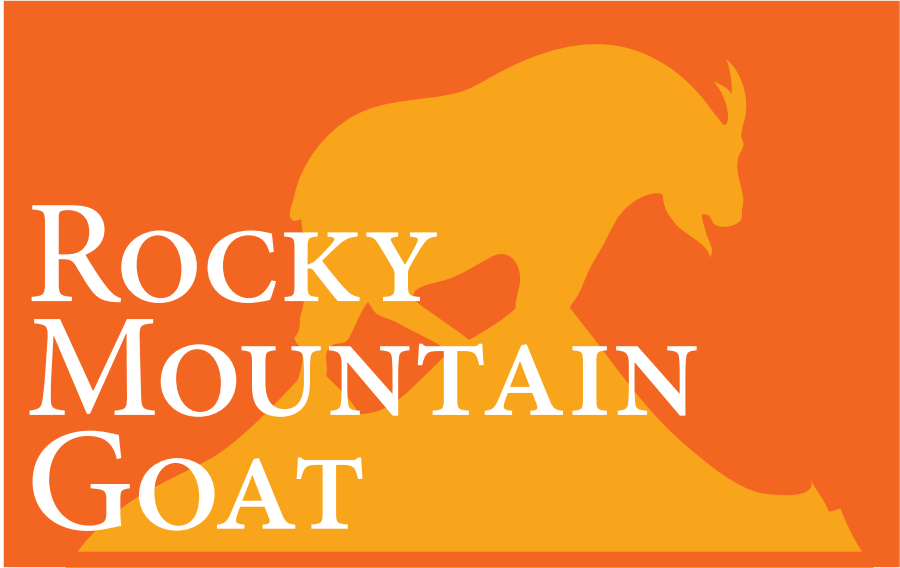




McBride woman wins \$13M

P2



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Irene Berndsen

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see **LISTINGS ON BACK PAGE**

Proposed logging road through Raush watershed sparks push for land use review

By FRAN YANOR / LEGISLATIVE REPORTER

A proposed logging road through a pristine Robson Valley watershed that hosts endangered chinook salmon, acts as a wildlife corridor, and feeds the Fraser River headwaters, has reignited a longstanding campaign by local residents to get the entire Raush River area protected from development.

The Raush is a wildlife corridor between

Wells Gray Park and the upper Fraser River, an intact valley, and the biggest, intact tributary to the Fraser that's not protected, said Roy Howard of Fraser Headwaters Alliance, a volunteer-run conservation group based in Dunster that has advocated for decades that the Raush watershed be fully-protected.

Currently, two isolated patches of the Raush are Protected Areas, totalling 6,667 hectares of the 101,000-hectare watershed.

"There's never been logging," Howard said. "It's definitely old growth in the valley bottoms. It's still intact, that's the main thing."

But that may soon change. Maps distributed to Raush stakeholders and shared with the Goat, show a proposal by Prince George-based Carrier Lumber to build roads through one of the protected areas to

CONT'D ON P12



HORSE BROTHERS REUNITED

The brothers take a moment to sniff each other as they reconnect. / ANDREA ARNOLD

By ANDREA ARNOLD

In the early afternoon of March 24, 2021, as Turbo, a large black percheron, made his way up the driveway to Chris D'Alessandro's barn, his brother Merlin whinnied a greeting from where he was tied.

Dunster resident D'Alessandro was excited to have Turbo come home and once again

connect with his brother. Born just two days apart in 2003, they have only been apart for short periods of time prior to this last year's long separation.

On March 23, 2021, 17-year-old Turbo left his life as a Vancouver Police Horse behind and began the trip north, returning home to Dunster where he would

CONT'D ON P3



DON'T BE IN THE DARK!

During the recent power outage, many people had difficulty finding timely relevant information about the outage. The Goat was posting updates on its website and on social media, but we know we missed a lot of people. We want to offer you the chance to get breaking news directly in your inbox. By signing up to our Breaking News Email List you'll receive breaking news as it happens, including things like updates during power outages, road closures, major announcements, and other things we typically post on our website or facebook as they happen.

To sign up for this service, send an email to goatnewspaper@gmail.com with the subject line BREAKING NEWS LIST and be sure to add our email to your contact list so our emails don't go into your spam. This list will typically not send more than one or two emails per week and you can unsubscribe at any time.



McBride couple who won \$13M hope to live “a quiet life”

By Laura Keil

When McBride resident Tammy Manning, 61, left her house to go to work March 19, 2021, her partner reminded her to grab a lottery ticket. It was a good thing he did. Manning's ticket won the couple \$13 million in the Lotto Max lottery.

She bought the ticket from McBride Husky/Esso and chose her numbers using the Quick Pick option. Her ticket was the only one in Canada to match all seven numbers in the mid-March draw.

“We’re going to spend our winters in warm weather when we can, and we’re going to help family members and pay off our house and hopefully live a quiet life,” Manning said in an interview with the Goat. The 61-year-old also plans to retire early. She most recently worked at McBride’s Sandman Hotel and Heartland Restaurant.

Manning said she is having “March 19, 2021” the Lotto Max draw date, permanently etched onto her arm by her son, a tattoo artist. She told her son about winning while he was at work. “He said ‘there’s no way mom—no you didn’t!’”

Manning didn’t believe it at first either.

“All I said was ‘No!’” Manning

recalls. “I just didn’t believe it and kept saying ‘No!’ to myself. I had to have the retailer check the ticket on his machine.”

Amber Bhaskar, the lottery retailer at the McBride Husky/Esso, was there when Manning checked the ticket on the self-checker.

“When Tammy validated her ticket... she was about to fall down,” Bhaskar recalled. “She’s a loyal customer since we moved here – it’s really happy to see somebody winning from the local town.”

When asked if life had changed for them since they won, Manning said “not really.”

“It’s just stressful knowing that we have that much money. But we haven’t changed, no.”

Manning has a few ideas about how she plans to use her mind-boggling prize. Her first priority is paying off her house, and next perhaps purchasing a property in the Caribbean along with a sailboat for her and her partner to enjoy. Their last sailboat was destroyed by Hurricane Irma in 2017.

They will also use the money to book physiotherapy and other treatments for her partner, who’s been sick.

“Get him healthy, so we can go sailing,” she said.



Tammy Manning, at right, Lotto Max Winner, and Amber Bhaskar, left, of McBride’s Husky station (the Lottery Retailer). /SUBMITTED

DID YOU KNOW

it's

Prevention of Violence Against Women Week

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United brothers... CONT'D FROM A1



LEFT:
One of the skills police horses have to hone is the ability and willingness to walk through fire. /SUBMITTED from VPD

TOP:
Leading the unit into the unknown, Turbo and Merlin move with confidence while wearing protective gear to keep/restore order. /SUBMITTED for VPD

be reunited with his brother Merlin. Merlin had also served as a police horse with the Vancouver Police Department, and retired about a year ago. "I got Turbo when he was not quite 2 years old," said D'Alessandro. D'Alessandro was so impressed by the young horse that he called the breeder. "I ordered as close to the same model as Turbo as I could get," he said. "The breeder said he had a colt with the same sire (father) as Turbo, and their mothers were sisters." A few months later, Merlin joined Turbo and D'Alessandro in California.

D'Alessandro worked with the horses and found

"He (Turbo) would lead anyone through anything. Literally through fire and water. The others would follow with no hesitation."

- Mounted Unit Sergeant
Susan Sharp

them very easy to train. They were used for trail rides outside San Jose, as well as for lessons in basic horsemanship, western riding and elements of dressage. Their easy demeanour meant they were popular and were often the centre of activity at the Wild Oak Horse Ranch in California.

In 2008, D'Alessandro moved back to BC after his father passed, and the following October, Turbo and Merlin joined him. Not long after, D'Alessandro made the choice to board the horses just down the road from his Dunster home, at Reg Marek's for the next three years, while he worked a job in Nunavut.

"Every time I went to see the boys, they had a look on their faces that said 'What's the deal here, Boss?'" he recalls.

These horses thrived on work, people and engagement, and D'Alessandro knew he had to make a decision that would break his heart but was the right thing to do. He told Birgit Stutz from Falling Star Ranch that relocation might be the answer.

Stutz had connections with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Mounted Unit, and not long after her conversation with D'Alessandro, Stutz learned the VPD was looking for more horses.

That spring of 2011, Vancouver had experienced horrific riots after the Canucks lost the Stanley Cup finals. Rioters had held London Drugs staff hostage in their own building in downtown Vancouver, and the VPD Mounted Unit had played a big role

in keeping everyone safe. As a gesture of thanks, London Drugs sold t-shirts, and raised money to donate to the department to purchase more horses.

That fall, two VPD Constables arrived to take Turbo and Merlin for a 60-day trial period. D'Alessandro was adamant that either both went or neither went.

A successful VPD Mounted Unit has to meet specific qualifications. The horses must be geldings, at least five years old, 16 hands tall, dark in colour and display a quiet disposition. Both horses passed this first step with ease. But the Department stated that only one in 10 horses that are brought in for their trial basis pass, and having two at once be successful was unheard of. D'Alessandro was sure the boys would pass.

The two were put through exposure to balloons, firecrackers, and obstacles while in the paddock and excelled as they were exposed to Stanley Park and other more crowded areas. Before the 60 days were up, D'Alessandro got a call telling him he'd been right. Both horses had passed. The money donated by London Drugs went to the purchase of the pair.

Turbo and London (Merlin's new name) served the VPD together until about a year ago.

"Often, these horses only serve 8 years," said D'Alessandro. "So Merlin came back home at that point."

After discussion between the VPD and D'Alessandro, the decision was made to keep Turbo to help train the new recruits.

"He was a solid leader," said Mounted Unit Sergeant Susan Sharp. "He would lead anyone through anything. Literally through fire and water. The others would follow with no hesitation."

His influence was felt not just by the other horses, but by his human partners also.

"Being the Alpha, he was respected by everyone," said Sharp. "Horse and human alike."

Some of the constables Turbo was paired with were new riders, and Turbo was a great teacher, building strong bonds with his partners.

"Turbo allowed us all to grow in our abilities and confidence," said Sharp.

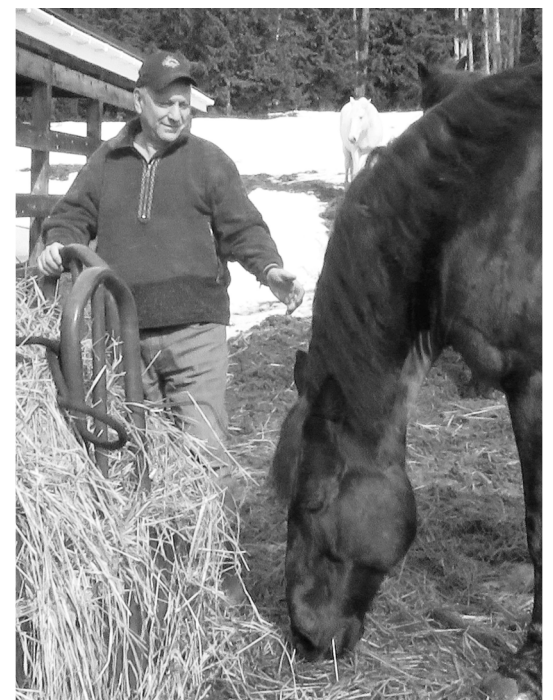
"Turbo was extraordinarily and ironically named," she said. He is not a fast horse. In fact, she recalled one rider having to ask "are we cantering?" at one point because he was the slowest horse.

Not only was he the go-to horse in the outfit — reliable and steadfast—he was also the unit mischief maker. He could let himself out of his stall, and then proceed to 'spring' the other horses.

"The stable hands would come in, and the horses would be in each others' stalls, or in the middle socializing," said Sharp.

