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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

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Thursday May 27th, 2021  
Volume 12 Issue 19

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## Night-shift commute: McBride paramedics cross-covering Prince George draining on staff, sources say

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

BC paramedics know that they can be called at any time to “cross cover” in a neighbouring community. It is the way the system works, and has been working for many years.

A statement from BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) explains: “When paramedic crews are not

available, or out of their service area for a patient response or transfer, BCEHS implements a system called “cross-covering” whereby other crews in the region cover for that area. On the occasion when a paramedic is not available for a shift BCEHS either works to backfill the shift or assigns another crew to ‘cross cover.’”

In the same correspondence, they state that “McBride paramedics are, on occasion, asked to cross-cover the

Prince George area. McBride is usually not a first choice, given the distance. Closer paramedic crews include Vanderhoof, Bear Lake and from Quesnel.”

But sources say that in the last eight months or so, McBride has been called to cover night shift (usually) in Prince George an average of two nights a week. In more recent weeks, crews have been spending

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## Valemount's Official Community Plan Part two



> SEE PAGE 8-9



## Water conservation and boil water advisories—THE WHY

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

A water conservation notice and boil water notice were issued last week for the Village of McBride but both were rescinded on Fri. May 21st. The notices said all tap water must be boiled before consumption and requested that residents limit water usage where possible like dishwashing, and toilet flushing, and omit

unnecessary usage of water such as car washing or pool filling for the time being.

Water restrictions and boil water advisories are not new for the residents of McBride. Each spring, as the thaw creeps up the mountain side, particles and organic materials join the flow of water into the village's water supply.

### How it works

Public Works Working Foreman and Water Plant Operator Matt Slaney explained the process water goes through as it travels through the treatment system.

“Water enters the system from Dominion Creek, through an intake pipe located in a small dammed pond,” said Slaney. “It flows to two settling tanks, each with a capacity of 60m3, to allow sediment to settle. The cleaner water then travels to the treatment plant where it is treated to intense UV exposure. The UV lights render organisms like Giardiasis and Cryptosporidium incapable of reproduction, making them harmless for consumption.”

He explained that once it has been UV treated, a very small amount of

water travels through a vacuum/suction process where a predetermined amount of chlorine is added, to kill off 99% of the other organisms in the water.

“The amount of chlorine needed is monitored and adjusted regularly,” he said.

The chlorine concentrated water is returned to the main flow just before it enters the underground reservoir. The reservoir contains a series of wall-like partitions staggered through the 800m3 tank and the flow around the walls causes the chlorine to distribute evenly before arriving at your tap.

### What to expect

A few weeks ago, residents may have noticed their water had a hint of a yellow colour.

“Yellow water is caused by melting in the lower elevations,” said Slaney. “As the water runs down the slopes into the creek, it picks up discoloured organics. Like a large organic tea bag.” This is an example of when chlorine levels are added, however the colour can not be removed.

“As spring continues higher up on the mountain, freshet begins to be a problem,”

said Slaney, referring to the widely used term to describe the thaw. “This is the season we are in now.” It is during this time, boil water advisories most often occur.

“When the turbidity levels reach 1.0 NTU for 24 consecutive hours, Northern Health, along with the village CAO will issue the advisory. (Turbidity is the cloudiness or haziness of a fluid caused by large numbers of individual particles that are generally invisible to the naked eye, similar to smoke in air.) Or, there may be a water conservation issued. This may seem strange as it often happens when there seems to be an excess of water available.

“The issue is not the quantity available, but the availability of quality water,” said Slaney. The purpose of restrictions is to help prevent unnecessary particles and dirt entering the system by slowing the intake from the creek. “The full reservoir can sustain the village for a minimum of two days without any new water being added,” he said. When a restriction is issued the village is trying to extend the

CONT'D ON P2

Irene Berndsen



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see LISTINGS ON  
BACK PAGE



NON-PROFIT

SPOT light

# Robson Valley Spay and Neuter Society

## Healthy pets, healthy community



The Robson Valley Spay & Neuter Society created a dedicated building to provide shelter for stray and feral cats so they can heal after surgery before returning to their caretaker or new homes. / SUBMITTED

SUBMITTED BY RVSNS DIRECTORS: NEYSA WEATHERBEE, WENDY CINNAMON, GORD HANDLEN, SUE PRUE AND TRACY YETTER

It has been a string of busy years for the Robson Valley Spay and Neuter Society (RVSNS). Between 2013 and the end of 2020 the society has helped spay or neuter 506 cats and dogs! Last year 41 cats and 6 dogs were spay/neutered or vaccinated in the Robson Valley and 32 cats were re-homed through the society. This has made a positive impact on the health of the animal population in the valley and prevented many unwanted litters.

The Robson Valley Spay and Neuter Society was formed in 2013 by a handful of volunteers to address the feral and stray cat population in the valley and is completely run by volunteers. We started out with matching grant funding from the BCSPCA to help us address the needs of three local cat colonies and then

received local funding to remove financial barriers for owners wanting to spay/neuter their pets and to raise awareness of the benefits of basic vet care and collars with identification tags.

We created a dedicated building to provide shelter for stray and feral cats so they can heal after surgery, before returning to their caretaker or adoption to new homes. Contrary to popular belief cats cannot live completely wild but depend on human support to survive.

The RVSNS volunteers have participated in craft fairs and bottle drives, hosted concessions at concerts, manned BBQs, held silent auctions and raffles, and picked up garbage along the highway to generate funds for expenses not covered by grants and to raise awareness of the need for spay and neutering. Volunteer help is always needed and welcome for fundraising or for fostering cats. The local recycling depot will set aside funds for the society if you let

them know you would like to donate your bottles. We have had great community support with donations of cat food, supplies, and cash donations.

Past grant funding from Regional District of Fraser Fort George (RDFFG), Valemount Community Forest, CBT Community Initiatives Program, and the BCSPCA have made it possible for us to make this impact in our communities.

This year we have secured funding from BCSPCA to address two cat colonies (a total of 50 cats), funding from CBT Community Initiatives Program to assist owned cats and dogs in the Village of Valemount, and funding from a RDFFG's Community Grant-in-aid to assist both



owned and stray cats and dogs in Area H of the regional district (Robson Valley region). These funds will be used to provide basic vet care, spay/neuter, vaccinations, and treatment for parasites. All other expenses will come from donations and fundraising efforts.

There are so many reasons to spay or neuter your pet: a longer, healthier life, less roaming, less fighting and resulting injuries, and fewer unwanted litters and abandoned and stray cats.

If you require financial assistance or know of a stray animal in need, please contact the Robson Valley Spay and Neuter Society at 250-566-9706 or send us a message on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/RobsonValleySpayNeuterSociety](https://www.facebook.com/RobsonValleySpayNeuterSociety)

**WHAT IS YOUR NON-PROFIT UP TO?** Share it with the community by submitting a column up to 500 words on the great work your organization is doing! Is it absolutely free. Inquire or send your column (and any photos) to [goatnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:goatnewspaper@gmail.com).

## Boil water advisory...CONT'D FROM A1



Above: The Village of McBride's water travels through these pipes as it is cleaned and treated before travelling through the reservoir and into town for consumption.

RIGHT : Due to the warm weather and recent rain, Dominion Creek, McBride's water supplier, has turned murky with high levels of turbidity. /ANDREA ARNOLD

amount of clean, treated water available, while hoping to avoid the need for further action.

When the need arises for a boil water advisory, the UV lights become less effective due to the muddiness/cloudiness of the water entering the tanks. The light can not penetrate through the murk. The action of boiling the water prior to consumption removes the organisms that may have been missed.

In light of the call for water conservation issued on May 18, 2021 residents need to understand that last year's water situation was exceptional. Most years, the need

for conserving or boiling water lasts anywhere from a few days to several weeks. The rate of thaw this year is looking more like a usual spring runoff.

How can you help? It is important that residents respect requests for conservation as the amount of consumable/clean water is limited (without the boil water advisory.) Once an advisory has been issued, the turbidity is beyond what is considered healthy and the recommendation to boil is for the health and safety of all residents.

### Taming Worry Dragons

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6 participant maximum

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Facilitated by the Child & Youth Mental Health team



# Agricultural plastics recycling pilot program gets green light

By LAURA KEIL

A new agricultural plastics recycling pilot program got the green light from the Regional District last week.

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is joining forces with the Regional Districts of Peace River and Bulkley Nechako to test out a 3-year agricultural plastics recycling pilot program initiated by Cleanfarms, a non-profit environmental stewardship organization, to collect agricultural plastics such as twine, bale wrap and silage film.

In the Fraser-Fort George region, a collection site will be created at the McBride Regional Transfer Station.

In a report to the Board, Waste Diversion Program Leader Rachael Ryder said there were three main reasons for piloting the project in the Robson Valley.

- The Regional District discourages agricultural waste plastic disposal at the transfer station due to the issues around handling and space consumption and this has led to less-desirable methods of on-farm disposal.

- Most complaints regarding lack of agriculture farm waste disposal options are from the Robson Valley.

- The relatively isolated nature of the Robson Valley will allow for better measurement of education and awareness and diversion measurements.

The report said the regional district will be responsible for 50% of the costs associated with the pilot program delivery in their region. The other 50% will

come from Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC) through their Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP). The roll-out of the program and the educational component would be handled by Clean Farms.

Once the 3-year pilot is up, the Regional District has no obligation to continue funding the program.

A regional district staff report said staff had concerns that when the program ends, if no provincial Extended Producer Responsibility program is in place at this time, this could be viewed as taking away a service that has been provided for the past three years through Clean Farms and confusing for those that have benefited from the program.

The Ministry of Environmental and Climate Change Strategy released a report in October 2020 that outlined their priorities for expanding extended producer responsibility within the province of British Columbia in their Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper. Agricultural Plastics was not included in their report.

Staff said depending upon how the project is received, they might consider doing a round-up event at the Foothills Boulevard Regional Landfill Prince George in subsequent years.

The RDIFFG agreed to contribute a maximum of \$79,521 over the three years. Further details, including a start date when the program is expected to begin will be announced in the coming months.

