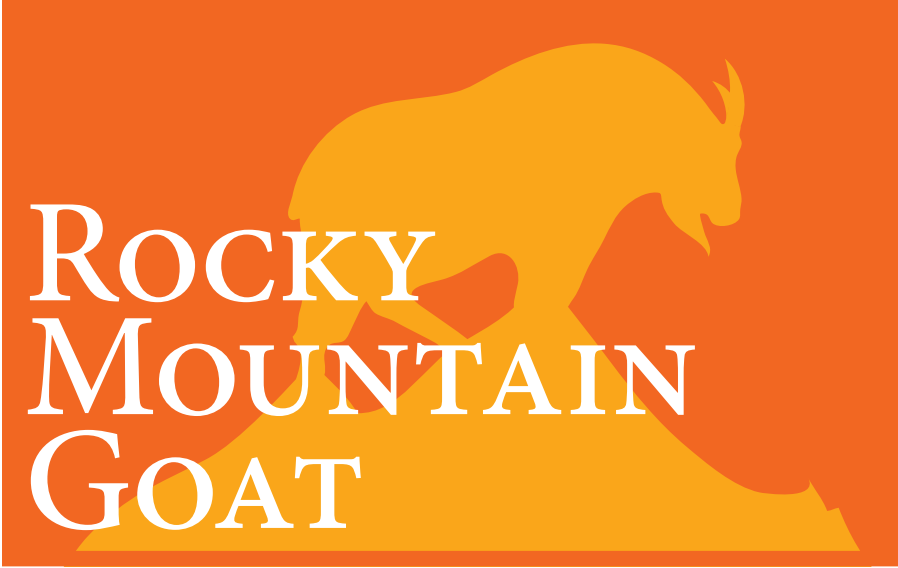




Pipeline leaks “small” say experts P15



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Hotels juggle pipeliners, sledders	P17

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# Valemount Glacier Destinations ski run logging planned for January

By Laura Keil

Starting in January, trees will begin to fall along the ski runs of the proposed Valemount Glacier Destinations resort.

While funding for the project hasn't been announced, the logging will facilitate faster construction should the financing come through, and allow the local ski society to build a handle-tow community ski hill while the larger project is pending, says Valemount Ski Society President Joseph Nusse.

"Either VGD has funding this spring, or the ski society will initiate installation of the handle tow ski lift this summer," said Nusse.

The logging of the ski runs is scheduled for Jan. 15, says Valemount Community Forest (VCF) manager Craig Pryor, though he can see it starting slightly later. He said the logging and short section of logging road should take approximately 1.5 months. The ski runs—located in the community forest tenure—will be clearcut logging and are a mix of douglas fir, spruce, pine, balsam, cedar and hemlock.

He said the Ski Society is completing the layout of the runs and letting the VCF know what they want. The community forest has already submitted a rationale to the Province to allow them to harvest ski runs that don't meet visual quality objectives.

"These ski runs will be very visual from Abernathys," Pryor said.

He doesn't foresee any issues with the government, but they are still working towards a final plan.

This past summer, the Valemount Ski Society and



On her way into McBride recently, Sandra James spotted a mini crab apple tree filled with Boheamian Waxwings. She quickly went home to get her camera hoping that they would still be there. "Thankfully they seemed hungry enough as they still were eating away, not caring at all about the traffic in and out of the bank. It was a neat sight to see." /SANDRA JAMES

Simpcw First Nation completed a cultural heritage assessment study to allow the construction of a 280-metre-long handle tow lift in the Westridge area within traditional Simpcw Territory. The report noted two concerns—a grizzly den and a western yew. The yew will require a 5m buffer and the den will require a Wildlife Management Plan.

The proposed community ski

runs are in the lower part of the controlled recreation area of the Valemount Glacier Destination Resort and the partners of the Master Plan Development Agreement—Simpcw and Valemount Glacier Destinations Ltd.— have expressed their support of the community ski lift and ski runs.

