



Building bridges

P8-9

# Rocky Mountain Goat

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Thursday May 06th, 2021  
Volume 12 Issue 16  
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## New Community Bus



The Valemount Community Bus Society has a new bus and it's slightly bigger than the last one. The 24-seater has a separate storage area in the back, slightly larger than the 20-seater they had previously. Society member Brian Hanson said the group was told their previous bus would not meet the commercial vehicle inspection anymore, so they went about raising funds for a new one. Thanks to generous donations from many groups they were successful. Donors included: SD57, CBT, Regional District, CN, Valemount Community Forest, the Valemount Secondary Grad Class of 2020 and the bus society's own funds. The bus is often used to shuttle sports teams and school classes to events and activities outside the community. Hanson said people can inquire about renting the bus for community functions by calling the school. / PHOTO SUBMITTED

Irene Berndsen



ASPIRE REALTY

[www.mountainviewrealty.ca](http://www.mountainviewrealty.ca)  
McBride 250-569-7397

see LISTINGS ON  
BACK PAGE



Jasper Physio & Health Centre

### A message to our Robson Valley patients...

**Our summer hours are 9am-4:30pm Tuesday and Wednesday for in-person appointments in Valemount. Virtual appointments can be made anytime Tues-Sat.**

Jasper Physiotherapy and Health Centre services extend to anyone residing in the Robson Valley area, from Blue River to Crescent Spur. Homecare visits are available as needed within Valemount. COVID-protocols are followed. McBride patients can be seen virtually. Video-conference can be set up in the hospital as needed.  
To book an appointment call 780-852-2262.

### Northern Health has updated the physiotherapy services covered by public funding to the following:

- Post-surgery (Joint-replacements, tendon and ligament repairs, etc.)
- Post-fracture
- Post-cardiac events (heart attacks)
- Post-stroke

*\* Doctor's referral required for services covered by public funding. Direct billing is available for Worksafe BC, ICBC and some extended health benefits*







RMG **WILDLIFE**

BREAKFAST

A Pine Siskin eats its breakfast. /SANDRA JAMES

## Tapping birch



By LEON LORENZ

Each spring for about 10 years now my family and I enjoy drinking birch sap that we tap from our trees. I make my own spouts out of 5/8" pieces of dowel that's cut to about 3 inches in length and tapered on one end to fit into a 1/2" hole that's bored into the tree. I cut a notch for the pail handle and drill a 1/8" hole through the center of the spout, the rest is now up to the tree. A good idea is to add a cheese cloth cover to ward off moths and flies that will be attracted to the slightly sweet water.

Birch water offers numerous nutrients, especially vitamins and

minerals. With a little research I found that one 10.2 ounce (300ml) bottle contains 9 calories, 2 carbs, 3 grams of sugar, 2% Daily Value (DV) of calcium, 95% DV of magnesium, 130% manganese and 3% DV of zinc. I haven't boiled the birch sap down to syrup, though if one did it would take 80 gallons to get one gallon of syrup. Birch sap has only half the sugar content of sugar maple sap. We also freeze it in plastic juice containers for mixing with frozen orange juice to be enjoyed throughout the summer. Once the short sap flowing season is over I remove the spout and tap a 1/2" diameter dowel into the hole to permanently seal it up.

*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.*

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

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# Local veteran spearheads “Banners of Remembrance”

By Laura Keil

Inspired by the grad banners that hung on lampposts downtown last year, Peter Addis is hoping to start another tradition: hanging banners of local veterans in the lead-up to Remembrance Day each year.

“It’s something that’s close to my heart. We need to get this message across that we do have people in the Robson Valley that are veterans, that have changed their lives for the better of the country. I thought, what better way to remember these people than doing this?”

Addis himself was a front-line infantryman with the British Armed Forces for 14 Years. He was deployed to Bosnia in 1994 under the UN and a number of other places around the world on active duty.

He said people can sponsor a 30x60in banner for a relative or community member for \$140 from a Canadian veteran-owned company. The banner will have a photograph of the veteran, name and service details. He said any veteran living in the Robson Valley or who used to live here is eligible to be part of the “Banners of Remembrance” project.

Addis hopes to have the banners up between mid-October and November 12th.

At their April 27th meeting, Council approved the Legion’s request to hang the banners during that time and to have public works hang the banners.



Inspired by the grad banners that hung downtown last year, Peter Addis is hoping to start another tradition by hanging banners of local veterans on downtown lampposts (similar to the tourism banners visible behind him) in the lead-up to Remembrance Day each year. / LAURA KEIL

# “It’s time to move on”

## ACTIVE VOLUNTEER & BUSINESS OWNER MARIE BIRKBECK LEAVES VALEMOUNT

By Jane Shaw

Marie Birkbeck moved to Valemount in March 2007 to begin a new chapter of her life—operating a busy three-bedroom bed and breakfast.

“I have an academic background in Hospitality & Tourism, and a love for cooking so running a B&B seemed like a natural fit,” she said. “Even though I had virtually no experience in running a business, I felt I was up to the challenge.”

Incidentally, Birkbeck had spent the previous 12 years working as a camp cook in the oil fields of Northern Alberta & BC.

With the help of her four children, they

renovated the old RCMP building on 6th Avenue, taking care to preserve and promote the rich history of the primarily brick building, complete with functional jail cells. On January 1, 2008, The Jailhouse B&B was born with the tagline “We have the key to your escape!”

“I loved that job”, said Birkbeck, “and got to travel the world vicariously through my guests.”

She also looked forward to being involved with her new community and soon joined the Chamber of Commerce, Legion, Valemountain Days Committee, Seniors Club and helped with many local fundraisers and events, including the Bird Festival and in a

paid position for seven years with The Valley Sentinel.

After 13 years of ‘giving it her all,’ Birkbeck is retiring from the workforce and community volunteering, and moving to Alberta to be with her family where she will be focusing on her true passion—genealogy!

“Leaving is bittersweet,” said Birkbeck. “Thanks for the memories Valemount, but it’s time for me to move on.”



Marie Birkbeck will be moving to Whitecourt. The tireless volunteer and business owner says saying goodbye is “bittersweet.” / LAURA KEIL

## GOVERNMENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES FROM... BC BID



ORGANIZATION	BID DESCRIPTION	CLOSING
Village of Valemount	Development of Valemount trails web page for Tourism Valemount	May 14th 2021 12:00
Village of Valemount	Sanding & Re-staining of Entrance Sign RFQ	May 14th 2021 12:00
Village of Valemount	Demolition of Centennial Washrooms	May 14th 2021 12:00
Village of McBride	2nd Avenue Culvert Replacement Project	May 14th 2021 12:00
Village of McBride	Airport Road Culvert Replacement Project	May 14th 2021 12:00
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George	Valemount Regional Landfill - Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation	May 14th 2021 14:00
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy	Mt. Robson water system upgrade	May 26th 2021 14:00

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.

Timely tax credit



By Laura Keil, Editor/Publisher

I filed my family’s taxes last week and noticed a reminder in Turbotax regarding claiming work-from-home expenses. It was a friendly reminder for the millions of people who have worked from home this year and don’t know about the latest deduction method.

While I’m happy there’s deductions for working from home, as a result of the work-from-home trend, office buildings and normally bustling downtowns are deserted while people raid their

own refrigerators.

