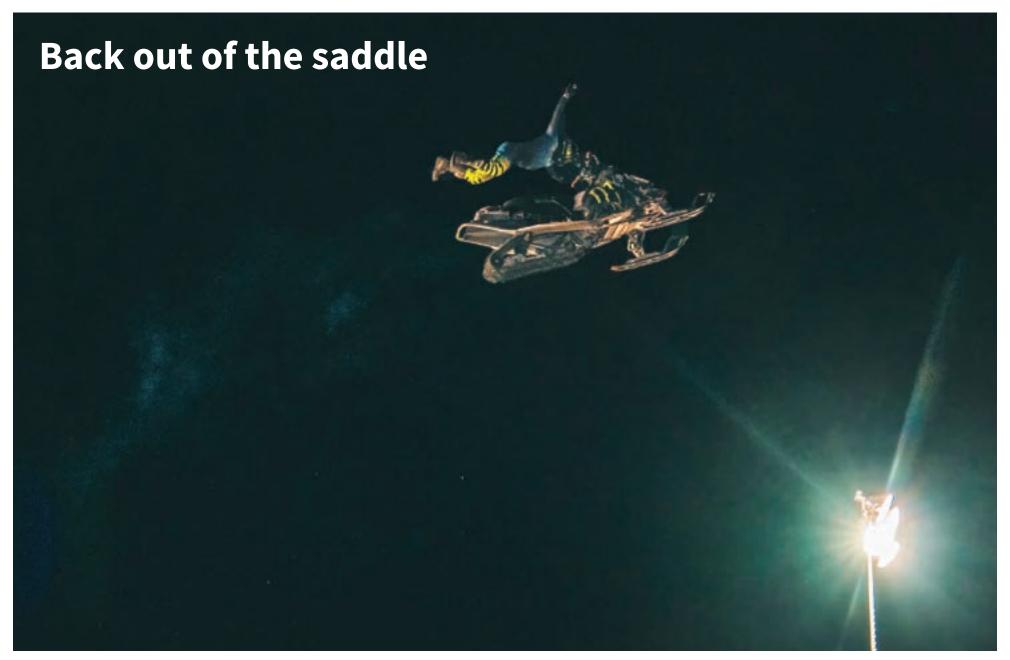


New Simpcw forest tenure	P2
Upgrades to sledding areas	P3
Unexpected food bank donation	P10
Telus issues resolved?	P15

Thursday December 2nd 2021 Volume 12 Issue 44

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2.00 GST INCLUDED



X Games Freestyle Champion Brett Turcotte practiced his aerial skills in McBride last week after a year off due to injury. Sledding season has officially begun in the Robson Valley. See more photos P8. /Zac Oh Photography

# Blue River pipeline camp won't open til New Year

By Laura Keil

Trans Mountain says its Blue River Camp Community, which will accommodate up to 550 people working on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, won't be open until the New Year. "We anticipate opening the camp community in early 2022," a spokesperson told the Goat last week.

The company had previously said the camp would open in December 2021. Soaring rental prices (up to \$2000/ room) and near-zero vacancy rates for rentals and hotel rooms in Valemount have resulted in some locals leaving town and staff shortages and a reduction in operating hours at many businesses.

The Blue River camp is expected to take some of the pressure off area

rentals, though Trans Mountain has not confirmed this. Some 560 people currently live in the Valemount pipeline accommodation camp, but the remaining 800 or so pipeline workers in the Valemount area are paid a live-out allowance. Many have purchased RVs and have winterized them for the upcoming





Celebrating 8 years of craft brewing in vALEmount!!

# Valemount curling is back!

By Laura Keil

After two winters with no ice, Valemount curlers will be back in play as early as this month, thanks to a brand-new ice plant.

The Valemount Curling Club received two grants, one from CBT's community initiatives program and one from Northern Development Initiative Trust, to cover the \$205,750 cost to replace their ice plant.

That work is now complete, and Curling Club board director Diana Smith says they are already laying the lines, and hope to have the ice ready for this weekend. Sunday from 11 a.m. to mid-afternoon will be a membership drive at the curling club—\$10 for the year. Many people have expressed interest, both pipeliners and locals.

"It's one of those things, when it's gone you miss it."

Even before they shut down, there were roughly 30 curlers in the junior (youth)

program alone, in addition to the adult league and the high school PE classes.

Smith is already planning to start a kids curling program starting in January on Thursdays after school.

This year they've also had seniors inquiring about the stick that allows players to throw the rock without bending down.

"There's no bending, so people who have bad knees, bad backs, can still curl," Smith says.

As per current COVID-19 regulations, curlers 12 and up must be vaccinated. Smith says individuals can drop in or four people can come as a team. Curling fees will apply on top of the membership fee. They are tentatively planning to run adult leagues on Tuesday nights and Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

"We're just kind of ironing everything out," Smith said. "We've had lots and lots of interest."

Smith said the club will continue to rent the basement to the V-crew youth centre as well.

#### **Ecological benefits**

The new ice plant offers benefits beyond curling. It uses half the power it used to and is not water-cooled like the previous freon plant. It also freezes the pad in 12 hours instead of three days.

"We used to use thousands upon thousands of litres of treated water," Smith says. "And the village would have to turn on their pumping stations extra for us because [the water] would just be pouring into the system."

#### A community effort

It's been a huge effort to rescue the curling club. Smith says she wants to thank the community of Valemount and the Regional District for their ongoing support in addition to CBT and NDIT for the grant money.

When the curling club realized the ice plant needed replacing three years ago, they had a choice: let it go or keep fighting. The building belongs to the club and is located on Village of Valemount-owned land. A referendum to have it tax-funded through the Regional District failed, but club members didn't give up.

"It's something I couldn't let go, to be honest," Smith told the Goat earlier this year. "I grew up in it, and I see the benefits for the community."

She said part of what she's grown to love is how inclusive it is—it doesn't cost much to participate. And it's the kind of sport you can learn at any age. She recalled a winter festival several years ago.

"There were so many people that had never even tried (curling)," she said. "It was really neat to see new people trying new things. It's also one of the only sports left that you can all do as a family."

# Simpcw acquires new tenure from Interfor

By Goat Staff

A landmark agreement will see the Simpcw First Nation acquire two forest licenses in the Kamloops Supply Area from Interfor.

Simpcw and Interfor have been in discussions since 2019, when Canfor announced its agreement to sell \$60 million in forestry assets in Simpcw Territory to Interfor. This followed Canfor's announcement of the permanent closure of its nearby sawmill in Vavenby.

"We were heavily engaged with Canfor, Interfor and the Province throughout the Bill 22 approval process," explained Chief Shelly Loring. "We've worked extremely hard to reach common ground with Interfor and the result will see tenure in our hands, and long-term economic opportunities and benefits to our Community, People and to the North Thompson valley."

The agreement also provides for the development of a stewardship agreement within Simpcwúlècw (Simpcw Territory) in connection with Interfor's operations that will allow joint stewardship of the tmicw (land) and resources and a long-term business relationship.

The Province of British Columbia approved

the transaction under the Bill 22 Forest Amendment Act process which requires all tenure transfers be approved by the minister.