Nusse said the capital is mostly raised to install the handle tow lift, which was permanently

lent to the community by proponents of Valemount Glacier Destinations Resort until the VGD resort is built.

At their Dec. 14 meeting, Valemount Council agreed to write a letter to the District Manager of the Ministry of Forests Lands and Resource Operations (FLRO) regarding public support of ski runs in the proposed area of VGDR.

Irene Berndsen



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see LISTINGS ON  
PAGE 23

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# Businesses still suffering from labour shortage—lack of housing the key reason

By MICHAEL PIASETZKI

Speak to any business owner in Valemount these days and somewhere in the conversation one important theme will crop up.

From the village's hotels and restaurants to its bakery, owners are scratching their heads trying to find people to work.

The situation has become so bleak, one local business owner has thrown in his proverbial towel for the coming year in the hope of putting forth any plans to expand his shop.

"At the moment the situation is such that the window of opportunity to adapt plans and enlarge the business has been put aside," said Tim Haus, owner of the Swiss bakery. "For me this year has been a write-off."

Haus, who admitted he has been trying to hire qualified bakers, pastry chefs, and servers for a while now without luck, said there were people from other parts of Canada who wanted to come to Valemount and work at his bakery. However, there was simply no place with reasonable rent for them to live.

"With the wages I'd be willing to pay it would be very hard for them to find a place to live with all the pipeliners here," he said.

Sharonrose Shalla of McLennan Car/Truck Stop Restaurant (Abernathy's Resto) reflected Haus's sentiments.

"Because we are short-staffed we are going to have to cut back on our hours of operation here in the restaurant," she said. "We also have a heavy-duty mechanic shop and it's also working at half capacity."

Shalla added that Abernathy's did recently hire a woman from out of town for a short period of time, but she had to quit and move away because of lack of housing.

Darcy Patara, general manager of Canada's Best Value Inn Valemount, said even though his hotel offers staff accommodation, there is still a labor shortage. The situation at the hotel has become so dire that existing staff have become tired and overworked.

"The town of Jasper has a foreign worker program where they bring in Europeans and South Americans for the busy season. Why can't we have a program like that?" he asked. "We're just an hour away from Jasper. I'm doing 12-hour shifts myself. We're down to two or three housekeepers now."

Tony Bielec of Best Western Valemount Inn & Suites said his hotel is also experiencing a staff shortage at every position. However, with one caveat. Despite a severe lack of staff, the Best Western has decided to implement a policy of not hiring employees who are not doubly vaccinated.

"Being doubly vaccinated is a condition of employment with us," he said. "We've re-written our health and safety plan that includes every new employee having to be vaccinated. We take the safety of our staff incredibly seriously. It's very important we follow the provincial rules and sculpt our health and safety plan after bigger business which is making changes for the safety of their employees as well."

Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson said the situation basically boils down to housing availability for the spectrum of pay.

"If you're making between \$15 and



Tim Haus says he has had to put expansion plans on ice due to difficulty in finding employees. /LAURA KEIL

\$19 an hour there is a severe shortage of options for housing," he said. "We have 800 additional pipeline workers that are not staying at a camp environment and are receiving \$4500 a month in overall allowance. That gives them a tremendous advantage in finding a place to live."

The Mayor said Council is working with Trans Mountain Pipeline to find a creative solution, but the reality is there are no concrete answers to the problem.

"This was an issue before the pipeline," he pointed out. "With the flourishing tourist industry prior to the pandemic, folks were relocating to Valemount for the lifestyle. The housing situation, or lack of it, was apparent then as well."

The Mayor added one thing Trans

Mountain cannot do is go back to the Canadian Energy Regulator and say 'we're building another camp as a possible solution.'

"The project will be finished by the time any kind of permit will be put in place," he said. "Besides, all that would do is bring another 500 workers to Valemount."

But he said maybe we can learn from this situation.