Restaurants are some of the most vulnerable businesses during COVID-19, especially in our tourism and highway-traffic reliant towns. Since March 29, restaurants have been restricted to take-out or patio service only, squeezing them further. The Goat recently partnered up with Tourism Valemount to produce a take-out flyer listing Valemount restaurants that are offering take-out. There were 20 food establishments on that flyer. 20 sources of take-out in a town of 1,000 people. Thank goodness for the 600+ extra pipeline workers in town right now or we’d probably see permanent closures.

Tax deductions should do at least one of two things: remove inequities and encourage behaviour that, in the end, saves the country money (or makes it more efficient). Offering a tax credit for eating out as long as pandemic restrictions are in place makes perfect sense. You could cap it at, say, \$700 per person. If it’s during work hours you’re allowed to write it off, whether you’re working from home or from the office. Plus, eating regularly isn’t just good for the restaurant, it’s also good for your concentration at work and leads to greater productivity.

We keep hearing about how much money people are saving during the pandemic and how many restaurants are closing permanently.

Let’s show our restaurant staff some love and advocate for a tax credit that’s a win-win.

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\*GST included in prices

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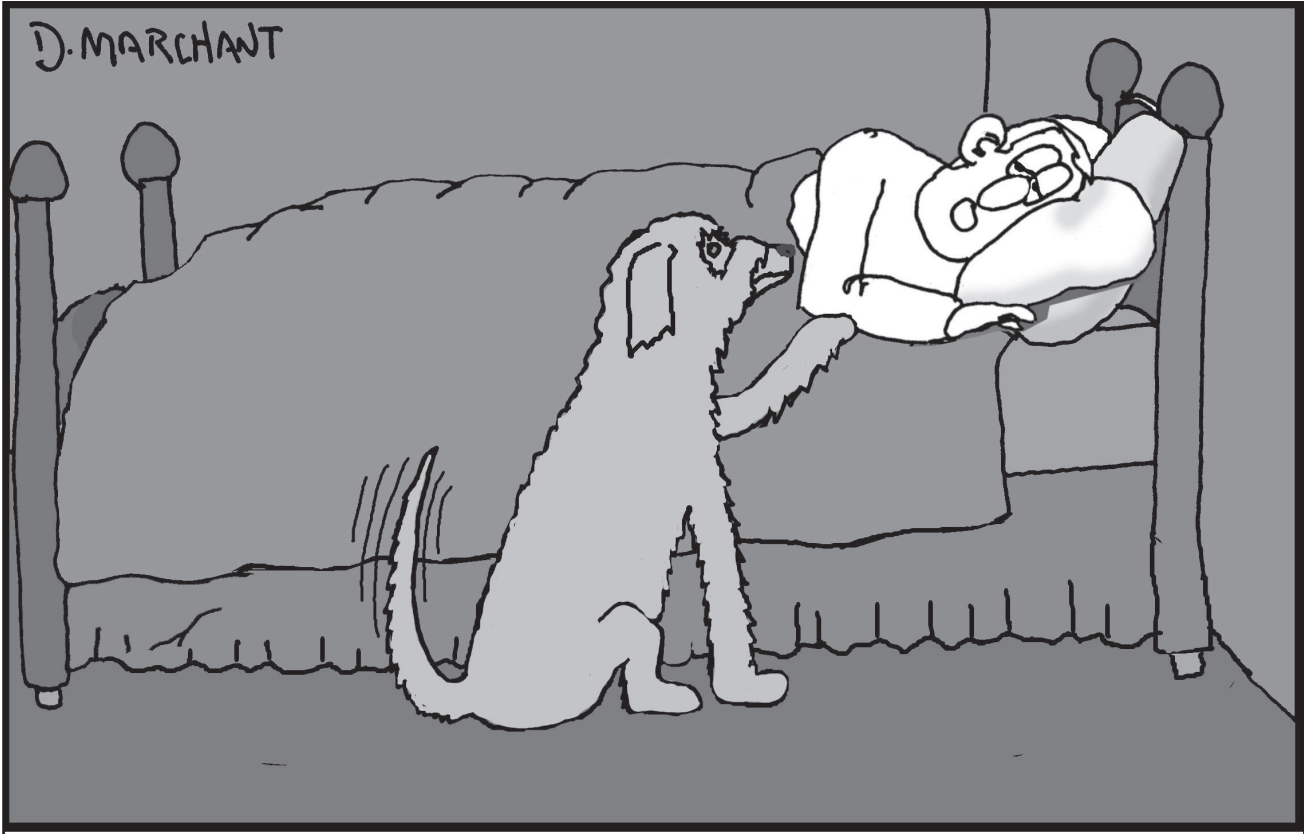
# Call for input through COVID-19 Survey

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

During the Council meeting, an item from the BC Centre for Disease Control was brought forward as an information piece. It contained Information about how residents have been affected by the pandemic that is being gathered through The BC Covid-19 SPEAK Round 2 Survey: [tinyurl.com/3umvuaa5](https://tinyurl.com/3umvuaa5) . The results will help inform B.C.'s response and recovery. It addresses four key areas: Life during the pandemic, what barriers exist to accessing vaccines, how things have changed and what supports are needed to help you through recovery.

Councillors wanted to communicate the importance of the survey with members of the community as the deadline is May 9, 2021.

“Please take the time to complete the survey,” said Deputy Mayor Rosemary Hruby. “Regardless of your opinions and experience, all input is valuable and will be used going forward as new responses are being formed.”



"GEEZ DOG, IT'S 5:00. JUST BECAUSE IT'S GETTING LIGHT OUTSIDE, DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TIME TO GET UP."

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# Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

## Napoleon – What If...?

Napoleon Bonaparte doesn't come up much in conversation these days, which is hardly surprising given that he has been dead for two centuries. On the other hand, this week it will be exactly 200 years since he died, so maybe we could make an exception just this once.

People often compare Napoleon to Hitler, another dictator who allegedly tried to 'conquer the world', but that thought never crossed Hitler's mind. His real ambitions were in eastern Europe, where he would get 'lebensraum' (living space) for the German population and access to strategic resources like oil. Whereas Napoleon thought much bigger.

Apart from Britain and Scandinavia, there was hardly a country in Europe that didn't get a visit from Napoleon's armies. The campaign that made Napoleon famous in France was his conquest of Egypt, and at one time he even contemplated following in Alexander the Great's footsteps and invading India.

As he explained to Dr. Barry O'Meara, the Irish doctor who looked after him during his final years in exile on St. Helena, "Had I known in 1806 or 1808 [that a 'ship-of-the-line' can carry 80 tons of drinking water in tanks], I would have sent an army of 38,000 men to invade India."

The plan was abandoned because nobody told Napoleon that those warships could carry enough drinking water for such a large army. He thought they couldn't, and he never asked. So he wasn't infallible, but he was certainly ambitious – and if the plan had succeeded, it might have ended British rule in India 140 years early.

Napoleon was certainly responsible for millions of unnecessary deaths. Around three million soldiers and a million civilians were killed in twenty years of the 'Napoleonic Wars', but by the end France was back to its original borders. Yet it's not only the French who still see him in a positive light.

Hitler was a squalid fascist who built death camps; Napoleon was a child of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution who believed he was bringing liberal values to the people he conquered. He shamefully re-legalised slavery (banned by the Revolution), but wherever he went in Europe he overthrew the feudal order and enforced religious tolerance and secular education.

