to do either within their learning groups.

There’s nothing wrong with wearing masks, but they are usually the last line of defense in terms of preventing the spread of COVID, said Dr. Rakel Kling, medical health officer with Northern Health during a Prince George District Parent Advisory Council webinar. “But we’re definitely advising that the older kids, especially the teenage level…to still maintain that six feet of distance.”

Testing

All students and educators who develop symptoms should consider getting tested. Knowing if someone has tested positive helps prevent the virus spread, particularly in schools. That said, testing is not mandatory; it’s a choice.

For those who test positive and are well enough to recuperate at home, quarantine usually lasts 10 days from the onset of symptoms. Most can return to work or school even if minor symptoms persist past the 10 days.

Public health officials will monitor each case and decide when an individual can come out of isolation.

Home schooling or remote learning

Parents with concerns about returning their children to in-class learning should contact their school administrators directly.

Keeping perspective

“We need to be prepared to expect this in our schools,” said Kling. Every fall and winter, public health officials implement protocols to reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses and communicable diseases – measles, pertussis, gastrointestinal diseases, chicken pox, influenza, and now, COVID.

“It’s at the point in BC and Canada now where we can’t keep every person COVID-free,” said Kling. “I think it’s important that we normalize that.”

“Hand hygiene

Hand washing or hand sanitizing stations will be available at school entrances, in hallways and classrooms. Additional stations will be added throughout schools as needed.

Sharing school supplies

No more group party food treats or swapping snacks with each other at lunch hour. Students can share school supplies that can be sanitized, and textbooks should be fine for sharing, said Kling.

“Theoretically there’s absolutely no evidence that COVID is spread via paper books.”

Implementing a combination of measures at each level will reduce the risk of COVID-19, according to COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings. Graphic courtesy of BCCDC

McBride, BC V0J 2E0

With input from healthcare professionals, Prince George School District has outlined the following health and safety measures for schools.

• The Hierarchy for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease

• Public Health Measures

Includes hand washing, hand sanitizing, surface disinfection, and contact tracing.

• Environmental Measures

Includes being outdoors, physical barriers, visual cues for traffic flow and more frequent cleaning and disinfection.

• Administrative Measures

Includes changes in scheduling and work practices, health and wellness policies, and planning students and staff in cohorts.

• Personal Measures

Includes wearing a mask when sick, maintaining physical distance, minimizing physical contact and hand hygiene.

• Personal Protective Equipment

Includes gloves and masks.

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.

The ideal candidate will possess:

• A post-secondary degree in a related discipline and/or a certificate in local government administration.

• 5 years’ experience in a municipal government environment at the Chief Administrative Officer or Senior Management level or equivalent experience in a related field.

• Familiar with legal processes and responsibilities affecting the execution of duties.

• Significant knowledge of the Community Charter, Local Government Act, FOIPPA legislation and other applicable Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations.

• Proven organization and managerial ability in a municipal setting.

• Valid BC Driver’s license.

• Strong interpersonal and communication skills with a commitment to teamwork and customer service.

• Proficient computer skills such as: Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Muniware.

• Strong financial acumen.

• Flexible and creative problem-solving skills.

• Strong leadership and supervisory skills.

• Ability to deal effectively and courteously with the public.

• Strong work ethic; ability to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends.

• Ability to work with minimal supervision.

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: Chief Administrative Officer Village of McBride PO Box 519 McBride, BC V0J 2E0 Email: cao@mcbride.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.
I’ve pretty much given up on social media as a sort of vehicle that, by its very existence would somehow help humanity. As it turns out, it’s mostly just a massive timesuck eating away at what is real, and devouring what’s most precious: time. Social media is an endless well of half-truths and flat out lies we like to tell ourselves, a dangerous way to organize ourselves into bubbles, classes, marketing segments. Our profiles there are a projection of the life we really wish we were living. In reality we are glued to our devices losing much of our connection to reality. If the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche was made to suffer through this age, he would have probably ranked social media lower than religion... and he didn’t like religion very much.

But recently, with the help of a friend I stumbled across one teenagers light on the internet: the BC Whiskey Wizards. There I found grown men sharing their fear, anguish, rage and helplessness. If there is one thing that is notably missing in the boundaryless age of social media it is actual sharing.

The BC Whiskey Wizards’ feed on Facebook puts a new twist on something as old as time. Here, men post the things that have got them down, what’s got them worried, what they are struggling with, what they’ve done about it, and sometimes how their actions have failed. Sometimes they are just venting, wanting to be heard. Sometimes they are asking for advice. Sometimes they are just grieving a loss or a partner or a friendship. What unites all of these things in the weird little world of wizards is this: None of these things are supposed to be talked about.

Most of us guys are counselled hard from an early age never to talk about what’s weighing on them, our fears, or our weaknesses. But, maybe in the same way we can type such awkward comments on the most mundane things without considering other people’s feelings, social media allows some guys to type out what is actually on their minds and hearts without a filter.