"Perhaps now we can really hash out what [the proposed resort] Valemount Glacier Destinations pressures on housing looks like and hopefully deal with it. It will give us an opportunity to understand what our official community plan will look like and how our new zoning bylaws will help alleviate some of these issues."

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# Berg Lake trail reopens for winter

## In wake of November slide, rec users warned to be avalanche-ready

By Laura Keil

A “significant” slide in an unusual location has Mt. Robson Park supervisor Elliott Ingles warning rec users to be avalanche ready as they venture forth on the newly-reopened Berg Lake Trail this winter.

Ingles says a very large slide at the end of November came down across the Kinney Lake trail in a spot that hasn’t slid in many years.

“That is a significant slide,” he said. “In my five years of working in Mount Robson, that first slide hasn’t come down,”

When he spoke to a former ranger, he learned that spot slides maybe once every 10 years. But he says it’s unusual to have a slide this big this early.

“Everywhere can be unstable, and there was a crusty weak layer, but it’s significant. It’s big.”

The region received an unusual amount of snow this year, due to Pineapple Express weather systems, and the current snowpack is above normal for the time of year (see graph).

Ingles says they’ve erected new signage to warn people they are entering avalanche terrain and travel at their own

risk. He suggests they check both the Avalanche Canada website and the Jasper Park Avalanche bulletin to learn about regional conditions.

“Robson specifically doesn’t have its own avalanche report, but the North Rockies (Avalanche Canada) and the Jasper (Parks Canada) one are a great kind of combo, and people should be checking avalanche conditions before they go out.”

He said even travelling over top an old slide can be dangerous, as holes and cracks can appear.

“You have to be very cautious.”

He says they’ve erected new signage warning people they are travelling at their own risk and there’s avalanche risk. Ingles strongly recommends people bring avalanche gear and know how to use it.

“Basically, as soon as you’re on the trail, you’re in avalanche terrain.”

### Winter Options

While the entire Berg Lake Trail reopened for winter use Dec. 18, two bridges are still closed and deemed unsafe. The trail to Berg Lake above Kinney was closed after major washouts destroyed several bridges this summer.

But with water levels dropping, Parks has re-opened the route temporarily for winter users.

Ingles says they don’t make recommendations for backcountry use, but he says rather than cross at the Whitehorn suspension bridge, which is closed, users can continue on the west side of the Robson River past the Ranger cabin until they hit Phillip’s Creek and cross closer to Emperor Hill.