# Province invests in northern BC avalanche safety

By GOAT STAFF

Avalanche Canada is receiving a \$10-million contribution from the B.C. government to support its vital work in developing and delivering avalanche safety and awareness for the province's mountainous regions.

"We are very grateful to the Government of B.C. for this funding," said Gilles Valade, executive director, Avalanche Canada. "This ensures long-term sustainability for all our programs and allows us to expand our services to underserved regions of the province."

Among other things, the funding will improve avalanche forecasts in the North Rockies area, which stretches from Prince George north to Williston Lake, east to Chetwynd and Grande Cache, and along the north side of Highway 16 to just east of Mt Robson park, said Avalanche Canada communications director Mary Clayton.

As yet, no location for the new North Rockies field position has been announced. Avalanche Canada currently has a member in Prince George and another in McBride that provide a forecast for the region four

times per week.

"Next winter we will provide daily forecasts for the North Rockies region," Clayton said.

"The work Avalanche Canada does is vital to our public safety, particularly as interest in winter recreation grows and as the frequency of extreme weather increases due to climate change," said Mike Farnworth, BC's Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. "I'm pleased we are able to work with this organization to support its important work."

About 75 per cent of all Canadian avalanche fatalities occur in B.C., and about 90 per cent of Avalanche Canada's services are delivered in this province. This grant will allow Avalanche Canada to expand its regional forecasts to underserved regions in B.C., increase its delivery of avalanche safety training for youth and provide more programs for winter recreationists of all types, according to a government release..

This investment will also allow Avalanche Canada to leverage the federal funding provided in 2019 to implement the National Avalanche Strategy.



**REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
of Fraser-Fort George

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**What:** Public Hearing regarding Robson Valley-Canoe Upstream Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2290, Amendment Bylaw No. 3202, 2020; Zoning Bylaw No. 2892, Amendment Bylaw No. 3203, 2020.

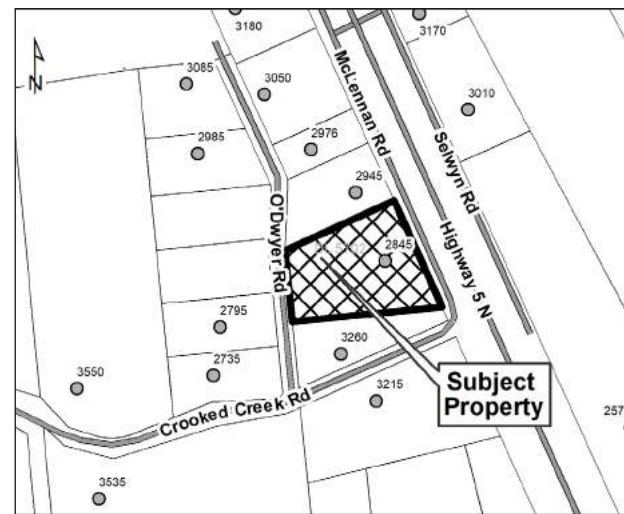
**When and Where:**

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 8, 2021  
Via telephone conference call

The public hearing will be chaired by a delegate of the Regional District Board.

**Owner:** Christine and Trevor Pelletier

**Proposal:** An application has been made for zoning bylaw and Official Community Plan (OCP) amendments to permit two Residential-Single Family uses on the subject property located at 2845 McLennan Road and legally described as Lot 4 District Lot 5702 Cariboo District Plan 17937. The proposed OCP amendment to the Housing Policies (Section 3.3) will allow zoning amendments to be considered on parcels within the Rural Residential (RR) designation that are 1.6 ha or larger in size, provided that the parcel is able to accommodate on-site sewage disposal for all residences. This change will impact all parcels designated RR within the Robson Valley-Canoe Upstream Plan Area.



**How can I participate and provide comment?**

A copy of the proposed Permit and any relevant background materials are available for review by the public on the Regional District's website at <http://www.rdiffg.bc.ca/services/development/land-use-planning/current-applications/> or at the Regional District office, by appointment only, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, between April 19, 2021, and May 20, 2021. To make an appointment contact the Regional District at [developmentsservices@rdffg.bc.ca](mailto:developmentsservices@rdffg.bc.ca) or at 250-960-4400

In accordance with the Provincial Health Officer Ministerial Order No. M192, members of the public are prohibited from attending public hearings in person. In an effort to adhere to provincial orders while still providing the public with an opportunity to provide comments on a bylaw, a public hearing will be held remotely via telephone conference call.

Anyone who believes that their interest in land is affected by the proposed bylaws shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard at the public hearing or to present written comments prior to or at the public hearing regarding matters contained in the bylaws.

**Submit written comments:** Written comments will be accepted by the Regional District in advance of the public hearing until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021 by:  
**Email:** [developmentsservices@rdffg.bc.ca](mailto:developmentsservices@rdffg.bc.ca)  
**Hand/Mail:** 155 George Street, Prince George, BC V2L 1P8  
**Fax:** 250-562-8676

Written comments received by 12:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021 be posted to the Regional District's website.

After 12:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021 and until the close of the public hearing, written submissions can be submitted to the Regional District by email: [developmentsservices@rdffg.bc.ca](mailto:developmentsservices@rdffg.bc.ca)

Written comments received after 12:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021 and until the close of the public hearing will be read into the minutes of the public hearing.

**Attend through telephone conference call:** Contact the Regional District at 250-960-4400 or [developmentsservices@rdffg.bc.ca](mailto:developmentsservices@rdffg.bc.ca) for the telephone conference number and instructions

*Any material received before or at the public hearing will become public information.*

Need more info? Additional instructions for the teleconference public hearing, a copy of the proposed bylaws, and any relevant background materials are available for review by the public on the Regional District's website at <http://www.rdiffg.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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., between May 27 and June 8, 2021. To make an appointment contact the Regional District at 250-960-4400 or [developmentsservices@rdffg.bc.ca](mailto:developmentsservices@rdffg.bc.ca)

**Who can I speak to?** Daniel Burke, Planner II, 250-960-4400



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of Fraser-Fort George

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# Editorial

## Air quality strategy needed for infill of empty lots



BY LAURA KEIL,  
PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Last week I commended Valemount's new OCP for tackling the issue of housing in the way it governs land-use. But I have a gnawing concern about air quality.

According to the federal government,

buildings come in #3 as a source of GHG emissions in Canada, and that is with most buildings using so-called "clean energy." In the Robson Valley, we have the additional problems of prohibitive electricity costs (no natural gas) and local air pollution. Wood burning stoves emit particulate matter that is trapped by weather inversions, holding the pollution close to the ground where we breathe. Wood particulate includes lovely particles and gasses like carbon monoxide,

volatile organic compounds, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (carcinogenic). Wood smoke can cause eye, nose, and throat irritations, headaches, nausea, and dizziness. It can make asthma and other respiratory problems worse and causes inflammation. Smog, to which wood smoke can be a significant contributor, has been linked to severe health risks, including increased hospital admissions and even premature death.

People take it as a fact of life that we must burn wood to heat our homes.

But is it a fact of life?

For old, leaky homes, it often is (though burning practices and energy retrofitting could improve things greatly). But for new homes, it certainly isn't. New homes can be built to a high degree of energy efficiency with moderate additional cost in the short-term and big savings in the long-term.

When we built our Passive House in 2016, not many people knew about them. We didn't receive a rebate from any level of government or BC Hydro, even though our house actually exceeded all the green building codes out there, simply because it wasn't officially recognized

as an option. Passive homes are designed to use 90% less energy than the typical home and 60% less than the current BC Building Code. In other words, to keep our house at 19 degrees year-round, we pay approx. \$300-500 a year in BC Hydro's ransom-like pay structure.

We basically only heat our house with baseboards from November to March and usually only on cloudy days and at night. This was tested twice this winter: in January the power went out for 8 hours during a sunny day and the temperature in our house actually increased by 2 degrees, despite us going in and out of the house, thanks to the house's excellent insulation and sun-optimized windows. Then on March 29th, we had a 26-hour power outage and the interior temperature of the house only dipped 1 degree overnight (temp was -8 outside), and then increased by 3 degrees the following day. Overheating isn't a problem in the summer, due to the house design.

Anyone building new has this option at their disposal, as well as other efficient building practices. The Village should consider incentivizing green-construction with tax breaks and limiting the number of wood-burning appliances in each new neighbourhood.

It boils down to simple math: On many winter nights and mornings, the particulate matter of the dangerous 2.5ppm size skyrockets to 100-300ppm (BC's current air quality objective is no more than 25ppm over 24 hours). Now imagine if Valemount infills all its empty land (approximately 65 per cent of the village is currently vacant land). If the empty land is divided into a similar number of lots per area, that would potentially triple the particulate year-round—if those are single-family dwellings. Duplexes could add even more.