In fact, the day before he was set to leave Vancouver, he performed one last Houdini act.

"I was outside the barn with about 20 other people performing a noise assessment before some work was to be done," said Sharp. "I was trying to be



Chris D'Alessandro takes a moment with Turbo shortly after the horses arrival back to his Dunster home on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. /ANDREA ARNOLD

professional, and here comes Turbo. We had him on a diet, and he is extremely food motivated. He had broken out, and comes running past everyone to the grassy patch on the other side and started eating."

Following Turbo's retirement and his return to civilian life in Dunster, the VPD Mounted Unit have big horseshoes to fill.

"Turbo will be missed greatly by his four- and two-legged family at the Vancouver Police Mounted Unit, but also by his many admirers in the City of Vancouver," said Sharp. "Thank you for your service Turbo, we wish you a long and happy retirement."

Upon arrival at D'Alessandro's on the 24th, Turbo walked into the middle of the small field, and stood still for a moment. He was soon joined by Merlin and D'Alessandro's other horse, Magi and they set off into the trees. Moments later the three came running back towards the house, Turbo kicking up snow playfully.

D'Alessandro is thrilled to have both boys home. He is allowing them some time to reconnect with each other, as Turbo remembers what life in the country is like. The hope is that they will live out the remainder of their years together, overlooking mountains, surrounded by trees, and with lots of room to run.

To watch a video of the horses reuniting, visit the Goat's YouTube channel at tinyurl.com/media-rmg

Editorial

Variants vs. vaccines: which one wins depends on us



By Laura Keil, Publisher/Editor

It feels unfair that our common enemy can shape-shift while we're stuck in our regular old human bodies, armed with—well, nothing. Unless you've been immunized. I admit I'm a little shocked by these new variants. In a recent story by CTV News, the reporter interviewed a doctor who spoke of people in their 30s and 50s being in the ICU, receiving treatment reserved for the very worst cases. Many of these deathly-ill people had no underlying health conditions. In other words, that could be you and I. Deaths in long-term care facilities have plummeted since mass vaccinations took place among the elderly. But most younger folk are still waiting. The variants are shape-shifting and spreading gives them an opportunity to mutate. And right now, new infections in B.C. are at an all-time high. Luckily many Robson Valley residents 18+ will be getting their first shots starting next

week. Even one shot reduces the likelihood of severe complications from COVID-19. Plus preliminary evidence suggests that the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines help prevent the spread of the virus in addition to improving health outcomes. Still, variants of the virus are proving more dangerous, and herd immunity requires that a certain number of people in a population be vaccinated. A vaccine that's 90% effective at blocking transmission would need to reach at least 55% of the population to achieve temporary herd immunity if social distancing measures like face masks and work-from-home mandates remain in place, according to a model developed at Imperial College London (According to the same study, a vaccine would need to reach roughly 67 per cent of people to provide herd immunity if social distancing measures were dropped entirely).

Many researchers say reaching a herd-immunity threshold looks unlikely due to factors like vaccine hesitancy, the emergence of new variants and the delayed arrival of vaccines approved for children. The bottom line: people who choose not to vaccinate will not be protected by people who do. And letting the virus continue to infect people will lead to variants that could become increasingly deadly, nixing the gains made by current vaccines, and putting us all at risk—again and again. Our best bet right now is to double-down on our mask-wearing and exposure to other people. And secondly, book an appointment to get immunized. If we can slow the spread of deadlier variants, we have some hope of getting back to normal.



"JUST ABOUT TIME TO SHED THESE WINTER BOOTS AND GET OUT THE MUD BOOTS."

NEWS: McBride in the running for snowmobile glory

By Laura Keil

McBride has won the Provincial title in SnoRiders Magazine's annual 'Sledtown Showdown' competition and hopes to advance to the next Western Canadian finals. McBride now goes head-to-head with Lac-du-Bonnet in Manitoba in the Western Canadian semi-finals, while Fort McMurray, AB faces off with Nipawin, SK. Round five runs from April 6 to 18, 2021. This is the third time McBride was voted BC's top riding area, having previously won in 2018, 2020. The village was named Western Canadian Champion in 2018. The winner takes home a trophy and the ability to market themselves as the SledTown champion. The community and its riding areas are also featured in articles on the magazine's website. In round 4, McBride (2,374 votes, 61%) won out over Revelstoke (1,534 votes, 39%) In round 3, McBride (1,023 votes, 59%) took down the 2015 provincial champion, Valemount (700 votes, 41%). You can support McBride by voting online here: tinyurl.com/sledtown-mcbride

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Gardening with Pete



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.

Spring Chores

For the past few weeks, I have been sharing some new ideas I have recently found in my quest to learn about landscape design and garden planning. I would like to continue down this path again today with instalment number three.

All of the books I have read so far advise to put down the shovel and pick up your pencil before making any changes to your yard or landscape. It is so much easier to move a patio while it is still a circle or square on a piece of paper than to invest loads of money and time and decide you would rather have it on the other side of the house!

The first step is to get a few large sheets of paper (regular 8 x 11 becomes too cluttered) and take the time to measure your area and draw a scale model of everything that is presently there and that you want to keep (¼ inch to the foot

is a nice size to work with). This would include the house, garage, shop, sheds, large trees, shrubs, waterlines, septic fields, underground wires and pipes, etc.

The next step is to mark on the diagram the compass orientation so you can figure where the sun will be at any time of the day and figure out the hot spots and shade areas. Also try to mark in where the prevailing winds come onto the property.

Along the property line, make note of potential problems on your neighbour's side of the fence such as large trees that may sucker under the fence or shade beds in your yard.

Then the fun of laying out the specifics begins. Consider these questions and others like them before you begin to put pencil to paper. Do you want the front area to be open or private? Would it be better in lawn or patio? Do you prefer tall shrubs

to give privacy from the street or road? Would you like a few tall trees for shade for the picnic table? Do you want a special area for the children to play? Do you want to separate various part of the yard with screens, fences or hedges to give the feeling of "outdoor rooms"? Do the vegetable and flower gardens need to be fenced or protected from deer, other wildlife or pets? How will you situate pathways so the traffic flow will feel natural? Do you want a clothesline and where will it be? Does a garden shed fit into the plan? How much lawn do you want to mow?

With the answers to the above in mind, roughly draw the "wish list items" where you think they would be best suited in the landscape. Do it in pencil, as it is so much easier to erase and place somewhere else! It is always good to start with the things that need to be in a specific place. If you

want the deck or patio to be an extension of the living room or dining room, then it must be placed directly next to it. Would the play area be best at the farthest corner of the yard so the adults can get some quiet conversation?

Roughly lay out the paths that will be constantly used for daily living and relaxation. If the "back door" is the one used every day, then the path from the car to that door maybe should be hard surfaced to make it less likely to bring dirt and dust into the house with the heavy traffic. A dry path to the salad and vegetable beds would mean a quick trip in your slippers would be possible.

Next week, I will share a few more hints along this line.

Letters/Op-Ed

We welcome all letters to the editor

Write to us! goatnewspaper@gmail.com

Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

Burma: Stick to Non-Violence

The non-violent democratic resistance in Burma* is living through terrible times, but statistics are on its side: most non-violent movements eventually win. But it's hard to stay non-violent when you are up against a force as ruthless and brutal as the Tatmadaw.

The Burmese army, known as the Tatmadaw, is distinguished by the fact that in its 73-year history it has never fought foreigners. It has done all its killing at home, and it has become quite good at it.

Since the military coup on 1 February put at least a temporary end to Burma's ten-year experiment with democracy, the Tatmadaw has shot or beaten to death more than 400 unarmed protesters, and it shows no sign of slowing down.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who led the coup, clearly believes that he can ride out the resistance if he kills enough people. But the country has now had

ten years of more or less democratic government in a power-sharing arrangement between the Tatmadaw and the elected National League for Democracy (NLD), and people have got used to their freedoms.

It was the NLD's landslide election victory late last year that drove Min Aung Hlaing to seize power in February, but things are not working out as he expected.

Members of the newly elected parliament who escaped arrest have created a rival underground government called the Committee for Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw [the parliament] – and the CRPH is saying that it is a 'federal' government. Federalism is the ultimate political heresy in Burma.

The army's self-assigned task ever since independence has been to uphold the hegemony of the ethnic Bamar majority (about two-thirds of the country's 54 million people) over the Karen, Shan, Mon, Chin, Kachin,

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



Rakhine, Rohingya and Karenni minorities.

The army's personnel are almost entirely Bamar, and the country's border areas have been under semi-permanent military occupation for decades to hold down minorities who have turned to guerilla warfare. Federalism could bring long-term peace and unity to Burma, but the Tatmadaw would die in a ditch to prevent it.

Finding the Burmese army dead in a ditch would not distress many Burmese civilians these days, but a civil war is the last thing any country should wish for. The problem is that Burma's pro-democratic leaders are starting to talk about not only a 'federal government' but also a 'federal army' combining the ethnic guerilla armies with pro-democracy militants.

Many high-profile leaders of the NLD, trade unionists and other democratic leaders have taken refuge in the minority areas, so creating such a united force is not impossible. They are doubtless near to despair much of the time, and a 'federal army' must sound like a good idea to them. They should resist the temptation.

'Non-violent struggle' is rarely non-violent on both sides, but the oppressors find it hard to use unlimited force when the other side is using none at all. Especially when the whole world is watching. That is why non-violent movements succeed so often.

If the protesters turn into just another army (amateurish, poorly armed, ethnically divided), then all limitations on the use of force by the big, professional, well-equipped army are lifted, and the bad guys win. Most revolutionaries elsewhere know that well by now, but Burma was isolated from the rest of the world for a long time.

They had better catch up quickly, or there will be a civil war – which they would probably lose.



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VISIT 1170 5th Avenue, Valemount

Wood burning bylaw, sole source washroom, 5-Year financial plan

By ANDRU McCracken

Council held their regularly scheduled meeting on March 23 in council chambers.

Council wrote a letter in support of continuing the BC Farmer’s Market Coupon program for Valemount.

“I’ve been watching this program for the last couple years, it’s very well received,” said Councillor Sheri Gee. “It’s unfortunate that a lot of low income people need support to get fresh food. I hope they keep increasing the amount each year.”

“Hopefully we can garner support in Victoria,” said Mayor Owen Torgerson.

From the Reading File

Council decided to support an effort led by the town of Spallumcheen to create a 3 digit phone line for people who are in crisis, so they don’t need to remember the longer phone number.

Accounts payable

Council approved accounts payable.

“There is an entry there for Spiral Contracting, the company that I work for,” said Torgerson.

The Accounts Payable list was unavailable as of presstime.

VCF and VIP expenses.

Council passed a motion that expenses pertaining to the Valemount Community Forest and the Valemount Industrial Park be brought to the chief administrative officer before being incurred.

New facility

Council will sole source a self cleaning washroom for Centennial Park.

“Usually [we] don’t even consider sole sourcing,” said Torgerson.

Council authorized staff to procure an automated self cleaning washroom from a company in Delta BC.

“There isn’t another company that doesn’t do this,” said Blanchette.

Land disposition for 1451 5th Avenue.

Council agreed to dispose of land below market value to facilitate a BC Housing project on 5th Avenue.

Wood burning bylaw

Council approved a new bylaw regarding wood burning, with amendments allowing restaurants to continue burning despite air quality advisories.

Blanchette said the goal is to ensure that community members are healthy.

Procedure Bylaw

The Village of Valemount council procedure bylaw received 3rd reading—it contained some housekeeping items.

5 Year Financial Plan

“The finance department has increased granting opportunities from \$20,000 to \$30,000 in case of those little things that come towards us that we can leverage funding for,” said Torgerson. “It’s good to have it in the budget.”