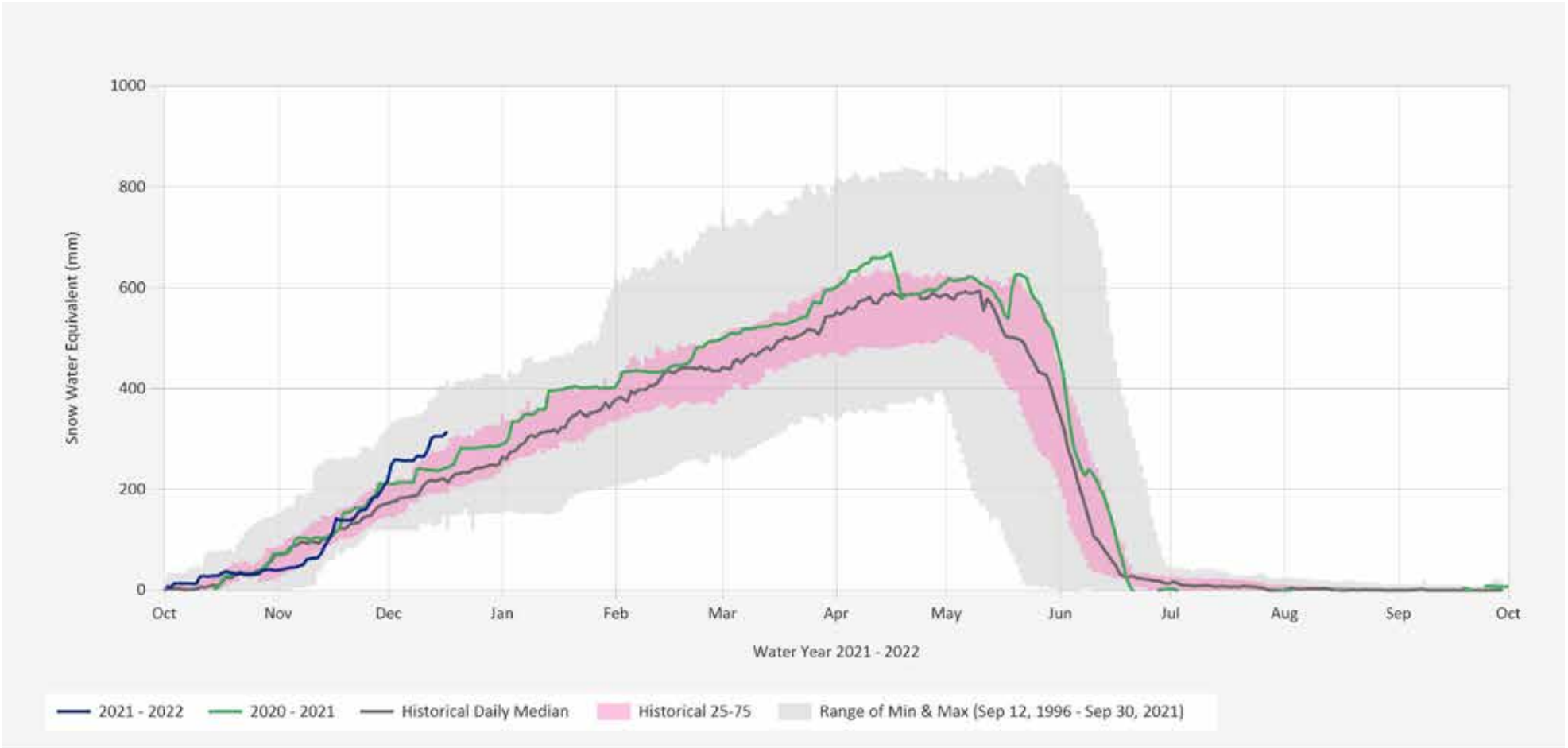
“Phillips Creek will have very little water and it will most likely be frozen over,” he said. “Even the Robson River that high up will be quite shallow.”

The Whitehorn campground, the whitehorn suspension bridge and the steel bridge north of the campground are all closed.

On April 1st the whole trail will close again for repairs and a parking lot expansion that will double the parking capacity—from 100 to 200 stalls.

“The hope is that people won’t be parking up along the road,” he said, adding that the expansion should look nice, aesthetically.

BC Parks says reservations for 2022 on the Berg Lake trail are delayed due to COVID-19 as well as the damage to the trail due to flooding.



The nearest B.C. snowpack data from Yellowhead Lake shows the snowpack is above average this year. /BC GOV



Mt Robson Area Supervisor Elliot Ingles says a large avalanche came down at the end of November that hasn’t slid in many years. He warns trail users to be avalanche-ready. /SUBMITTED

# Editorial



## It's a ski town after all

By LAURA KEIL, PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Pending approval from the Province, Valemount will finally get its ski-run facelift in 2022.

The Valemount Community Forest is awaiting final approval from the Province to cut ski runs in the proposed Valemount Glacier Destinations controlled recreation area, which it hopes to do as early as January. The project is still awaiting funding, but the ski runs can be cut in anticipation of construction. There's another benefit to cutting now—the

local Valemount Ski Society can install their handle-tow ski lift and create a small community ski hill in the ski resort footprint in the meantime.

It's a testament to the verve and determination of local people and will provide a fabulous opportunity for kids and other beginners to get their ski legs close to home. With the closest ski runs being at Marmot Basin in Jasper, a nearly 2-hour drive to the hill and one hour time change, it is a big deal to get any kind of automated-lift ski runs nearby.