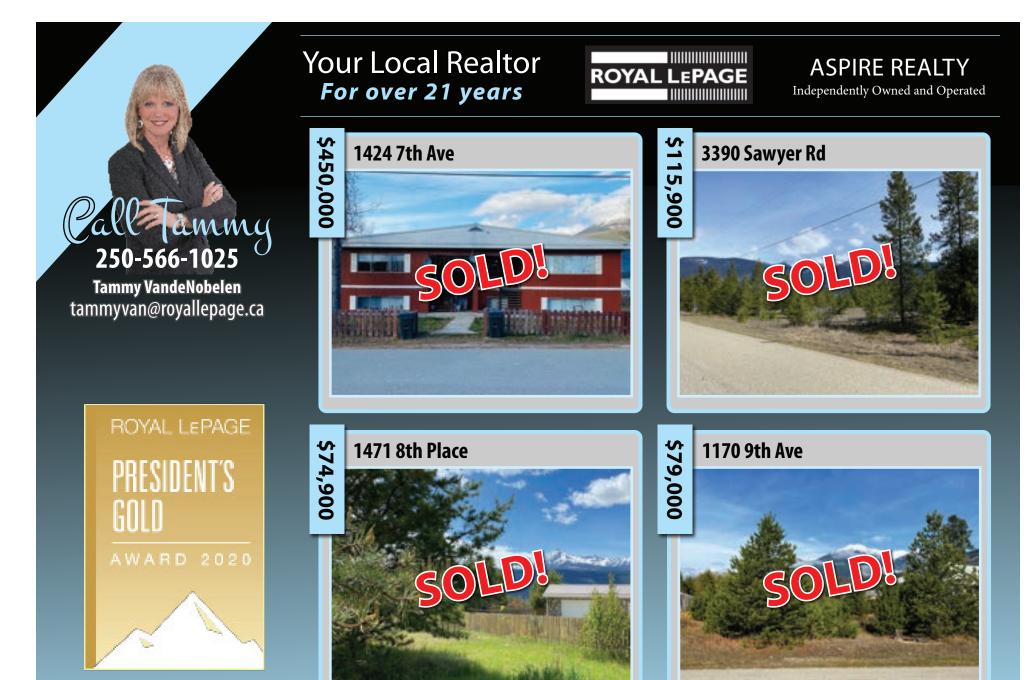
This agreement is precedent-setting in Simpcwúl ecw, and demonstrates the positive results that

come from Indigenous Nations and industry pursuing relationships based on mutual respect, a press release said.

"This is part of the shift that needs to happen," said Shelly Loring, Chief of Simpow. "Redistributing forest tenures to Title holders and creating solid relationships with licencees provides for collaborative strategic planning and management of the resources in a way that recognizes and respects our mutual rights, values and interests."

Simpow holds numerous tenures in its Territory through its economic development corporation, Simpow Resources LLP (SRLLP).

"We continue to grow and demonstrate successful and sustainable timber harvesting," said George Lampreau, Councillor of Simpcw. "We manage our forest resources differently – it's not just about making money but ensuring our tmicw (land) and resources are preserved for our future generations."



W W W . V A L E M O U N T R E A L E S T A T E . C O M

# Larger cabin, repaired bridge for McBride sledders



The new 20' x 26' structure will receive heat and lighting soon. In the meantime, it is open for sledders to take shelter in, have a seat or use the bbq on the new deck. /DENNIS **VANDERMEULEN** 

By Andrea Arnold

The McBride Big Country Snowmobile Association has been active in the offseason helping to improve the riding experiences for the many snowmobile enthusiasts that frequent the trails around McBride.

#### Belle Mountain warming cabin

The warming cabin on Belle Mountain, originally built in 2005, was a 16'x20' room.

"Feedback from sledders was that it wasn't big enough," said association Vice-President Jesse Schafer. "It is a popular hill for families and the cabin needed to have more space, especially now, with COVID guidelines."

Plans were made to more than double the footprint with a 20'x20' expansion. Thanks to a Northern Development Initiative Trust grant, local contractor Dennis Vandermeulen of Trust-co Construction began work on the expansion at the end of July with land leveling.

Due to the rural location of the cabin, getting supplies, equipment and manpower to the site was a challenge.

"The club did some work on the access road, widening and smoothing it so that equipment and supplies: concrete, windows, lumber and trusses could be hauled up," said Schafer.

Also, the early arrival of snow in the higher elevations caused accessibility to become an issue near the end.

The roof on the existing building was removed and a new tin roof was installed. During a Sunday workbee, Vandermeulen and a small army of volunteers lifted the trusses into place across the whole

In addition to the expansion, a second set of stairs were added to a large front deck and second door installed to allow more people to use the space while maintaining a safe distance. The inside of the building has a dividing half wall creating two room spaces, and each side will have a propane heater and LED lighting.

Rod Whelpton of Adrenaline Services hopes to get the heaters running within the next week or so, and the lights will be installed a bit later in the season.



The inside of the cabin, looking from the door of the old portion, across into the new. / **DENNIS VANDERMEULEN** 

#### Renshaw bridge deck

On Nov. 13 & 14 several local volunteers along with some sledders from Alberta were hard at work on the bridge 2km up the Renshaw.

"In the off-season, a truck had broken through the bridge deck rendering it a hazard, and the club was told by engineers we would not be able to use it unless we did something about it," said Schafer. "The bridge foundation was still good so we only needed to replace the

Dave Salayka worked with the club to locate 12 bridge deck modules, and the club received a \$5,000 Skidoo PASS Grant to help with the costs.

The crew started working on the bridge at 8am on the 13th and worked two long days to complete the bridge. The project was a success and access to the Renshaw has been restored.

The club would like to thank everyone who volunteered to ensure the success of both projects by donating time, supplies and/or equipment.

There are still a few tasks that need to be done before the group is ready for

the start of the season: some signage installation and trail cleanup. The group also plans to replace the loading ramps at each of the three main hills, Lucille, Renshaw and Belle, in the spring.

#### **Community connection**

Schafer is excited for the upcoming season. A valley original, she and her husband moved back from Alberta this summer and she couldn't wait to get involved with the snowmobiling association.

"We came here to sled often," she said. "Getting involved was important to me." She would like to see a more personal relationship between the people on the mountains and the people in town.

"I would like to help link the snowmobile community with the local community," she said. "The town can really benefit from the income that comes from the sledders."

Last year was a record year and they anticipate another busy season.



### Forest Stewardship Plan 2022 to 2027

Please be advised that the McBride Community Forest Corporation (MCFC) has prepared a draft Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP). The FSP provides operational guidance for the Community Forest Agreement K1H held by the MCFC. The MCFC invites public review and comment for a 60 day period from November 18, 2021 to January 17, 2022.

The draft Forest Stewardship Plan is available at the MCFC Office located at the Office of the Village of McBride by appointment. Contact Ray Thiessen at rthiessen@mcfc.ca or 250-569-0262.

Any comments on the plan must be in writing to Wes Bieber, R.P.F. E-Mail: wes.bieber@longfellows.ca, Phone: 250-674-1199 McBride Community Forest Corporation P.O. Box 519 McBride, B.C. **VOJ 2EO** 

# Former CAO's additional pay explained

By Laura Keil

A concerned reader contacted the Goat regarding the pay allotted to former Village of McBride chief administrative officer Sheila McCutcheon in 2020.

McCutcheon worked as the top staffer for the Village of McBride from the spring of 2018 to Sept 8, 2020.

In their 2019 financial report, the Village reported that she earned \$111,270 in wages and \$20,993 in expenses. For the eight months she worked in 2020, however, McCutcheon earned \$193,692 in wages and \$2,890 in expenses.

Current McBride CAO Chris Tupy said the additional earnings were a result of several factors.

"I can confirm that CAO McCutcheon's increased compensation in 2020 was due to her accruing and being paid overtime due to various local emergencies, specifically, the flooding at Dominion Creek and subsequent Do Not Consume water order and navigating the Village

through the COVID-19 pandemic," Tupy wrote in an email. "These emergencies were exacerbated by staff shortages which saw CAO McCutcheon performing the statutory duties of Corporate Officer and Acting Chief Financial Officer, which was vacant for most of 2020."

He said in recognition of her service, she was also paid a small bonus in 2020.

"In addition, CAO McCutcheon used her accrued vacation time, received a small cost of living adjustment to her salary as well as a portion of severance."

When asked for a breakdown of the additional payments, Tupy said that would require a Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy request.

Tupy said one of Council's 2021-2023 Strategic Initiatives and Priorities, which is located on the Village website, is to conduct an Organizational Review, "which Council is committed to carrying out to bring forward ways to improve the Village's operating capacity."

# It's time to dig into the facts

By Laura Keil, Publisher/Editor

Another variant of concern has emerged, and the World Health Organization is warning that the risk from the omicron variant is "very high" based on early evidence, saying the mutated virus could lead to surges of infection

At the same time, it says "considerable uncertainties" remain in terms of how quickly the virus can spread and the severity of the symptoms it causes. Why am I not optimistic?

We are in a war of attrition, and the virus appears to be one-upping us. Widespread infection accelerates mutations and COVID-19 is more disastrous than any other virus circulating widely today (the most number of deaths for any pandemic in the last two decades, and that's with restrictions and mandates). Canada confirmed its first cases of the variant on Sunday. You can bet this mutation will escape our grasp, as have all the others.