Consider his plans for England, if the cross-Channel invasion he was preparing in 1803-05 had come to pass. He told O'Meara in St. Helena:

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



"Four days would have brought me to London....One battle lost, the capital would have been in my power....I would have said 'Assemble in London deputies from the people to fix upon a constitution....I would have declared the [end of the monarchy], abolished the nobility, proclaimed liberty, freedom, and equality."

"Think you, that in order to keep the [king on his throne] your rich citizens, merchants, and others of London, would have consented to sacrifice their riches, their houses, their families, and all their dearest interests, especially when....I only came to [get rid of the king] and to give them liberty?..."

"Your principal people have too much to lose by resistance, and your masses too much to gain by a change....If they supposed that I wanted to render England a province of France, then indeed [patriotism could have worked wonders in a guerilla war]. But I would have formed a republic according to your own wishes...."

But what would England be without the royal soap opera and Clown Prince Boris Johnson? It would be like America without Donald Trump. Alternate history sucks.



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The Rocky Mountain Goat serves a population base of approximately 5,000 residents from Valemount to McBride to Dome Creek and Blue River. It is 100% locally owned. RETURN UNDELIVERABLES TO: The RMG, Box 21, Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0

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Nous reconnaissons l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.



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VALEMOUNT COUNCIL NOTES

Remembering on 5th, aero-lighting, washroom grant, full-time bylaw officer

BY GOAT STAFF

Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on April 27.

Audit

The meeting began with a lengthy presentation of the Audited Financial Statements from 2020 by KPMG.

Remembrance

Council directed staff to work with members of the Royal Canadian Legion to place banners of remembrance on lamp posts on 5th Avenue. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 266 president Peter Addis

asked that banners featuring local veterans be hung between mid-October and mid-November. Council moved to support the idea.

Accounts payable

Council received the March 2021 accounts payable report for information.

Airport lighting repairs

Council approved \$66,500 towards the airport lighting repairs using \$37,000 from the COVID-19 Airport Relief and \$29,500 from the COVID 19 Safe Restart Grant and approved sole sourcing the job to Signal Electric Ltd. “It’s something we don’t take lightly when it comes to sole sourcing,” said Mayor Owen Torgerson.

Pearson said he hopes efforts will be taken to minimize the cost.

CAO Wayne Robinson said that the reason the request is on the books now is because the company is passing through the area, and is one of the few companies that can complete the work.

“We won’t have to worry about extra mobilizing costs that wouldn’t be necessary otherwise,” said Robinson.

Municipal sewer line clearing

Council asked staff to negotiate a contract for 3 years of municipal sewer line cleaning, with an option to renew for a further two years with Northern Lites Technology (2021) Ltd.

CONT'D ON P15

www.valemount.ca

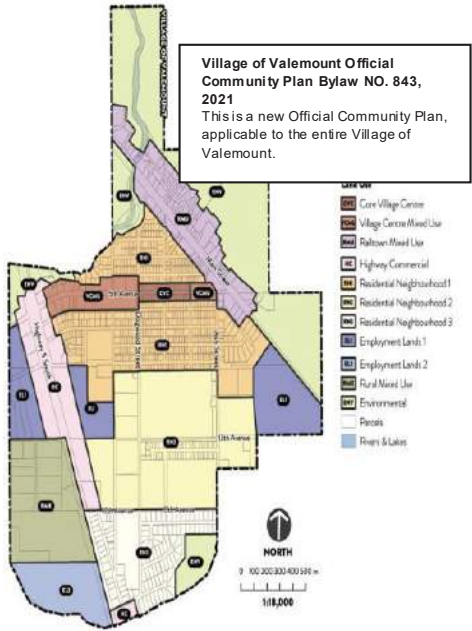
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please Take Notice that a Public Hearing for “Village of Valemount Official Community Plan Bylaw No 843, 2021” will be held:

WHEN: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: YouTube Live Stream: This Public Hearing will be live streamed over YouTube on the “Villa Valemount” YouTube channel.

To COMMENT during the Public Hearing through YouTube, use the chat function below the video live stream. You will need an account to comment.



At the Public Hearing, anyone who deems their interest in land to be affected by the proposed Village of Valemount Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 843, 2021, shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard. You may provide comments through the chat function of the YouTube Live Stream, provide a written submission by mail, email (must send to [publichearing@valemount.ca](mailto:publichearing@valemount.ca)), or call 250-566-4435 to book a time to drop off your written feedback to the Village Office. **Written submissions will be accepted from April 29 until noon 12:00 pm on May 11, 2021.**

All correspondence and materials submitted in response to this Notice will form part of a public record. All written submissions and verbal presentations must state your name and area of residence. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. The author’s phone number and email are not relevant and should not be included in the correspondence if the author does not wish this personal information to be disclosed. Any material received before or at the Public Hearing will become public information.

Continued...

Digital copies of the bylaws are available on [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca). A paper copy will be available for viewing by appointment only, during regular office hours (Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) from April 29 to May 11, 2021 at the Village Office, 735 Cranberry Lake Road. Call 250-566-4435

Contact Krista Etty, Land Use Planner at 250-566-4435 or [planner@valemount.ca](mailto:planner@valemount.ca) with any questions.

Request for Proposals

- **Demolition services for the Centennial Park Washrooms:**  
Closing date: Friday, May 14, 2021 at 12:00 pm
- **Maintenance (Sanding and re-staining) for the Village of Valemount Entrance Sign:**  
Closing date: Friday, May 14, 2021 at 12:00 pm
- **Development of Valemount trails web page for Tourism Valemount:**  
Closing date: Friday, May 14, 2021 at 12:00 pm

Full details of all bid opportunities are available on our website at [www.valemount.ca/bid-contract](http://www.valemount.ca/bid-contract)

Job Opportunity - Visitor Centre Counsellors

Village of Valemount is seeking applications for Visitor Information Centre Counsellors for the 2021 season. Reporting to the Visitor Information Centre Coordinator, Counsellors identify a visitor’s needs, offer information and provide services.

Applications from students returning to school in the fall will be given preference. Accommodations will be made regarding training and start dates for any students still attending school.

Applications are to be submitted via email to [jobs@valemount.ca](mailto:jobs@valemount.ca) or by mail to Village of Valemount, Attn: Valemount Counsellor Job Posting, PO Box 168, Valemount, BC, V0E 2Z0,

**Deadline: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 4:30pm.**

A full job description can be found on the Village website at [www.valemount.ca/job-postings](http://www.valemount.ca/job-postings)

Village Office and Visitor Information Centre

Closure

The Village Office and Visitor Information Centre will remain closed to the public until the end of day (4:30 pm) May 25, 2021. We will reopen to the public on May 26, 2021 at 8:30 am.

Access to the Village Office will remain by appointment only. Those needing to come to the Village Office are asked to call 250-566-4435, or email [adminservices@valemount.ca](mailto:adminservices@valemount.ca) in advance, in order to book an appointment during regular business hours.

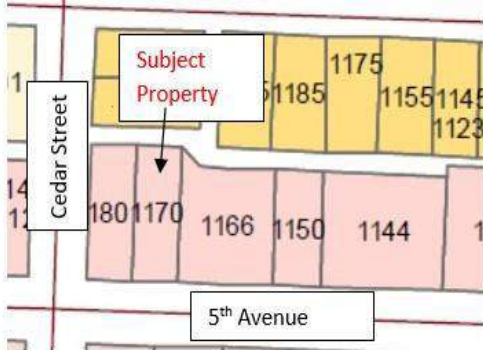
We appreciate your understanding and continued support of these new measures to help protect the health of our community.