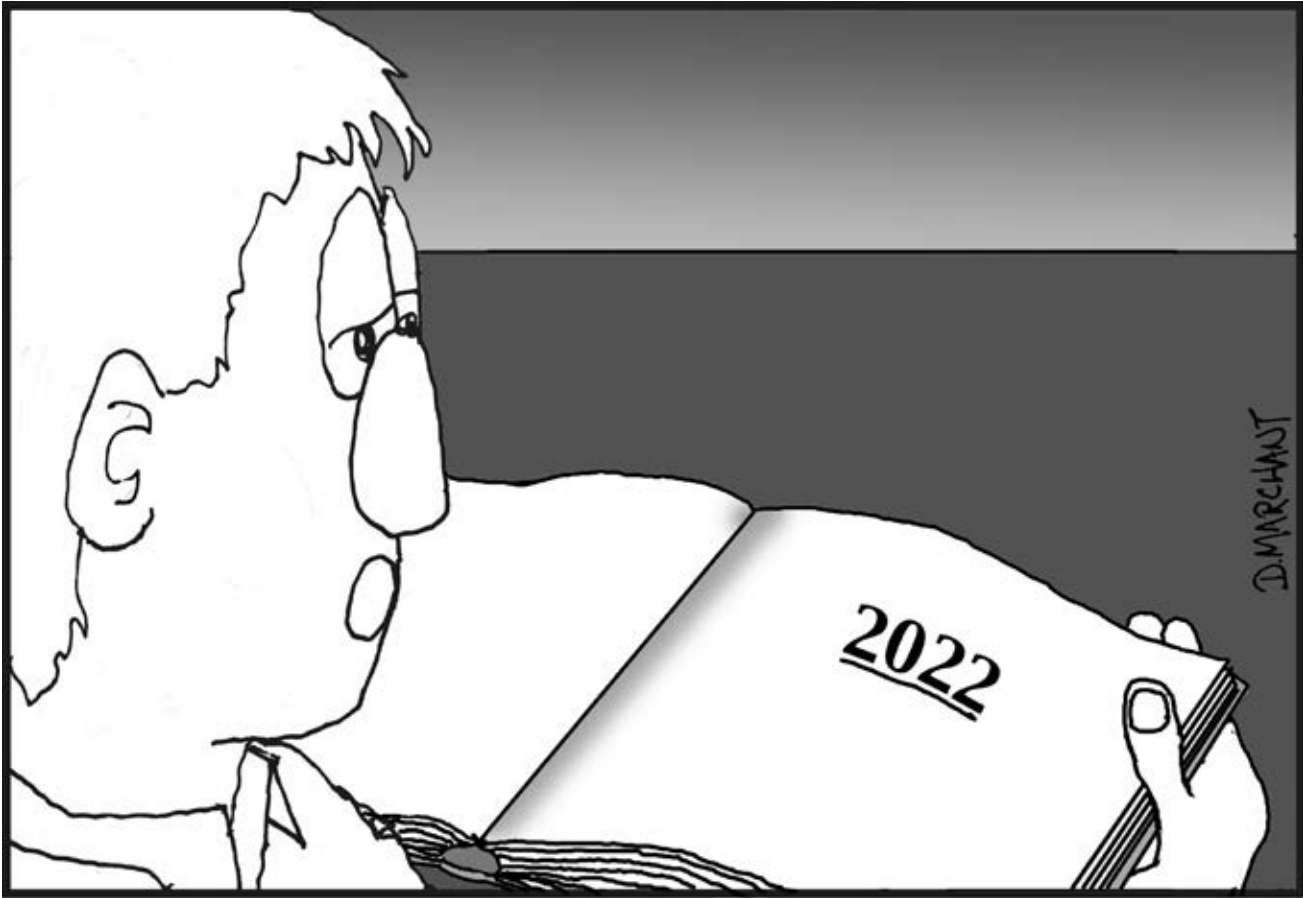
Meanwhile VGD may still

materialize, and though global forces of COVID-19 and climate change threaten to topple many stable industries, Valemount has surfed the wave of the pipeline and may leap from that project to another major one—Valemount Glacier Destinations.