"The emergence of the omicron variant has fulfilled, in a precise way, the predictions of the scientists who warned that the elevated transmission of the virus in areas with limited access to vaccine would speed its evolution," said Dr. Richard Hatchett, one of the founders of the U.N.-backed global vaccine sharing initiative COVAX.

Meanwhile, in Canada, with its fairly high vaccination rate (77 per cent fully vaccinated), we are still dealing with mandates and restrictions due to the quickly-spreading virus and the negative consequences on people who don't have immunity.

On the face of it, it's confusing. Our vaccination rate is high, so why are we still masked and told to do our due diligence in face of the virus?

It would certainly help if we could ask more questions of the authorities laying down these mandates. Even as a member of the media, it's like pulling teeth many times to get a straight

answer out of Northern Health or the Province. Many times I'm barred from Robson Valley data due to "privacy concerns." Other times, I'm simply ghosted, my requests ignored for days until I follow up again and again.

You can imagine how this breeds distrust not just with journalists but with the public towards journalists and authorities.

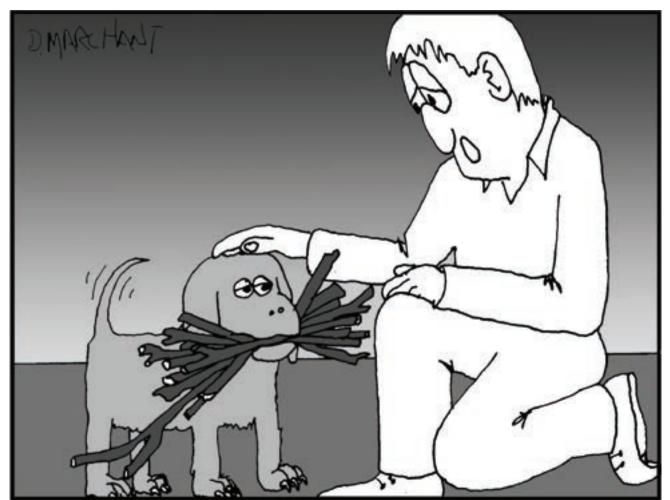
When trained journalists can't get answers to basic questions, it feels like our democracy is slipping into the communication protocols of an authoritarian regime.

But as a newspaper, we have failed at this as well. We have pushed vaccines and COVID-19 information in our editorials without inviting questions.

So let's dig into the facts! As a journalist, this is my favourite thing to do. Journalists are also taught to distrust (ie. fact check) the words of people in power, to seek information from a variety of sources, and to question the motivations of all sources.

The Goat would like to encourage you to ask any question regarding the COVID-19 response or vaccination and we will endeavour to find answers from Northern Health, epidemiologists, and scientists in the know. If we can't get answers, we will let you know that too. If you have a question, chances are someone else has the same one.

Contact us here: goatnewspaper@gmail.com / 250-566-4606



"WHAT'S THE MATTER BOY, COULDN'T YOU FIGURE OUT WHICH STICK I THREW?"



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# Letters/Op-Ed

### We welcome all letters to the editor

Write to us! goatnewspaper@gmail.com



#### **About Letters to the Editor**

The Goat welcomes all letters to the editor and values diverse opinions in our newspaper. Letters should address something that appeared in the newspaper or a current event. Recommended letter length is 400 words or less due to space constraints. Longer letters may be rejected or the author asked to reduce the length. The Goat formats letters and grammar according to Canadian Press style. No substantive changes are made without the author's approval. All letters are fact-checked and reviewed for clarity and libel. Letters must be submitted with a phone number for verification purposes and the location of the author, but only the name of the author and location will be published. We do not publish anonymous letters. Write to us! goatnewspaper@gmail.com



# The writing is on the wall

Like an infant's wobbly initial steps, there are minor reasons to celebrate COP26 (UN Climate Change Conference). Among them, it may surprise some, this is the first COP summit in which any final declaration mentioned fossil fuels. The statement watered down the initial draft's "Calls upon parties to accelerate the phasing out of coal and subsidies for fossil fuels." to "Calls upon parties to accelerate the phasing down of unabated coal and inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels." With 500+ lobbyists, Oil and Gas more than doubled any other country's representatives so this mention is significant even diluted to such gibberish! (The logging gibberish was almost worse and industrial farming isn't yet mentioned). India actually set a net-zero target. The U.S. and China announced intentions to coordinate on climate change issues. Still, there's a serious lack of commitment to limit CO2 and thus timely limit climate change. Probably the most promising news was the Costa Rican and Danish initiative BOGA (Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance), which was joined by a few other countries. Hopefully, that will snowball into an

avalanche of support sometime soon!

Locally, other avalanches of support will likely obstruct Canadian ports and railways in the coming weeks, since the Wet'suwet'en Yintah and New Hazelton saw 32 people arrested last week. At the time of writing, 17 spontaneous public demonstrations across Canada will likely set the stage for a re-run of 2019. The arrests were conducted by busloads of militarized RCMP handling assault and sniper weapons and attack dogs—amounting to a publicly funded corporate militia. At a time in B.C. and Canada with UNDRIP, reconciliation, and in the wake of a summer of grave confirmations, you'd think that these things might be handled considerably differently. At least instead of outright killing, we have Neil Young's "kinder, gentler, machine gun hand," but was this necessary?

The real battle, in the courts, should be between two Nations, Canada and the Wet'suwet'en, and over who has the jurisdiction to define activity in the unceded Yintah (territory), but these arrests are tied to an Injunction with the B.C. Supreme Court. Further, the restriction of journalists and legal observers from accessing the sites or who were arrested along with injunction violators has raised many eyebrows both internally and internationally, as was the exclusion zone that the RCMP set up leading up to the raids. The raids were characterized as a 'rescue mission' because the stranded pipeline work camps were running out of water—laughably in an area with some of the planet's purest. The corporate spin is dizzying at best, and this mess is not going to be untangled easily.

From avalanches to mudslides with B.C.'s multi-billion dollar climate change "atmospheric river," "500-year flood" event that was massively expanded by B.C.'s underreported accelerated clearcutting, one might wonder if we should be taking pause to consider a different economic course rather than aiding and abetting the root causes. Getting the money out of these conferences, politics, and our courts would be a massive step. Let's get past the baby steps, please!

Rob Mercereau **Dunster BC** 



# **Ancient scribes**

Ancient scribes (theologians) wrote the most ridiculous stories about gods giving them personal information. Such was the story that it was a god that told a Jewish scribe that "HE" had created Adam and Lilith, the first two humans on earth. Egotistical scribes in all divisive religions tried to expose each other's flamboyant stories as being lies, and it's just a pity that in that quest, all of them were not able to succeed.

June Vandermark McBride, BC



# Meanings of spirit

It's ok to write to the paper and to express your concerns, but if you write to disagree with someone else have their letter in front of you so you get what they said right eh. Ms Vandermark in her letter said, "the scientific meaning of the word, 'spirit,' in Latin simply meant 'to breathe.' Jesus Christ would agree with her: "A spirit," he said after His rising from the well guarded tomb, "does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have," —Gospel of Luke Chapter 24 the last part of verse 39. Without lungs, "God breathed" is

a metaphor for God created. Ok? Belief in God is a hope that there is someone out there more caring and smarter than us humans. We look for acceptance. I've let friends down and messed up a lot. There are lots of really good ethical and decent atheists like my mom's stepfather out there. Jesus' talk with Nicodemus in John's gospel chapter 3 said "you must be born again" another metaphor.

Glen Allison (Old Grouch) Valemount, BC



4

1st Place 2021, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2nd place 2016 for Newspaper Excellence B.C. & Yukon <2000 circulation

Other Ma Murray Awards (BC & Yukon) 2nd place Best Photo Essay 2021 3rd place Best Outdoor Recreation writing 2021 3rd place Best Ad Design 2021



1st Place 2019 Best Feature Story 3rd Place 2018 Best Historical Story 2nd Place 2018 Best Website Newspaper Excellence & Best Front Page: Blue Ribbon 2016, 3rd Place 2015

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at mediacouncil.ca/1-844-877-1163.