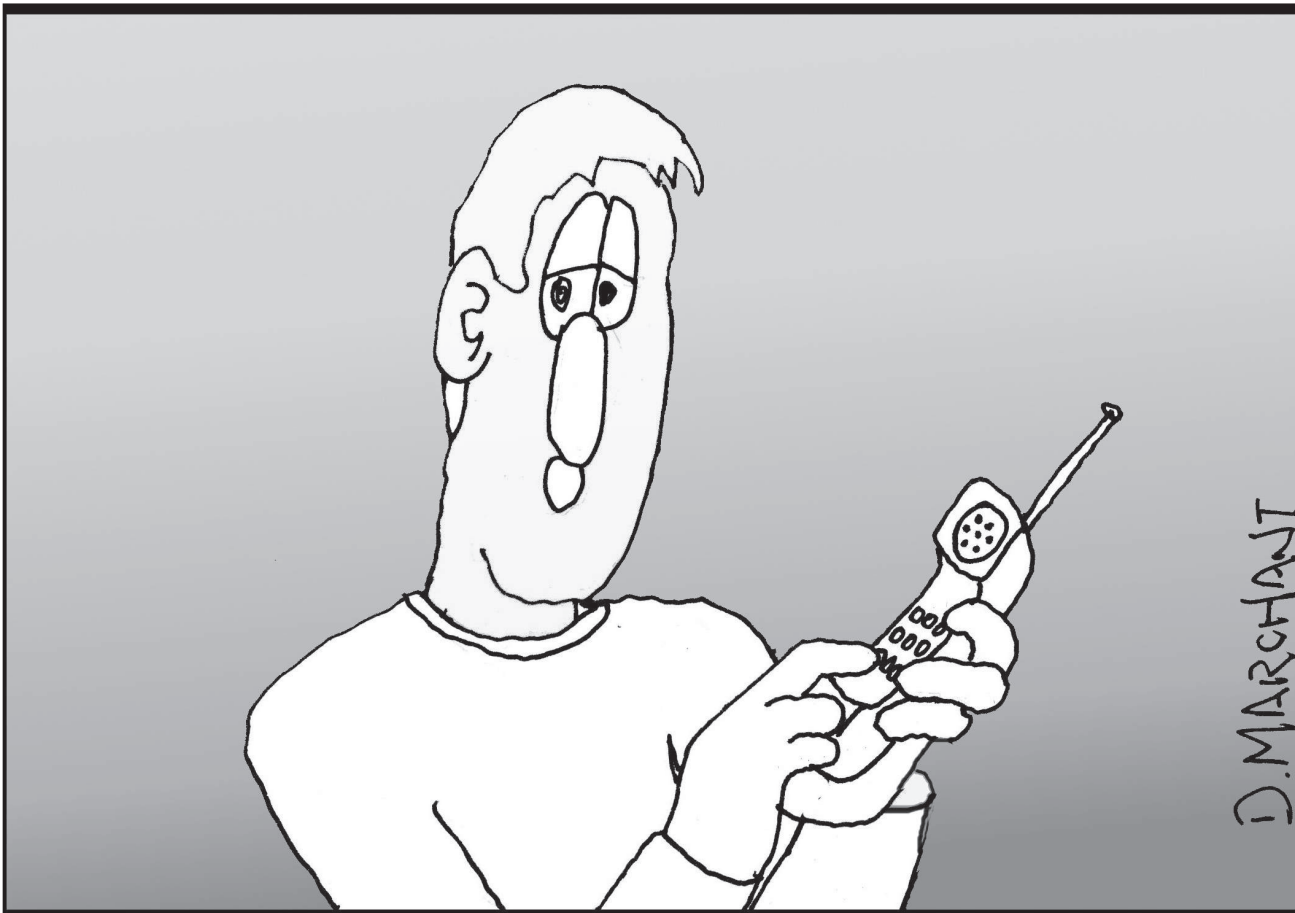
And consider that many residential areas can now build laneway homes and garage suites. What is the Village's plan when it comes to solid-fuel burning appliances in secondary dwellings?

Now suppose there are two chimneys on, say, 50 per cent of current and infill lots due to either duplexes or additional dwelling units. Now we have the potential to increase the number of chimneys contributing to bad air by 4.5 times! That means a winter night with 100ppm now, could be 450ppm in the future (far exceeding Beijing on a bad day).

It is understandable to grandfather-in existing houses when it comes to wood stoves. But there is no excuse for allowing leaky homes to be built in the future at the cost of our community's health.

I look forward to the day when I tell someone where I'm from and don't have to cringe when they say: "You must have such fresh air!"

*If anyone wants to know more about building Passive, my husband and I would be happy to talk. Email us at [lauraishere@gmail.com](mailto:lauraishere@gmail.com) or [andru.mccracken@gmail.com](mailto:andru.mccracken@gmail.com) or catch us on the street!*



**"I'M PICKING UP A LIFT OF LUMBER AND NEED TO FIND SOME ARMED GUARDS TO PROTECT IT ON THE WAY HOME."**

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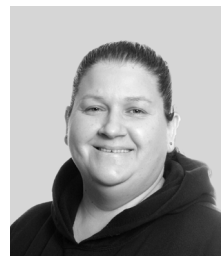
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# Pot holes no more



McBride residents have several new patches of pavement to drive on around town. Six sections of roadway were replaced leaving drivers with faint memories of the potholes that used to be. /ANDREA ARNOLD

## Letters/Op-Ed

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

# Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

## Israel and Hamas: A Glimpse of the Truth

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



Friday's ceasefire marked the end of the fourth war between Israel and the Hamas Islamist group that rules the Gaza Strip since 2006. As Albert Einstein allegedly remarked, "the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome."

But neither Israel's long-serving Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu nor the leaders of Hamas are insane, so they must have been aiming for this outcome. Somehow, it serves both their purposes. What might those purposes be?

Netanyahu's strategic goal is to keep all the territory west of the Jordan river, so he needs a Palestinian enemy that refuses to talk about sharing it. Hamas is that enemy. He also needed a war right now to thwart the formation of an opposition coalition that would deprive him of office and quite possibly send him to jail on corruption charges.

Hamas wanted a war, too. Its hated rival is the Palestinian Authority (PA), which 'governs' the West Bank under Israeli supervision. Another little war with Israel would strengthen Hamas's claim to be the only true voice of the Palestinian people. Besides, it didn't want to

lose its de facto ally Netanyahu over some silly domestic peccadillo.

The ease with which the bloodshed was ended once Netanyahu and Hamas achieved their different goals gives the game away. A sarcastic reader of the Israeli newspaper 'Haaretz' nailed it on a comment thread the day before the ceasefire.

"The best attainable peace agreement is for Hamas and Netty to limit killing each other to 10 days before each election or no-confidence vote, since that's all that keeps both sides in power forever. Then stop the killing early if the polls show the incumbents ahead by over 5 points...."

"But to show good faith, Hamas must do 3 terrorist bistro-bombings the week of the election, and drive sound trucks through blaring 'Israel must be destroyed' at 50 decibels above the agony threshold...."

The Israeli prime minister has never had direct contact with Hamas leaders, but as Avigdor Lieberman, leader of the Yisrael Beytenu party, put it recently: "The one who nurtured Hamas and enabled it to get to where it is today is Netanyahu." (Lieberman has served in three Netanyahu cabinets.)

Adam Raz, co-editor of the journal 'Telem,' wrote last

week in Haaretz: "Netanyahu's strategy is well-known, even if it's never explicitly stated – to keep Hamas as a key player in the dispute with Israel in order to undercut the PA in (the West Bank). Why? Because with Hamas there's no talk about a negotiated solution to the conflict..."

"Hamas very much fears Netanyahu's departure and the weakening of the political line he represents. Hamas knows very well that another prime minister may resume cooperation with whoever is leading the PA and thereby deal a fatal blow to Hamas. So Hamas fulfilled its part of the unwritten agreement, as partners are expected to do..."

"Hamas has pushed the PA even further to the margins in recent days and strengthened its hold on Palestinian society.... In practice, the PA and Jordan have lost their hold on the ground to Hamas...."

The war was not the result of 'mistakes,' Raz concluded. Netanyahu did not foresee the radicalisation of Arabs in the West Bank and Israel proper, but apart from that everything went as intended. The war should be seen "not as a war between enemies but as collaboration between colleagues."

I didn't say all that. Raz did. But I think he's right.



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SOLD



**2013 Ford Edge**  
AWD, 3.7 litre  
102000km | Lot #3787 | \$12000.00



**2019 Ford F150**  
XLT, supercab, 6.5 foot box  
18800km | \$28000.00

SOLD

For more info: Call 250 569 0343

BCDL: 31296 / Prices shown do not include applicable taxes.



*After more than 10 years at the Goat, it's time for me to pursue a different kind of writing career—the creative writing that has always been my passion. I am also looking forward to having more free time and spending more of it with my family. As a result, the Goat is up for sale and I am looking for a buyer to take over what I am proud to have built and been a part of over the years.*

The  
**ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN  
GOAT**  
is

**For Sale**



- Own a profitable media company and newspaper in the heart of downtown Valemount
- Be your own boss and set your own hours
- Turn-key business with staff in place
- Great for a community-minded person
- Always be in the know about community issues
- Run a newspaper that is the go-to source for local news and features

To inquire contact Laura at 250-566-5135 or email [laurashere@gmail.com](mailto:laurashere@gmail.com) or stop by the office at 1170 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Valemount.

# Area veterinarian adapts despite COVID pressures and staff shortage

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

Veterinarian Janet Jones and the Jasper Veterinary Clinic have served the Valemount area since before the physical clinic on Main Street was built in 1995. With the recent departure of Dr. Sarah Gale, the clinic staff is working hard to keep up the level of service in both the Valemount and Jasper Clinics.

Dr. Sarah joined the practice in 2018, and worked alongside Dr. Janet serving clients in both Jasper and Valemount until April 9th, when Dr. Sarah moved to Kamloops to pursue a feline specialty.

The adjustment back to one vet hasn't been easy. "It is a lot of work," said Dr. Janet. "But it's going ok. We have a good staff that is used to working hard."

The need for another full-time vet is very real. "I have occasional locum help," she said. "Hopefully that will continue through the summer, providing help for a part of each month."

Dr. Janet has been running ads looking for a new vet as well as another veterinary technician to join the practice.

"There is a real shortage of vets and techs," she said. "I am not alone in that. People are bringing their pets in for more appointments than ever before. It isn't just emergencies."

The staff juggles the need for appointments and unscheduled situations daily, and most clients have been understanding and forgiving when a delay occurs because of an emergency.

The departure of Dr. Sarah has not affected service at the Valemount clinic, as they continue to book appointments every Tuesday and every two weeks on Thursday.

"We were coming every Tuesday and Thursday prior to COVID," said Dr. Janet. "We hope to return to that schedule when it's allowed."

Extra staff had to be hired to help with patient handling and care due to restrictions preventing owners from being present during appointments.

"We are managing," said Dr. Janet. "It's not easy. It is hard to fit it all in some days. We are trying to maintain service and communication."

Being a small clinic, they have to be available to do anything. That includes emergencies, and being on call. Dr. Janet suggests that if you think there might be a need for your animal to be seen, give them a call at the Jasper clinic and explain what is going on. Staff will help determine if the animal needs medical attention in person or if care advice can be provided over the phone. They will make the time to see patients that are in need of attention, but by having clients call first, they can limit some foot traffic at the clinic, freeing up time for others.