It’s not that this is the first time someone has ever attempted to provide solace to guys or to get them to talk about what’s weighing on them, our fears, or our weaknesses.

But, maybe in the same way we can type such awkward comments on the most mundane things without considering other people’s feelings, social media allows some guys to type out what is actually on their minds and hearts without a filter.

One dad of a four year old asked how if the “F” could he get his four year old to sleep and I was in the middle of typing an answer (I also have a four year old at home) and I suddenly realized, I don’t have a bleeping chance to ‘get stoned and drunk before bed.’

Getting answers
Like anything, your mileage will vary. There is an awful lot of, ehm, un-professional advice. The answers on ‘how do I get to sleep’ range from ‘read a book’ to ‘get stoned and drunk before bed.’

If Nietzsche were alive for this one, I’m thinking he’d be getting a lot of relationship advice and even better I’ll bet some dudes would drop off a basket of whiskey and weed.

Mansplaining here comes with the territory. But even though all the answers aren’t genius, the fact that men of my generation are getting the opportunity to say what it is that is grinding on them? That’s new. If Nietzsche were alive for this one, I’m thinking he’d be getting a lot of relationship advice and even better I’ll bet some dudes would drop off a basket of whiskey and weed.

He and his friend accidently built something really big. As big as a hot tub time machine. Every once in a while, the internet spits out another gamechanger. Wikipedia was one in my books (hey it’s not perfect, but it’s pretty damn good). This is another.

The fact that the program got started by guys who thought it would be cool to have a bottle of whiskey and a couple joints show up on their doorstep once in a while is a big reason the project has merit.
Trudeau says he was ‘not in a position of conflict of interest’— In fact, he was…

There are eight Turks for every Greek, so you might think the Greeks have to fold. But Greece has the backing of France, Italy, Israel, Egypt, and practically every other country in the eastern Mediterranean and the Arab world, as well as the entire European Union, so it has just called the bet and raised it.

This poker game is all about rival claims to seabed rights. So it’s a Greek sea, really— but Turkey refuses to accept that. In defiance of both traditional maritime law and the 1982 United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea, Ankara insists that the Greek islands do not generate their own seabed rights. It claims that they are a body of water that belongs to Turkey. This is an uphill struggle, because the two countries have warred twice and the other NATO members are now trying hard to extend its territorial waters in the Ionian Sea from six to twelve miles. The Ionian Sea, between western Greece and Italy, is not the Aegean, between eastern Greece and Turkey. In the Aegean, both Greece and Turkey still observe the old Law of the Sea which—irregular as it is—implies that the two countries have disputed territory over which they will not in any way be influenced by my relationship to Arthur. Portia may well feel a need to reciprocate for the favours he’s done for her. Reciprocity is a deep human need we all experience.

Conflict of interest does not require that bias actually occur, only that there is reason to fear that bias may be present. The risk of bias, not the exercise of bias, is what makes both our imaginary scenario and the WE Charity imbroglio real conflicts of interest. Even if Portia ultimately rules against Arthur and in favour of Justin and Bill, this would not show that she is innocent of conflict of interest. Nor would it matter if, in her heart of hearts, she was unaffected by Arthur’s beneficence. It was ethically impermissible for Portia to hear the case because the benefits she had received from Arthur were a risk factor for bias. Cabinet ministers, like judges, are required by law, as well as ethics, to avoid such situations. Thus, even if an independent inquiry establishes the truth of Prime Minister Trudeau’s claim that “WE Charity received no preferential treatment, not from me, not from anyone else”, it will still be the case that Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Morneau were guilty of conflict of interest. It’s time that cabinet members and those who advise them figured this out.

And last Thursday Greece declared that it was going to extend its territorial waters in the Ionian Sea from six to twelve miles. The Ionian Sea, between western Greece and Italy, is not the Aegean, between eastern Greece and Turkey. In the Aegean both Greece and Turkey still observe the old six-mile limit in practice, although it is unclear whether Turkey officially accepts it in theory. But Greece is signalling that it might go to twelve miles in the Aegean too, which would pretty well turn it into a Greek lake. Both Greece and Turkey joined NATO during the Cold War, and the other NATO members are now trying hard to ward off a conflict that could break the alliance. But it’s an uphill struggle, because the two countries have been enemies for a long time. There have been a number of Greek-Turkish crises since the Cyprus unpleasantness of 1973, none of which ended in war. This one probably wouldn’t either, but it’s going to come closer than any of the others did. Erdoğan sees his power slipping away, and he’s getting desperate.
The well isn’t dry, it’s gone

Colleen Shawara is happy that she only lost half an acre to the Dore River flood on June 23rd. When the high water swept down the Dore River, it changed the river’s course and swept away her well.

“When that one day it just took it all away,” she said. Now she and her husband are getting drinking water from a next door neighbor through a hose. “It brought in a lot of gravel and a lot of big trees,” she said. Shawara said that officials from the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations - Water Stewardship Division have been monitoring the river’s new course with a drone.