The downside to remote global forces is they are not in our direct control. While local initiatives like the community ski hill are, with the support of partners.

What will come next?

Here's to another year of making it happen.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

**We are taking a break!**  
The Goat will NOT publish an edition **Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>** or **Jan 7<sup>th</sup>**. Our next edition will be **Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>**. Our office will be closed **Dec 25<sup>th</sup>**, re-opening **Jan 5<sup>th</sup>**, but we will be checking emails periodically. We wish you a peaceful and restorative holiday and look forward to serving you in the New Year!.

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# Letters/Op-Ed

We welcome all letters to the editor  
Write to us! [goatnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:goatnewspaper@gmail.com)



## Invisible virus

The problem with anti-vaccinators is that they can't "see" the effects of the Coronavirus. If smallpox was rampant, and they could see facial and other disfigurement and death caused by the disease, there wouldn't be any hysteria over medical scientists and governments plotting against the people. Self-interest would take over, as people would be pushing others aside, or stampeding over them, in the rush to become vaccinated. You KNOW that is true!

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BY GUY VANDERHAEGHE



NON-FICTION

### THE BUSHMAN'S LAIR

In the summer of 2002, the discovery of a cave on Shuswap Lake in British Columbia by a group of houseboaters made headlines across the country. It had been the hideout of a fugitive known as the Bushman—real name John Bjornstrom—who had been arrested the previous winter after raiding cabins in the area for supplies.

BY PAUL MCKENDRICK

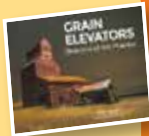


NON-FICTION

### GRAIN ELEVATORS

Rising above the landscape, the grain elevator heralds a time when wheat was king across the West. While many still stand, every year their numbers dwindle. Sometimes these towering signposts are all that is left of a town or hamlet once built around them. In this stunning photo collection, award-winning photographer Chris Attrell captures the haunting presence of those that remain to stand guard over an ever-changing agrarian lifestyle.

BY CHRIS ATTRELL & CHRISTINE HANLON



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BY ANDREW CHEVALLIER



GUIDE

### EDIBLE WILD PLANTS

Some wild edible plants have very poisonous look-alikes and it is vital to know the difference. *Edible Wild Plants* is the essential pocket-sized, folding guide to familiar edible berries, nuts, leaves and plants found in North America and advises how to harvest them.

BY JAMES KAVANAGH, RAYMOND LEUNG



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# Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

## Humouring Putin

The geopolitical question of the moment is: how important is it to humour Russian leader Vladimir Putin? The answer is: not very.

This question has become urgent because President Putin is demanding a guarantee that Ukraine will never join NATO. He also wants the alliance to withdraw all the non-local troops and weapons it has deployed in countries that were not in NATO before 1997. And he is hinting that he might invade Ukraine if NATO does not comply.

'Areas that were not in NATO before 1997' is a lot of territory. It includes Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, all of which under Soviet rule before 1989.

That's around 100 million people, most of whom have unhappy memories of Russian rule and a lingering fear of Russian domination. That's why they all joined NATO

(and most of them joined the European Union too).

They will never let the Russians make them vulnerable again, and there is no reason for NATO to give in to Putin's demands. The notion that Russia might actually invade Ukraine is frankly ridiculous.

Ukraine is a country the size of France with 43 million people. Its armed forces are less well equipped than Russia's, but they have learned how to fight during seven years of low-level warfare against Russian-backed separatists in the south-eastern provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Russia has three times Ukraine's population and much bigger armed forces, but invading Ukraine would not be easy. The Russians could certainly take the east, and maybe Kyiv, but conquering the west would be doubtful. And afterwards, Russian occupation troops would face a major guerilla resistance.

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



Besides, an overt Russian invasion would trigger an immediate trade embargo by the NATO countries that would quickly bring the Russian economy to its knees. Putin's entire regime would be at risk of collapse.