Torgerson said having this budget would allow the village the freedom to partner with other organizations to get grants when they are available.

Appointment of directors to village owned companies

Council approved changes to Policy 81, how they appoint directors to the village owned companies. The change means they will appoint a councillor as a voting member to these boards and a staff member as an ex-officio (non-voting) board member.

Council was about to direct staff to publish an advertisement to solicit board members for the Valemount Community Forest and Valemount Industrial Park, but Mayor Torgerson asked that council meet with their legal team and the existing board of these organizations first.

After some discussion, council agreed to the meeting.

“During the pandemic, communication has been less than amicable, I think it is imperative we have that link and communication back to order,” said Torgerson.

Notice of Motion

Councilor Pete Pearson brought a notice of motion to council asking staff to find out more information on having a full time bylaw officer, including potential funding sources, budget ramifications and any potential options for council.

Chief Administrative Officer Wayne Robinson said he was already on the file.

Council Reports

Council gave their verbal reports.

Public Comments

The wood burning bylaw received some questions from concerned citizens. Rashmi Narayan said that when it is very cold, she is unable to heat her home with alternative heat, because of inadequate insulation.

She asked if the new bylaw was enforceable.

Tom Jamin said that the wood burning bylaw was too restrictive and penalized people who are burning seasoned wood with little smoke.

In reply to the comments, Torgerson said some amendments have already been made, and that council has the ability to make amendments down the road.

Grass Seed

I am now selling seed for Four Rivers Co-op. I’ll have agricultural, reclamation, and lawn seed. Good seed at a very good price. I will have the most used species for agriculture and some lawn seed in-stock at Dunster.

Please call me for any unusual orders before April 15th.

Reg Marek 250-968-4346

www.valemount.ca

Village of Valemount Consolidated Five Year Financial Plan Budget 2021 – 2025

All interested members of the public are invited to view the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan Budget which will be available online starting April 8, 2021 at www.valemount.ca.

The public consultation period for the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan is from April 8 – 21, 2021.

Comments are to be received by the Director of Finance at dof@valemount.ca prior to April 21st at 12pm.

All comments received will be provided to Village Council for consideration in advance of the third bylaw reading, which is expected to be on the agenda at the April 27, 2021 Council meeting.

Job Opportunities

• Visitor Information Centre Councilors:

Application deadline: April 15, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

• Public Works Labourer:

Application deadline: April 14, 2021 at 12:00 pm.

Full details of both positions are available on our website at www.valemount.ca/job-postings

Parcel Tax Roll Review

The Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel, appointed to consider and address complaints against the Parcel Tax Assessment Roll, will meet on Tuesday April 27, 2021 at 6:45pm in the Valemount Council Chambers

Property owners may request an amendment to the roll only in respect to their own property for the following reasons:

1. There is an error or omission respecting a name or address on the Parcel Tax Roll;
2. There is an error or omission respecting the inclusion of a parcel
3. There is an error or omission respecting the taxable area or the taxable frontage of a parcel;
4. An exemption has been improperly allowed or disallowed.

Requests for amendments to the roll must be submitted, in writing to the Director of Finance, Lori McNee at dof@valemount.ca or by mail to Village of Valemount, Attn: Director of Finance, Lori McNee, PO Box 168, Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0 no later than 4:30pm Friday April 21, 2021

The Parcel Tax Assessment Roll may be viewed by appointment only at the Municipal Office from April 8–21, Monday to Friday 9:00am –4:00pm, excluding holidays. To make an appointment, please contact Director of Finance, Lori McNee at dof@valemount.ca or 250 566 4435.

Home Owner Grant Changes

As of 2021, municipal home owners no longer apply for the home owner grant through their municipal office. Homeowners now apply directly to the province using a new online or telephone system.

For more information about the home owner grant visit www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or call 1-888-355-2700.

Bid Opportunities

• Demolition services to the Centennial Park Washrooms:

Closing date: April 16, 2021 at 12:00 pm

• Sand and re-stain the Village of Valemount Entrance Sign:

Closing date: April 16, 2021 at 12:00 pm

• Sewer Line Cleaning for the Village of Valemount for a three year contract:

Closing date: April 16, 2021 at 12:00 pm

Full details of all bid opportunities are available on our website at www.valemount.ca/bid-contract.



****NEW****

VOYENTALERT!

The Village of Valemount is now sending out upcoming civics events via Voyent Alert!



VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT
Let the mountains move you

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

Local restaurant and brewery owners react to Public Health Order

By Laura Keil

Local restaurants and pubs were hit with a surprise Public Health Order March 29th limiting them to take-out or patio-service only, and gave them little time to adjust their operations—coming into effect at midnight the same day.

Gathering Tree Eatery owner Tanya Russell said she is one of the luckier operations, since her menu items are all adaptable to take-out and she doesn't keep a lot of fresh product on hand.

"The amount of restaurants in BC that might be sitting on an insane amount of product that they can't sell to anyone or do anything with is insane," she said.

Three Ranges Brewing Company co-owner Michael Lewis said he was

frustrated by the lack of information when the announcement was made. He said it took four days for the written Order to be released so he could make sure his operation could stay open and conform to the new rules. It also meant another round of discussions with the local health officer to ensure his outdoor tents would meet their criteria for outdoor seating.

"You're seeking very specific guidance and there was none for a long time," he said. "It was quite a challenge in that respect, because we just didn't have reaction time to be able to make the adjustment to be open by our normal business day."

He said despite the fact his patrons were forced to sit outside in the cold, many locals and some sledders came out and supported them last week.

"It's still not up to the same level of business, but it's business. It keeps us open."

Gigglin Grizzly owner Linda Fry said she feels "vindicated" in her decision to temporarily shut down operations in mid-March. Rising case counts and the spread of variants made her suspect more restrictions could come, plus a staff member had hurt her back, the road restrictions meant fewer truckers and her other business—income tax filing—was taking up a lot of her time.

"I could have coped quite easily with any one or even two of those things. But the combination of things I just said, I think this is a good time for us just to take a spring break."

The Province says the new rules will be in effect between March 29 at 11:59 pm and April 19 at 11:59 pm.

MCBRIDE COUNCIL NOTES

Ski hill proposal, art display, moose concern & library garden

By Andrea Arnold

Deputy Mayor, Rosemary Hruby called the March 23, 2021 McBride Council meeting to order at 7:00pm. Councillors Green, Smith, and Frederick were all in attendance as well as Mayor Runtz.

Proposed snowmobile assisted ski area on Lucille

Jeff McNaughton on behalf of McBride Community Forest Corporation and in partnership with Robson Valley Alpine Association presented the Lucille Snowmobile Assisted Ski Area proposal to Council. McNaughton requested a letter of support from Council in order to have the area granted an exemption from visual quality objectives and silviculture obligations set by the provincial government. If granted, the area set aside for ski trail purposes would not be replanted, allowing ski/snowboard runs in the future.

Centennial school art display

Sheila Foster, from the Robson Valley Arts and Culture Council, and Kairyn Russel Janecke, Principal of McBride Centennial Elementary School, requested a letter of support from Council to create a student art installation along the fence between the elementary school and Main Street. Concerns from Council included the wind factor, as the proposed art would be on 4x8 plywood sheets. The concern was that the fence may not be strong enough to safely support the added strain caused by wind against the plywood. Russel Janecke agreed to return to School District 57 representatives to determine the strength of the fence before proceeding.

North Central Local Government Association AGM

Council passed a motion directing administration to register Councillors Smith and Frederick, Mayor Runtz and CAO Tupy for the virtual 2021 North Central Local Government Association annual general meeting and convention scheduled for May 5 & 6. Deputy Mayor Hruby said she would confirm her attendance before the April 14th deadline for early bird registration.

McBride Tourism Committee members

Council passed a motion to appoint additional community members to the McBride Tourism Committee. Representing the accommodation sector were Georgina Kirby, Bell Mountain Motel and Manwinder Dhillon, McBride Travelodge (Mandeep Singh as secondary). Representing the accommodation sector at large was Jill Phipott, Beaver Creek Lodge (Stuart Phipott as secondary).

Development permit go-ahead

Council approved development permit application 2021-01 which will allow the proponents to construct a 26 x 30 foot pre engineered steel building, and four 7x10 foot smooth wall mobile modular storage building on the lot at 227 Main Street McBride.

BC Community Response Network presentation

Councillors Smith and Frederick expressed interest in attending a virtual presentation hosted by the Robson Valley Community Services from BC Community Response Network. Smith already registered and Frederick said he would register himself as well.

Tesla supercharger station

Council authorized administration to respond to Iain Myrans, Senior National Manager from Tesla to discuss the installation of a Tesla Supercharger station in McBride. Myrans was looking for suggestions for a viable location in the Village. Council discussed the possibility of Robson square, near the existing charge station, however, the type and amount of power needed may not be accessible at that location. Further conversation with Tesla representatives will allow this concern to be addressed.

Moose ungulate winter range


Council passed a motion directing administration to send a letter to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development regarding a proposed moose ungulate winter range that impacts the Raush Valley area. Through her involvement with McBride Community Forest, Councillor Green has learned that although the area in question is outside the Dunster Community Forest footprint, it is within the Carrier footprint. Dunster Community Forest has agreements with Carrier for road building and cost sharing. If Carrier cannot access that stretch of roadway then that has a negative effect on DCF access to areas they need. Council agreed to submit a letter voicing concern and support of Dunster Community Forest.

Grant for library garden

Council passed the motion to supply Abi Ward, McBride & District Public Library with a letter of support for their application to Northern Development Initiative Trust Community Places Program. If the application is successful, the grant money will fund improvements to the library garden space. These changes would provide spaces to meet, learn and entertain, while keeping within COVID regulations.

Cemetery fence removal

Council approved the removal of the old cemetery fence, and the installation of row identification posts along with two post and chain gates at the vehicle entrances, at a cost of \$800.



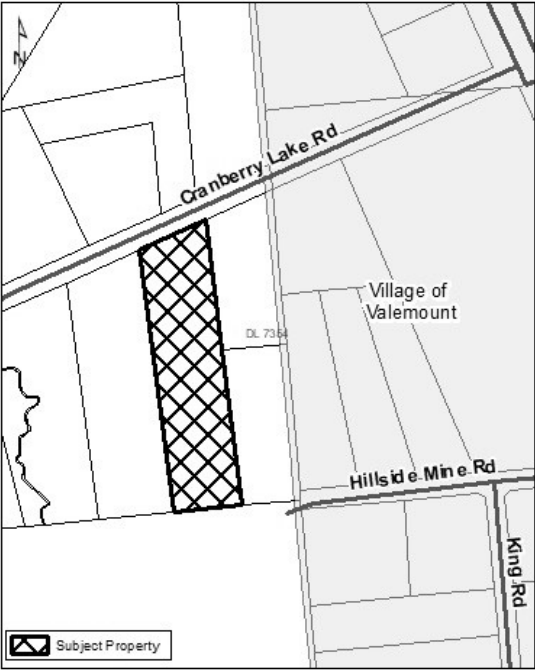
REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George

NOTICE OF WAIVER OF PUBLIC HEARING


**ZONING BYLAW No. 2892, AMENDMENT
BYLAW No. 3209, 2021**

Notice is hereby given that the Regional District Board has waived the holding of a public hearing into Zoning Bylaw No. 2892, Amendment Bylaw No. 3209, 2021. The Regional District Board will consider third reading of Bylaw No. 3209 at its regular meeting scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 22, 2021 in the Regional District Board room located at 155 George Street, Prince George, BC.

The purpose of Bylaw No. 3209 is to rezone Lot 19 District Lot 7354 Cariboo District Plan BCP7447 from Rural Residential 1 (RR1) to Country Residential 1 (CR1). The amendment is proposed to accommodate a two-lot subdivision as well as other permitted uses pursuant to the CR1 Zone. The subject property is located at 1020 Cranberry Lake Road.