If you know your animal is due for a yearly appointment or another type of routine visit, try to call a month ahead if possible, she says. Short notice visits are possible, however if those can be avoided, when possible, the staff would appreciate it.

"My staff is fantastic," said Dr. Janet. "In Jasper, in Valemount, they have all stepped up and are all hardworking and competent staff. I couldn't do what I'd do without them."

They are not short changing any animals, she said.

"Sometimes, unfortunately, some people feel short changed. I would like to express thanks to the people for doing their part to help manage the load."

[www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca)

## Notice Disposition of Land:

### Valemount Learning Society

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

The building is situated at **Lot 9, District Lot 7354, Cariboo District Plan 21237** and comprising of office space on the second floor, on a monthly basis, to be reviewed after one (1) year. The annual rental fee for the space is:

**\$8.95 per square foot of leased space for the year 2021, and**

**\$9.13 per square foot of leased space for the year 2022.**

For more information please contact:

Wayne Robinson  
CAO, Village of Valemount  
735 Cranberry Lake Road  
PO Box 168  
Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0  
(T) 250.566.4435  
(E) [cao@valemount.ca](mailto:cao@valemount.ca)

## Stage 1 Water Restrictions

Water restrictions will be in effect from June 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>. Watering will only be permitted between the hours of 7 am – 10 am and 7 pm – 10 pm on any day of the week.

Use a micro-irrigation / drip-irrigation system to water or a garden hose with a hand-held automatic shut-off device at any time on any day.

## 2021 Tax Notice and Home Owner Grant Information

- 2021 Tax notices will be mailed out the last week of May. If you do not receive your bill by June 15, please call the Village office at 250-566-4435 to request a copy.
- Tax payments must be received in the Municipal office on or before July 2, 2021 to avoid penalties.
- The Village office is no longer able to process Home Owner Grants. You **MUST** go online at [gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant) OR Call 1-888-355-2700.
- Home Owner Grants must be applied for prior to the July 2<sup>nd</sup> due date to avoid penalties.

## Training Opportunity

The Village of Valemount, supported by the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project Community Benefit Agreement, is offering Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training here in Valemount through the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC).

Students who are residents of the Village of Valemount or RDFFG Area H, and are successful in completing the course, can apply to the Village of Valemount for reimbursement for the cost of tuition (approximately \$1800). For more details, visit [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca)

## Village office and Visitor Information Centre are now open to the public

Due to COVID-19, we still encourage in-person visits only if necessary. Payments can be made via online banking, telephone banking, or email transfer.

## Zoning Bylaw Engagement

The Village of Valemount is in the final stage of engagement for the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw update. This stage focuses on the draft Zoning Bylaw, which will implement the Village's Official Community Plan (adopted May 11, 2021). The Zoning Bylaw establishes rules (bylaws) for the use and construction of land and buildings in the Village – such as what you can do (uses), and setbacks, size and height limits for buildings.

Your feedback is extremely valuable to us! View the Draft Zoning Bylaw before completing the survey at [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca)



## Noise Bylaw

As we enter into the season where people will be spending more time in their backyard, the Village of Valemount would like to remind residents that the noise bylaw is in effect to ensure the peace, quiet and enjoyment of residents.

Noise, other than construction or yard maintenance, is not restricted by time of day. Should you wish to file a noise complaint, contact the Village office at 250-566-4435. If the complaint is not within Village office hours, contact the local RCMP detachment.



**We  
can  
all  
help**

bring families  
together again.  
**Get vaccinated.**

[Canada.ca/covid-vaccine](https://Canada.ca/covid-vaccine)  
1-833-784-4397



# Valemount's new **OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN**

**I**n Part 2 of our coverage of Valemount's new Official Community Plan (OCP), we look at the overarching 14 Big Moves and community-wide land use policies for affordable housing, parks/trails, and transportation/parking. Next week we will look at the OCP's implementation strategy and timelines.

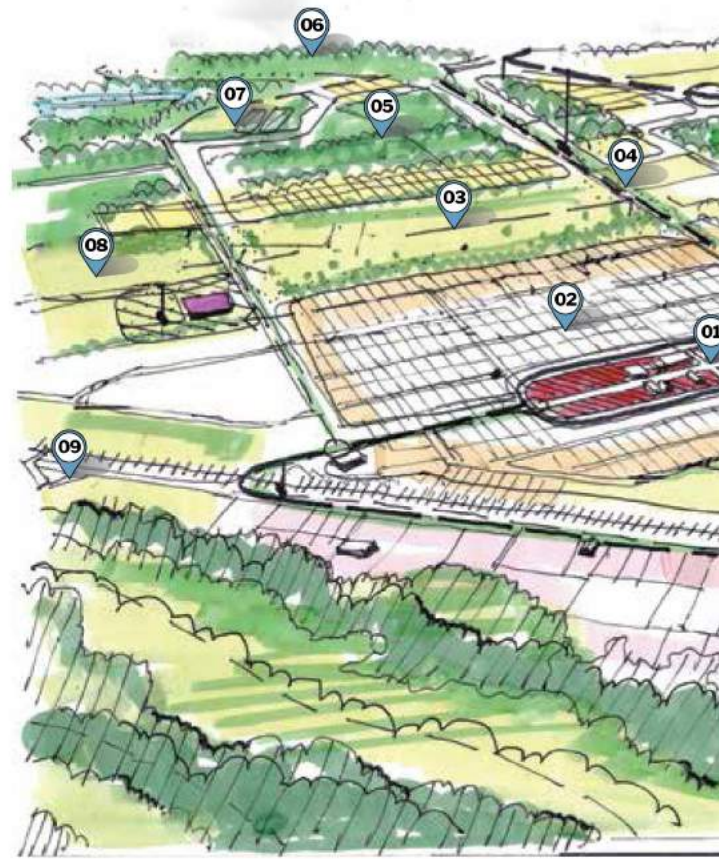
Valemount's official community plan is a 100-page document that outlines the future vision, priorities and laws about land use and Council priorities and was officially adopted by Council at their May 11th meeting.

The new OCP addresses some significant challenges facing the village including increasingly unaffordable housing, homeowner and development limitations due to out-of-date regulations, limited pedestrian and transportation connectivity, the lack of industrial and employment lands for job creation and economic diversification, flat population growth, minimal development and commercial investments and far-reaching infrastructure with a limited taxation base, which increases property taxes and utility fees per capita over time.

The OCP tackles these issues by increasing flexibility and permissions when it comes to land-use rules. Valemount CAO Wayne Robinson says the policies in the OCP are not yet enacted as bylaws yet—Council still needs to pass the updated Zoning Bylaw before many of these recommendations or policies are permitted. Mayor Owen Torgerson says he expects the Zoning Bylaw to come before Council soon and, given four readings and a public hearing, will likely be finalized within a couple months.

*Goat Disclaimer: this overview does not represent a comprehensive list of priorities, but a sampling we deemed important, interesting or different from one section of the OCP. Much of the text is from the OCP, but some of it has been edited for brevity. To view the entire OCP document visit valemount.ca on the OCP press release page.*

## 14 BIG MOVES



## PARKS AND GREENWAYS



Figure 16: Dogwood Multi-Use Trail Vision



Figure 17: Dogwood Street looking north

While Valemount is surrounded by forests and rec areas, the OCP notes it's important to have local parks, open spaces, and rec opportunities that can be accessed within the Village by walking, biking or a short drive. These local opportunities for exercise, relaxation, or active transportation help create a complete community for citizens of all ages, it notes. They also take some pressure off destination sites such as the bike park or marsh.

According to the OCP:

Large, undeveloped parcels of land currently provide informal trails and recreational opportunities. Future development on these lands should replace what will be lost by creating a formal network of parks and trails.

The key strategy for the Village is to dream big and create a Marsh to Mountains network of parks, trails, and open spaces. Connecting these two amazing destinations (marsh and mountains) achieves a grand vision through small, incremental improvements. "It is vitally important that every Village resident has an opportunity to walk to a local park or open space or be able to ride or walk safely to their favourite coffee shop or store."

Every residential lot in the Village should be within 400 metres of a public park or similar open space.

All new Master Planned Parcels (1.0 hectare or greater) shall include public park or open space.

All new residential lots within the Urban

Service Area shall be within 100 metres of either a primary trail, secondary trail, or paved pathway.

The Village should strive for all existing residential lots within the Urban Service Area to be within 100 metres of either a primary trail, secondary trail, sidewalk, or paved pathway.

The Village should create a looped trail system that connects the George Hicks, Cranberry Marsh, and Bigfoot Trails together.

The Village should enhance north-south connectivity by creating a multi-use trail on Dogwood Street to connect RN-3 to downtown via an off-street trail.

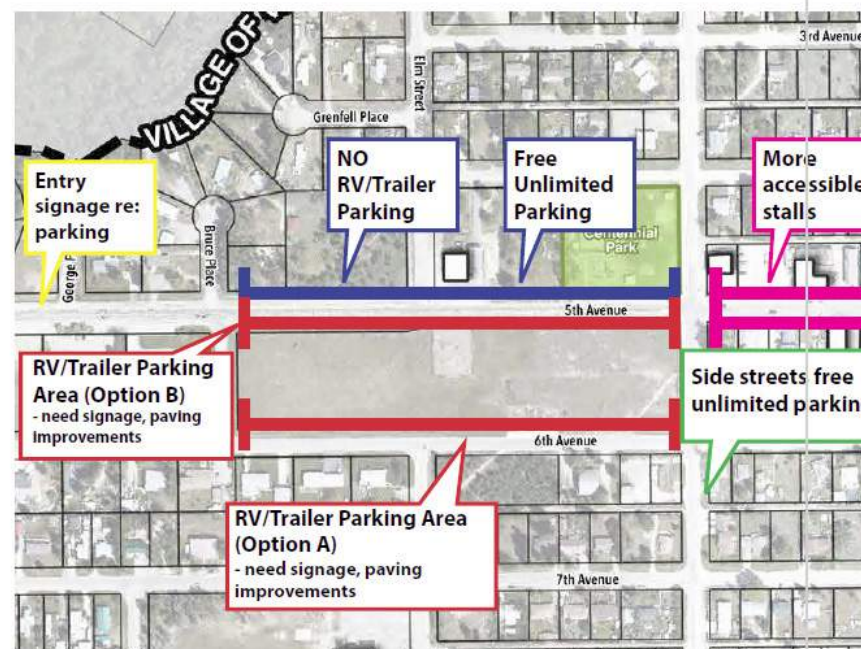
The Village should ensure safe and efficient connectivity to the Bike Park by working with private land-owners to connect the Valemount Bike Park via Hillside Drive and Swift Creek Trail.