# Men's program support, generator purchase, bylaw changes

By Andrea Arnold

Mayor Torgerson called the Nov. 23, 2021 Valemount Council meeting to order.

#### **Support for Men's support** program

Council directed administration to write a letter to Robson Valley Community Services in support for grant funding application for a Men's Support Program

Coordinator.

## National Defence usage of community

Council agreed to waive all fees associated with the use of the community hall for the National Defence department while travelling through Valemount to assist in the Lower Mainland with the recent state of emergency due to flooding,

#### **Accounts Payable**

Council received the October 2021 Accounts Payable Report

#### Centennial Park washroom update

The new Centennial Park washroom update report was received for information. Before the washrooms are open to the

public, Public Works has a few items to complete: power needs to be hooked to the inside panel, and plumbing parts have been ordered and need to be installed. Once the electrical is complete, insulation and backfill will need to be completed. Also, several items need to be addressed regarding minor damages believed to be caused by the transportation of the washrooms. Urben Blu is working with local contractors to address these issues.

#### Generator for the community hall

Council directed staff to apply to the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) Community Readiness Program for a maximum of \$100,000, to purchase and install a generator for the Community Hall.

#### **Temporary Use Permits:**

21-06 for 23 Cedar Street – Initial approval of provided via #307/21 at the October 26th meeting, be rescinded.

21-06 for 23 Cedar Street – Temporary residential structure proposal be given initial approval as amended.

21-07 for 1280 Juniper Street – Temporary residential structure proposal be given initial approval.

21-08 for 1975 Hillside Mine Road -Temporary residential structure proposal be given initial approval.

#### **Bylaws**

Council gave the Village of Valemount Wood Burning Appliance Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 848, 2021 first, second and third reading. This amendment would allow Bylaw Notice Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication System to handle offences. Education is the first step and will be given focus.

Council gave the Village of Valemount Bylaw Notice Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Amendment Bylaw No. 850 first, second and third reading. Staff is proposing fine amounts of \$200 for the following contraventions: 1) Use of a wood burning appliance when air quality advisory in place (unless no alternate heat source available) 2) Installing a wood burning appliance in contravention of the bylaw (ie: accessory buildings) 3) Burning fuels not permitted in bylaw.

Council adopted the Village of Valemount Council Remuneration Bylaw No 853, 2021 be adopted as presented. Amounts each member of Council will receive effective January 2022 are \$21,114 per annum for the Mayor and \$10,847.00 for Councillors. Each member receives an ipad and Telus internet, if required, for the duration of their term. The Mayor also receives a phone that aligns with the current Telus contract.

Travel allowance and reimbursement of expenses are also discussed in the bylaw. Council gave the Village of Valemount Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 854, 2021 first, second and third reading.

#### **Temporary residential structures**

Council approved the Temporary Residential Structure Policy No. 83 be approved as presented. The new bylaw will

6.1 Applications for Temporary Use Permits on lots with an existing dwelling to reside in a Temporary Structure will be approved for a maximum of two (2) years.

6.2 Applications for Temporary Use Permits on vacant lots to reside in a Temporary Structure during the construction of the permanent dwelling will be approved for a maximum of one

6.3 Applicants may apply to renew a Temporary Use Permit one (1) time.

#### **Councillor Reports**

Councillor Blanchette attended a Clean Air Task Force meeting where they discussed a functional annual plan and how it will be implemented. In the meeting the issue of burning

garbage in wood burning stoves was

CONT'D ON P7

#### Village of Valemount Cont. **Notice of Public Hearing**

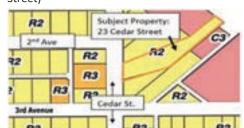
Please Take Notice that a Public Hearing for Temporary Use Permits TUP-21-06, TUP-21-07, and TUP-21-08 will be held:

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm **Council Chambers, Village Office** 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC

#### 1. Temporary Use Permit 21-06

Proposes 1 recreational vehicle to be used as a residence for a period of 2 years.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Lot B District Lot 9778 Cariboo District Plan EPP67986 (23 Cedar Street)



#### 2. Temporary Use Permit 21-07

Proposes 1 recreational vehicle to be used as a residence for a period of 2 years.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**: Lot 1 District Lot 7356 Cariboo District Plan 10557 (1280 Juniper Street)



#### 3. Temporary Use Permit 21-08

Proposes 1 recreational vehicle to be used as a residence for a period of 2 years.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot A District Lot 7354 Cariboo District Plan BCP8204 (1975 Hillside Mine Road)



At the Public Hearing, anyone who deems their interest in land to be affected by the proposed Temporary Use Permits TUP-21-06, TUP-21-07, or TUP-21-08, shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard. Comments may be made in person at the Public Hearing. Written submissions can be submitted by email to publichearing@valemount.ca, or via letter to the Village of Valemount, PO Box 168, Valemount, BC VOE 2ZO. Written submissions will be accepted until 12:00 pm on December 14, 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.

Digital copies of TUP-21-06, TUP-21-07, and TUP-21-08 are available at <u>www.valemount.ca</u>. Paper copies will be available for viewing during regular office hours (Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), until December 14, 2021 at the Village Office, 735 Cranberry Lake Road.

www.valemount.ca

#### Schedule of Regular **Council Meetings 2022**

- January 11 & 25, 2022
- February 8 & 22, 2022
- March 8 & 22, 2022 April 12 & 26, 2022
- May 10 & 24, 2022
- June 14 & 28, 2022
- July 26, 2022
- August 23, 2022
- September 27, 2022
- October 11 & 25, 2022 November 8 & 22, 2022

(November 8, 2022 is scheduled as the **Inaugural Meeting following the 2022 Municipal Election**)

December 13, 2022

Meetings have not been scheduled for: July 12 and August 9, 2022 -Amended Summer Schedule September 13, 2022 - UBCM Conference December 27, 2022 - Christmas Office Closure

Meetings are at 7:00 pm at the Village of Valemount Council Chambers, 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC.

The Regular Council Meeting schedule for 2022 will be posted at the entrance of the Municipal Office, and on the Village of Valemount website. Please note that Council may consider changing Council meeting dates and times. Any approved changes will be posted on the front door of the Village Office and at: www.valemount.ca



# **Valemount College sets** sights on Clearwater



By Michael Piasetzki

It's båeen a plan in the making since 2016 but Valemount College could soon be finally opening its doors to prospective students—with one major hitch.

The college, which hopes to offer students a choice of three certificate programs, including tourism administration, rural entrepreneurship/ small business management, and First Nations cultural tourism, has decided to relocate for the time being to Clearwater.

"The main campus is still officially Valemount," said Riette Kenkel, executive director of the Valemount Learning Centre. "It is still Valemount College, but with the Covid situation being what it was, we weren't able to get enough local students to register. So we've decided to open another campus in Clearwater. We're not really focusing on the Valemount campus right now. We hope to recruit more students to attend in Clearwater in the new year."

Kenkel added that if enough students from Valemount register then a local campus could still become a reality.

"If we get enough students here in Valemount we could definitely make it happen," Kenkel said. "But we would need enough students to line up the instructors. It's that tipping point that is important. The nice thing about Clearwater is we have enough instructors in Kamloops to draw from."

As of the present time, Valemount College plans for all classes to be in-person, which means Valemount residents who choose to register for courses will have to travel to Clearwater.

"We would be more than happy to have

Clearwater for classes," said Valemount College executive director Kerry Milner Cairns, who is based in Clearwater. "It's a bit of a drive, though."

She said she's made a request to their governing body to hold classes with dual delivery methods, both in-person and online.

"We've been reaching out to instructors and they're worried about travel restrictions due to Covid. Also, that way if we're running a class in Clearwater people in Valemount could participate virtually. But this is still all in the planning stages."

Milner Cairns said the most advantageous aspect of all three programs is that each is job-oriented.

"It will help prepare people to work in the tourism industry at the administrative level," she said. "There is also a component in the programs that will offer internships and that's really important as it allows students to gain hands-on experience and a chance to impress employers."

Kenkel said the plan is for First Nations instructors to work in the First Nations cultural tourism program.