“It’s not the first flood on the Dore River of course. She was present for a big flood that took place in 1986. She wants to know whether the provincial or federal government can help them stabilize the banks to stop erosion. “We don’t want our land back, although there is enough gravel,” she said. Residents are concerned with log jams higher up on the Dore that haven’t yet broken free. “It’s not only the water we’re worried about. Over the years we have had ice jams as well,” she said. “It’s frightening.”

By ANDRU McCracken

Salmon Have Arrived!

2019 was a devastating year for Chinook salmon who spawn in Swift Creek due to a rock slide at Big Bar Creek. We are happy to announce that the rock slide has been cleared and the salmon have arrived. The salmon can be viewed for approximately the next week at the bridge and viewing platform located at George Hicks Park.

Visitor Information Centre

Valemount Visitor Information Centre is open:
• Monday – Friday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
• Closed for lunch from 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Every Wednesday is Local Discount Day, Locals receive 25% off merchandise; this excludes books, maps, and consignment items.

By ANDRU McCracken

Whiskey Wizards

When Tommy Gunn-Smith started thinking about a men’s version of Wine Ninjas or Wine Fairies, he was really just hoping to copy the program. The idea of someone anonymously dropping off a bottle of whiskey at his door during COVID-19 seemed like a great thing, but it didn’t take long for the idea to blossom into something completely different.

“There was something more needed there than just a whiskey basket. People actually needed help,” said Gunn-Smith. Soon they were helping other men find work and fill people’s homes with groceries. What no one saw coming is how the BC Whiskey Wizards created a space for what many men have been told never to do to ask for help.

“It’s a place where brothers reach out and help each other out,” he says. “People post about their problems.”

He says it’s sometimes it’s hard to express yourself without fear of judgment. “It’s hard being a man sometimes... society expects strength.”

During the day time, Gunn-Smith is a rod buster or rebar worker for Ironworkers Local 97 and he recently opened up his own demolition company. He’s married with four kids, three from his wife’s previous marriage and he has another on the way. “I was raised like any other man. Don’t whine. Don’t cry. Don’t ask for help. Just like thousands of men needed a group, so did I,” he said. Gunn-Smith said he’d often get into yelling matches with his wife. “We held our emotions until it’s time to break, I would just sit outside by myself until I blew up with all the feelings.”

Now he, and others like him, are posting what they’re going through. The problems range from quitting smoking to anxiety, many men post about unhappy or unfulfilling relationships, being dumped. Some of the time they seek advice, and at other times, they simply vent. Gunn-Smith and others moderate the forum, they don’t allow members to get down on each other. When someone posts something about an issue they are going through, lots of people post to say that they’ve been there and what they have done to cope, or even what hasn’t worked for them.

Gunn-Smith said he isn’t sure how far the group will go, but they are considering setting up a foundation to create a space for men, especially single fathers who find themselves without a place to be. In terms of numbers, it continues to grow. It currently sits at about 4,000.

“Everyday I got people joining, left, right and centre,” he said.

Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives

Program

• The Village would like to remind the non-profit organizations within the community that the 2021 CBT CIP/AAP intake is approaching. If you have a project that requires funding, please begin developing your project now to be ready when the application intake opens.

• The CBT CIP/AAP Adjudication Committee will need two members to fill vacant positions. If you are interested in sitting on the Adjudication Committee, please watch for the call for applications this fall.

Bid Contracts

The Village posts all bids on our Village Website and Facebook page. Bids are posted at www.valemount.ca/bid-contract. If enough time permits, we will advertise in the local newspaper and/or the Village Newsletter. For a project/purchase over a certain amount, the details will be posted on BC Bid.

You can register with BC Bid for notifications via e-mail of bid opportunities in the commodity groups and/or locations that you select when registering.
Blue River — and TNRD — get water meters

Water meters are currently being installed in homes in Blue River. According to the Thompson Nicola Regional District website there is a lot to be gained by switching to water meters. Overall, they say homes that are metered use 39% less than those that are not metered.

“When people become more aware of their water usage, they tend not to waste it, thereby reducing their overall water consumption,” according to the district website. “Water metering will also assist in identifying and isolating system leaks for repair. Leaks can constitute a significant portion of a community’s water consumption.”

High consumption shortens the operating life cycle of equipment and increases operating and replacement costs. The Regional District reports that despite system improvements, water conservation efforts and public education initiatives, the consumption of water has remained high. Metering will keep residents accountable, but they will also aid in detecting underground leaks.

“Expensive filtration systems will soon be required for systems served by surface water, and keeping consumption down will keep those costs down, too.” “This is in keeping with the TNRD’s mandate to meet Canadian Drinking Quality guidelines and Interior Health Authority standards for drinking water, and to keep costs down for water system customers.”