Village of Valemount  
Notice of Public Hearing

Please Take Notice that a Public Hearing for “Street Vendor Permit 03-21” will be held at the Regular Council Meeting of: **Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 7PM.**

*This Public Hearing will be live streamed over YouTube on the “Villa Valemount” YouTube channel. To COMMENT during the Public Hearing through YouTube, use the chat function below the video live stream. You will need an account to comment.*

Street Vendor Permit 03-21 proposes to allow The Funky Goat Eatery to operate for up to three years, 7 days a week, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 1170 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Legally described as Lot 2, DL 9778, Cariboo District Plan PGP35390)



At the **Public Hearing**, all those persons who deem their interest in land to be affected by the proposed Street Vendor Permit application shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard. You may provide comments through the chat function of the YouTube Live Stream, provide a written submission by mail, email (must be sent to [corporate@valemount.ca](mailto:corporate@valemount.ca)), or call 250-566-4435 to book a time to drop off your written feedback to the Village Office. Written submissions will be accepted from April 29th until noon 12:00 pm on May 11, 2021.

Any material received before or at the Public Hearing will become public information. A copy of the Street Vendor Permit application is available online at [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca) or at the Village of Valemount Office, **by appointment only**, during regular posted office hours, Monday to Friday, from this date through May 11, 2021.

Following the Public Hearing, Council will consider whether to approve the Street Vendor Permit, through resolution, at the Regular Meeting of Council.





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ABOVE:  
Sean Carson and Chris McGauley  
set up gabian baskets for bridge  
footings on the Akamina project in  
south east BC. /ANDREAS THONI

# Robson D

BY ANDRU MCCrackEN

Andreas Thoni's first crack at building trails was in Jasper as a kid, and the trails he and his school friends built in the bush were constantly being torn down and erased by park staff. 20 years later, people pay his company to build infrastructure in some of the most sensitive and remote parks in the province.

When Andreas moved to Valemount in 1999, he was still in high school, and he couldn't believe his good fortune: trail building here was welcome.

Thoni's company Robson Design Build is winning contracts around the British Columbia to build new trails, bridges and infrastructure in the most remote and sensitive regions.

"When we moved to Valemount we started building trails, because we had the freedom to do so and building trails is how this whole business has evolved," he said.

Thoni's company, initially called Robson

Energy Services, started as an oilfield equipment rental company in 2012, but his passion for the oil sector wasn't strong. In 2013 he began working on trails at the Valemount Bike Park (a project he set in motion by raising funds to have a master development plan drafted; a downhill trail he built bears his name).

The company, now called Robson Design Build, has set up shop on Valemount's burgeoning 5th Avenue, right next to Underwriter's Insurance and across from the bank.

"We don't really need a storefront; it's not integral to how we get our business, but we're enjoying being downtown. It's super convenient," said Thoni.

"It's nice being amongst everyone else who's working right beside you, you just feel inclined to work hard," said Jenna Jackson, Thoni's partner.

The business, powered by an ensemble of highly skilled locals, is a Valemount success



BELOW:  
Graham Woolsey works on the  
Akamina Cabin. /ANDREAS  
THONI



Andreas Thoni  
the leader of  
the Robson  
Design Build  
team, working  
on trails at the  
Valemount Bike  
Park. /ANDRU  
MCCRACKEN





# esign Build

ory with a pretty low profile. Andreas Thoni seems to be the Chief executive Officer but he prefers to call himself an estimator. His partner, Jackson, plays a role spanning human resources, safety, accountant and administration. Thoni and Jackson play down their roles and play up the host of locals, like Sean Carson, Tom Jamin and Zac Ruttiman whose special skills help pull off major projects in out of the way places. "Our construction started very humbly with trails here and bridges; now it's expanding at a pretty rapid pace. We're focusing on institutional, commercial and civil construction," said Thoni. To date the company has specialized in bridges over streams of all types, suspension, steel, I-beam, and aluminum truss. The company's first big bridge project was a pedestrian bridge on Valemount's hiking and biking trail system over Swift Creek. Growing up in Valemount has given Thoni a familiarity with using helicopters

to bring materials into remote locations and that knowledge has been put to good use.

## West Coast Trail

While the West Coast Trail has yet to reopen in the wake of the pandemic, Thoni and his crew have built and finished a massive bridge on the route, the third largest pedestrian suspension bridge in British Columbia.

The bridge cuts out a notorious section, making the challenging trail a little more manageable.

While on site, Thoni's crew, the only other people on the trail for kilometres, played a role in helping a number of injured parties.

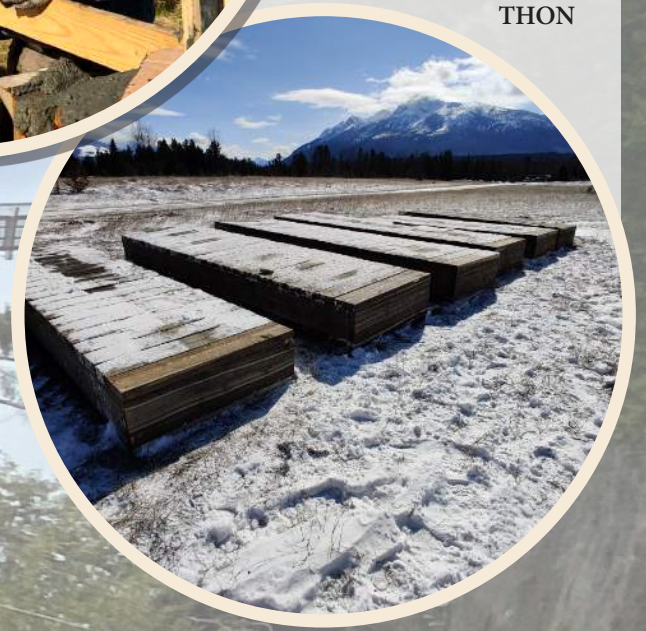
CONT'D BELOW



ABOVE: Local Gordon Carson puts the finishing touches on a suspension bridge above Swift Creek in 2014. / ANDREAS THONI



LEFT: Tom Jamin of "Thomas Jamin Woodworking" ensures the anchors are plumb in the footings for Akamina cabin. / ANDREAS THONI



## Akamina-Kishinena

The project Thoni is most proud of is the rebuilding of infrastructure in Akamina-Kishinena Park adjacent to Waterton Lakes National Park in the south east corner of the province.

The provincial park had been ravaged by a wildfire, and Robson Design Build won the contract to build it back.

"That project had a really good team on it, we executed it perfectly to schedule and we did really well on it," he said.

It included nine timber bridges and an extraordinary ranger cabin.

"It was just a cabin but it had all the amenities of your home, the picture perfect off grid cabin. Solar, a gravity water system and a full propane shower," he said.

The project played to one of the company's strengths: using helicopters for remote access.

Thoni said that projects that require helicopters are intimidating for contractors without experience using them.

## Industrial strength

Thoni said that his company has recently started renting a plot of land in the Valemount Industrial Park.

"The board is very accommodating for businesses that have unique needs and it's helped us out," he said.

Many of the bridges the company makes require big timbers. Thoni said he looks forward to being adjacent to the new Valemount mill under construction at the industrial park.