A copy of the proposed Bylaw and any relevant background materials are available for review by the public on the Regional District's website at <http://www.rdffg.bc.ca/services/development/land-use-planning/current-applications/> (Electoral Area 'H') or at the Regional District office, by appointment only, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, between March 22 and April 22, 2021. The Regional District Office will be closed on April 2 and 5, 2021. To make an appointment contact the Regional District at development@rdffg.bc.ca or at 250-960-4400.



REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George

Main Office: 155 George Street, Prince George, BC V2L 1P8
T: 250-960-4400 TF: 1-800-667-1959 F: 250-563-7520 www.rdffg.bc.ca

Community clean-up

Council asked staff to research what needs to be done to safely execute a 2021 Community Clean-up event within COVID restrictions and McBride's Safety Plan. If this is possible, Council agreed on the date Saturday May 29, 2021. Organizations that have been a part of the clean up in the past will be contacted to confirm participation if the event proceeds.

In Camera

The regular council meeting was recessed at 8:19 and council proceeded to in-camera for consideration of matters per Section 90 (1) of the Community Charter related to: (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality; and (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

PROLONGED

CENTRAL INTERIOR

34, 137, 79, 14, 11, 40, McBride

CNG, WSN, Bowron, Willow, Fraser, Morkill, River

By LAURA KEIL

CENTRAL INTERIOR

“Crews (had) only ATV access to the damaged pole and this slowed them down

Telus did not respond to the Goat's inquiries by presstime.

ker-Larsen

many homes had access
stoves or generators, those
were largely left in the cold,
temperatures dropping to -8 outside
at and remaining below zero the
g morning. Back-up power did
in for the first set of Valemount
s until late morning, more than 18
the outage began.

vious day's COVID-19 restrictions
o businesses with generators could
eir doors to the public.

lage of Valemount enacted Stage
restrictions, but thanks to back-up
t the Valemount pump stations, the
serves were able to increase despite
ge, said Valemount Mayor Owen
on.

people found themselves without
o cellular data for a period of
ring the night of March 29th and
g of March 30th, leaving them with
ty to make phone calls and send
sages but with no access to the



Snowmobile assisted ski hill proposed

By getting support from Council, MCFC secured one part of the support portion. Anyone interested in voicing their support for the project can submit a letter to MCFC, PO Box 370, McBride BC, V0J 2E0.

Public health order means take-out only, no in-person worship, and masks down to Grade 4

By LAURA KEIL

The Province returned to a “take-out-only” mandate for restaurants, bars, pubs and other liquor or food establishments in BC starting 11:59am March 29th due to soaring COVID-19 cases in the province. The order will be in effect for three weeks. Outdoor patios are exempted.

“We know that the idea of more restrictions is not welcome news,” said Premier John Horgan. “But we are asking people to rise to the challenge with the confidence that vaccines mean better days are ahead. We are not out of the woods yet, but the provincial health officer’s orders, combined with our vaccines, give us the tools we need to move out of this pandemic together.” New and amended orders and guidelines are in effect

through April 19, 2021, and include:

- * For restaurants, bars and pubs, all food and liquor-serving premises must only provide take-out or delivery service. Dine-in service is prohibited, except for outdoor patios. People dining on patios should do so with their immediate household or core bubble.
- * Indoor, adult group fitness activities of any kind are also paused. Gyms and fitness centres are restricted to individual or one-on-one activities.
- * The previously announced allowance for limited indoor worship services has been suspended. Outdoor worship services under the current variance may continue.
- * Travel continues to be limited to essential travel, work or medical reasons only. For those who have travelled outside their health region, if you or anyone in your family develops any signs of illness, you must stay home from work, school or daycare, and arrange to get tested immediately.
- * Whistler-Blackcomb ski resort is closed through to April 19, 2021, to address and prevent community spread related to non-essential travel.
- * All workers are strongly encouraged to work from home, where possible.
- * Public health guidance for schools has also been amended to support and encourage students down to Grade 4 to wear masks while at school.

We at Bikes and Bites know what it’s like to move from a big city and settle in a small village. From the time we rode our bikes into Valemount and read the sign, “Let the Mountains Move You” we felt at home.

Our experience on our first visit was the way people said “hello” to us even though they didn’t know us at all. The sale of our home in Calgary, Alberta went so fast. We leased a house and started running a Mountain Driftwood Lodge for a year (Thank you Bonnie and Paul Marklund).

In October 2016 we purchased the Etty property beside the Swiss Bakery; it was zoned for business and we could build a home on the property.

So many people helped us find our way here in Valemount and it is with gratitude I celebrate the friendships through our last four years. Shirley Taylor became my friend and encouraged me to join the walking group on Thursdays. We met as a group in front of Valemount Anglican United Church and the group went for coffee on at The Gathering Tree.

Jeff met a great friend named Eugene Jamin and his wife Monique invited us for supper on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We attended Mass at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church and met lovely people. They had coffee after church and potlucks too. Those were the days before COVID.

When our Mountain Driftwood lease ended, Shirley Taylor and the Anglican United Church let us rent the “old Manse” which had always been occupied by priests and ministers until that time. The timing was amazing because of zero rentals here in Valemount. Thank you Anglican United Church board!

The next spring, May 2017, we built a small bike shop on the front of our new property beside the Swiss Bakery. Community Futures helped us with a course in business and taught us to research, survey people and make a plan for years to come.

It was incredible how people came out of the woodwork to help us. Our son Cameron (CJ) did a lot of volunteer work on the property and our daughter Amary was a always making herself available too. Brendan Taylor (arborist) came and educated us on the trees we had on the property and things just took off.

The Village of Valemount Office was so helpful with unpacking the bylaw requirements. We learned a lot from our mistakes. Our first three plans for the house connecting to the business were all turned down so we had to wait another spring to build our home and the larger Bikes and Bites shop.

That fall we purchased a Winton Home package and it was delivered to our property from Prince George. We became quick friends with Home Hardware owners Jason and Ellen Van der Wilk. It was a journey for interior options and the employees at Home Hardware delivered the best price options and choices.

Jeff took an owner-builder course and things just took off when he passed his exam. We weathered so many health issues as we dug the foundations. I had never experienced allergies to sand and Jeff had a pneumonia virus that lasted way too long.

Many students from the secondary

school came and helped us dig the foundations. The walls for our home went up in a day!

Justin Wilkes (electrician) moved into town at just the right time and consulted for our electrical set up. Alpine Country Rentals gave us support for equipment. Our plumber consultant Blair Dryden was an excellent source of support. If it wasn’t for a great ex-RCMP/rancher named Ed Burstrom who volunteered for three months, we would have tied our electrical wiring in a knot.

All the inspections were done by Dean Schneider and although we had lots of hoops to jump through, we immensely appreciated his suggestions and availability for help. We complied to the expectations and had our home and shop completed that summer of 2019.

VARDA was also a positive source of information and as we built a relationship with Curtis Pawliuk for our bike rental and repairs services, he would drop by and encourage us.

Thank you Valemount Tourism and Jen Robinson for your partnership.

We have our friends Michael Peters at VCTV and Rocky Mountain Goat owner Laura Keil and her partner Andru McCracken to thank also. Andru reached out to our family over and over again for coffee, lunch and laughter. Made us feel connected.

Carol and Byron Bustin helped us find “free wood” to build our fence and porch deck. Clayton Burstrom was our first volunteer at the “little red bike shop.” His experience with riding on the trails lead to a bike repair course taught by Jeff. We hired him! We love you Clayton!

Clay Cardinal did amazing movies for our Bikes and Bites YouTube channel. So many laughs and serious talks. Thanks to the Cardinal family for all the invites to your ranch near McBride. We learned so much from your presentation with a wild horse about trust. Thank you.

The hills for bike riding and the paths have been so well groomed. We have learned to take care of mind, body and soul from Valemount people.

COVID came and we have stood together honouring one another’s space and health. The health care is outstanding at the Valemount’s medical services. Thank you to Robson Valley Community Services and The Learning Center for your personal touch and quality people. We are more than grateful to access these services for our family and this community.

Thank you to Swiss Bakery owners Sylvia and Bogdan for welcoming us to the small business community. The bakery is the best neighbour. The coffee and delicious meals and pastries are to die for. We also cherish our small business connection with Brent and Chris Scott at Scooters Pizza. Thank you for encouragement, laughter and hard work as small business owners working together.

Lastly, we appreciate the volunteers who tirelessly give their time to boards for better housing, socializing and health development in these COVID times.

We look forward to continuing to serve you from our little shop on Main Street. All our love from our hearts to yours, Valemount.

~ Debra & Jeff Jewett



Bikes & Bites

1030 Main St.
Valemount, BC
250-566-5169

COVID-19 vaccines now open to Robson Valley residents 18+

By LAURA KEIL

Residents 18 years and older in Valemount, McBride and area could call for their vaccine appointments starting April 2nd, after Northern Health pushed up the date for calling in (originally it was April 5th).

Residents should call 1-866-481-2175 to book their appointment. Hours: 7 am to 7 pm PST, daily.

McBride appointments will be April 13 – 29, 2021 at the Robson Valley Community Centre.

Valemount clinics are running April 20 – 23, 2021 at the Valemount Community Hall.

Northern Health says appointments will take about 10 minutes, and you must wait for another 15 minutes before leaving the clinic.

Northern Health said the whole-community approach to vaccinating residents all at once is due to population size, remoteness, logistics, and/or accessibility, and this approach can be expanded to address outbreaks, clusters or high population incidence rates.

In B.C. the AstraZeneca COVISHIELD vaccine has been suspended for people under the age of 55. Northern Health has said it will be using Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for its age-based vaccine roll-out.

TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY, ONE PROPERTY AT A TIME!