Land clearing progressed this week at the site of the planned 13-unit apartment complex on Juniper St., a project spearheaded by the Valemount Affordable Rentals Society (VARS). VARS board member Riette Kenkel said BC Housing would have an update on Sept 7th and until then she could not comment. /LAURA KEIL

Get your NUMBER in the BOOK!
THE ROBSON VALLEY AND AREA 2020/2021 TELEPHONE BOOK AND DIRECTORY is THE source for local business and home phone numbers. But we need your help! If you’d like a cell number included or a name that’s different from your Telus account, you need to call us or email us to let us know if you haven’t done so already.
Reach us via the following methods: email goatnewspaper@gmail.com, call 250-566-4606 and leave a message, or let Deanna know when you see her.
If you are a NEW business, get in touch to find out how to be included. If you’re an EXISTING business, we will call you soon about this year’s publication.
We are also looking for cover photos! Send us your best shot (We pay!)

Get your message out! Advertise in the Goat: 250-566-4606
A new home for the MacKinnons

An elderly couple in Dunster have a new home thanks to the generosity and kindness of a huge swath of people in the valley and beyond.

Ike and Lil MacKinnon have been married for 72 years and they lived in the same Glendale mobile home since the 1970s. It was damaged when they bought it, but they got it for a good price. It's been a solid home for many years, but lately it was showing its age.

Derrick Shaw, a neighbour, was over for tea one day and noticed the years of water damage on parts of the trailer.

"It was in terrible shape," said Shaw.

Shaw is no stranger to getting the community engaged and working productively to help people out—he's led many trips of high school students to Mexico to build homes for families there. This project was closer to home.

Shaw set to work raising funds to get the MacKinnons a new home and people pitched in from far and wide.

Ultimately he found a replacement at a good price from Jason Wiltsie on Mountain View Road in McBride. Blue Mountain Transport set the trailer in place.

The trailer is in position, and the ground has been brought up level and dry (an old underground cold room needed to be removed from the trailer pad first).

As of Thursday there was still a lot of work to do, including a fresh coat of paint on the inside, hooking up the plumbing, electrical, installing the skirting and attaching the outbuildings.

When Lillian walked into the trailer for the first time, she noticed the difference in width.

"That's a lot more cupboard space than I had in the other one," she said in the bright airy kitchen.

"It'll take a while to get used to it, but we'll sort it," Lil said that Shaw has worked very hard and is very grateful to him.

As they were outside the trailer she told him, "If I win the lottery, you'll get half."

Shaw's been happy with the support.

"It has been an incredible experience to see how many people came together in such a short time to make this project happen for the MacKinnons," he said.

If you didn't have a chance to contribute there are still some outstanding expenses that have come up since the fundraiser closed, including a new electrical service and re-shingling the roof.
Education a ‘must’ for all children, says minister

WE CAN’T LIVE IN FEAR UNTIL A VACCINE COMES, SAYS LOCAL PARENT

“Our kids are completely stable children and they will still do better in school (than at home),” said Janine Jensen, a registered nurse and Chair of the Valemount Parent Advisory Committee. Jensen is pictured with son Austin.

Prince George Teachers Federation president Joanne Hapke said teachers want to reunite with students in the classroom but the new guidelines aren’t safe for them.

“The physical distancing measures will not work within a classroom,” Hapke said. “There’s no way we can keep six feet apart from everyone.”

Under the new safety protocols, minimal contact will be recommended in classrooms, but neither masks nor physical distancing will be required. Students and staff will belong to learning groups of 60 people at the elementary level, and 120 people for high schools. Learning groups will limit interactions to the same people over a semester or year while giving students (particularly young children) more freedom to interact within those groups.

The limited group numbers will allow public health to trace close contacts quickly if someone tests positive.

The guidelines incorporate the best science-based, public health advice to have as many children as possible back in classrooms, Fleming said.

In June, 200,000 B.C. students returned to part-time, in-class instruction in the province. During that time, two educators were diagnosed with COVID-19. Both were exposed to the virus in the community and not believed to have passed it on to anyone in schools.

“We were able to manage it,” said Henry. “And we managed it quickly and efficiently without transmissions.”

The provincial health officer has the most up-to-date research and knowledge of COVID, said Prince George School District Superintendent Anita Richardson, who expressed confidence in the Ministry of Education’s guidelines and encouraged parents to make decisions based on what the most knowledgeable experts were saying.

Despite the new cases over the summer, B.C. continues to have among the lowest rates of COVID and new cases per capita relative to other jurisdictions worldwide, said Henry.

“We have very low level of spread, or no spread, in most communities here in BC,” said Henry. “And we expect to see that in our schools.”

We can’t wait for zero risk, said Richardson. "At some point, we have to realize it isn't zero risk for anything.” Few children have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the province and most had mild, symptoms. As of Aug. 27, 375 people under 20 years old had tested positive for the disease in B.C. and only 4 had been hospitalized for it. Despite representing 19 per cent of the province’s population, only seven per cent of the 5,319 total cases were children and youths.