## Cultivating local talent

Jackson said that while the projects aren't usually based in Valemount, they use local subtrades, source local supplies and do as much as possible to keep the economic benefit local.

"We hope to provide some pretty good work opportunities in the future as we grow the local talent," said Jackson.

BELOW: Zac Ruttiman prepares bridge decking at the Valemount Industrial Park. /ANDREAS THONI



## NEW DIGITAL TV CHANNEL FOR VALEMOUNT

The Valemount Entertainment Society has launched Digital Channel 9 with five new stations:



9.101



9.102



9.103



9.104 \*



9.105

\* Note: Channel 9.104 KTLA 5 is temporary. The permanent channel will be CTV's Sci-Fi Channel which is delayed due to contract negotiations. As soon as it becomes available, CTV Sci-Fi Channel will replace KTLA on Channel 9.104.







Joining Randy Pruden on the trail maintenance team this year are Andru McCracken and Stephanie McDonald. The trio is tasked with maintaining the 60-km of Valemount Bike Park trails. / PHOTO SUBMITTED

BY LAURA KEIL

This season, the Valemount Bike Park will have its own regular maintenance team. Since the bike park's inception, Randy Pruden and other irregular staff and volunteers have been maintaining the local trail system, but the 2021 season will be the first year a regular maintenance crew will be working on the trails. Andru McCracken and Stephanie McDonald will join Pruden caretake the roughly 60 kilometres of Valemount Bike Park trails. "This crew could not have come at a better time," said VARDA Manger Curtis Pawliuk. "This year's windstorms were catastrophic to the trails. We have never seen this much destruction and debris from downed trees and limbs." He said the crew has its work cut out for it playing catch up removing debris and organics from the trail surfaces, which he says will still need the help of local volunteers to complete. Once the initial spring cleaning is complete, the crew will then focus on repairs and upkeep such as trail tread patching, drainage repairs and general improvements to the quality the

trails are known for, he says. Pawliuk says trails are occasionally closed during maintenance, but the majority of the time a sign will be hung at the trailhead if a crew is working. Tourism Valemount and the Valemount Community Forest have been contributing financially to the maintenance of the trail system for a few years, Pawliuk says, and this year, the program is getting a big boost from the Columbia Basin Trusts "Basin Job Experience Program" which made the hiring of two additional employees possible. Many trails are already open though Pawliuk warns of several downed trees over the network. "Riders are urged to ride with caution as we work on clearing them out." Open trails include: Moby Dick, Bacon, Munday Grind to Selwyn, Truck Yeah, Inversion, Provincial DH, Northern raverse, Southern Traverse, Retro Version, Gully Trail, Subversion, Ale Trail to Tech Zone, Lowest Green, Lower Blue South, Upper Green, Inorout.



## Gardening with Pete

### Potatoes-Basic of Growing

I have talked about potatoes in former columns but talked mostly about different varieties or how to help prevent scab. In the past few weeks, I have been asked many times about growing potatoes, so I will devote this entire column and the next to growing potatoes. The first thing I want to explain is that storing potatoes together in a root cellar and having them cross is an "old wives' tale". The way we usually grow potatoes is by "cloning". We take a piece from the parent stock (the seed potato) and plant it the next year, so we will get the identical variety again, no matter how it is stored. The only way to cross potato varieties is by saving the little seed pods on the top of the plants (the ones that look like miniature green tomatoes) and planting those seeds the following year. That is where new varieties come from. If we understand just how potatoes grow, we will better understand just how to grow them! The piece of potato that we use as seed can be used whole if around the size of an egg or it can be cut into two or three pieces if it is a large potato. The main thing to remember is that you should have two "eyes" on each piece of seed. If you are cutting up larger potatoes for seed, it is best to do so about two days to a week before planting and then lay them out to "heal" in a basement, shop or shed where they will get enough light to sprout, but not enough direct sunlight to shrivel up and they are protected from freezing.

Once the eyes begin to produce short sprouts and the first sign of little white roots, they can be planted and watered in. The sprout is going to be the stem and the white roots around it will go down into the soil to feed the plant. If the soil is cold and damp, there is a chance of the seed rotting. If the soil is moderately dry, you can plant a few rows for early potatoes around the first of May and the main crop around the end of May. If the main crop matures too soon in the season, they do not seem to keep in storage as well. I always try to time them to mature around the middle to end of September and harvest them a few weeks after the tops die down. As I plant my potatoes in rows, I usually cultivate the entire patch first, being sure not to add any fresh manure or lime or I would be asking for "scab". Then I measure out rows about 3' (1M) apart and stretch out a string over the first row. Next, I dig all the holes about 8" (20cm) deep and 1' (30cm) apart along the entire row. Then I throw a handful of peat moss and a handful of alfalfa pellets in each hole. The peat moss will help make the soil more acid and prevent scab, and the alfalfa pellets give the young plant a boost of natural nitrogen get off to a good start. Alfalfa Pellets can be found at any feed store as they are used for animal feed. Then I place a seed piece with the sprout pointing up in each hole and cover the seed piece with only about 2" (5cm) of soil. (I go down the row with a hoe, just

pulling a bit of earth over each seed piece.) Then, if your soil is sandy or dry, water them in well. If the soil is damp or it looks like rain, leave them alone. Next week, I will cover how the potatoes grow and how to care for them during the growing season.



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.



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# Pluto’s Opening Wisdom

A fortunate arrangement of Mercury and Pluto opens this week on a moment of awe. You don’t have to wait to be dumbstruck by the beauty of the Grand Canyon or by witnessing your favorite band in concert. In your immediate environment, there are a thousand realities of piercing beauty awaiting the sharp inhale of your dazzlement. It is not the experience but the being able to experience that is key to vivacious living.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You already want to do what’s best for all. So relax and don’t overthink the rest. Tap into the wisdom of nonhuman organisms -- you know, the ones who don’t bother with a preoccupation of their own importance. They do, to the best of their ability, what they were meant to do, and so will you.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Back then, you wanted to fit in and experience the popular thing, feel the comfort of belonging and the strength in numbers. Now, you’re craving something else -- an experience that’s magical and meaningful because it’s only for you. The star exchange of the week is one you’ll prize for its singularity.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). If you want someone to blame, then you’ll have at least three strong contenders, although no good comes from that route. It’s quicker to take a breath and clean it up like it was your mess. It’s not, but that’s not the point. The point is you can still make your goal if you just keep moving forward. Let nothing stop you.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Your wish list is filled

# HOROSCOPES



## BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

with items particular to you. The others have no interest. Check your list often to remind yourself of your wishes and plans. This is no time to drift into the tide of commonality. There’s nothing wrong with conformity, but you can’t have what you want and be like everyone else at the

same time.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You prize humor, though it’s not the only quality you’re after now. With this current ambitious mood, you seek the kind of company that is comfortable with, if not stellar at, giving and receiving encouragement.

Sharing ideas with positive and proactive people will inspire you to new heights.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The main event this week is a metaphoric potluck banquet. And while the situation feels free and generous, you can bet you’re being judged for your contributions. Does it give you pause? It’s time to think seriously about what you bring to the table. Find where your talents intersect the group’s need.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You don’t have to make yourself more lovable to please anyone else, so the fact that you want to anyway will bring up questions. Where is this desire coming from? Is it unworthiness, ambition or a wish to fulfill a particular aesthetic? What is the difference? Does it matter? What are you driven to do about it?