Sherri
MALONE

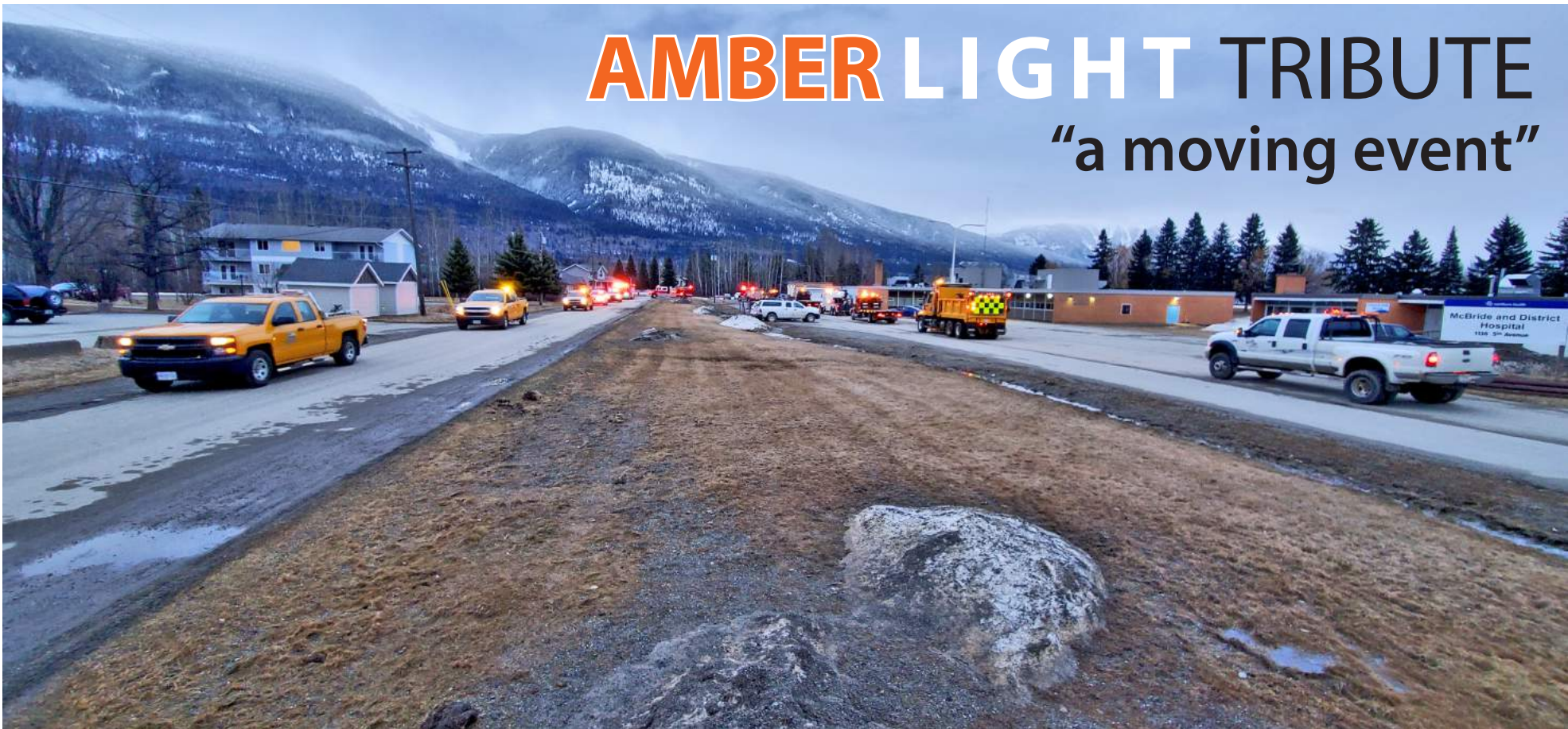
CALL ME!
1-250-566-1022

Realtor at
ROYAL LEPAGE
ASPIRE REALTY



EMAIL: sherrimalone@royallepage.ca
WEB: propertiesinvalemount.com
OFFICE: 1275 5th Ave, Valemount BC V0E 2Z0

SELLING YOUR BUSINESS?
Post it in the Goat!
goatnewspaper@gmail.com



AMBER LIGHT TRIBUTE

"a moving event"

By ANDREA ARNOLD

14 vehicles from LDM, CVSE, McBride District Fire Department and Rich Boyz Mechanical participated in the second annual Amber Light Parade acknowledging and thanking health care workers for all that they do. /ANDREA ARNOLD

The second Amber Light Parade to honour health care workers took place Friday, March 26, 2021.

"March is the one-year anniversary of the pandemic being declared," said Brock Maguire Quality Assurance and Safety Manager for Lake District Maintenance (LDM) Robson. "We felt that this was a good opportunity to again honour our front line healthcare workers."

The parade made its way from the McBride LDM yard to the hospital where they circled through the parking lot three times with lights flashing, horns honking, and sirens yelping. This year, 14 vehicles participated, from LDM, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement, McBride District Fire Department and Rich Boyz Mechanical.

"Health care workers already have a stressful job," said Maguire. "With COVID, they've had more heaped on. We want them to know they are in our hearts and on our minds. This is a small thing we can do to show them."

Rich Boyz owner Joseph Rich said his crew had several reasons for wanting to be involved.

"All of us at Rich Boyz have been involved in some form and level of humanitarian support over the years," he said. "We relate to the effort required by our healthcare workers in these tough times we are all living in, and want them to know that we appreciate their service."

McBride District Fire Department Chief Dave Hruby agreed.

"It is a good opportunity for us to show our appreciation to some of the people on the front lines looking after the rest of us," he said.

Laboratory and Medical Imaging Technologist Sheila Anderson watched from the parking lot as the parade made its rounds.

She said everyone is still facing challenges, whether at work or in their personal lives.

"The pandemic goes on and restrictions and regulations seem to be ever-lasting or ever-changing."

She said the Amber Light Tributewas a very moving event for her.

"Having other essential services take time out of their busy lives meant so much as it is comforting to know that we are not forgotten. To everyone who participated in the drive through parade, I want to thank you."

ANNOUNCEMENT



Janet Jones and the staff at the Jasper/Valemount Vet Clinic are sorry to announce that our associate vet Dr. Sarah Gale will be leaving Jasper in April to pursue a feline specialty in Kamloops, B.C. We thank Sarah for her compassionate and competent veterinary care of our patients and their families and wish her and her husband all the best on their new venture.

WE WILL MISS YOU SARAH!

COVID-19 IN BC



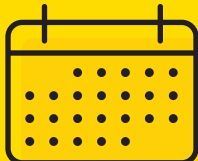
3 STEPS TO GETTING THE VACCINE.

1



Register: Verify when you are eligible and register at gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated or call 1-833-838-2323.

2



Book your date: When it's your turn, you'll receive an email or text and can then book your appointment.

3



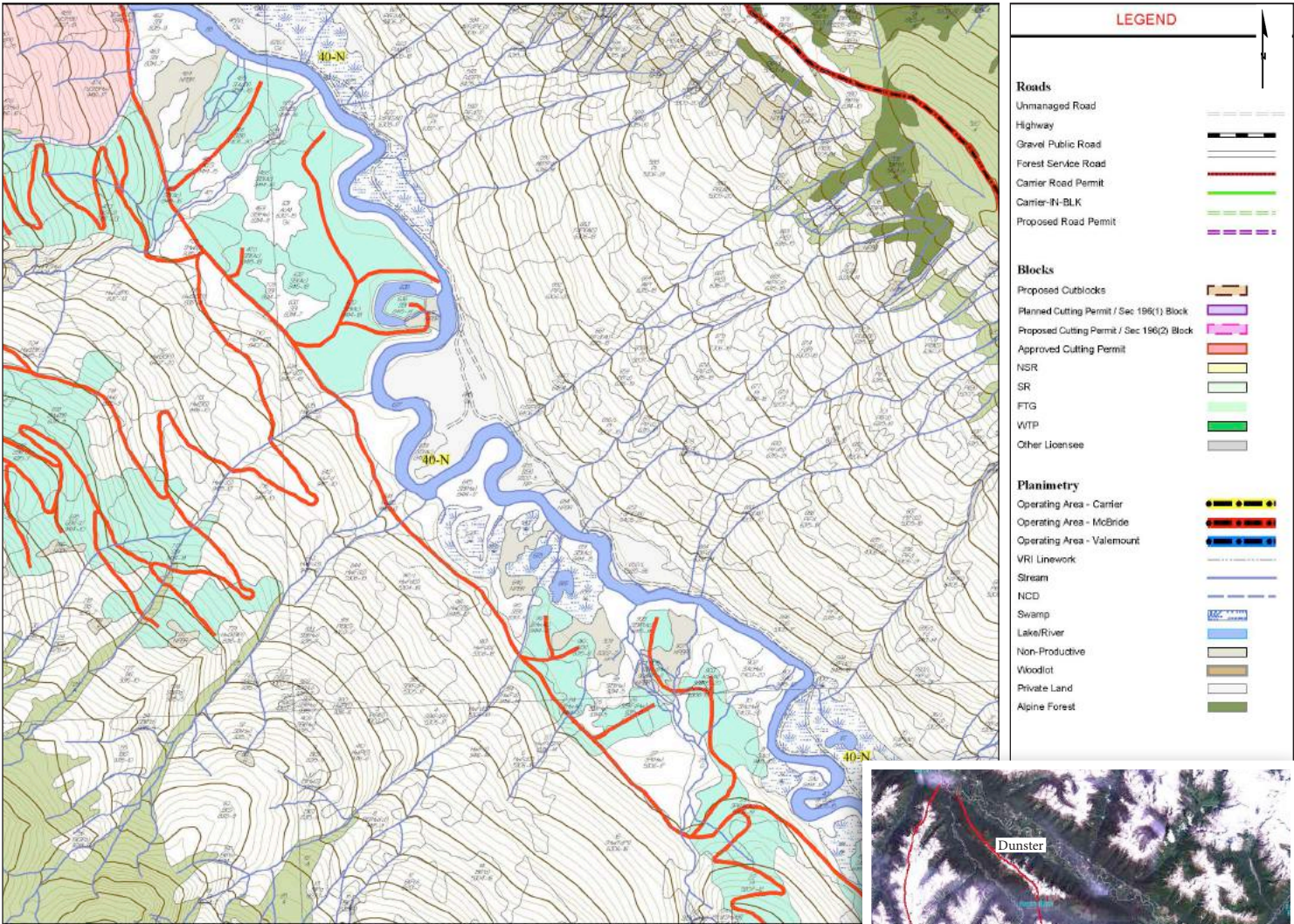
Get vaccinated: Show up, get the shot and help put the pandemic behind us.

For more details, visit:
gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Raush watershed... CONT'D FROM A1



Above: Carrier Lumber has proposed building roads in the Raush watershed. The map indicate roads will cut through a section of a protected area in the Raush, as well as, run through other unprotected parts in the watershed. Right: the location of the Raush relative to local communities. / MAPS SUPPLIED

access unprotected forests further into the watershed.

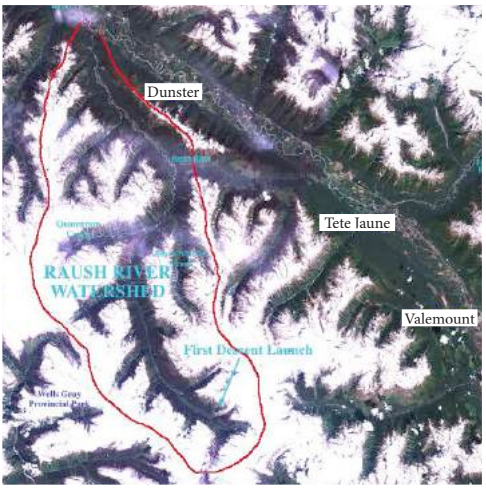
Current land use terms restrict the protected areas from resource development, but allow road-building.

The potential development has triggered push back from some local residents.

“What are they protected from if they can still log them? Or go through them

to log?” said Devanee Cardinal, whose family runs Cardinal Ranch in Dunster, and owns half of the private land in the Raush watershed.

The largest timber licensee operating in the 1.46 million-hectare Robson Valley Timber Supply Area (TSA), Carrier Lumber, holds tenure on the Crown land in the Raush and much of the TSA, which



spans from west of Crescent Spur to east of Valemount.

Despite repeated requests for an interview, Carrier representatives declined to comment on the road building plans.

“The concern is that Carrier (Lumber) puts in a logging road and it opens up access, and then, of course, logs out a big area of the headwaters,” Cardinal said. Cardinal’s family has lived in the Dunster area for 55 years, ever since her grandparents brought horses by train from California to homestead in the Raush. The family has 1,500 acres of deeded land and additional leased land for grazing their horses and cattle. The proposed roads won’t access their land, which is located across the Raush River and some distance away.

“Historically, my family were hunters, cattlemen, ranchers. This generation is a lot more environmental in their concerns,” said Cardinal. “Now, we’re more interested in protecting it.”

Many people living in the vicinity of the Raush hunt or work in the logging industry, but are still opposed to development, she said. Cardinal has received calls and emails from local residents against development in the Raush.

Build a road, they will come

“Roads are always the beginning of the end,” said Michelle Connelly, director of Conservation North, a volunteer-run organization that advocates for wildlife and habitat protection. “Once you punch a road into a place, you get all sorts of motorized activity. Roads enable all the stuff that you need to protect these places from.”

The fact that the Upper Raush is basically inaccessible is part of the value of the

place, she said. “There are so few places like that now.”