The Village should consider additional sidewalk or multi-modal trail connections in the following areas:

- a) On Dogwood Street connecting downtown to the Cranberry Marsh
- b) From Centennial Park along 5th Avenue to the Bigfoot Trail on the west side of Elm.
- c) On the south side of 5th Avenue from west of Dogwood Street to Highway 5.
- d) On the north side of Main Street from 5th Avenue to Dogwood Street.
- e) Along the east side of Ash Street from the High School to 5th Avenue (Downtown).

## TRANSPORTATION

### LONG-TERM PARKING PLAN - CURRENT DOWNTOWN AREA



The Village shall complete a Village Centre Parking Strategy to address parking of large vehicles (e.g. RVs, snowmobile trailers) and safety of vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.

The Parking Strategy should consider the following policies and be guided by Appendix B Long-Term Parking Strategy (see related appendix map above).

- a) Designated parking areas for large vehicles and trailers;
- b) Time restricted parking areas on 5th Avenue's busiest blocks;
- c) Accessible parking stalls that are designed and located in accordance with universal design best practices;
- d) Designated employee parking areas;
- e) Recommendation on cash-in-lieu of providing parking in the Village Centre;
- f) Integration of a way-finding strategy for 5th Avenue;
- g) Shuttle options from the highway hotels to downtown for tourists (e.g. golf carts, vehicles, mini-bus, e-bikes);
- h) Quality bicycle parking areas that are safe, accessible, and designed for modern styles of bicycles.

Highway Commercial Area:

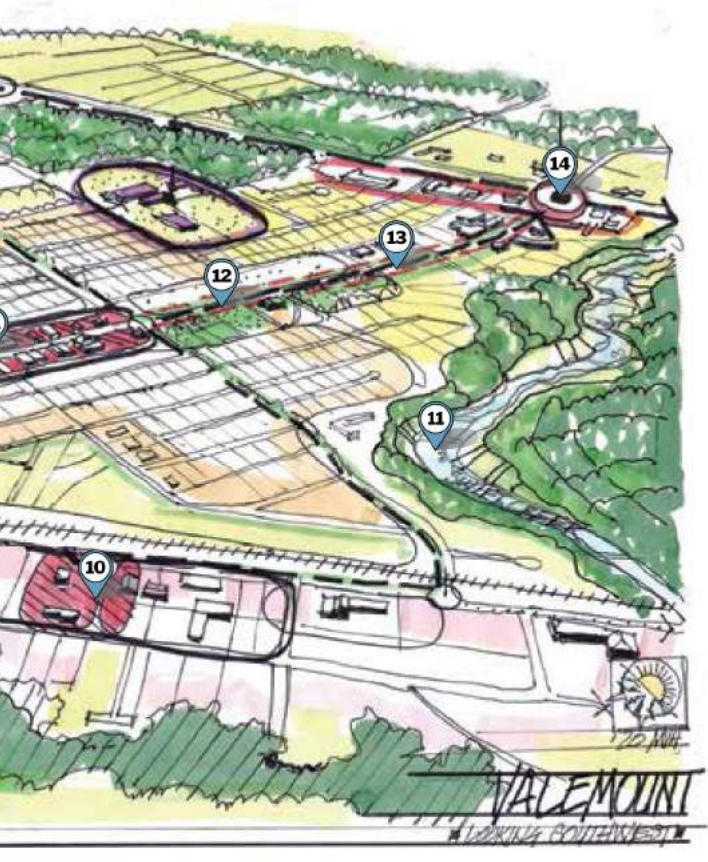
During the peak of summer travel there are approximately 10,000 vehicles per day passing through Valemount

on Highway... establish... maintain... OCP says... Gateway... the Village... provincial... (MOTI),... a) Long... locations... access lo... b) Welc... downtow... c) Strate... d) Strate... Major b... side of H... floor area... The OC... public sp... stopping... washroom



# ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, PARKS & BIG MOVES

## MOVES

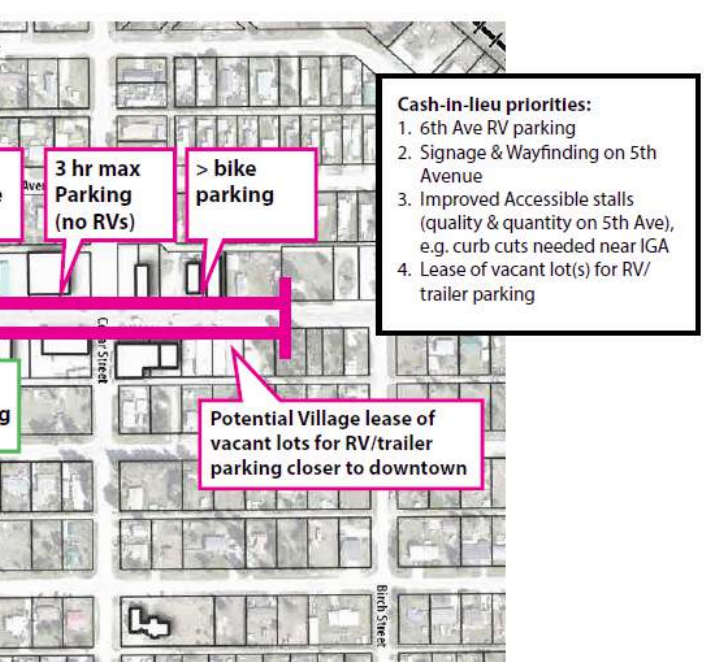


### BIG MOVES FOR A VIBRANT VALEMOUNT

These Big Moves will guide the policies in this Official Community Plan and establish clear measurable implementation actions. Top priorities for the community are:

- 01 **INFILL DOWNTOWN** Valemount with Mixed Use Commercial Buildings.
- 02 **FILL IN EMPTY LOTS IN EXISTING RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS** with a mix of single-family, duplex, and multifamily buildings.
- 03 **MASTER PLAN LARGE VACANT PARCELS** to include a mix of housing and some small neighbourhood commercial.
- 04 **CREATE A WELL-CONNECTED TRAIL NETWORK** that connects the Robert Starret Marsh (Cranberry Marsh) to the Bigfoot Trail and the Highway to Downtown.
- 05 **ALLOW LARGER LOT DEVELOPMENT** in the south.
- 06 **PROMOTE ACCESS TO THE CRANBERRY MARSH TRAILS** on the southern boundary of the Village.
- 07 **PLAN WITH INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS IN MIND** and don't extend services to new areas without a plan in place for cost recovery.
- 08 **DEVELOP EMPLOYMENT LANDS** that are integrated with the neighbourhood and provide a variety of housing options for people of all ages.
- 09 **INCORPORATE TOURISM INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY** and support and strengthen connections to existing tourism draws.
- 10 **ESTABLISH THE "RAILTOWN" AREA** as a unique and diverse mixed use neighbourhood.
- 11 **PROTECT ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES AND NATURAL ASSETS** as a cornerstone to the environmental sensitive planning framework for the Village.
- 12 **ESTABLISH FIBRE OPTIC INTERNET SERVICE** to attract digital nomads and support new and innovative businesses.
- 13 **LINK THE HIGHWAY TO THE DOWNTOWN** through coordinated streetscaping and design guidelines, business partnerships, parking strategies, and pedestrian linkages.
- 14 **UPGRADE THE HIGHWAY 5 / 5<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE INTERSECTION** to establish an attractive gateway to the community and improve safety.

## /PARKING



Highway 5. As tourism is Valemount's top industry, creating a high-quality gateway to the Village is vital to sustaining and growing the Village's local economy, the jobs, and recommends that the Village should create a Highway Access Management Strategy that outlines the Village's long-term planning, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for the following:

- Short-term primary and secondary highway access
- Including consideration for roundabouts at primary intersections (e.g. 5th Avenue & 17th Avenue);
- Gateway signage to direct the traveling public to downtown
- Strategy for a multi-modal greenway along Highway 5;
- Strategy for private signage along Highway 5;
- Big box developments shall be only located on the east side of Highway 5 and limited to 4,645 m<sup>2</sup> (50,000 sq.ft.) in total.

The OCP says the Village should also continue to create spaces geared to the traveling public to support them in Valemount (e.g. rest stops, parks, picnic areas, and transit facilities).

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TABLE 3: Valemount Vacant Land Statistics

	Area (Ha.)	% of Vacant Land	% of Total Land
Vacant Private Land	240.9	88.9%	57.9%
Vacant Municipal Land	27.0	10.0%	6.5%
Vacant (Other)	2.8	1.1%	0.7%
<b>Total Vacant Land</b>	<b>270.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>65.1%</b>

A vacant land analysis was conducted for the Village during the OCP process. The major discovery was that approximately 65% of the Village can be considered vacant land. 6.5 % of all land (10% of the vacant land) in the Village is owned by the Village itself, presenting various opportunities.

The OCP notes that the Village is missing out on tax revenue by having vacant properties, as annual tax revenue is much higher with developed lots. A single-family lot with a house on it earns the village more than five times more annual tax revenue than the same property without a house on it, according to the OCP.

The Village must still pay to maintain infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, etc.) to or past vacant properties. Without the tax revenue from developed lots, the rest of the community must cover the costs to maintain existing infrastructure, the OCP says. This often results in budget shortfalls for infrastructure and future tax increases or the further deterioration of infrastructure.