This is not like the old Cold War, when the Soviet Union and its satellites were only outnumbered two-to-one by NATO. Now it's a much diminished Russia against a greatly expanded NATO: three-to-one in regular military forces, seven-to-one in population, twenty-five-to-one in GDP.

Russia has lots of nuclear weapons, so nobody is going to attack it, but in any other kind of war it is hopelessly outmatched. Putin's demands don't really make sense in terms of Russian security.

There was never been much support for Ukrainian membership in NATO anyway, precisely because it might oblige the alliance to defend Ukraine against Russia. The status quo is ugly but satisfactory for Russia – so why try to change it?

One possibility is that having Donald Trump in his pocket gave Putin a sense of security that has now evaporated. Another is that he just sees Joe Biden as weak, and he is trying his luck. But his motive doesn't matter, really, because the whole project is foredoomed.

NATO only has to make it clear to Moscow (in private) that any border incursion in Ukraine beyond the present war-zone in the southeast will be met with a full economic blockade of Russia.

Don't say that in public, of course. And don't create panic in the Western public with exaggerated reports of a Russian military build-up either (as the boys and girls at the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington have been doing simply out of habit).

Give Putin no concessions, but show him respect. Keep talking to him, and eventually he'll come down from the ledge he's gone out on at the moment.



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# Office closure update, thanks to committee members, ski hill progress and temporary use permit approvals

By Andrea Arnold

## Public Hearing

The Valemount public hearing on December 14, 2021 was called to order by Mayor Torgerson.

21-06 for 23 Cedar Street - temporary residential structure proposal

21-07 for 1280 Juniper Street - temporary residential structure proposal

21-08 for 1975 Hillside Mine Road - temporary residential structure proposal. Neighbouring property owners Maureen Brownlee and Ron Baer wrote stating they support the proposal and have no objections.

The public hearing was closed and the council meeting on December 14, 2021 was called to order by Mayor Torgerson.

## Community Forest Update

Valemount Community Forest Manager Craig Pryor presented the Valemount Community Forest/ Valemount Industrial Park bi-annual update to shareholders. The report states the many projects that VCF have completed this year, and what they have planned for the next months. This includes logging in areas that will be used as future ski runs. In regards to the Old Growth deferrals, they do not see an issue with the current logging contracts they have in place. The industrial park received many upgrades. There is a diverse group of 15 businesses leasing land within the park. One of the future upgrades is the Telus tower and fibre optic access. Mill update Phase 1 is complete and Phase 2 needs electrical updates. Testing has started with the first log going through October 26. They are working to minimize dust and sawdust disbursement. Log suppliers are lined up and a market for chips is being explored. Council received the delegation for information.

## Fire Department Co-ordination Service Establishment Bylaw

Council moved to provide notification to the Regional

District of Fraser-Fort George by way of certified resolution (as follows), indicating that the municipality consents on behalf of the electors to adoption of Regional District Bylaw No. 3235, 2021. The amended bylaw states that the maximum amount which may be requisitioned annually for the purpose of providing a fire department coordination service shall be \$156,250. This will result in an increase of approximately \$0.25 on a home valued at \$100,000.

Council resolved that the council for the Village of Valemount hereby gives its consent to the adoption of Fire Department Co-ordination Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3235, 2021, by the Board of Directors of the RDFFG, and that the Regional district be so advised.

## Accounts payable

November 2021 Accounts Payable report was received

## Building Inspection report

Estimated Construction values - \$28,000

Permit Fees Collected - \$356.00

Permits Issued - 2

## Bylaw Services report

Six new files were opened in November. Currently there are 10 files open: one animal control, one good neighbour bylaw, one open air burning bylaw, one noise bylaw, two solid waste disposal, and four zoning bylaws.