From a conservation perspective, a larger, intact landscape is more valuable than several small patches of the same amount of land, Connelly said. A bigger area provides continuous range for large animals and reduces the “edge effect” — the ecological deterioration that occurs around the edges of a protected area. Edges are exposed to altered light, soil, humidity, temperature and wind, which reduces seedling recruitment, increases tree mortality, and changes complex interactions between all living organisms in the ecosystem, according to a study led by McGill University researchers. Because the edge effect can extend as deeply as several hundred metres into a forest, scientists have assessed, the fewer the edges, the healthier the overall protected area will be.

“There’s already a park complex down there with the Bowron and Wells Gray (provincial parks),” Connelly said. “It’s just logical to connect this piece of intact wilderness to those areas.”

War in the woods

In an interview last fall, Carrier Lumber president Bill Kordyban expressed frustration with the changing demands for protected areas.

“There’s been this war in the woods for years and years,” he said. “Once an area gets protected, then the focus goes on to another area. Then that area gets protected, and the focus gets moved to another area.”

At the time, Kordyban was supportive of a land use planning concept recommended by an independent old growth review which suggested three potential categories of forestry management: fully protected from development; managed for multiple uses, and open to industrial logging.

“Let’s delineate those areas, so we’re not sitting, fighting about them,” he said. “I think that would be an awesome outcome.”

In an emailed response to a request for an interview, Susan Yurkovich, CEO of the BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI), said the forestry industry values B.C.’s commitment to conservation, but also values the jobs and economic opportunities it provides. She said industry knows a periodic review of forestry policy is necessary and that an “evidence-based, balanced, province-wide strategy” would be in everyone’s interest.

Robson Valley land management

The Protected Areas in the Raush were designated 22 years ago as part of the Robson Valley Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) process. Back in the 1990s and early 2000s, the province was divided into LRMPs and round tables were assembled from local land user groups to negotiate each plan. The LRMPs typically took several years to complete.

The amount of protected land in each LRMP varied, but provincially, 12 per cent was set as the maximum. In the 1.4-million-hectare Robson Valley LRMP, participants were told 20.4 per cent could be protected. The catch was that both the Mount Robson and Terry Fox provincial parks counted towards that total, and together, took up 15.5 per cent of the area, leaving 69,000 hectares, or 4.9 per cent of the land base, for new protected land.

“We wanted to protect the whole Raush,” said Howard, a round table

CONT'D ON P13

Did you triumph over adversity?

Tell us your story to get up to \$5,000 to pursue your dreams.

DEADLINE EXTENDED Apply to the Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship by April 15, 2021.

ourtrust.org/scholarship

Neil Muth enjoyed skiing at the Basin's many ski hills.

Columbia Basin trust

Columbia Basin Trust operates in the unceded traditional territories of the Ktunaxa, Lheidli T'enneh, Secwepemc, Sinixt and Syilx Nations.

participant.

In the end, 10 new protected areas were created, including the Upper and Lower Raush areas.

“Of course, industry was not happy because they didn’t want to give up anything, and the conservationists were not happy because we wanted an awful lot more,” Howard said.

Since then, the Raush watershed situation has hung in a sort of uneasy limbo. Howard and other conservationists in the north have made a few low-key, unsuccessful attempts to get more of the area protected, while Carrier has logged elsewhere. Until now.

The latest move to develop the Raush comes at the same time the Province is reviewing land use planning processes, developing a B.C.-wide watershed security strategy, and designing a wild salmon recovery program.

This is good news from Howard’s perspective. “When (land use planning) opens up, we’re going to push the Goat (River) and the Raush pretty hard at that point,” he said.

Added impetus for change may come from the federal government, which last year joined the U.S., Britain and the E.U. in committing to protect 30 per cent of its land and ocean areas by 2030.

The provinces will more or less have to cooperate in attaining that goal, said Howard.

“Where’s all the new protected areas going to come from?” he asked. Howard hopes the Raush will figure into the mix.

Modernizing land use planning

Nathan Cullen has been tasked with

“There’s a lot of Raush Valleys around the province, where you have competing visions and interests going on with less and less land to talk about, because so much of it has either fallen under protection or has been already impacted by industrial activity.”

- MLA Nathan Cullen,
Secretary of State for Lands
and Natural Resource
Operations

modernizing land use planning processes in B.C.

“Over the last number of years, the decisions on the land base have gotten increasingly complex, with First Nations rights and title, raised expectations on conservation and recreation, (and) more and more pressures on the land base,” said Cullen, B.C.’s Secretary of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations. People are interested in what happens to the land and are wanting to have a say, he said. “Public interest seems to be at an all-time high.”

Besides the need for greater government transparency and public engagement, legal obligations stemming from implementing the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) commit government to true consultation on land use planning. In forestry management, for instance, the Province has committed to ‘government-to-government’ consultation on old



“The Raush is a wildlife corridor between Wells Gray Park and the upper Fraser River. It’s an intact valley. It’s the biggest, intact tributary to the Fraser that’s not protected,” said Roy Howard of Fraser Headwaters Alliance. View looks North towards the confluence of the Raush and Fraser rivers. / Fraser Headwaters Alliance

growth management policy changes.

In the Raush, at least three First Nations have laid territorial claim to land in the watershed. During the transition period of implementing the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, it’s unclear how, or to what level, Carrier is obligated to consult with First Nations. Prior to the law’s passage, local stakeholders had to be informed prior to the commencement of resource development. Representatives of the Simpcw and Lheidli T’enneh Nations, and the Canim Lake Indian Band did not respond to requests for comment.

Meanwhile, Cullen is consulting with Indigenous leaders, environmental groups, industry, and communities across the province, to find out what’s working and what isn’t.

“There’s a lot of Raush Valleys around the province, where you have competing visions and interests going on with less and less land to talk about, because so much of it has either fallen under protection or has been already impacted by industrial activity,” Cullen said.

Wild salmon and a watershed

When it comes to salmon, land use decisions are important, said Parliamentary Secretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Fin Donnelly.

Among other responsibilities, Donnelly was tasked with revitalizing B.C.’s wild salmon populations and supporting the cross-ministry development of a watershed security strategy.

Intact watersheds like the Raush will provide the best form and function for salmon, however, multiple users and various values of the land have to be considered, Donnelly said. “That’s the challenge of creating a plan.”

A watershed security strategy needs to be developed at the individual watershed

level and any related land use plan should incorporate that watershed strategy including good protections for salmon, he said.

Seven species of salmon spawn in the Fraser River. In 2018, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessed the Chinook salmon in the Raush River as endangered, citing water habitat quality and harvesting as threats.

Every Chinook and Sockeye-producing system is in decline, and the further a species has to swim up the Fraser, the worse off it is,” said independent fisheries biologist Brian Toth, who specializes in the Upper Fraser River species.

“Over the past 20 to 50 years, we have not been doing an acceptable job in terms of how we’ve managed salmon,” said Donnelly. “Things have to change if we value salmon.”

Raush as a genetic blueprint

Some ecosystems should be saved as study areas to provide ecological blueprints, including genetic seeds and grafting stock of naturally-occurring ecosystems, said Dunster resident Rob Mercereau. “The Raush is as close as we have to fulfilling that need. (Almost) everything else in the Robson Valley has been greatly altered by rebuilding and logging.”

A former tree planter, raised for a few years in a logging camp, and the current part owner of a small portable sawmill, Mercereau believes logging should be selective and stop targeting old growth in forests like the Raush.

“The numbers don’t add up for any long-term (old growth logging) scenario,” said Mercereau, “Regionally, there is less than five per cent of the large old growth trees left. That won’t last long... then what?”

Once the old growth is gone, the

forestry industry will be forced to change direction with what they are cutting, Mercereau said.

“In the meantime, the primal forest is collateral damage because they don’t have the foresight to plan ahead and retool now.”

Under the Robson Valley LRMP, about 74 per cent of the land is open to some form of development: 31 per cent is designated for resource development, 19 per cent for multiple uses, and 24 per cent weighted towards conservation with extra restrictions on resource development.

While the designation of zones were a key improvement in the LRMPS, the land use planning process also had some significant shortcomings, said Dr. Karen Price, an independent ecologist who has professionally assessed and developed numerous land use, environmental stewardship, and park management plans.

The size of the protected zones weren’t based on science or what scientists determined was needed and were limited by how much land could be off limits for timber harvesting, said Price, who sat on the round table for the Bulkley Valley LRMP negotiations.

“(The protected areas) were only allowed to impact timber by a certain amount—the same story that has been going on for decades.”

New ways of talking needed

As flawed as previous land planning processes were 20 years ago, they allowed people with different perspectives to sit together and talk, and while the jury is out on what form the new land use planning process will take, some people recall the old round tables nostalgically, Cullen said, who was involved in a round table himself years ago. “That was a lot more hopeful than working out your issues in court or at a blockade.”

Cullen has heard a consistent refrain from diverse voices cautioning him that the issues will only increase in complexity and difficulty.

“We need a much better way of talking to each other and coming to decisions,” he said.

“I’m sick of absolutes and people saying, if we have economic, we can’t have environmental. I believe we can have both,” COFI’s Yurkovich said in an interview with the Goat last year. “I believe we can constantly look at the way we’re doing things (and)... learn to do things differently.”

She said for the vast majority of people, there’s a way to find a common ground.

“Sometimes you get to the place and you can’t agree, but I think we have to hear each other out,” said Yurkovich.

“I’m not against logging,” said Mercereau, who referenced some innovative harvesting techniques previously employed by Carrier Lumber that left more of the forest intact. “I just think government and industry have horribly mismanaged this so-called public resource on unceded territory, and now the reckoning is upon them.”

A person isn’t necessarily on one side or the other, said Cardinal.

“You can be a hunter and an environmentalist; both a logger and an environmentalist,” Cardinal said. “We’re not opposed to logging in general, we just think it should be protected up there.”

Since much of the Fraser headwaters area has already been developed, limiting access in the Raush is a big deal, said Cardinal. “You just can’t go back once there’s a road.”

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED TELUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY 47-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 47-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: 52.795240, -119.248280

ANY PERSON may comment by close of business day on May 17th, 2021 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

A hot spring... *almost*



By ANDRU McCracken

A hot spring close to Valemount could soon be uncovered thanks to decreasing levels in the Kinbasket Reservoir, according to BC Hydro’s weekly reservoir report.

An April 1st report forecast the reservoir level to be 720.6 m on April 3 and down to 719.5 m on April 10.

The forecast is just that, a forecast and the levels are not set in stone.

A large geothermally-heated pool sits at about 719m above sea level, in a hard to find location roughly 26km down the west side of Kinbasket Lake, the best way to find the hot springs is to tag along with a local, and be prepared for a good hike over rough ground.

The verdant natural hot springs was a hidden natural wonder prior to the construction of the Mica Dam and the flooding of the Kinbasket Reservoir in 1973. Historic photos of the area show a lush landscape and a steaming homemade cedar tub. According to local lore, the temperatures were too hot to bear and the water had to be diluted by a nearby stream to cool it off.

Now, when the springs aren’t completely

submerged, they exist against a stark moonscape, devoid of plantlife, which refuses to grow in the ever-changing conditions. The decaying stumps of once-massive cedars are one of the clues to how things were before.

Death by two nations

The area’s fate was sealed when Canada and the United States signed the Columbia River Treaty in 1961. The object was to prevent flooding in increasingly populated areas downstream. A terrible flood in 1948 claimed 30 lives and caused millions in damages. The Treaty has been a financial boon to British Columbia. Millions have been paid to the Province by the US to tame the flows of the river, and the nations cooperate and time the release of water to maximize the amount of power and money they generate.

The level of Kinbasket Reservoir is modulated by the action of the Mica Dam, 100 km away from the Reservoir’s northern edge near Valemount. The dam stands at 244m tall and produces about 2805 MW of power. The level of the reservoir rises and falls in relationship to rainfall and also the demand for power.