According to the OCP: If Valemount wants to improve its overall affordability and use land more efficiently to cover the costs of providing infrastructure to residents, it should encourage more compact, mixed use, and mixed density development. Diversifying the housing stock ensures that there are different types of housing for people throughout their life, allowing them to build community as they age in place.

The OCP says "the Village shall support pilot projects that demonstrate innovative models of affordable

housing, such as modular housing and co-housing." To achieve net financial gain from new growth, the OCP recommends that development be focused on vacant lands within the Village where existing infrastructure (water, sewer, roads) is already established. The Village has already invested millions of dollars into existing infrastructure, it notes, and throughout the Village there are vacant lands that can be serviced with minimal new infrastructure.

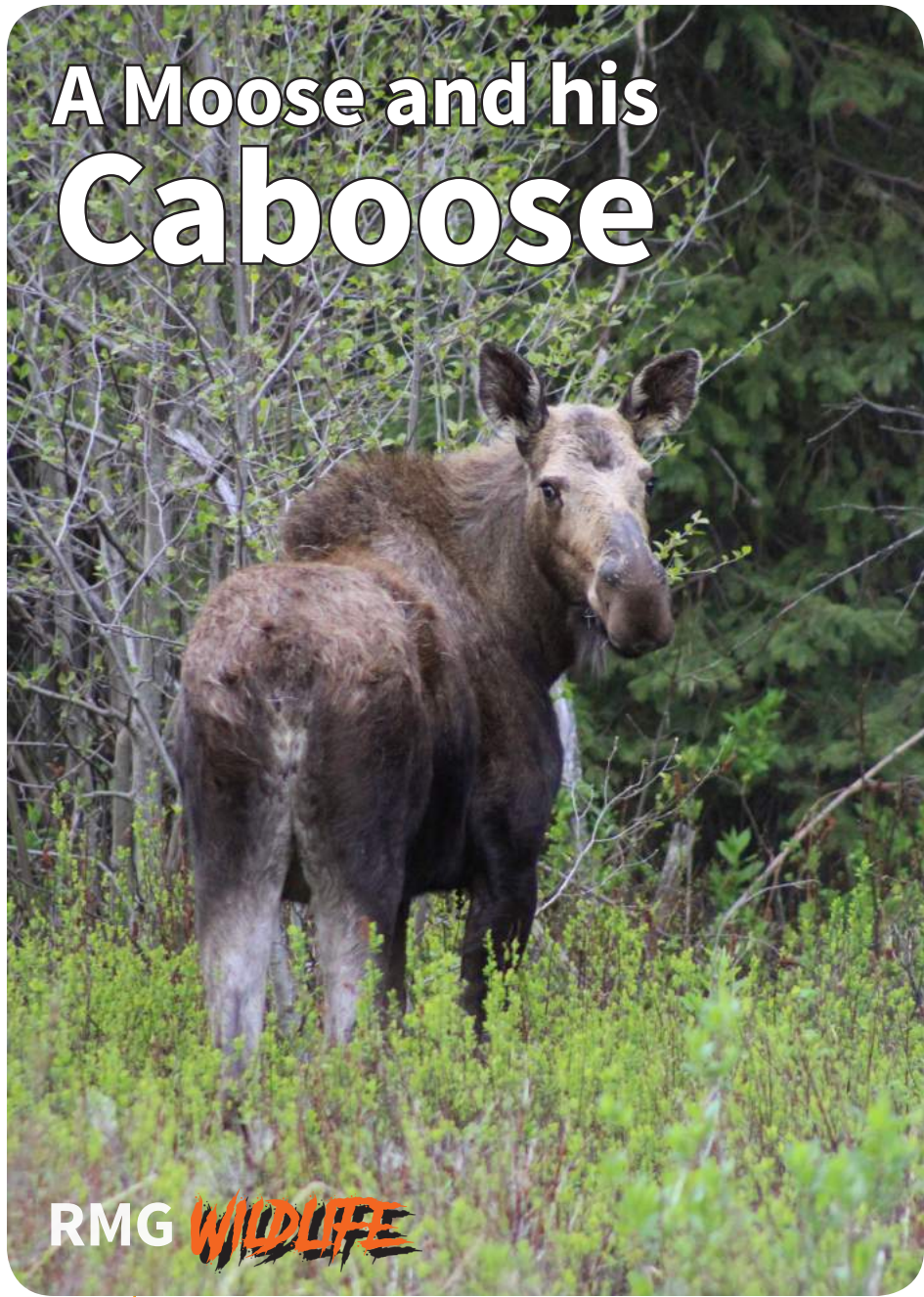
The Village of Valemount Housing Needs and Demands Assessment Report (VHNDAR) (2016) showed that an overabundance of single-family dwellings has contributed to affordable housing challenges for the Village, particularly for single parents and low income earners. The 2016 report estimates that up to 20 per cent of households in Valemount are likely to be currently in need of affordable housing. Housing speculation has led to an increase in seasonal/ recreational home ownership which is estimated to be approximately 20% of the housing stock.

The goal for short-term vacation rentals (STVRs) is to keep them between 5 and 10% of the available housing stock.

The OCP has included several recommendations for improving the diversity of housing stock including allowing laneway homes or garage suites in the RN1 residential area, increasing the number of units allowed above or behind commercial buildings downtown, and allowing denser housing in more locations (duplexes may be built on regular town lots). In the largely undeveloped RN2 zone, the OCP states that 30 per cent of new homes will be "attached" (ie: duplexes, row houses, townhouses). The OCP also limits the number and the location of short-term vacation rentals in each residential zone.

Interesting facts:  
 - 76 per cent of Valemount's population is in single-detached houses, while the 1-2 person households could be served by smaller unit types (duplex, row house, apartment).  
 - 28 per cent of houses in Valemount are rental units (140 of 500 total units, as of 2016)





# A Moose and his Caboose

**RMG WILDLIFE**

A foraging moose turned for a photograph about 10-15min west of McBride. /SANDRA JAMES

# Ducks for seniors



Last Saturday was the perfect weather for the first annual duck pluck. Firm Foundations Christian Outreach organized the event at Golden Years Lodge. They purchased prizes from local home-based businesses with money coming from bottle recycling donated by the community. Ten prizes were drawn. The ticket sales raised \$3,500 to support Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society (VSCHS) with their new Seniors Supportive Living project called Valemount Cares. If you are interested in becoming a board member of VSCHS please call Laurel McKirdy at 250-566-6888 or Beth Russell at 250-566-1102. We believe in serving our seniors at the present facilities and also with the new facility, allowing them to continue living in the community when they need more support. /BETH RUSSELL



## 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.

# Summer Pruning – Lilacs and Spireal

We usually don't think of summer as the time to start pruning again but a few shrubs are happiest if pruned immediately after flowering. The first one to come to mind is the lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*). With so many of these wonderful shrubs in full bloom now, get those pruning shears sharpened and ready to go after the blooms begin to fade.

Lilacs produce their blooms on last year's wood and the actual buds are formed in the mid to late summer period. If you wait too long after the bloom time, you may be cutting off next year's blooms. If you did prune in the early spring along with other shrubs and trees, you may have noticed very few blooms on your lilac bush this year.

The secret is to get in there as soon as this year's blooms fade and remove them back to just above the small developing side shoots a few leaves down from the bloom. These side shoots will be next year's flower buds.

This is also a good time to remove any suckers that are sneaking up from under ground around the bush and if the plant is getting old and not producing flowers

except on a few tall branches, it is time to begin a rejuvenation program over the next few years.

Remove up to one-third of the older wood. Cut to vigorous side branches wherever possible. These will give lots of new wood next year and will tend to produce more blooms. If the bush needs to be shaped or headed back, now is a good time to do that. It may cost a few blooms next year, but if this is followed for a few years, the plant will be completely rejuvenated in three years.

Another shrub that is best pruned after blooming is the bush spirea. The most common white spirea (bridal wreath) blooms in May and early June and is best thinned directly after the bloom period. It is best to completely cut back some of the old wood (up to one-third of the bush) rather than cutting back the tips. Cut them back to the ground. The blooms will be much more profuse on the new growth next year.

After early summer pruning, I always give the shrubs a good pail of manure and compost mix and a handful or two of lime for the lilacs as they prefer alkaline soil.

This will get the new growth off to a good start and give a better chance for healthy buds for next year's bloom.

If you want to start cuttings from either of the above, suckers can be removed during the pruning process and started in their own container for giving to friends or planting out in the fall. It is best to trim the tops back somewhat to compensate

for the damage to the root system by digging the sucker so the plant will have a better balance of root to leaf ratio. It is best to keep the new sucker under a tree in filtered light until you are sure the roots are able to produce enough food to support the top of the plant. Don't forget to water the new plant in its new location.

## Request for Proposal Dunster Fine Arts School Society



Project Name: Building Envelope

Project Number: CE0066

CLOSING DATE: June 23th, 2021 at 2pm

Site Viewing June 9th, 2021 at 10am at 8252 Dunster-Croydon Rd, Dunster

### Scope of work:

1. Sloped roof and Entrance addition.
2. New Windows and Doors
3. All necessary materials and labour.

Request for Proposal Packages can be picked up at 894 1st Avenue in McBride BC 8am-4pm Tuesday-Thursday, or contact Katharina at 250-569-7401

For further information please contact Ray Thiessen Project Manager 250-569-7543



# Cosmic Loitering

To sit in a cafe without buying at least a coffee invokes the criminality of loitering. Metaphoric ways of loitering will occur in the early stages of this Saturn return, though they can be effectively avoided by exchanging currency that grants the right to be in certain environments. Do consider all the forms such currency can take, including the very valuable currency of an attractive attitude and good vibes.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Some people enjoy snakes, and some people are terrified of them. One might deduce that snakes can cause both pleasure and panic. However, neither is true. Snakes cause nothing. It is our mind, not a snake, that triggers pleasure or panic. Apply this principle across the board and fear dissolves.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20).