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You’re not responsible for

other people’s reactions, but it sure feels that way. The instinct to take credit for joy or assume blame for disappointment speaks to the connectedness you feel with others. Feelings will be sorted in the name of clarity and a more comprehensive understanding of your reality.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Things are the way they are because someone thought they should be. You have your own opinions, and you’ll get behind them to make things happen around you. This is what believing in yourself means this week -- accepting the fact that you are no different from anyone who’s made things happen in the world.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You’re bold this week and in no mood to hide out. Of course, you take a risk when you tell the truth about who you are what you want. It could go over brilliantly, in which case you’ll be warmly embraced. It could be drama, in which case you find out where you don’t belong -- good information. Either way, you win.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You know that you do a brilliant job looking after yourself. Therefore, you feel pretty confident that you can look after others in a nurturing way. This week, you’ll see how the relationship you have with yourself colors every other relationship, providing obvious standards and boundaries.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). The revelry begins the moment you start paying attention to the beauty in front of you. There are important matters that steer your attention, but you will also be a stickler for noticing how long they actually need to hold it. If life is a highway, then getting off at the correct exits dictates much of your experiences.

**THIS WEEK’S BIRTHDAYS:** The year swings from the literal to the metaphoric and then glides back over it all with a sponge to blur the lines. It’s like you’re living inside a poem, or maybe you are the poem -- and the poet, too. Love is a force you obey, wield, dance with and surrender to. It would be a hilarious understatement to say you’ll go out of your way to do so, as it will often feel as though your whole existence is curled around love’s command. A welcome wave of abundance comes your way seven weeks from now.

Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis.com](http://HolidayMathis.com).

# SUDOKU

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

### 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

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				

# 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			



Answers on P13

### Across

- Computer programs, for short
- Masseur’s workplace, maybe
- Detachable container
- Make ready, briefly
- Bachelor’s apartment
- Beam of light
- Kind
- Border
- Mineral found in a mine
- Placing on a truck, e.g.
- Hire
- Body
- By way of
- Lady referred to
- Action
- “Anything \_\_\_?”
- Drops on blades
- Dejected
- Bird homes
- Goes downhill, perhaps
- Supporter of one’s country
- Ace
- Tear
- A deadly sin
- Hearing organ
- High card
- Length x width, for a rectangle
- Picnic scavenger
- “Amen!”
- Break noisily

### Down

- Likely
- Be nosy
- Energy
- Period of time
- Dealt with bugs, in a way
- Gave the cash for
- Allow in, as evidence
- Advance
- Row boat equipment
- Food additive
- “I’m impressed!”
- Doze (off)
- All square
- 1/500 of the Indianapolis 500
- Important travel document
- Airplane assignment
- Chances
- Cooks’ “secrets”
- Airport posting: Abbr.
- Court
- Digress
- Book of maps
- “Wild” or “brown” food
- “Black-eyed” edible
- Commanded
- Dispenser at a buffet, perhaps
- “Finding Nemo” setting
- Keep time, in a way

## THE TOUGHIE

by Myles Mellor

Answers on P13

### Across

- Egghead
- Emphatic turndown
- Urban pall
- Sewing case
- Sunshine State city
- What the ewe grew
- Made Cuban moves with a partner
- Album cover
- Alleviates
- Tennis great, Arthur
- Food fishes
- Fleece chaser
- Available
- Thumper’s buddy

- Muscat native
- Diagnostic proc.
- Start of an Aretha Franklin song
- Tax form ID
- Restrain
- Luxembourg loot
- “Siddhartha” writer
- URL starter
- Kindergarten adhesive
- St Patrick’s place
- Newspaper item
- Amount more than what was needed

- Has some tea
- Part of usual boating equipment
- Houston ballplayer
- Cries of surprise
- Some of the flock
- Shorebirds
- Characters played by W. C. Fields, e.g.

### Down

- Beatty and Sparks
- List ender
- Ancient alphabetic character

- Roll the \_\_\_
- Knots
- Critical campaign mo.
- Derisive laugh
- Cheers
- Brazo river city
- Lawn mower’s path
- Coffee shop order
- \_\_\_ and aahed
- Windowpane
- A desperate housewife
- Health-care facility
- Yipees
- All together
- Basics

- Stadium sounds
- Fed
- Part of a geisha’s attire
- Capital of Taiwan
- Massachusetts cape
- Under control
- Store
- Wild time
- Police dept. employee
- French key
- What?
- Man with a mission
- Road marker
- Michael of R.E.M.
- Sharp prongs

- Deadbeats’ cars, eventually
- Prefix in biology
- Future atty’s exam
- Lack of effort
- Corp. money managers
- Say the same thing
- Opportunity
- Fresh talk
- Bull’s-eye, abbr.
- Very large coffee holder

Answers on P13



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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	A	P	P	S	6	S	P	A	7	P	O	D
11	P	R	E	P	12	P	A	D	13	R	A	Y
14	T	Y	P	E	15	R	I	M	16	O	R	E
17	L	O	A	D	I	N	G					
20	E	M	P	L	O	A	D	I	N	G		
21	V	I	A	27	H	E	R	28	D	E	E	D
30	E	L	S	31	E	32	D	E	33	S	A	D
34	N	E	S	T	36	C	O	A	37	S	T	S
38	P	A	T	40	R	I	O	T				
41	P	R	O	43	R	I	P	44	L	U	S	T
46	E	A	R	48	A	C	E	49	A	R	E	A
51	A	N	T	52	Y	E	S	53	S	N	A	P

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	N	E	R	D	2	N	O	H	O	W	3	S	M	O	G		
11	E	T	U	I	12	O	C	A	L	A	13	W	O	O	L		
14	D	A	N	C	15	E	D	T	H	E	C	16	H	A	C	H	A
17	S	L	E	E	V	E	18	S	O	O	T	19	H	E	S		
20	A	S	21	S	22	H	A	D	S								
23	A	R	G	24	O	N	T	A	P								
25	B	A	M	B	26	O	M	A	N	I	27	M	R	I			
28	C	H	A	I	N	29	C	H	A	I	N	30	C	H	A	I	N
31	S	N	32	C	L	A	S	P	33	E	U	R	O	S			
34	H	E	S	S	E	35	T	H	T	T	P						
36	P	A	S	T	E	37	E	I	R	E							
38	A	R	T	I	C	39	E	X	C	E	S	S					
40	D	R	I	N	K	S	41	A	C	U	P	42	O	F	C	H	A
43	R	O	P	E	44	A	S	T	R	O	45	O	H	O	S		
46	E	W	E	S	47	S	T	E	R	N	S	48	S	O	T	S	

## Robson Valley & North Thompson Classifieds

### SEED FOR SALE

Alfalfa and grass seed. Alfalfa seeds starting at \$2.47/pound. Waterhouse seeds - providing quality grass seed for over 25 years. Delivery options. Very high purity and germination. For more info call Gary Waterhouse at 306-874-7658 or visit our website at waterhouseseeds.net

### LAND FOR SALE

SETTLERS - approx 20-acre homestead between Blue River and Clearwater. Cabin, tool shed, hay and barn shed. 5-acre hay field, two water rights. 8 miles to nearest house. Very private. Peaceful and quiet. A deal at \$184,900! Lots of pictures, will meet. John 604-530-9295 or Bernie C: 250-674-8075.