“It’s the children passing it to the adult piece that is concerning me,” said Hapke. “Our concern is keeping those adults safe.”

Teachers should wear full protective gear if that will make them feel safer, said Jensen, adding students will adjust whatever the protocols. “The impact on them mentally and emotionally of not having school... is far worse then trying to figure out the gloves and the masks and whatever.”

“Schools are a very controlled environment and we have good solid plans in place, said Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry. “They are well thought out with each community in mind.”

The BC teachers Federation is calling for reduced class sizes, mandatory masks where distancing isn’t possible, and enhanced ventilation, among other things.
Preparing to Plant Garlic

Although the first week of September is not a good time to plant garlic, it is a great time to begin thinking about it. Most growers have harvested this year's crop around the first of August and have had it curing for the past few weeks. Now is the time to get in your order for “seed garlic” if you want to plant some this year.

When we say “garlic seed” we do not actually mean “seeds” but rather heads of garlic that will be used for planting. When you are buying heads to be used as seed, “seeds” but rather heads of garlic that will be used for planting. When you are buying heads to be used as seed, they will be a great time to prepare your garlic bed so you will not have to work in lots of manure and compost, this would be a great time to prepare your garlic bed so you will not have to work in lots of manure and compost, this would not have so much to do in mid October. Try to plant garlic in a part of the garden that has not grown any garlic, onion, etc for the past few years. Add three to four inches (8-10cm) of compost and old manure on the bed and till it in well. Then raise the bed about 4-6” (10-12cm) to ensure good drainage and level off the top so it is about 3” (7.5cm) wide. When it comes time to plant, use an offset pattern of 5 in one row across the bed and then 4 in the next and so on. Others make three trenches down the length of the bed about 10-12” (25-30cm) apart and about 4-5” (10cm) deep in which to plant the cloves. You may want to try some of each method.

Once you have secured enough heads for seed, store them in a warm, dry place until planting time around the middle of October. If you want to plant by the moon, garlic is best planted on the full moon or the week after (the wane of the moon). You will need about 4 heads per foot (30cm) of bed using a pattern of 5 in one row across the bed and then 4 in the next and so on. Others make three trenches down the length of the bed about 10-12” (25-30cm) apart and about 4-5” (10cm) deep in which to plant the cloves. You may want to try some of each method.

If you have harvested a part of the garden and now have time to work in lots of manure and compost, this would not have so much to do in mid October. Try to plant garlic in a part of the garden that has not grown any garlic, onion, etc for the past few years. Add three to four inches (8-10cm) of compost and old manure on the bed and till it in well. Then raise the bed about 4-6” (10-12cm) to ensure good drainage and level off the top so it is about 3” (7.5cm) wide. When it comes time to plant, use an offset pattern of 5 in one row across the bed and then 4 in the next and so on. Others make three trenches down the length of the bed about 10-12” (25-30cm) apart and about 4-5” (10cm) deep in which to plant the cloves. You may want to try some of each method.

These cabinets, pieces of valley history themselves, came from Oscars Museum. They now house some of the artifacts that previously have been out in the open, however they have had to be put behind glass due to covid regulations. /ANDREA ARNOLD

By Andrea Arnold

The Valley Museum and Archives reopened their doors on Tuesday August 18, 2020 for the first time in several months. Newly appointed curator Bridget Uhl was pleased with the 25 or so people who visited the first day. During the temporary COVID-19 closure, a lot of work went on to fill the space previously used as storage/work space with artifacts and COVID-19 compliant display cabinets. The cabinets and some of the items on display in the area were acquired from Oscars Wildlife Museum earlier this spring. Board members, along with summer student Jael Reimer worked tirelessly to make changes that would allow the doors to reopen while following new COVID-19 protocols. For example, they are not able to sell the specialty coffees they have in the past, and the gift shop items are in a display cabinet behind glass.

Recently, Uhl and J Reimer created the new exhibit “Behind the Curtain of a Rural Hospital!” Many items were provided by the McBride and District Hospital. Locals may remember seeing their children laying in that crib or being weighed on that scale. Photos of previous hospital employees are scattered around the walls. The other half of the inside space currently houses stories and artifacts documenting the logging history in the valley. On September 24th, this will be replaced by an art display from Two Rivers Gallery. Uhl has a few ideas for future displays but wants to keep a few surprises up her sleeve.