It doesn't have to be your mess for you to consider it your job to clean it. Wherever you go, you take on the responsibility to leave it better than it was when you arrived. This is a duty you take as seriously as any you're paid to do. The difference will appear in your environment as well as in the hearts of others.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Tomorrow never comes because it's always today. Similarly, a problem can only be solved by the one having it. To anyone who doesn't see it as a problem, it isn't. If you see something as a problem, then it's automatically partly yours to solve. This week the lines of responsibility will blur, shift and change.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). A warm embrace is not always the most loving thing to do. To present a



cool detachment can be a kind of offering. It sets up a challenge for others -- a space to cross and an invitation to employ inner resources to bridge the gap in their own unique way. Your mindful inconsistencies of behavior will surprise and excite.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Too much busy movement will be counterproductive, as the work that most needs to be done (healing, ideating, energizing) will be accomplished in moments that appear, to the outside observer, idle. Everyone wins when you make sacred your blocks of designated

nothing time, even if you must schedule them to do so.

**VRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Contentment and ambition both live inside you, but it is not possible to embody both these things at once. You'll alternate between the modes this week as you decide exactly what you want and at what time you can fall unapologetically and fully into a fiery ambition that will fuel your rapid progress.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Any number of crummy ideas will float to mind like flotsam and jetsam. Recognize garbage for what it is. Filter it away from the good stuff. Thinking an unhelpful thing isn't so harmful, as long as you don't start believing it. Question your thoughts. Make them prove themselves and earn their place in your head.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're aware of a feeling coming over you,

or through you, and you're also aware that you are not the feeling and the feeling is not you. Because you don't overly identify with emotions, thus confusing who you are with how you feel, you'll know the rock-solid core inside of you -- a touchstone of calm constancy.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). While a sense of belonging brings comfort, comfort is low on your list of priorities and way below things like principles and goal-getting. If you had to choose, you'd rather forward the interests you are passionate about than do all it takes to fit in with a group that doesn't share your values.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When the group is hopeful, you'll think about what could go wrong and ask the questions that will help everyone prepare to be confident in a variety of scenarios. This isn't pessimism; rather, it's for the sake of balance. When the group is pessimistic, you'll balance by being hopeful and buoying all.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The somewhat cynical formula of Roman emperors for keeping keep the masses content, "Panem et circenses," translates to, "Bread and circuses." While you can dole out treats and fun like a pro, you want to give others something much more substantial; consider opportunities to participate in purposeful projects.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). The quest for beauty is always worthwhile no matter what you find. Even if you come up empty-handed, the journey attunes you to witness wonders when they happen to come along. The more attuned you get, the more wonders you witness until you start to realize that it's the ability to see beauty that is the real quest.

**THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:** There is a sturdiness at work in your sector of relationships. Much grows in your world secured through the connection of family, the bonds of friendship and the loose ties of community, though it is the mortar of love that holds together the most impressive structures. These become high turrets from which romantic views and rare perspectives will be often observed. You'll play the role of mentor. You'll be given property and charged with its maintenance, too.  
Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis.com](http://HolidayMathis.com).  
COPYRIGHT 2021 CREATORS.COM

# SUDOKU

		8	6		1				
		6	3						7
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3					8	9			
			1		2	3			

### 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 P13

# 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		



Answers on P13

### Across

- 1 Request
- 4 Gone by, as time
- 8 "A Midsummer Night's Dream" extra
- 11 Managed
- 12 \_\_\_ code for calls
- 13 Fizzle out
- 14 Back then
- 15 Kind of mirror
- 17 Go in the tub
- 19 Difficult position
- 20 "Do \_\_\_ others..."
- 22 Bounced checks, hangnails, etc.
- 25 Decrease, as a load
- 28 Jay-Z hit, e.g.
- 29 "\_\_\_ Shook Up": Presley hit
- 30 Grandeur
- 33 Ho-hum
- 35 Common bargaining subject
- 36 Small, medium or large
- 38 Composed
- 42 Scatter, as a crowd
- 45 Doze (off)
- 46 Pitching star
- 47 Concrete
- 48 Harbor craft
- 49 "Amen!"
- 50 Chances
- 51 Rock deposit

### Down

- 1 Kuwaiti, e.g.
- 2 "Lonesome Dove" genre
- 3 Cluster
- 4 Bring up
- 5 "--- You Experienced?" (Hendrix hit)
- 6 Like some resorts
- 7 Camper's purchase
- 8 Magazine managers
- 9 Golf ball position
- 10 Handful
- 16 Solemn promise
- 18 "Say what?"
- 21 Moderated
- 23 "Have some"
- 24 Government agent
- 25 Big pooch
- 26 "\_\_\_ Follow the Sun" (The Beatles)
- 27 Alternative to contacts
- 31 Symbols for eternal romance
- 32 Attention
- 34 Cool, in a way
- 37 Goose egg
- 39 "I'm \_\_\_ your tricks!"
- 40 Hit the road
- 41 Halftime lead, e.g.
- 42 Square on a calendar
- 43 "March of the Penguins" setting
- 44 Unhappy

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				54			
				55			56			57				
58	59	60	61				62	63	64					
65						66					67			
68						69								70

### Across

- 1. Where small dogs sit, often
- 4. Irritates
- 9. Was gloomy
- 14. Slippery fish
- 15. Dart
- 16. It's just over a foot
- 17. It could be made into a how to book from Disney
- 20. Indicator
- 21. Non-clerical
- 22. Some cowboys
- 26. Narrow-\_\_\_
- 31. Hearty cheer
- 32. Gem stone

- 34. Philadelphia landmark hotel
- 35. Dissertation
- 37. Portions of corn
- 38. Kid's railway rave
- 42. Voice
- 43. Arctic jacket
- 44. Glass receptacle
- 47. Pipe part
- 48. Jerk
- 51. Encodes
- 53. Kind of question
- 55. Football play
- 57. Prefix with "space" or "plane"
- 58. Pressure at work say
- 65. Get used to

- 66. "Lovegirl" singer \_\_\_ Marie
- 67. Pixel density
- 68. Aquatic mammal
- 69. Scorches
- 70. Archdiocese

### Down

- 1. 1979 Cars tune
- 2. Lofty
- 3. Biblical torment
- 4. Online service with a butterfly logo
- 5. Unhospitably cold
- 6. Rock music's \_\_\_ Fighters

- 7. Basketball game stopper
- 8. Scarecrow stuffing
- 9. One of the Brady bunch
- 10. Stop \_\_\_ dime
- 11. U.P.S. delivery, abbr.
- 12. "All over the world" singers, for short
- 13. Animal's home
- 18. Co. name ender
- 19. Watch face
- 23. "Oh, very funny!"
- 24. Oil barons
- 25. Champion figure skater Cohen

- 27. The turf in "surf and turf"
- 28. Asian tongue
- 29. Bring home
- 30. Old German currency
- 33. Motor City team
- 35. Fairy's pickup
- 36. Like a chimney sweep
- 38. Annoy with sweetness
- 39. URL starter
- 40. Kind of diagram
- 41. Joe Namath team
- 42. Beginner instruction in a subject
- 45. Tinier
- 46. Memorable periods
- 48. Walks along

- 49. Green
- 50. Albatross
- 52. Beats it
- 54. Galley need
- 56. Cap site
- 58. Website ranking technology, abbr.
- 59. AC/DC album
- 60. Fixed mode
- 61. Before, of yore
- 62. Raiding grp.
- 63. Elder
- 64. Univ. instructors

Answers on P13

# THE TOUGHIE

by Myles Mellor

Answers on P13



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

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ROBSON VALLEY

# Community Events



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## VALEMOUNT & MCBRIDE

**FRI. Jun 3/MON. Jun 7** - Join Amy Pawliuk, Holistic Nutritionist, as she leads us through the recipe & shares ideas on ways to replenish our bodies for "Make Your Own After School Snack: Banana Cookies!" Contact Rebecca at 778-763-1319 or email [foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org](mailto:foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org) to join. Register before June 3rd to receive an ingredient package. Ingredient package available for pick-up on June 4th or 7th from 8am-4pm at 99 Gorse St in Valemount or 942 3rd Ave in McBride. You may purchase your own as well. 3:30-4:30pm on Monday, June 7th via Zoom. Call 778-763-1319 or email [foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org](mailto:foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org).

**THUR. (From Jun 3 - Jun 22) - CYMH Team presents Taming Worry Dragons Children's Program**, 3:00-5:00pm. This is a FREE, psycho-educational, 8-week program for children 8-12 years of age to learn how to cope with anxiety. The program teaches children about anxieties and worries using the concept of the "Worry Dragon". Children will learn to "trap" and "tame" their "Worry Dragons" using fun projects and materials! Contact Jessica to register at 250-569-2266 or email [jessica@rvcsbc.org](mailto:jessica@rvcsbc.org).

**TUES. Jun 15** - Let's get together during our virtual **Community Coffee Chat** at 3pm for up to an hour to informally discuss how we can navigate the online world more safely and securely. More and more people are being targeted with fraudulent activity, and it can be hard to decipher what's real and what's not. Let's talk about it! Call Jill to register at 250-566-9107 or email [jill@rvcsbc.org](mailto:jill@rvcsbc.org). This community group chat takes place over Zoom.

## VALEMOUNT

**SAT Jun 12 - Outdoor Flea Market** in the Legion Parking Lot. Further details will be released soon. Please call Kerry to book your table. 250-566-9945.

**FRI. Jun 18 -Senior's Tech Café** - @ 8:30-10:00 in McBride & 10:00AM-noon in Valemount. Technology getting you down? Do you need some basic help with your personal device? Join us in-person in McBride or Valemount, for FREE assistance and 1:1 support with your devices. Contact Charlene in McBride, and Jill in Valemount. Email [charlene@rvcsbc.org](mailto:charlene@rvcsbc.org) or [jill@rvcsbc.org](mailto:jill@rvcsbc.org) or call 1-844-324-2004.

**THURs:** The Valemount Community Garden's growing season is underway. Are you interested in volunteering to help produce healthy local food for folks in the community who are experiencing food insecurity? Would you like to work outside, with your hands, and learn about growing your own food at the same time? Are you're an experienced gardener who is willing to share their passion and wisdom with beginner gardeners? Drop by the Valemount Community Garden between 4-6pm and volunteer. We have a range of tasks for all abilities. Children welcome, and encouraged. If you are interested in helping out but this time doesn't work for you, contact Rebecca at [foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org](mailto:foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org) or call 778 763 1319 and she can facilitate a time that does.