### SEPTIC & LANDSCAPING

Lewis Construction: Residential septic and landscaping. Land clearing, Septic System Service and Installation and Custom Stones & Landscaping. Regan Lewis 250-566-1159

### CALLING VALEMOUNT ARTISTS

The Valemount Arts and Cultural Society is accepting applications from local artists to complete the final panel of this stage of the renewed Valemount Art Walk which we hope will showcase the many facets of our community. The 4x4' signboard panel is supplied with the artwork then displayed on the exterior of a community building. The fee paid to the artist will be \$500.00. Please send us a short (400 wrd max) proposal of your art for the panel with samples of previous work. Send all submissions and questions to valemountarts@gmail.com by May 15/21

### FOR RENT

Furnished Accommodation: 2-bedroom trailer and one bachelor suite for rent. Viewing by appointment. No Pets. Call 250-566-5072 or 250-566-9884 Email: kurien@live.ca

### TO LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS

looking for local produce and meats to supply tree planting camp kitchen in Dunster for June to the beginning of August. If interested, please contact Julian Randall julianrandall@hotmail.com 778-258-0157

### FOR SALE

4 used Toyo225/65R17 summer tires. \$75. Call Roger at 250-566-9794



VALEMOUNT RENTAL LISTINGS

### SEEKING NEW CLIENTS

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

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In print and online, too!**

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under 40 words .....\$10/week  
box classified (<40 words) ...\$25/week  
'Guaranteed to Sell' .....\$40/3months (<40 words)



ROBSON VALLEY

Community Events



Send us your event to [goatevents21@gmail.com](mailto:goatevents21@gmail.com) or call 250-566-4606. Use 40 WORDS or less and we will publish it FREE up to a month before

VALEMOUNT & MCBRIDE

TUES. May 18: **Community Coffee Chat** from 3:00-3:30PM- In Collaboration with our Family Support Program, join Sara and staff as we discuss the ‘Impact of new technologies on the well-being of families’, the International Day of Families May 15th 2021 theme. We want to embrace and access new tech tools to better connect with our loved ones during challenging times of social distance! Contact Jill or Sara to obtain the ZOOM link. [jill@rvcsbc.org](mailto:jill@rvcsbc.org) or [sara@rvcsbc.org](mailto:sara@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.

MON. May 12: **Robson Valley Spay and Neuter Society, Annual General Meeting @ 4pm** via Zoom (Contact for access details). New volunteers welcome! For more information call 250-566-9706

FRI. May 21 - **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 assistance and 1:1 support with your devices. 15 minute timeslots available, and you can book in for more than one! 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.

VALEMOUNT

WEDs: **Family Place Drop In Program** from 9:00-12:00-If you have questions, are looking for parenting resources, or just need to chat, you can join us virtually or in person. Call to pre-register for any of the events below, and for more information. Valemount-Sharon D 250-566-9107.

**Upcoming events:**

- May 5 –Mothers Day craft. Community Garden with Rebecca dropping @ 10.30am
- May 12 – Day Of Families – Meet at the Park for some family tree activities
- May 19– Meet in the park – National Police Week. A cruiser will be there to talk about what they do & show some things to the children.
- May 26 – Community Gardens. Help tidy garden, enjoy some music & movement & cool drinks available.

FRI May 7 - **Burger Nights return** and will run every Friday throughout the summer. Homemade loaded Cheeseburger, Fries & coleslaw \$12.00. Regular Menu items also available.

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.

MCBRIDE

WEDs: **Family Place Drop In Program** from 9:00-12:00-If you have questions, are looking for parenting resources, or just need to chat, you can join us virtually or in person. Call to pre-register for any of the events below, and for more information. McBride-Charlene 250-569-2266

**Upcoming events:**

- May 5- Mothers day craft in the park (craft TBA)
- May 12 - International day of Families craft in the park (craft TBA)
- May 19 - Lets walk! Town Stroll
- May 26 - Lets Walk with a take home craft (TBA)

CAREERS



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REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George invites applications for the following employment opportunity:

**Service Centre Representative ~ Administrative Support ~ (Permanent, Part-Time)**

**\* McBride and Valemount areas \***

One (1) Permanent, Part-Time position of Service Centre Representative is available in Community Services. This position provides a wide variety of **administrative support** and provides the public with routine and generally available corporate information. Considerable organizational and interpersonal skills are required.

Variable hours as scheduled 3 days per week (21.75 hours) or occasionally increased hours depending on operational requirements.

This is a union position with a salary rate of \$29.48 per hour (2021 rate). The start date is to be determined.

More detailed information on the above position is available on our website under “Employment Opportunities.”

**PLEASE FORWARD YOUR RESUME, VIA EMAIL ONLY, TO THE UNDERSIGNED NO LATER THAN 4:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 TO:**

**Renata Hammond, CPHR**  
**Manager of Human Resources**  
**Regional District of Fraser-Fort George**  
**[www.rdffg.bc.ca](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca) // E-mail: [hr@rdffg.bc.ca](mailto:hr@rdffg.bc.ca)**



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](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca)



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Benefits available upon qualification

Drop off or email resume

[IGA163@igabc.com](mailto:IGA163@igabc.com)

REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George invites applications for the following employment opportunity:

**Facilities Leader Permanent, Full-Time**

The Regional District is looking to fill the position of Facilities Leader for our Recreation Centres, including ice arenas, exercise rooms, community centres and one curling rink. This position will be expected to work in locations in the Village of McBride (<https://www.mcbride.ca/>) and in the Village of Valemount (<http://www.valemount.ca/>) to provide support to our staff and facilities as required.


The Facilities Leader is involved with the day-to-day operations of facilities including skilled operation, maintenance and monitoring of equipment, including but not limited to, refrigeration plants. This position exercises independence of judgment within operational regulations and procedures, including public interaction, safety responsibilities and staff supervision and training needs.

The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate the ability to read and understand technical documents, maintenance manuals and understand equipment operation requirements; have the ability to operate and maintain hand tools, power tools, small engine equipment and all ice-related maintenance equipment; possess a BC 5th Class Refrigeration Operators Certificate or higher and a valid Ice Makers Certificate; minimum Grade 12 education or equivalent and a valid British Columbia Class 5 driver’s license.

This is a union position with a salary rate of \$2,796.59 bi-weekly (January 1, 2021 rate) based on 80 hours bi-weekly; involves shift work and be available for on-call status as required at both locations. To find out more about the requirements of this exciting career opportunity visit the Employment Opportunities page of our website at [www.rdffg.bc.ca](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca)

**PLEASE SUBMIT RESUMES, VIA EMAIL ONLY, INCLUDING PROOF OF QUALIFICATIONS AND A CURRENT DRIVER’S ABSTRACT, TO THE UNDERSIGNED NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021**

**Renata Hammond, CPHR**  
**Manager of Human Resources**  
**Regional District of Fraser-Fort George**  
**[www.rdffg.bc.ca](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca) // E-mail: [hr@rdffg.bc.ca](mailto:hr@rdffg.bc.ca)**



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](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca)



MCBRIDE COUNCIL NOTES

Child Care, Crescent Park, road deactivation opposition, and low income housing location concern

By ANDREA ARNOLD

Deputy Mayor Rosemary Hruby called the regular meeting of the McBride Council at 7:00pm on April 27, 2021. Councillors Green, Frederick and Smith were in attendance, along with Mayor Runtz.