3 Peaks Mechanical *open for business*

By ANDREA ARNOILD

The sounds of air wrenches and compressors once again can be heard from the automotive shop on the corner of 4th avenue and Main street in McBride. 3 Peaks Mechanical opened for business on Tuesday March 23, 2021, and new owner Zach Haugen has been pleased with the business so far.

Haugen is no stranger to the building or the community. He spent time working in the same spot under the Country Road’s banner in 2015. For the past two years he has been managing a shop in Whitecourt Alberta, while partner Mae Demonteverde held down their home in McBride. Haugen decided it was time to find a way to be present in the valley and has reopened the doors to offer a full-service mechanical shop.

3 Peaks offers all the services one expects from an auto shop. Haugen is in the process of completing out-of-province inspection certification, and will be offering that option within a few months. They offer tire sales and repairs as well.

Haugen has a real heart for the community and wants to support where he can. As McBride has an aging demographic, Haugen has decided to offer a seniors discount on services. Also, as the business picks up and it becomes viable, he hopes to support youth sports through sponsorship or other means.

Demonteverde is overseeing the front desk reception side of the business, along with her pint-sized assistant, two-and-half-year-old Myla.

Currently, the shop is open for business 8-5 Monday-Friday, and most Saturdays. The pair hopes to be able to get out hiking and enjoy the mountains that inspired the shop name.

“The 3 peaks refer to the three more popular mountains, Lucille, Belle and Renshaw,” said Haugen.

Haugen says he’s always loved mechanics.

“I have had a passion for working on cars,” he said.

He says he has experience working on everything from lawn mowers to tractors, and loves the variety the career provides. His special interest is old cars, VW’s specifically.

At this time, Haugen is running as a solo mechanic in the shop, but will look into hiring as business picks up.

“I hope to get the shop up to the standard it was,” said Haugen. “I want to serve the community.”



Zach Haugen and Mae Demonteverde, along with daughter Myla, are excited to announce that their family-run business, 3 Peaks Mechanical in McBride, is open and offering complete auto repair. /ANDEA ARNOILD

CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF MCBRIDE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLANNING PROJECT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – RFP 01.2021

THE VILLAGE OF MCBRIDE IS SEEKING PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN.

OBJECTIVES:

1. The Village of McBride Downtown Revitalization Plan will result in a community-wide vision for McBride’s downtown and action plan that identifies policies, programs, and capital improvements that achieve the community’s vision.
2. The Plan should support long-range goal setting, visioning and planning that will improve the downtown’s livability and vitality and increase its attractiveness to new businesses, residents and tourists.

PROPOSALS ARE TO BE LIMITED TO 10 PAGES AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- An introductory cover letter outlining company profile and approach to the project
- Relevant experience
- Proposed schedule including a description of tasks to be undertaking and methodologies to be used by the proponent and a schedule for completion
- Qualifications of each project team member
- Cost estimate and timeline
- References

Questions should be directed to Karen Dubé at edo@mcbride.ca.

Please forward proposal by email to Karen Dubé at edo@mcbride.ca with the RFP 01.2021 in the subject line by Friday, April 16 at 4:00pm.

Cosmic Cadbury Questions

Who owns what? Can you enjoy something that's not yours? Does that enjoyment make it yours? These questions and more will be stirred up by the late stages of Venus in Aries, with the moon cycle making closing comments. It's a week of wrap-ups. Look at the spoils in your basket. Life's sweetness will be protected within a thin, form-fitting emotional foil like the wrapper of a chocolate egg. Decide what to save, swallow or share.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The talent of insight is very worth honoring wherever you find it. Definitely, you possess this, and you'll attract other insightful people even more than usual this week. They can help you see yourself differently and understand yourself with a new clarity that makes it easier for you

to act with confidence.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Usually, you know just what you want. Desire typically announces itself with all the subtlety of a flashing neon sign in the downtown storefront window of your mind. Not this time though. This time, it's starting deep within the earth of you, a subtle stirring and you won't be entirely sure what it is until it surfaces this week.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your list of favorite people is growing so long it no longer follows the rules of favoritism. If everyone is special, then no one is, right? Then so be it. Your caring heart dictates that you treat others with the warmth you'd give to extended family and the sort of attention typically bestowed on honored guests.

HOROSCOPES

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is no need to announce your plans, just execute them with quiet grace, involving as few people as possible. You'll have success with running your business under the radar; distractions and hindrances will be few. By giving the opposition nothing to resist, you create ease for yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Are you getting rejected enough? Typically, stretching into who you want to become should entail a fair number of rejections. It is part of the admission cost to this new version of yourself and the grand wins that go along with the powerful incarnation. Reward yourself for all risks in the name of

personal development. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). This is the ideal moment for a psychic deep clean. There's no single item that's too scary in there; it's just the quantity of things that can seem overwhelming. After all, you've been storing memories and ideas in there for a long time. Some you no longer need to hold onto, and others are worthy of framing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your Venus-ruled nature lends an innate understanding of beauty's path, which typically crosses through many awkward and even downright ugly stages on its way to the blossom. Understanding that gorgeousness takes time, you embrace the entire journey with fondness and nonjudgment for each and every moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will be inclined to fine-tune your image. It's not out of vanity; rather, it's an effort to make yourself a better fit for the people you're trying

to serve. Your deepest desire is to help others. You'll do what it takes to be both accessible and attractive to the ones who need your offerings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Harmony starts with a simple question. "What can we agree on?" The week features mutually beneficial arrangements. Stay open-minded as good relationships come in unlikely forms. You'll be surprised by just how little you have in common with a person who, nonetheless, makes your life undeniably better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You already know that what disturbs people is not what happens, but their take on what happens. Even so, it's hard to change a "take." It's built on a lifetime of learning. A change of belief can happen in an instant, but it could also take years. So the question becomes: What work is worthy of my devoted effort?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll have trouble letting go of things beyond your control and trying not to think about them won't work. However, there's luck to be had from going even bigger -- pondering the vastness to gain a different perspective of your own role in it. Your will is mighty and can do a lot of good when applied to the right things.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You encourage those around you and your support is a big reason why they shine. Even so, be careful not to foster any kind of dependency here. When they can fly without you, it's a perpetual win. You're an integral part in a beautiful cycle. You'll do this again in a different arena. Don't hold on too tight to any win.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: If your friendship circle was a bouquet, then it would be the bright one called "marmalade skies" including a wide variety of open optimists. This solar year is characterized by curiosity, mental agility and emotional flexibility that has you connecting with people in ways brand new to you. The financial picture perks up as your work on a side project becomes lucrative. You've a talent for explaining what you do in a way that makes others want to be a part of it. Your thorough enjoyment sets the tone!

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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SUDOKU

	9			5	2		6	
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	7	3	1			4		
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			8		6			
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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.

Answers on P17

CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12					13		
14				15					16		
17			18				19	20			
			21		22	23		24		25	26
27	28	29						30			
31					32		33				
34					35						
			36		37		38		39	40	41
42	43			44	45	46			47		
48				49					50		
51				52					53		

Across

1 Pub fixture

4 Carrier

8 Horse bit

11 ___ we done yet?

12 Touch up

13 Time long past

14 Golf term

15 "Horse Fair" painter Bonheur

16 Commandment number

17 Colorado craft

19 Resinous deposit

21 Censure

24 Postal delivery

27 Bike stunt

30 Gumbo pods

31 Painter's medium

32 Laid down the law

34 Birds' beaks

35 Flash

36 Row boat equipment

38 Guanaco's cousin

42 Cut a swath

44 Distressed cry

47 Spending limit

48 "To Autumn," e.g.

49 Department

50 Day divs.

51 Sum

52 Soothsayer

53 Give the once-over

Down

1 Absorbent powder

2 Operatic solo

3 Hammer type

4 Some like it hot at breakfast

5 Upset

6 Close relative

7 More as well

8 Brittle breakfast flatbread

9 It can be tender

10 Freight weight

18 Texas oil city

20 Making no value judgments

22 Longish skirt

23 ___-to-know basis

25 Eur. land

26 Nipper

27 Took the gold

28 Hustle

29 Jostled

33 Basement

37 Scandinavian rugs

39 Stomach woe

40 Pietà figure

41 Church recess

42 Kiwi relative

43 Eccentric

45 Mother lode

46 Small

Answers on P17

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13		14				15			
16						17				18			
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			49					50		51			
52	53	54					55				56	57	58
59					60	61				62			
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

Across

- Where the Wizard of Westwood coached
- Montmartre Mrs.
- Kind of court
- Whale show
- Shade of black
- Emit light
- BMW's e.g.
- Catch
- Jump over
- Scottish city
- Persian Gulf port
- Wet behind the ___
- Stratum
- Drift
- As matters now stand

30. Eur. speedometer reading

- Let up
- Anger
- Stable staple
- Australian land in the Indian Ocean, 2 words
- Decks in a ring
- They can be sweet
- Buyer
- "... ___ quit!"
- Roman building feature
- Metric measure
- Kind of evidence
- Quote a passage

52. City on the Missouri River

- Costa del Sol city
- Leonardo's lady
- "Exodus" author
- Maria Callas songs
- Finger tip
- Pike or perch
- "The Lord of the ___"
- Taverns
- Photo ___ (press events)
- Orwell's alma mater

Down

- Insurer for military personnel
- Great Lakes fish
- Overdue
- Little cherubs
- Planet circler
- Andy Warhol painting
- Wapiti
- "Hey hey, you you, get off of my ___" Rolling Stones
- Chops for dinner
- India setting
- Mountain legend
- Stamp of approval
- Common tattoo spot

- Medieval perhaps
- Hate with a passion
- Its capital, Singaraja
- Crazy
- Dislike, and then some
- Persian language
- Refuse
- Embroidered word
- Military uniform cloth
- Discussion members
- Start for "electric"
- Neighbor of Francia
- Prefix with byte
- Buddy
- War of 1812 locale
- Money in electronic form

- Title a Knight
- Indian vegetable dishes
- Skiers tow
- Present starter
- ___ and groan
- Has ___ with
- Unmarried woman title
- Drier stuff
- Italy's ___ di Como
- Part of Nasdaq, abbr.
- Mystery craft
- Clothing defect

Answers on P17

THE TOUGHIE

by Myles Mellor

Answers on P13

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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	T	A	P	4	C	A	S	E	10	O	A	T
11	A	R	E	12	E	D	I	T	13	A	G	O
14	L	I	E	15	R	O	S	A	16	T	E	N
17	C	A	N	O	E	18	L	A	C	25	T	L
19	D	A	M	N	21	M	A	24	M	A	25	T
26	W	H	E	E	L	I	E	30	O	K	R	A
31	O	I	L	S	32	D	E	C	R	E	E	D
34	N	E	B	S	35	I	D	E	A	36	L	A
37	O	A	R	38	L	A	M	39	M	A	40	A
41	M	O	W	42	Y	O	W	L	43	C	A	P
44	O	D	E	45	A	R	E	A	46	H	R	S
47	A	D	D	48	S	E	E	R	49	E	Y	E

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	U	C	L	A	11	M	M	E	12	C	L	A	Y
13	S	H	A	M	14	C	O	A	L	15	L	A	S
16	A	U	T	O	17	H	O	O	K	18	O	M	I
19	A	B	E	R	20	D	E	E	N	21	D	U	B
22	E	A	R	S	23	B	E	D	24	K	P	H	
25	A	B	A	T	26	R	I	T	H	27	A	T	
28	C	H	R	I	29	T	M	A	S	30	I	S	L
31	K	O	S	32	P	E	A	S	33	T	A	K	E
34	O	R	I	35	A	R	C	H	E	36	K	I	L
37	O	M	A	H	38	A	C	I	T	39	E	T	O
40	M	O	N	A	41	U	R	I	S	42	A	R	I
43	A	I	L	44	F	I	S	H	45	R	I	N	G
46	I	N	N	47	O	P	S	48	E	T	O	N	

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ROBSON VALLEY

Community Events



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VALEMOUNT & MCBRIDE

Free Tax Clinic- Community Volunteer Income Tax Program is a collaboration between community organizations and the Canada Revenue Agency. In response to the covid-19 pandemic volunteers may be able to complete your return by videoconference, by phone, or by document drop off service. Call today to discuss your tax situation or to set up an appointment with one of our trained Staff: Call 1-844-324-2004 and talk to Charlene for McBride or Sheri for Valemount.