She confirmed that New Horizon Funding has come through to reboot the task of collecting oral histories in "Voices from the Past." The Valley Museum and Archives is currently open Tuesday - Friday 11-4. "I look forward to engaging with the community and collecting stories," said Uhl. "I look forward to people popping in with feedback and ideas. I'm collecting ideas as much as I'm collecting stories."
Moon Full of Feeling

When asking for what you need in relationships, it helps to know what that is. But if you don’t have a clue, then count yourself among the multitudes and ask anyway. Such is the advice of the full moon in the feeling realm of Pisces. Ask for what you want. Ask for what you saw once on a television show. Or ask for whatever pops into your head. Just reach out and see what happens. The point of inquiry is where connection begins.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You see a role sitting open, you see a role sitting open, just waiting for the right you. Feeling among the multitudes and the community at large. This way, only ways of varying behaviors and clue into the situation will be better for it. Don’t underthink the power of your supportive presence and energy. Things wouldn’t be the same without it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You’re excellent at detecting patterns – a superpower that can be applied to many contexts this week. You’ll take note of the plot turns and interactions that repeat in relationships. You’ll also notice the rhythms and colors of your own behaviors and clue into subtleties of cause and effect. It’s useful learning.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Since it is impossible to be anyone but you, it follows that actual objectivity on matters regarding you is also impossible to achieve. Even so, if you can get anywhere close to distancing yourself from different perspectives, you will be ahead of the game and, bonus, have so much more fun playing it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
You are respectful of the wishes and plans of others because you know what it’s like to wish and plan. You’ve had the journey, and that is the sole reason you can show up so strong in your support of others. As this aspect of your personality shines this week, you’ll be an asset to loved ones and the community at large.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You’re trying to get important work accomplished, but something will make it difficult, likely a knot combination of thought, emotion and habit. How best should you manage this path strewn with obstacles to productivity? Ignore, avoid, deal, work around it. There is no wrong way, only ways of varying effectiveness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
The relationship between your thoughts, behavior and emotions is even more complex than usual this week, and you’ll find yourself on more than one occasion acting uncharacteristically. This is a golden opportunity – a chance to delve deeper than is the usual would allow for.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You’re afraid of certain people, but likely because you sense that once the words leave your lips, they’re not going back. You’re correct about that. Talking things through will help both of you, though likely for the better. It will also cause improvements to thoughts and understanding that persist.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You’ll want to be there for a person, and you may feel underqualified to give what this person needs this week. Regardless, even if all you do is show up, then the situation will be better for it. Don’t underthink the power of your supportive presence and energy. Things wouldn’t be the same without it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
People may ask for feedback when what they really want is praise, support, money or other. Tune in and then cater your participation to the true dynamic. There is no point in giving impressions, opinions and other help to those who aren’t receptive. There are better uses for your sharp, analytical mind this week.

THIS WEEK’S BIRTHDAYS: Social ease is your astral gift, and this solar journey shows you as a master diplomat, bringing people together, finding and serving their common interests. As for your own wants, you’ll be most satisfied by the fruits of your networking. The early part of 2021 brings an exciting development in your personal life and a boost to your financial picture, too. Modifications in your domestic life produce ease for relationships. The success of your family affirms that your contribution makes a difference.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com

C O P Y R I G H T 2 0 2 0 C R E A T O R S . C O M
BRANDING AND PROMOTIONAL GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES

Affordable, professional logo and branding design from a local company you can trust

Get a Free consultation and quote

L组装, redesigns, business cards, letterheads, 3D upgrades and much more

goatnewspaper@gmail.com

250 - 566 - 4606
MIKE’S PLUMBING, HEATING & PROPANE SERVICE
Bounded & Licensed with over 30 years experience
250-566-1536

LE $25/week
SG $7/week
OL

VALMOUNT RENTAL LISTINGS


SEEKING NEW CLIENTS
Rustic Luxury will work with you to provide housing options for the Valmout area. Licensed and experienced property management services support your tenant/landlord relationship while improving and maintaining your real estate investments.

CALL JEN TODAY!
PHOTOS & DETAILS
www.rusticluxury.com Call Jen 250-566-1323

Provincial Classifieds

GET RESULTS! Post a classified in 95 newspapers in just a few clicks. Reach almost 2 million people for only $395 a week for 25 word text ad or $995 for small display ad. Choose your province or all across Canada. Best value. Save over 45% compared to booking individually. www.bcommunitynews.com/advertise or 1-866-669-9222.


GET RESULTS! Reach almost 2 million people in 95 papers for only $395/week for a 25 word text ad or $995/week for a formatted display ad.

DAVISON Attention Inventors! Ideas wanted! Call Davison today! 1-800-216-2909 or visit us at inventing.davison.com/BC

Free inventor’s guide!

LUCKY SODUKU ANSWERS

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

Robson Valley & North Thompson Classifieds

LAND FOR SALE
SETTLERS! approx 20-acre homestead between Blue River and Clearwater. Cabin, tool shed, hay and barn shed. 5- acre hay field, two water rights, 8 miles to nearest house. Very private. Peaceful and quiet. A deal at $184,900! Lots of pictures, will meet. John 604-530-9295 or Bernie C 250-674-8073.