## Multiple issues causing radio and TV problems

SUBMITTED BY TONY RYKES , ROBSON VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY

Recently all the TV and radio channels in McBride have been on-again-off again with annoying regularity. Occasionally this has been weather related, but more commonly it has been caused by low voltage to the transmitter site. The reason for the sudden voltage drop is still a mystery, but the various agencies involved are aware of the problem. The society draws power from a nearby Telus site, therefore Telus must investigate. Earlier this winter the underground power line to the Telus tower was damaged and

the TV site was without power for a week, while Telus used its generator to maintain phone service.

The sites are only accessible by snow machines in winter and spring, which complicates repairs. When the snow has gone from the site, we hope to install some remote-access equipment which would allow for the channels to be reset remotely rather than have someone attend the site each time there is a problem. TSN and Space are out because the antenna cable is damaged and we're awaiting a replacement. The most immediate problem—that of low voltage—is being dealt with; bad weather is beyond anyone's control.

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## Brief power outage

BY LAURA KEIL

A brief power outage May 18th that affected customers from Hefley Creek to Tete Jaune, then out to Dome Creek in the west and to Moose Lake in the East, was due to a brush fire near one of the Transmission Line poles north of Kamloops, BC Hydro said.

"We had to take a brief power outage this morning on the transmission line well south of Valemount to fight a brush fire," said Bob Gammer, Manager of

Northern Community Relations for BC Hydro. "The fire threatened one of our transmission pole structures and the line was de-energized from a point just north of Kamloops."

Gammer said approximately 5,300 customers were interrupted for 5 minutes. All customers were returned to service as of 9:27 am.

The brush fire was in the Hefley Creek area.

### GOVERNMENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES FROM... **BC BID**

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Village of Valemount	Valemount Entrance Sign Sand & Re-stain RFQ	09 June 2021 - 12pm


Please note this is NOT a comprehensive list of bid opportunities, but an attempt to post local bid opportunities within the Blue River-Mt. Robson-Dome Creek region. The Goat does not guarantee the accuracy or comprehensiveness of any information. If you are interested in government bids, please visit the BC Bid website [bcbid.gov.bc.ca](http://bcbid.gov.bc.ca) to learn more.

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# McBride paramedics ...CONT'D FROM A1



Station 525 in McBride staffs two ambulances. Sometimes, equipment needs to be transferred to a third 'car' (ambulance) that will be onsite while a regular 'car' (ambulance) is undergoing maintenance. /ANDREA ARNOLD

more time in Valemount as well.

Ambulance Paramedic Union Provincial President Troy Clifford says that pulling crews for cross coverage was not meant to be a long-term solution.

"Prince George has had a significant staffing shortfall resulting in pulling crews from McBride," he said. "This is causing added pressure on the paramedics."

Part of the issue is McBride-based paramedics have developed a balance between their normal day jobs and being on call: most members of the McBride crew have commitments through the day that are flexible if a call comes in; and a night shift in McBride does not automatically mean that paramedics are working all night. A night shift in Prince George varies greatly from most nights coverage in McBride, where calls are rare and those paramedics on call can be asleep at home until needed. The Prince George cross-cover calls don't come in until after 6:00pm so the paramedics have to adjust very quickly to the idea of being up all night, as they make the 2-hour drive to Prince George for a busy shift.

A Prince George paramedic that has worked alongside some of the crews from McBride commented that he and the others only have good things to say.

"My heart goes out to them," he said. "These paramedics care about McBride and these shifts take them away from that. They have had to deal with winter road conditions and nights away from home. We all worry about them, especially in the winter. They do calls all night then back on the road home in the morning."

Because the calls don't come in until about 6:00pm, in wintertime the drive to and from PG is done in the dark, in all sorts of road conditions.

Steven Burns, CUPE 873 Regional Vice President, says the full-time and on-call schedule gets built a month in advance for each station. Once the schedule is created on the 20th, vacancies can be filled internally, or by paramedics who happen to be visiting the area.

During the lead up to shift time, the day of, vacant shifts can be picked up by part-time employees. This means, the need for cross coverage isn't known until the last minute.

Both Burns and Clifford would like to see this addressed by BCEHS somehow.

"Out-of-town crews benefit from a heads-up," said Burns, speaking as a paramedic with on-car experience. "Make a schedule deadline so they (incoming crews) can be prepared."

This would allow paramedics time to arrange for some sleep in the afternoon to prepare for the night, for instance.

Crews from McBride are not always able to respond to the call for cross-coverage. McBride has two cars available, and ideally four paramedics on call 24 hours a day. If one car is already on a call, or due to circumstances only one car is staffed, then paramedics in another community are asked to cover. A source commended the crew from Station 525 (McBride) on continuing to make every attempt to fully staff their cars, even though they know that could likely include a trip to Prince George. The source did mention that Fraser Lake is another one that has been diligent about being available for out-of-town calls.

### Crews commended

The crews traveling from McBride have been very well received and some of those they have encountered during their Prince George adventures have been impressed by their smiles, attitudes and professionalism.

"I haven't heard complaining coming from the 525 crew about the extra work and hours. They are spoken highly of and professional," said Burns.

The paramedics from 525 have provided exemplary service under tough conditions with great attitudes. "McBride Paramedics truly are community-based paramedics. They show a tremendous commitment to community," said Clifford.

Fellow paramedics commented on how great the 525 crew is with patients as well.

One patient, Nancy, went as far as to thank McBride paramedics Andre and Willy on the Hell Ya Prince George Facebook page after they picked her up one night.

"They worked well together," she said. "They had a sense of humour, they worked quickly, knew their stuff and were, most importantly, kind and caring. Just ordinary people doing extraordinary things. They came into the

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hospital with another person a few hours later and they even stopped to say 'Hi.' Amazing young men."

### Province-wide problem

Shorthanded coverage is not a regional issue, but a province-wide problem.

"There are recruitment challenges," said Clifford. "There needs to be a meaningful wage to recruit, allowing for long-term sustainability."

Plans are being made to help alleviate some of the pressure put on crews that have been covering in Prince George.

"BC Ambulance is making adjustments to scheduling, placing one of the previously labeled 'day' shift cars to night shift, along with its staff," said Burns. "Also, they are converting on-call positions in Prince George to full-time positions, requiring two day, two night shift rotations."

Hopefully, the changes that are being made will soon relieve some of the added stress on the McBride crew and other stations that are cross covering more than usual across the province.

## CAREERS

### We are hiring!

- Full-time and part-time positions
- Benefits like flexible hours
- Career advancement

Email resume: [subwayjobs@shaw.ca](mailto:subwayjobs@shaw.ca)



## Creative checkers



Shawn Thompson and his daughter Estelle competed in a checkers game of dandelion flowers vs. pebbles at the board near the Swiss Bakery last week. /LAURA KEIL

### We are hiring!

We are looking for a

**PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME**

### REPORTER!

Must be located in the Valemount area.  
Journalism and photography experience is an asset, but only enthusiasm and the ability to receive constructive feedback is essential!

Competitive pay and a media pass to many events!

Email [goatnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:goatnewspaper@gmail.com) with a **cover letter** describing why you want this job and **2 writing samples** that show your skill.





**NEW!**



**MCBRIDE**  
**2235 E Hwy 16**  
 - Fraser river access - fabulous views  
 - beautifully renovated 5 Bdrm 3 Bthrm rancher - large 2 car garage - plus totally finished shop  
 - over 4 acres - minutes from McBride

**\$590,000**



PICNIC AREA




OPEN CONCEPT

**MCBRIDE**  
**2235 E Hwy 16**  
 - Fraser river access - fabulous views  
 - beautifully renovated 5 Bdrm 3 Bthrm rancher - large 2 car garage - plus totally finished shop  
 - over 4 acres - minutes from McBride



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**SERVING MCBRIDE, VALEMOUNT AND THE ROBSON VALLEY**



**MCBRIDE**  
**1005 Dorval Road**  
 - 3 Bdrm 2Bthrm rancher  
 - Approx 1.5 acres on the Dore River - Attached garage - outbuildings - Sunshine and garden - excellent condition

**\$349,000**

**NEW!**



**MCBRIDE**  
**1011 Frontage Road**  
 - Location Location Location - approximately 5000 sq ft commercial space  
 - some fixtures and equipment included - suitable for retail, service, tourism and more

**\$499,000**



**MCBRIDE**  
**488 Main Street**  
 - Main Street B & B with adjoining lot - tastefully renovated and historic - wheelchair accessible - large and spacious - lots of bookings for summer

**\$299,000**

**SOLD!**



**MCBRIDE**  
**910 Airport Road**  
 - 3 Bedroom 2 Bathroom  
 - Large master with ensuite  
 - 1 acre fully fenced - decks hot tub - Garage, storage, and more  
 - Excellent condition - priced to sell!

**\$349,000**

Visit my website to see all of my featured listings: [www.valemountmbridelistings.com](http://www.valemountmbridelistings.com). A great resource for you property search in the valley.

**Shelly Battensby**  
 REALTOR




**Lot 12 1400 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue** VALEMOUNT



**SOLD!**

**Lot 2 Small River FSR** VALEMOUNT



**NEW LISTING**

**\$110,000**

This 4.25 acre property is centrally located in the heart of the Robson Valley and well placed to give you access to all the recreation the area has to offer. One of 7 lots in this bare land strata development, the property is perfect for building your dream or recreation home.

**1080 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue** VALEMOUNT



**REDUCED PRICE**

**\$179,000**

This well-maintained mobile home is an affordable option for your housing needs. With a large addition, fenced and landscaped yard, and detached garage, the property has a ton of value built in.

**2300 Main Street** VALEMOUNT



**NEW LISTING**

**\$393,000**

What is better than 20 acres on the edge of town? This mid-sized acreage is perfect for the hobby farmer looking for a valley home. Or you could pursue rezoning to build your recreational business dream. Either way, this property will be a win.

**DIFFERENT BETTER**



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