"In a perfect world the classes in that program would also be smaller and would include teaching First Nations students tourist opportunities based on their culture."

Kenkel added that students who worry about financial restraints in respect to tuition could benefit from possible

For more information on the Valemount College programs and tuition fees funding go to www. valemountcollege.ca



## Valemount Council... CONT'D FROM PG

discussed at length. It is an illegal activity that releases toxins into the air. The task force will move forward with a method of educating the public.

Councillor Pearson met with the Northern Interior Rural Division of Family Practice Primary Care Network Mackenzie -Robson Valley Regional Subnet. Working on recruitment to fill positions at the Health Centre. They are also working on a "pathway to care document." A document has been created in McBride and the Valemount area is looking to create something similar to help track care as a patient moves through the medical system, and provide information regarding what is available.

Council proceeded to an In-Camera

meeting for consideration of eight items per Section 90 (1) of the Community Charter to discuss matters related to: (c) labour relations or other employee relations, (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality, (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, and (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

# Paid sick days coming

By Goat Staff

Paid sick leave will be standard for workers in British Columbia beginning Jan. 1, 2022, with a minimum of five paid sick days each year.

B.C. becomes the first province in Canada to legislate this level of paid time-off for workers who fall ill. This new workplace protection applies to all workers covered by the Employment Standards Act, including part-time workers.

"Beginning in the new year, workers will no longer lose pay for making the responsible choice of taking a sick day," said Premier John Horgan. "The pandemic has highlighted that when workers don't have paid sick leave, it's bad for them, it's bad for their co-workers and it's bad for their employers."

During a two-month period at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, workplace outbreaks led to nearly 200 businesses being shut down in the Fraser Health region alone. Workplaces with pre-existing paid sick leave policies saw less transmission.

The Province consulted with workers and employers around B.C. to find out what currently exists in the way of paid sick leave and to gather feedback on three options - three, five or 10 days of paid sick leave - to come into effect in the new year. More than 60,000 people participated in the engagement.

Feedback from the workplaces that already provide paid sick leave found that most workers take between zero and five days of sick leave each year.

"Many of the people who lack paid sick leave are the same workers we depended on most during the pandemic," said Harry Bains, Minister of Labour. "Lower-wage workers who help us get our groceries, prepare our food at restaurants and make sure we have the services we need deserve a basic protection like paid sick leave."

Bains noted that in the current labour shortage, workers are looking for additional benefits like paid sick leave, adding that this measure will help build a resilient workforce in British Columbia regardless of the challenges faced in the future.

Sheila Lewis, provincial women's manager, Métis Nation British Columbia, said: "Paid sick leave will be particularly beneficial to women who are more likely to be balancing work and family responsibilities. Sick leave will help women—especially Indigenous women—reattach to the labour market."

On behalf of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 266 I extend a sincere Thank You to everyone that supported this year's Poppy Campaign. We persevere through these difficult times to ensure that we can continue to honour and support our Veterans and their families.

#### Special Thanks to those that helped with our Remembrance Day ceremony:

Michael Peters of VCTV for filming, recording and editing both the ceremony and the Poster & Essay entries. Kiba Dempsey and Martin Gislimberti for handling the live stream portion of the ceremony.

The Reverend Kim McNaughton for her words as Branch Chaplain

Lynn Lawless for playing the trumpet for Last Post

The 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol and Junior Canadian Rangers for participating and helping. Branch 266 Executive and members that assisted

The Rocky Mountain Goat newpaper for their continued support with the Remembrance Day issue.

#### To the local agencies and businesses listed below that sponsored a wreath for the ceremony, we Thank you:

**Gathering Tree** 

**IDA Pharmacy** 

Government of Canada Government of British Columbia

RCMP Regional District of Fraser Fort

Village of Valemount 4<sup>th</sup> Cdn Ranger Patrol

> A&W A Cut Above

**Alpine Country Rentals** 

Alpine Inn

**BBQ Banditos** 

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VARDA Valemount & Area Chamber of Commerce Valemount Ambulance Association Valemount Home Hardware OldPuckers Hockey Oldtimers Hockey Valemount Volunteer Fire Dept. Valemount Historic Society Valemount Gun Club Valemount Public Library Valemount Senior Citizen's **Housing Society** Yellowhead Helicopters Yellowhead Motel



They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them We will remember them.

Thursday December 2nd 2021

By Andrea Arnold

# **Sledding season begins**

The streets of McBride were lined with snowmobiles over the weekend as the sledding season got underway. Trails on Belle and Lucille were groomed in anticipation of the arrival of enthusiasts at the trailheads. The snow was not low enough on the Renshaw to allow

grooming equipment to access the trails.

Riders took to the hills for their first run of the year on sleds ranging from modern to vintage and X Games Freestyle Champion Brett Turcotte practiced his aerial skills after a year off due to injury. The pass hut on Lucille sold approximately 250 passes and Belle sold 80 on Saturday as sledders eagerly raced to make tracks in the new snow.



Sledders take a break from riding for a few minutes at the Lucille cabin. /COLTER COLE



Some of the older sleds that successfully made the climb to the cabin on Lucille. / **MORGAN GREEN** 



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Trans Mountain's first priority will always be the health and safety of our workforce, their families and our communities. In response to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, Trans Mountain and our construction contractors for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project have been working diligently together to ensure adherence to all advice and direction from government and health officials both provincially and federally. More details about our specific actions can be found at transmountain.com/covid19.

As always, safety is our number one priority, every metre of the way.



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# Downtown revitalization plan, meetings with ministers, and old growth deferral followup

By Andrea Arnold

Mayor Runtz called the Nov. 23, 2021 McBride Council meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

#### **Downtown Revitalization Plan**

Anne Marie Whittaker of Ecoplan International presented on the Village of McBride Downtown

Revitalization Plan. The goal of the plan is to build on and improve what is already going on in the downtown core by redefining the heart of McBride. They want to support the great things that are already present. Three priorities have been identified: Steve Kolida Park and facilities, main street lighting and amenities, and train station revitalization. The next step of the plan is to finalize so that funding can be pursued.

#### **Meeting with Ministers**

Council confirmed the following topics for a meeting with Dale Morgan, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and John Huybers, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development: Guidelines for reconciliation processes, and Old growth deferral impacts on First Nation and small communities.

#### Revenue & expenditure report

Council received the Revenue & Expenditure Report up to Oct. 31, 2021.

#### Meetings

Council directed administration to schedule a follow-up meeting with Adriana Poveda, Service BC, for the morning of December 8, 2021. Council wants to discuss their desire to have Ministry employees permanently stationed in McBride. This was a topic council discussed at UBCM With Minister Beare, Minister of Citizen Services: "In-person provincial services need to be restored in McBride and the Robson Valley."

#### Caribou Recovery

Council directed administration to register Councillors Smith, Green, and Mayor Runtz, for the Caribou Recovery Program update meeting on Dec. 9, 2021 from 1-2 p.m.

#### Old growth deferral support questions

Council moved to have administration send a letter of response asking how plans around old growth deferral support will be felt in our community to Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister regarding the October 2021 Regional Meetings with Minister Josie Osborne and UBCM President Laurey-Anne Roodenburg. The letter will also be sent to neighbouring communities, MLA Bond, the Premier and the Minister of Forests.

#### Council meeting schedules

Council defeated the motion to give Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw 803, 2021 first, second and third reading. Administration had proposed that over the summer months, the sole monthly meeting occur on the third Tuesday of July and August. It was also proposed that the first September meeting be moved to the first Tuesday of the month, avoiding the conflict in timing with the UBCM Convention. Instead, Council passed a motion made by Councillor Green to return to the previous yearly schedule, continuing with two meetings a month except when it conflicts with Christmas break and UBCM in September. The amended bylaw will be brought back to council for first, second and third reading.

#### Deputy Mayor appointment deferral

Council deferred the appointment transfer of Deputy Mayor from Councillor Hruby to Councillor Smith until February 1, 2022.

#### **Referral letter**

The request for administration to send a letter to Local First Nations Communities about the referral announcement was tabled until after the meeting with Dale Morgan and John Huybers on Nov. 26.

#### In Camera

Council moved to proceed to an Incamera 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, (c) labour relations or other employee relations, and (k) negotiations and relate discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

The public portion was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.