THURS Apr 8 & 15 - **School Age Support Program** for caregivers of children ages 3 -12 throughout the Robson Valley via Zoom. Please join us for a discussion to llearn more about the rights of your child, resource building, and what supports are available in the Robson Valley. Guest speakers: Tamara Cinnamon (Equine Assisted Learning), Laura Smith (CYMH Clinical Counselor), Jodiy Edamura (OT Therapist), Allison Woods (Recreational Respite). Contact Isla to register for this FREE, two-part workshop at isla@rvcsbc.org or call 250-566-9107.

THURS - **Youth Drop-In Group** from 5-6pm weekly via ZOOM. A casual drop-in sessions in a safe and interactive space to support children’s mental health for children 10 - 12 yrs old in the Valemount/McBride area.

- “I’ve got the Power!” (5 - 6pm)
- “Like a Boss!” (5 - 6 pm)

Call 1-844-324-2004 to join the group! Kids are welcome to join individual sessions and don’t need to commit to the whole program.

WEDs - **Family Place Drop-In Program** from 9:00am - 12:00pm! If you have questions, are looking for parenting resources, or just need to chat, you can join us virtually with your children. (Geared towards 0-5 year olds).

- **Moe the Mouse** Virtually from 9:00-9:30am
- **Mother Goose** Virtually from 9:30-10:00am available throughout the Robson Valley.

VALEMOUNT

SUN. Apr 18 - **JCR-Junior Canadian Rangers AGM @7pm.** Contact Sheri Gee at 250-566-3777 or email rgr.sheri.gee@gmail.com

TUES Apr 20 Valemount Marina Assoc. AGM 7pm upstairs at the Curling Club.

THURS Apr 22 - **Macrame Earring making class.** Come learn with Sharon as you create your own macrame earrings! For 18+ adults. Join us in-person at the RVCS Classroom at 99 Gorse St, or via ZOOM. Call 250-566-9107 for more information and up for either the in-person or virtual class. Limited spots. Call and sign-up soon. COVID protocols in place.

HOMES FOR SALE BY OWNER



River-front property with 4-bedroom stick-built home on 2 acres, 3 mins from McBride.
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Council amends burning bylaw

By ANDRU McCracken

When the matter of the Village of Valemount’s new wood burning bylaw came up in council on March 23, Councillor Hollie Blanchette took charge and spoke strongly in favour of its third reading. Blanchette sits on the Clean Air Task Force which was created to take strong action to improve Valemount’s air quality. Council amended the bylaw to exempt restaurants, but questions remain about how the bylaw will work, and how people will know whether or not an advisory is in place before starting their wood stoves.

“We’re not expecting people are going to turn off their heat,” said Blanchette, “Obviously if you heat with wood and that is your only source, then that is what you will continue to do.”

She quoted the bylaw for clarity.

“A person will not use a wood burning appliance at any time when the air quality advisory is in effect, except to heat premises that are equipped with no heating source other than wood burning.”

\$50,000

Blanchette also spoke to the extraordinary fines associated with the bylaw, which concerned many residents.

“The penalty is up to \$50,000 upon a conviction,” she said. “I want to remind people that we are asking people to do these things, we are not demanding it. We are asking them to work with the Village to make the air we all breathe better. If somebody is not in compliance, if someone has been asked to do these things and they continue not to and continue to put residents in harm’s way, then we’ll have to look at these offenses and penalties.”

Blanchette said the goal is to ensure that community members are healthy, happy and working together.

How to know?

But councillor Donnie MacLean had a practical question for council.

“Before people start a fire in the morning, I wondered where people can check if there is an advisory before they light the fire in the morning?” she asked. “Have we addressed that?”

Chief Administrative Officer Wayne Robinson said that the village could put a link to the BC Venting Index on the village’s website, as one solution.

Torgerson said they may be able to conscript the local television channel to help too and put advisories on the scroll.

Not for restaurants

Council passed an amendment exempting the use of wood burning appliances used by restaurants.

Torgerson said that a local wood-fired pizzeria and other restaurants coming soon shouldn’t be asked to shut down during an advisory, noting that the oven smokes a little on start up and then burns very clean afterwards.

Other ways to heat

Torgerson recalled for council that the village is being proactive to help introduce better ways of heating than burning.

“We have applied for a community-wide geothermal community energy system and we are just waiting on an announcement for the end of 2021,” he said.

Will it work?

Just before passing the bylaw, Torgerson said that people would disobey the bylaw and burn despite air quality advisories.

“When we start looking at maximum fines and coldest days of the year there will be people burning, even with a smaller furnace or a secondary heating appliance, there will be people burning and they will be doing it to keep waterlines from freezing, for what could be frequent power outages because we are at the end of a BC Hydro extension cord,” said Torgerson.

The bylaw still needs fourth (final) reading before it becomes law.

Bus service grant won’t lower fares

By ANDRU McCracken

The new bus service transporting people from Valemount to Kamloops and Valemount to Edmonton has received a grant from the provincial government to help provide the service, but it won’t be enough to have an impact on fares.

CEO of Thompson Valley Charters Roger Nadeau explained.

“It’s not going to have an impact on fares because we’re not sure what the ridership is. That is what [the provincial government] is helping with,” said Nadeau.

“We knew we were going to run at a loss for a while. We still aren’t going to make money but this grant will carry us over until we can make some money.”

The fares are higher than, for example, the provincially-subsidized BC Bus North.

To ride from Valemount or McBride to Prince George is just \$35, meanwhile a trip from Valemount to Kamloops will cost \$99.

The fare to Edmonton on the other hand is \$124.

The bus will begin running between Kamloops and Edmonton starting May 3, making eastbound runs on Mondays and Thursdays and westbound runs Tuesdays and Fridays.

Nadeau said they are working under a different model than BC Bus North, and their operating expenses are not covered by government.

“We didn’t get enough funding for that,” said Nadeau.

He said what the funding does achieve is ensure they can get started and run regularly until they build up ridership.



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Columbia Basin Trust operates in the unceded traditional territories of the Ktunaxa, Lheidli T'enneh, Secwepemc, Sinixt and Syilx Nations.

Export program can help you ship out of province or country

By LAURA KEIL

Robson Valley manufacturing and agricultural businesses looking to expand into Alberta—or other provinces and countries—can get a helping hand through a provincial export program.

The province's Export Navigator program assigns a regional advisor to each business looking for support and guidance on how to grow outside of B.C.

"Exporting can be intimidating at first," said Tim Thomas, from the Export Navigator program. "But if you are ever in doubt, please feel free to pick up the phone and we can talk through the options. Whether you just need someone to point you in the right direction or you need to work on an export marketing plan, I am here to help."

In addition to hours of free expert advice and step-by-step guidance, advisors can assess your business for export readiness and provide up-to-date resources for interprovincial or international exporting; once you're ready to go, they can help you design a market-entry strategy.

One perk of the program is that businesses are paired with a single advisor, providing continuity and allowing business owners to go at their own pace.

"Every business is different, which is why we take the time to get to know our clients so that we can offer the best possible service," said Allison Boulton, Export Navigator Program Manager. "Our clients want to expand and they want to contribute to their community; that is always top of mind for our advisors."

Advisors can help with everything from exporting agri-food products to Asia to selling products online.

The program advisors say there are many reasons to expand your markets—it diversifies your customer base, can increase profitability, and makes your

business more competitive.

The program has helped many different types of business expand, including an engineering company in East B.C. and a skincare company on Vancouver Island. You can read other success stories on their website.

Export Navigator is open to small and medium-sized businesses in much of B.C. including the Robson Valley—anywhere except the Lower Mainland and Victoria. The program says businesses must be willing to commit resources to planning and sustaining an export strategy. You can apply via online form [here](#).

The Export Navigator program is funded by the Province of B.C. and Western Economic Diversification Canada and delivered by Small Business BC, and Community Futures.

ARE YOU READY TO SELL BEYOND YOUR CURRENT MARKET?

- Has your company received sales inquiries from outside of British Columbia?
- Does your company have excess production capacity or the ability to scale operations?
- Is your company's management willing to dedicate time and money to develop a new market for a sustained period of time?
- Is your company willing to conduct market research?
- Does your product or service have a competitive advantage (quality, price, innovation, etc.) over similar products in your target market?
- Is your company able to secure financing to adapt, ship, and market your product in your target market?

BC Bus North *extended* for 1 year

By LAURA KEIL

Northern BC's inter-city bus service will continue for another year, thanks to investment by the provincial and federal governments.

Over \$1.6 million in one-time funding will support BC Bus North operating costs until March 31, 2022 thanks to the Western Economic Diversification Canada and the Province.

"Support for reliable methods of transportation has only become more important during a time when many people need access to essential services not available in smaller communities," said Mélanie Joly, federal Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for Western Economic Diversification Canada.

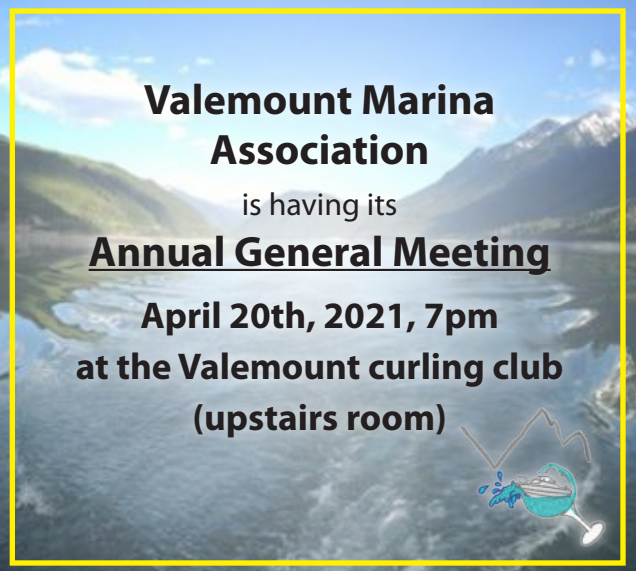
Since 2018, the service has helped fill the gap left by Greyhound when it shut down service that year. It has a fleet of four highway coaches that service 39 communities. Valemount-Prince George via McBride, BC is one of four routes. The other three routes connect Prince George to Prince Rupert, Fort St. John and Fort Nelson (with stops in between). Two round trips are provided each week on all routes, except for Dawson Creek to

Fort Nelson, which is one round trip per week. Fares are distance based and range from \$11 from Valemount to McBride to \$65 between Prince George and Prince Rupert. For more information on routes click [here](#).

"Connecting communities and people is essential, especially in a province like British Columbia with such a large and diverse rural and northern population," said Terry Beech, MP for Burnaby North-Seymour.

BC Bus North continued to operate during the pandemic. Additional safety measures like plexiglass seat partitions were installed to ensure riders are able to keep a safe distance from each other.

BC Bus North has provided rides for over 13,000 people since the service launched in 2018.



Valemount Marina Association

is having its

Annual General Meeting

April 20th, 2021, 7pm

at the Valemount curling club

(upstairs room)



Tim Thomas
Export advisor for the Cariboo

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