FOR SALE/LEASE
For sale or lease in McBride
1) 9800 sq ft. commercial building set up for grocery store.
2) 1000 sq ft. commercial building.
3) 37 acres with executive home, shop, barn, fenced. Excellent hay land.
Call 250 862 8340 or 250 566 1017
Call 250 862 8340 or 250 566 1017

FOR RENT
Furnished Accommodation with kitchenette: Bachelor suite, Two Bedroom and Three Bedroom Mobile Homes for Rent. Viewing with appointments. Call 250-566-8664 or 250-566-5072 Email: kurien@live.ca

Best Classifieds $7-10/week or $40 for 3 months!
goatnewspaper@gmail.com 250-566-4606

In print and online, too!
250-566-4606 goatnewspaper@gmail.com
under 20 words $7/week
under 40 words $10/week
box classified (<40 words) $25/week
‘Guaranteed to Sell’ $40/3months (<40 words)
VALEMTOUN FOCUS

Valleymount Marina Association presents the 39th annual Fishing Derby September 5th and 6th. Throw in a line and just see what happens. Our fishing derby — held every Labour Day Weekend at the Marina on Kerkesnik Lake — just keeps getting better. Little kids to great grandparents head out to the lake to try their luck. Pull in an impressive rainbow trout, or haul in a kokanee. Prizes go out to the biggest catches of the day, and all the children who take part in the event walk away with smiles and a prize.

FRIs Valeymount Family Place Online- Resources and a virtual coffee and chat with our staff via ZOOM. Stories, Songs, interactive games to do with your kids. FRIDAYS: Join Zoom Meeting by contacting events@rvcsbc.org and 1-844-324-2004.

WEDs Youth Drop in Online get together with other kids, talk about concerns and participate in fun activities, From 2pm-3pm (ages 7-12) and 3pm-4pm (ages 13-18). Please email events@rvcsbc.org to obtain the Zoom link and password.

Sundays, ongoing, Pancake Breakfast has returned to the Valeymount Legion! 8am-11am. By donation. Social distancing and COVID-19 protocols in place.

MCBRIDE FOCUS

MCBRIDE FOCUS

WED. McBride Family Place Online- Resources and a virtual coffee and chat with our staff via ZOOM. Stories, Songs, interactive games to do with your kids. Join Zoom Meeting by contacting events@rvcsbc.org and 1-844-324-2004.

New CFO, Ancient Forest call-to-action

By Andrea Arnold

McBride Village Council met on August 25, 2020 and the meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Deputy Mayor Lucille Green.

New CFO

Council passed a motion to appoint David Alderdice as the Chief Financial Officer for the Corporation of the Village of McBride and to authorize CAO Sheila McCutcheon to administer the Oath of Office to Alderdice.

Public Attendance Plan

Council received the report to council titled Public Attendance at Open Meetings. CAO Sheila McCutcheon reported that due to the WorkSafe BC COVID-19 regulations regarding space/person ratios, holding the meetings in the Council chambers would reduce the number of people able to be present. It is recommended that meetings through Zoom continue. They are working on a plan to present the next meeting (September 8) as a live feed.

More Building Permits

Council passed a motion to receive the Building Stats Report to July 31, 2020. In the month of July, two single family dwelling additions were granted a permit, as well as one heating unit totalling a value of $16,000.

MCBF AGM Planning

Council passed a motion to set the date and time for the McBride Community Forest Corporation Annual General meeting as the McBride Community Forest Corporation Shareholder: MCFCS has requested for a date sooner rather than later, and has agreed to help work on the logistics and details. Council agreed to present two possible meeting dates; October 8th or 14th at 7:00pm. The location (TBD) needs to be able to safely contain a max of 50 people and meet all worksafe COVID-19 regulations, or be held through a virtual platform.

Ancient Forest Call for Support

Council received a letter from Russ Purvis regarding the Ancient Forest. Purvis would like to see the Village step into a leadership role to unify the many communities and other user groups. A Regional Advisory Council composed of non-government staff who care about the future of the area. This group could help bring the vision of the Ancient Forest as a destination. Purvis was present during the Zoom call and the members of Council agreed to let him speak to the cause. He mentioned that he would like to see a Councilor to be a part of this advocacy group. CAO McCutcheon suggested that a presentation outlining the support from all the groups involved be made and presented at UBCM in a few weeks.

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, pete@telus.net, or Loretta Simpson at 250 968 4453

VALEMTON

Location: Field beside Valeymount 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; Debi 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, 250 366 3786, valeymountmarket@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 Birk: home baked goodies; Yann Assamaut: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

The Goat encourages you to contact us by phone or email: goatnewspaper@gmail.com 250-566-4606
Public Works employees started emptying hydrants on Thursday in the next steps to lifting the boil water advisory. /ANDREA ARNOLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1075-4th Avenue</td>
<td>$189,000</td>
<td>Cute and Cozy, Excellent Condition, Large fenced Yard, Spacious Garage/Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1048-4th Avenue</td>
<td>$59,000</td>
<td>Bright and sunny 2 bdrm, cheaper than rent, lots of character, great location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125690 Dome Creek Rd</td>
<td>$285,000</td>
<td>Private and scenic, 3 Bdrm 1 1/2 bth log home, Approx 75 acres, lots of wildlife, Spectacular sunsets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1108-1st Avenue</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
<td>Large lot, great views, central location, Reno's underway, finish as you please</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block A Hwy 16</td>
<td>$149,000</td>
<td>5+ acres adjoining the village, Mostly cleared, Home or hobby farm ready, Excellent location!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HYDRANT flushing**

You're invited to our virtual Annual General Meeting
- **September 18, 2020**
- 4 to 5 p.m. PT/5 to 6 p.m. MT

Attend this year’s AGM from anywhere in the Basin. Ask questions about projects and initiatives in your community, and around the region.