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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Columbia Basin Trust

**BID DESCRIPTION** 

EOI Student Transportation Services SD57 (Prince George)

BC Highway Reinstatement Program RFQ – Construction Services

BC Highway Reinstatement Program RFQ – Engineering and Design Se

RFP 2022-01-CBDC Delivery of Basin Business Advisors Program

CLOSING

10 Dec 2021 - 4pm

10 Dec 2021 - 11am

10 Dec 2021 - 11am

16 Dec 2021 - 1pm

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 to learn more.

# Christmas comes early for the food bank



60lbs of deer meat, cut and wrapped, have been delivered to the Seventh Day Adventist Food Bank in McBride due to a hunters mistake, and the joint efforts of Conservation, RCMP and a local butcher. /SUBMITTED

By Andrea Arnold

The Seventh Day Adventist Food Bank in McBride recently received an early Christmas present—a 60lb donation of processed venison for their freezer.

A mule deer, accidentally shot by a local hunter, was reported to Clearwater-based Conservation Officer Warren Shayer by the hunter directly. Shayer contacted the local RCMP who reached out to Julie Holland with the Seventh Day Adventist Food Bank in McBride.

"Occasionally we have opportunities through seized animals, or those who have died an accidental death, to provide the meat to members of the public who need it," said Shayer.

On this occasion, Holland said the Food Bank would gladly take the meat for their freezer, but were not in a financial position to cover the cost of processing the carcass.

Valley newcomer Steve Doane stepped in with an offer to provide his facility, meat processing, and supplies free of charge.

Doane lived on a ranch growing up. His involvement in the ranch, along with his own hunting successes has resulted in a growing interest and development of butchering methods.

The deer was delivered directly to Doane for processing. His property includes a fully stocked and functional butcher's set-up. He is working towards a "Class E" licence that would allow him to slaughter, process and sell his own livestock. For now, he has been renting the facility out for locals who want to hang and/or process their own meat.

"It is the least I could do for the community," said Doane, "And the deer didn't go to waste."

Holland, the Food Bank Director, was thrilled to accept the rare donation.

"In the 20 years I have been a part of the food bank, I can remember receiving meat from the RCMP only one other time," said Holland. "Sometimes we get private beef donations, but that doesn't happen often. We are glad when it happens."

#### Food Bank Update

Holland reports that the food bank has been stocked thanks to people's generosity. The annual food drive by the Robson Peaks Pathfinder Club in October brought in 1540 items and they received donations/grants through several organizations— McBride Seventh Day Adventist Church, ADRA Canada (Adventist Development & Relief Agency), Reach BC & Yukon, McBride Community Endowment Fund, Emil Anderson Maintenance, Elks/ Royal Purple, Brookfield Energy, and **Emergency Community Support** Fund.

This year, some of the money was used to purchase a freezer, a cart and portioning equipment for bulk items. Some grant money has been earmarked to cover the costs of extras that will go into Christmas Hampers.

"The hampers will contain all the fixings for Christmas dinner, including fresh produce, dairy and a turkey," said Holland. The group likes to include non-food items as well like a toy, toque, socks and mitts."

The food bank has already started taking recipient names for the annual Christmas Hamper distribution.

#### **Donations**

Friday, December 3, 2021 is

National Food Bank Day. Although the stock at present is in good shape, Holland and her three fellow volunteers, Beryl Hagen, Sabrea Lipke, and Karen Andrews accept donations year-round. All funds received go directly to the food back operational costs and services.

Donations of food may be dropped off at the post office or if it is purchased at AG Foods can be left there in the donation bin located in the produce section. If necessary you may also call for pickup 250-569-7436

Monetary donations can be mailed to PO Box 603. Cheques must be made payable to The Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Donations may also be made online at mcbrideadventist.ca under the Menu tab is Online Giving, enter your donation under Community Services (Food Bank Donations must be received before Dec 25th to ensure a tax deductible receipt for

#### 9th Annual Food Bank Day in McBride

On Friday December 3, the Beanery 2 in conjunction with CBC Food Bank Day, will be accepting donations for the local food bank. Monetary donations as well as food items will be accepted, and as a thank you for your generosity, you will be invited to have a coffee, on the house. This event is hosted by Donna Perkins and Andy Werner of the Beanery 2, and Rick Thompson and Carol Hammar of Thompson Enterprises.

The donation boxes will remain available for donation drop off at the Beanery for the next several weeks, leading up to Christmas.



## Village of McBride

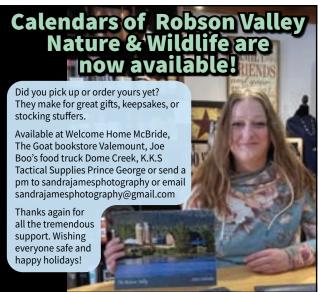
#### **HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

The Village of McBride office will be **CLOSED** from Friday December 24th, 2021 - Monday, January 3, 2022 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

#### RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE

There will be **NO** residential garbage collection on Friday, December 24, 2021, garbage will be collected a day early **Thursday**, **December 23, 2021**. Garbage will be collected as per usual on Friday, December 31, 2021.

Please call 250-569-7743 for any Public Works Emergencies.



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## **Venus Questions Love's Nature**

A fateful feeling grows throughout the week, culminating in Friday's profound meetup of Venus and Pluto. Love's nature comes into question. Does love sing? Does it soar? Is love poetic? Or is poetry an eloquent pattern to bridge the gap between hearts where there is no love? Arguably, close bonds may have little need for clever words or enticing dances, as all are assured in their status as they work as one toward practical life aims.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No matter how well you plan things, it's when they veer off-plan that things get interesting. This is what makes a creation singular. The unpredictable error; the striving for an unachievable aim; the childlike hope woven into a failed attempt. This elevates the work to a level

of art that is human and relatable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The destination you seek is not a place but a state of mind. Still, there's a longitude and latitude marker for where it happens. Take an objective look at rooms you inhabit. It will be easier to achieve your aims in the environment that supports them. How can you adapt the environment to better suit you?

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). The way you live gives something to others without you even realizing it. Following your interests, maintaining a cheerful tone, carrying a mood with you that's easy to be around, living by your own principles... these behaviors inspire. They are perspective-broadening advice you give without



saying a word.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The unacceptable thing will also be the truest. Most will overlook, dismiss or reject it on its face. Take a look. It gives you the advantage. Without the drama of being offended or astonished, you can use information to

understand the full scope of a situation. You'll see what's useful. You'll land on solutions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are those who would take advantage of your soft heart. There's a gift in this. You'll realize where the edges of your comfort lie. You'll get

CROSSWORD

clear about what you're willing to do for others. You'll understand where the boundaries should go because you can't maintain or defend a boundary until you know where it is.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There will be no work more noble than the effort to conquer your own reactive impulses. No special equipment or training is needed for this strength training. You become mighty as you move through everyday experiences, compromising, cooperating and persevering as a team.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Making connections is a little trickier than it looks. People like to earn acceptance. They will be skeptical when it's given too readily. There's an art to letting people know you like them. It's easier to do indirectly and through a general tone. Trust is built through a consistent rhythm; it takes time to establish.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The experience of being you is often packaged in a swirl of thoughts that whisper and shout and are helpful and unhelpful, aligned and chaotic. The week brings experiences to calm and harmonize the swirl. Being physically active will be a huge contributor to your most enjoyable and productive moments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's not fair to make your self-love conditional. You'd prefer yourself to stick with the plan, perform in a particular way and get certain results. But don't turn on yourself when you fall short. Have compassion as you learn to work with yourself. Surround yourself with teachers, supporters and role models.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be thinking deep thoughts. It all starts with a question. You'll be curious about how things work and why, who is running it and where it's going. Most importantly, you'll want to know your purpose inside it all. One small certainty will send you down a kind of yellow brick road.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll label things for the sake of organization. It works in a notebook, a closet, and in your own internal emotional and social landscape. Putting a label on relationships and feelings will help you process them. Name things carefully with benevolence and specificity. And remember -labels can change.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's easier to feel like you're winning when people are actually rooting for you. But when you've done a thing enough times to be intimately attuned to exactly the work most needed to succeed, that work becomes its own cheer squad. The feeling of growing masterful is more satisfying than any external reward.

#### THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:

You choose roles that are clearly for the strong and the brave. People will count on you, an honor that will organize your days. The more heart you put into the plan, the less money you'll need to pull it off. February brings a twist and new faces. A relationship born of fantasy will get an exciting real-life test run. March starts a period of training and building. Competition will bring out your best. There will be many games leading up to an epic main event, all of them important.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis. com. COPYRIGHT 2021 CREATORS.COM

51. Body, prefix

52. After that

53. Party V.I.P.

purposes

Sunrise"

57. Julia of "Tequila

58. In case it's true

54. Allow

# SUDOKU

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

#### **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.

THE TOUGHIE

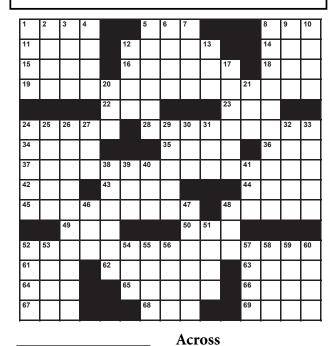
by Myles Mellor

Answers on P13

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. Coffee island

5. Cries at fireworks

8. Mayan language

11. Former spouses

14. Orin\_\_\_ river

18. Classified abbr.

22. Immigrant's subj.

institiue, abbr.

24. "Hill Street Blues"

19. Mark Wahlberg starred

23. National health resarch

15. Brain scans

12. Sweep

16. Coat

in it

actress

#### Across

14

- 1 Auto accessory, slangily
- Have some catching up to do

49

15

29

36

- Trendy clothing giant 10 Scientific workplace
- Stages of history
- Optometrist's interest
- Vinegar's companion
- Closely related 15
- Cutting-edge
- Erase 17
- 19 Tense
- Genetic identifier 21
- Sound, perhaps
- St. Louis symbol
- Sub for
- 31 Problematic situation
- Joshua\_ \_\_ National Park Pretty good bowling score
- Word alphabetizers ignore
- Anjou or Kieffer
- Adjust accordingly Gullible person
- 45 Home buyer's request

28. Stains

34. Next to Europe

35. Volvo rival

in it

name

43. Son of Isaac

44. Turkish V.I.P.'s

36. Pastoral place

37. Harrison Ford starred

45. Period of three months

48. Writing implements

\_\_ de cologne

52. Julia Roberts starred

49. Good, in the 'hood

42. \_\_\_ do plume; pen

48 Banana cream, for one

61. Gp. in charge of

perhaps

water

actress

66. Court grp.

Hair'

69. Missing

condominiums,

62. Make drinkable, as

65. "As the World Turns"

67. Unspecific degree 68. Ray Charles "Hide

63. Long way away

64. Keyboard key

- Realtor sign add-on
- Nurse, in a way 51 Incorporate
- 52 Pesky insect
- 53 Mine output

#### Down

41

50

- 1 Like-minded individuals
- Train transport
- Competent, like a seaman
- Make excellent use of class time

Answers on P13

- Critter-crammed craft
- Pacer's pace
- Less stern
- "All in favor" word
- Parishioner's place
- 12 Slow creature
- Stick like glue 18
- An American airline
- Word with hole or rest
- Certain threshold
- It's ball-bearing Clio winners
- Letters on many a tombstone
- Kept time, in a way
- Satisfy a craving "Square" trio
- 32
- Available
- Sedan top 38
- "Ran" preceder 40
- 41 Entry in an ice-skating competition 42 Question for a blood donor
- 43 Luxury hotel offering 44 Promote
- hands on deck!" 46

#### **Down**

- \_ Grand Cherokee 2. Figure skater's jump
- 3. Lyra's brightest star
- 4. Org.
- 5. Noted traitor
- 6. Dance 7. Word that means kind
- 9. Peak
- 8. Biology branch
- 10. Damp area growth 12. Fliers in caves
- 13. Start of a Chinese game
- 17. Obi-Wan
- 20. Moray, e.g.
- 21. Have something to complain about
- 26. Dade co. Fla. city 27. Attention

25. Mary of "The Maltese

Falcon"

24. Lacks, in brief

- 29. Put out
- 30. Served on a jury
- 31. Lexus, for example
- 32. Theater chain
- 33. "According to me"
- 38. Removed, with "out"
- 39. Long-eared beast

41. Long. crosser

47. More factual

40. Vermin

46. Directional assistance

- 59. Dines 60. Phi Delt, e.g.

#### Answers on P13

48. Red October, for one

55. "Help \_\_\_\_ the way!"

56. Fabric dyed for hunting

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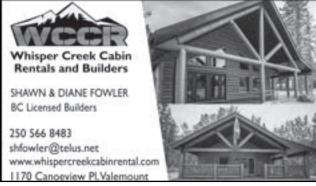
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### ROBSON VALLEY

# Community Events

Send us your event to goatnewspaper@gmail.com or call 250-566-4606. Use 40 WORDS or less and we will publish it FREE up to a month before

#### **VALEMOUNT**

MONs **Family Place Drop-In** is now on Mondays from 9am-noon for connection with other families, parenting resources and fun for you and your 0-6 year old children at RVCS unless otherwise stated below (99 Gorse St).! Call Hannah 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org to join.

December 6: Introduction to baby sign language

December 13: Holiday Crafts
December 20: Cookie Decorating
December 27: No Family Place drop-in

MONs **Seniors Drop-In** is now on Mondays from 1-3pm. All seniors are invited to come by for both structured and unstructured recreational, educational and social activities at RVCS unless otherwise stated below (99 Gorse St). Call Shae 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org to join.

December 6th: Card Making with Donna December 13th: Games and Puzzles

December 20th: Cookie Decorating and Lunch - (will take place from 12 - 2 rather than 1 - 3 at the

Community Hall)

December 27th: NO DROP IN

THURS DEC 16th **Christmas Wreath Making** from 1 to 3 pm in Valemount geared toward seniors. Come by to get in the holiday spirit and make Christmas Wreaths, drink hot chocolate and listen to Christmas music at RVCS (99 Gorse St).! Please call 250-566-9107 to register or email events@rvcsbc.org.

MON DEC 6th **Christmas Card Making** from 1 to 3 pm in Valemount geared toward seniors. Create holiday cards from scratch with Donna, enjoy hot cocoa and the company of other adults at RVCS (99 Gorse St). Please call 250-566-9107 to register or email events@rvcsbc.org.

THURs **Holiday Craft Workshop** Join us for a three week program in Valemount, where we will learn to

sew a small felt animal that you can give as a gift to someone special in your life. In the first two weeks we will work on sewing our little animal and have a story read to us. The last week we will finish our project and celebrate by decorating cookies. December 2, 9, and 16 from 3:30-5:30pm in the RVCS Classroom. Call Rebecca to register at 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

FRI DEC 3rd **Late-night shopping**, participating retailers will be open from 5pm-9pm. Planning is still underway. Watch for details in the Goat newspaper and on our website.

WEDs **The Valemount Old Timers musicians** are back playing in the upper lounge at the Golden Years Lodge (1300 Main Street) on Wednesdays from 7-9pm. No charge. Coffee and goodies provided.

**RVCS Valemount Office Closures:** December 15th, 27th, 28th and January 3rd.

#### **MCBRIDE**

MONs **Family Place Drop-In** is now on Mondays from 9am-noon for connection with other families, parenting resources and fun for you and your 0-6 year old children at RVCS unless otherwise stated below (942 3rd ave). Call Charlene 250-569-2266 to join. December 6- Trikes, Bikes, and strollers at the Arena. \$2.00 drop in fee \*Parents may need to provide vaccination proof to attend arena.

December 13- Letters to Santa/Cinnamon Apple sauce ornaments

December 20- Christmas Reindeer/Santa craft December 27- Closed

January 3- Closed

WEDs **Seniors Drop-In** is now on Wednesdays from 1-3pm. All seniors are invited to come by for both structured and unstructured recreational, educational and social activities at RVCS unless otherwise stated

below (942 3rd ave). Call Sandy 250-569-2266 to join. December 8th: Games and Puzzles

December 15th: NO DROP IN – RVCS TEAM DAY December 22nd: Tech Café - Please bring your devices & questions for some one-on-one technology assistance!