Child Care Action Plan

A presentation of the draft Child Care Action Plan was first on the agenda. Independent consultant, Sandra Menzer and SPARC BC consultant Monica Petek teamed up for the presentation. They talked about why child care is important. They have conducted a local online survey, interviews and a solutions workshop. From these, they have determined four main priorities. Increased access, improved affordability, focus on quality and strength in partnerships. Their recommendations are to establish a child care action group, have annual reports prepared, and to adopt the action plan as needed, and as demographics and government policies change, make changes when needed.

Community Revitalization appointments

Council passed the motion to make a few revisions to the McBride Community Revitalization Committee Terms of Reference. Irene Rejman appointed as Committee Chair, and term appointments as follows; One year - Irene Rejman, Mike Moseley, Cynthia Vazorka, and Stefi McLean. Two year appointments - Councillor Diane Smith, Councillor

Allan Frederick, Jana McMaster, Simon Williams and Bridget Uhl. Meetings have been set for every third Monday at 3:00pm.

Crescent Park upgrade plans

Council passed the motion directing administration to prepare and submit an application for grant funding for improvements to the “Crescent Park” through the Canada Healthy Community Initiative Funding Program; and that Council supports the project and commits to any associated ineligible costs and cost overruns. Plans are in the beginning stages, and include seating spaces, new perimeter fencing, trash receptacle and signage.If the application is successful, a call for public input will go out.

Road deactivation opposition meeting

Council requested Administration contact the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development for information regarding the reasons for resource road deactivation, to be received by mid-May. This will allow Council time to form key discussion points, and set a meeting date for the end of May. This correspondence will also address the maintenance and rehab of existing roads.

Letter of support

Council passed the motion directing Administration to provide the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George with a letter of support for their application to Unions of BC’s Municipality’s Local Government Development Approvals Program.

FLNRORD Meeting

Council passed the motion directing Administration to arrange a meeting with FLNRORD to obtain information and discuss the Ungulate Winter Range Proposal in Omineca Region for Moose.

Housing Society proposed site concern

Council directed Administration to write a letter in response to Wade and Lisa Franke’s letter of concern regarding the proposed housing development at 100 Shantz Place. The letter is to explain that although there has been talk of a location, the grant application has not been successful at this point. Once the funding has been secured, public consultation will take place. Speaking on behalf of the Housing Society, Councillor Green stated that they are open to other options that meet all the criteria. If anyone has an idea of a viable location, please contact the society.

Bylaw readings postponed

Council passed the motions to postpone first reading of both the Five-Year Financial Plan 2021-2025 Bylaw No 799.2021 and the 2021 Municipal Property Tax Rate Bylaw No 800.2021 to the April 29, 2021 Public Consultation meeting.

In-Camera

Council passed the motion to proceed to an In-Camera meeting 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 (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including in the In-Camera meeting. The regular meeting recessed at 8:15pm.

DID YOU KNOW





National Child & Youth Mental Health Day

May 7th, 2021

Mental health matters.

How do you show caring for yourself?  
For others?  
How do others care for you?

If you would like mental health support for your child or youth, please contact our CYMH Team toll-free at 1-844-324-2004.

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New titles in store!

Local Author SPIRITUALITY

TRUE LIGHT

Ordinary people on the extraordinary spiritual path of Sukyo Mahikari. *True Light* is a vivid and compelling account of spiritual seeking and finding.

BY LEENA BANERJEE BROWN & ROGER BECK



NON-FICTION

THE BUSHMAN'S LAIR

In 2002, the Shuswap Lake cave hideout was discovered of a fugitive known as the Bushman—real name John Bjornstrom. This book follows Bjornstrom's circuitous path: a child of Romani refugees raised by nature lovers from Norway; a bizarre, top-secret us government program that recruited individuals with supposed psychic abilities; an investigation into the infamous Bre-X mining scandal that led to an alleged hit list; and an ardent mission to safeguard vulnerable youth from abuse.

BY PAUL MCKENDRICK



NON-FICTION

THE WAYFINDERS

Every culture is a unique answer to a fundamental question: What does it mean to be human and alive? In *The Wayfinders*, renowned anthropologist, winner of the prestigious Samuel Johnson Prize, and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Wade Davis leads us on a thrilling journey to celebrate the wisdom of the world's indigenous cultures.

BY WADE DAVIS



Youth NON-FICTION

SPACE!

Filled with the latest facts, infographics, and NASA images, *Space!* takes you on a journey that is truly out of this world before bringing you back seriously starry-eyed! The ultimate space encyclopedia for children is designed to blow your mind with incredible CGI images, from the deep darkness of black holes to the spectacular sparkle of supernovas.

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COOKBOOK

THE MAC & CHEESE COOKBOOK

A fun and playful cookbook featuring retro, decadent, and kid-friendly mac-and-cheese recipes from the popular Oakland restaurant Homeroom

BY A. AREVALO & E. WADE



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ACROSS FROM THE IGA DOWNTOWN

Valemount council ...

CONT'D FROM P6

Washrooms

Council asked staff to apply for \$30,000 through the Northern Development Initiative Trust Community Places Program for their public washroom project.

BC Housing and the Village of Valemount, for the Village-owned land at 1451 5th Avenue, for the below market value of \$10, for a term of 60 years.

Five Year Plan

Council gave 3rd reading to their Five Year Financial Plan.

The Plan

Council gave second reading to the Official Community Plan.  
“It’s looking good,” said councillor Hollie Blanchette.

Tax Rate Bylaw

Council gave first, second and third reading to this year’s Tax Rate Bylaw that sets the relative rates for Residential, Business, and Industrial properties.

Full Time Bylaw

Council unanimously supported a full-time bylaw position to be funded through COVID Restart Funds for the remainder of 2021.

Land Disposition 1451

Council authorized the CAO to sign a lease agreement between

Council reports

Council gave their verbal reports.

Public Comments

There were no public comments received.



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MCBRIDE



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**NEW!**

**\$190,000**

This well maintained mobile home is centrally located and a short walk from downtown. The landscaped yard and detached garage round out the package on this 3 bedroom home. With some good updates and a great price, this home won't be on the market for long.

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VALEMOUNT



**SOLD!**

1280 Juniper Street

VALEMOUNT



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**\$110,000**

This large lot stretches out over 15,000 sq. ft., giving you plenty of room to develop your mountain dream. A decommissioned mobile is onsite, and while it can't be your house, it can be a pretty sweet shed. Western facing, you'll have mountain views like no other while you hang out from your new deck.

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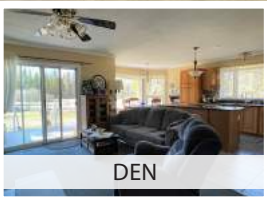


MCBRIDE

**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**



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- great price

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MCBRIDE

**896-4<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

- 2 Bdrm 1 bath - large open kitchen
- Full unfinished basement
- Fenced back yard - wheelchair access - Being sold 'as is'

**\$145,000**

MCBRIDE

**476 & 488 Main Street**

- Main street Air B & B
- 4 Queen Beds and 3 double
- great for groups and families
- all newly renovated

**\$299,000**



**SOLD!**



MCBRIDE

**956-4<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

- neat, clean and move in ready
- recent reno's
- open living area
- 3 bedrooms
- fully fenced back yard.

**\$117,000**