Sign up online. [ourtrust.org/AGM](http://ourtrust.org/AGM)

Send us your events!
- goatevents21@gmail.com
- 250-566-4606
Located in the heart of downtown Valemount, this corner commercial lot has great visibility and opportunity. Zoned C1, the options for development are broad and varied, as per zoning bylaws. The property has street parking – both front and side, as well as laneway access – and municipal services are at the lot line.

Located approximately 15 minutes northwest of Valemount, this rural acreage offers the country lifestyle you are looking for. Every inch of this 2200 sqft, 4 bedroom, 2 bath must-see property is set up for optimal comfort and enjoyment. Natural light abounds throughout this home, notably in the main floor bath with its massive glass block window. Then the picture-perfect kitchen window with its striking views of Canoe Mountain and the true star of the show...the backyard! Featuring a large, immaculately maintained above ground pool and hot tub. Tie yourself a drink at the custom-built wet bar in the dining room and relax on the spacious south facing deck. The super-sized heated shop might sell this place on its own.

Located in the heart of sled country-Clemina, Allen and Chapel Creek are at your fingertips. All buildings/grounds are in Print | Online | therockymountaingoat.com well maintained. This 4+ acreage property is ripe for development. One of 7 acreages in a private neighborhood. A cleared area amongst mature trees gives you a head start on building your dream home or vacation getaway. Phenomenal location with being only 20 minutes from the town of Valemount. Outdoor enthusiasts, you are surrounded with recreation and wilderness at this property, so come make it yours today!

This 4 acre parcel of land is priced to sell. Don’t let the bare land strata scare you as it is non-compliant with Strata rules and regulations. But it does ensure your property is in a peaceful, private 7 lot community with roadway and water easement in place. Building scheme provides a good-looking neighborhood. A cleared area amongst mature trees gives you a head start on building your dream home or vacation getaway. Phenomenal location with being only 20 minutes from the town of Valemount. Outdoor enthusiasts, you are surrounded with recreation and wilderness at this property, so come make it yours today!

1263 7th Avenue

This triples conversion is a great opportunity for the savvy investor. With two 2-bedroom apartments and one 1-bedroom suite, you have built in appeal for a variety of tenants. Shared laundry and secured storage are in place and tenants are responsible for their own utilities. Income statements are available.

1144 6th Avenue

This updated and compact home is an ideal spot for a starter home or down-sizing. Open concept living keeps the conversations flowing, while 3 bedrooms gives space for everyone. With a detached garage and large yard, this home is a steal.

1233 6th AVENUE

Every nod of this 2200 sqft, 4 bedroom, 2 bath must-see property is set up for optimal comfort and enjoyment. Natural light abounds throughout this home, notably in the main floor bath with its massive glass block window. Then the picture-perfect kitchen window with its striking views of Canoe Mountain and the true star of the show...the backyard! Featuring a large, immaculately maintained above ground pool and hot tub. Tie yourself a drink at the custom-built wet bar in the dining room and relax on the spacious south facing deck. The super-sized heated shop might sell this place on its own.

LOT 1 SMALL CREEK

This 4 acre parcel of land is priced to sell. Don’t let the bare land strata scare you as it is non-compliant with Strata rules and regulations. But it does ensure your property is in a peaceful, private 7 lot community with roadway and water easement in place. Building scheme provides a good-looking neighborhood. A cleared area amongst mature trees gives you a head start on building your dream home or vacation getaway. Phenomenal location with being only 20 minutes from the town of Valemount. Outdoor enthusiasts, you are surrounded with recreation and wilderness at this property, so come make it yours today!

SUMMIT RIVER LODGE

RARE RIVERFRONT RESORT OPPORTUNITY!

Beautiful fully-equipped lodge & 2 private cabins on 39+ pristine acres backing onto a glacier fed creek. Currently run as a successful lodge/campground. Options are endless with this winter & summer recreation property. Located in the heart of old country-Clayoquot, Allens and Chapel Creek are at your fingertips. All buildings/grounds are impeccably maintained. Location is unbeatable, surrounded by signature 360-degree mountain views only 20 kms South of Valemount. It is the only property in the Robson Valley with an unobstructed view of the stunning Albreda Glacier. Sellers are motivated.