December 29th: Soup & Bun

SAT-SUN DEC 4-5 **McBride Christmas Craft Fair** 10am-1pm in the Elks Hall. Admission \$1pp. Check out local artisans and buy your Christmas gifts. Chili and a bun or taco by Royal Purple. \$25/table for one day \$40 for two days. Call Kathy at 250-569-7201 after 4pm to book a table. Max attendance is 50 people. All vendors and visitors must show proof of vaccination as per current provincial health guidelines. Masks mandatory.

THURS DEC 16th **Christmas Wreath Making** 4 to 6 pm in McBride, geared toward seniors. Come by to get in the holiday spirit and make Christmas Wreaths, drink hot chocolate and listen to Christmas music at RVCS (942 3rd ave)! Please call 250-569-2266 to register or email events@rvcsbc.org.

DEC 14-23rd **Child & Youth Mindfulness Packages!** Pick up your mindfulness resource and activity packages for parents and their children (5-12 years) to learn about the power of mindfulness together in a fun and creative way! Packages available from December 14-23rd at McBride RVCS Office (942 3rd ave) or can be dropped off at the schools upon parent request.

WED DEC 22nd A Holiday Gathering: Movie & Craft Time! In celebration of the holiday season beginning, McBride RVCS CYMH Program would like to host a FUN afternoon full of crafts, songs, stories, games and a movie for the kids (elementary ages)! December 22, 2021 from 1pm-4pm at RVCS McBride, 942 3rd Ave. Please register: Call Jessica at 250-569-2266 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

**McBride RVCS Office Closure:** November 29 & 30th due to professional development. Dec. 15th, 27th, 28th, & Jan. 3rd



Pete Amyoony has lived, worked and gardened in the Dunster area for 43 years. He tries to deal with the "down to earth nuts and bolts of organic gardening" in his columns.



# Prepare for "garden thugs"

This past week I have finally had time to go through some of the books in my "garden collection" that deal with weeds and also to look up a few tips on the Internet. I find learning about things like this in the middle of winter really gives me time to do a good job rather than running in the house for a quick look when the weeds are knee-high!

In the past ten or twelve years, there are some new "garden thugs" that are getting a hold around here. I always think of the old garden saying about weeds that "one year's seeding gives seven years weeding"! One to really keep an on is orange or yellow hawkweed. It is a small pretty looking flower that looks like a miniature dandelion at first. It is a perennial and will take over a lawn or field in a matter of a few years if left to go to seed. The orange has up to 30 flowers per stem whereas the yellow has only one per stem. The problem with these plants is they not only produce thousands of seeds per year, but

they also spread out by stolons (runners) and will take over an entire area in a few years. If you keep grubbing out the first few plants you see and never let them go to seed, you can bring them under control. The Ministry of Agriculture information sheet claims that applications of high nitrogen/sulphur fertilizers will encourage the grasses around the hawkweed to grow and eventually choke out the weed. I made the mistake of seeing the flowers as "a cute little wildflower" and a few went to seed. The next year, there were thousands all over the property. Think of them as spreading much like dandelions - only faster!

Another one that seems to be getting a real toehold in our area is curly dock. It is another perennial and can be seen around roadsides and at the edge of forested areas and in moist low-lying areas. It has such a long taproot that it is difficult to dig without leaving a piece of the root behind. I find a tree-planters

shovel can be driven full depth beside the root and the entire plant lifted and disposed of. The plant will grow up to 5 (1.5m) feet tall and most of the leaves are around the base. The stem is very upright and mostly reddish with small ridges. It has thousands of flowers on the top spike and on side shoots as well. When the flowers form seeds, they are reddish brown and will be carried by wind and water. If they are anywhere near maturity, the flower stalks should be burned or put in closed garbage bags as the seeds will mature and spread even after being cut. One or two mature plants will become thousands in a few years!

As I have mentioned before, the best way to keep weeds under control is to do a bit each day or at least a few times a week. Annual weeds such as chickweed and pigweed can be kept under control by making sure they never get to the stage where they are going to seed. Biennial and perennial weeds will be weakened

if you keep cutting them just as they are coming into flower. At this stage, they are bringing up all their reserves from the roots to produce flowers and seed. If constantly cut back at this stage, they will eventually weaken and die.



## 



# Blue River Community Garden celebrates a successful season of growth

SUBMITTED BY BLUE RIVER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Blue River Community Garden has had another successful year of growth. A spectacularly bountiful harvest put fresh vegetables on tables throughout Blue River again this year. A special thank you goes to The North Thompson Communities Foundation who has financially supported our garden annually since 2018. This year's generous grant was used to construct a vegetable wash station which also captures the water to repurpose for the plants. All supplies for this project were purchased from Wells Gray Home Hardware, who continues to support us with annual donations of materials used in the garden. Many thanks to Dustin Deuling and Tom Onslow for volunteering their time and expertise to make this project a reality.

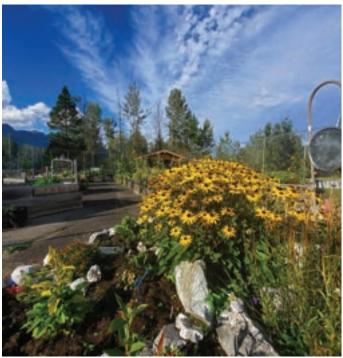
This year, a Trans Mountain Community Investment Program grant will fund the installation of an automatic watering system with a smart timer that can sense precipitation levels and minimize waste by only watering when needed. This watering system will be installed next spring and will be a great improvement to the hand watering that is currently required!

Blue River Community Garden includes 30 garden boxes surrounded by a tall chain link fence left over from its previous life as a tennis court. The glorious vines that are gradually climbing this fence, a large central flower garden, and a screened-in gazebo make the garden a beautiful, welcoming community space. Thirty of the garden boxes are planted, tended, and harvested by individuals and their families, and the other 10 boxes are planted and cared for by volunteers who extend an open invitation to anyone to pick and enjoy the fresh produce. The garden is an extension of Blue River Elementary School's indoor garden project where the children start all the seedlings early in the spring and transplant them to the community garden.

To see garden photos and to follow updates about the Blue River Community Garden on Facebook, just search Blue River Community Garden, British Columbia.

Thank you to all our garden supporters and members who have helped to create this amazing space in our little town!







**WHAT IS YOUR NON-PROFIT UP TO?** Share it with the community by submitting a column up to 350 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.

# TELUS says service disruptions now resolved

By Laura Keil

Valemount residents experiencing reception issues with their cell phones and internet may have seen an improvement recently after work by TELUS techs concluded this month.

A TELUS spokesperson said that over the past month, their team upgraded the wireless site in Valemount to 5G, which caused temporary service disruptions.

"The upgrade is now complete and service is fully restored, and we thank our customers for their patience throughout the process," a spokesperson said. "Most importantly, customers in the community should now be experiencing faster Internet speeds and a more reliable connection."

Many residents have experienced problematic connectivity, including calls breaking up to the point of being unintelligible, callers receiving error messages saying the other person is unavailable even though their phone is on and seemingly working fine, and voicemails being delivered hours after they were recorded.

Are you still having problems with connectivity in Valemount? Let us know! goatnewspaper@gmail.com

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#### IN LOVING MEMORY OF

# Evelyn Mae Olofsson November 9, 1937 - November 26, 2021



Evelyn Mae Olofsson (née Lavigne) born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan on November 9, 1937 passed away peacefully with family on November 26, 2021.

Evelyn is survived by her loving family, including husband Henry; children

Beth Tuggle-MacLean, Becky Easton (Bruce), Kurt Tuggle (Karla), Sara Olofsson (Matt) and Erik Olofsson (Andrea); grandchildren Jayda, Laura, Jared, Ivy, Annette, Baxter, Logan, Emily, Max and Sacha; and great-grandchildren Zosia, Jake, Beau and Felix.

Evelyn will be remembered for her strength of character, sense of humour, and joie de vivre. Evelyn's greatest passions were family, travel, cooking and gardening. To honour her love of the Ridge in Spring, her memorial will be planned for that time.



Shelly

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