## Holiday office closure

The office was scheduled to be closed beginning at 12:00pm on Thursday December 23, 2021 and will reopen Monday January 3, 2022 at 8:30am. However, School District 57 and other municipalities have amended their closure dates, so the Village is also amending, and will reopen on Tuesday January 4, 2022. Payments will be accepted throughout the closure by mail and online. They will be posted before January 1, 2022.

## Columbia Basin Trust Neil Muth Scholarship

Council agreed that the Village of Valemount contribution of \$500 to the Columbia Basin Trust Neil Muth Scholarship fund be extended for an additional five years.

## 2022 Deputy Mayor Appointment Schedule

Council approved the 2022 Deputy Mayor appointment schedule.

## Expression of gratitude

Council moved to recognize and thank the members of the following committees for their time and commitment to the Village of Valemount Committees of Council: Valemount Housing Committee, CBT Adjudication Committee, Clean Air Task Force, and the Tourism Valemount Committee.

Council moved to formally extend thanks to Ms. Jennifer Robinson for her commitment and accomplishments as marketing coordinator for the Tourism Valemount committee.

## Ski run proposal progress

Council moved to provide a letter to the District Manager of the Ministry of Forests Lands and resource Operations (FLRO) of Prince George regarding public support of community ski runs in the proposed area of Valemount Glacier Destination Resort.

## Temporary Use Permits

21-06 for 23 Cedar Street - temporary residential structure proposal granted final approval

21-07 for 1280 Juniper Street - temporary residential structure proposal granted final approval

21-08 for 1975 Hillside Mine Road - temporary residential structure proposal granted final approval

21-09 for 1460 7th Avenue - temporary residential structure proposal granted initial approval

## Bylaws

Council adopted the Village of Valemount Wood

CONT'D ON P7

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

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

2021 taxes and utilities are due December 31, 2021. After this date, outstanding taxes and utilities will transfer to arrears and begin accumulating interest.

While the office is closed over the holiday season, payments can still be made by telephone banking, online banking, or email transfer to [dof@valemount.ca](mailto:dof@valemount.ca).

Payments by cheque can be mailed to the Village of Valemount, PO Box 168, Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0. Any mailed payments must be received by January 1, 2022.

Utility notices for the 2022 year will be mailed out in mid January 2022.

## Mandatory COVID Vaccination Policy

The Village of Valemount has a Mandatory Proof of Vaccination Program in place. Effective December 15, 2021, all employees, contractors and volunteers are required to provide proof of full vaccination against the COVID-19 virus.

Full information regarding this policy can be found at: [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca)

## 2022 Business Licenses

As of January 1, 2022 all business licenses are due for renewal. Please renew your business license after January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Please note if you are a business with a commercial kitchen, you must prove that cleaning of the grease interceptor has taken place at least once within the past calendar year prior to issuance or renewal of a business license.

## 2022 Animal Licenses

As of January 1, 2022, all animal licences are due for renewal. All dogs over the age of 3 months require an Animal License.

The 2022 dog license fees are as follows:

- Unaltered dogs \$20
- Altered dogs \$15

Failure to licence dogs may result in fines in addition to the cost of licensing. Please license your dogs by January 31, 2022.



On behalf of the Village of Valemount Mayor, Council, and staff we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

## Holiday Hours & Garbage Removal

The Village Office and Visitor Information Centre will close for holidays on Thursday, December 23rd at 12:00 pm and will reopen on January 4th at 8:30 am. The garbage schedule will remain unchanged throughout the holidays.

## Employment Opportunities

- **Administrative Services Coordinator**  
Applications accepted until Monday, January 3, 2022 at 4:30pm. Interviews will take place between January 10-14, 2022.
- **Visitor Information Counsellor**  
Applications accepted until Monday, January 3, 2022 at 4:30pm. Interviews will take place between January 10-14, 2022.

Full details for both positions can be found on the Village of Valemount website at: [www.valemount.ca/village-office/job-postings](http://www.valemount.ca/village-office/job-postings)

## 2022 CBT Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Program

The Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Program will start accepting Applications on January 4, 2022.

Guidelines and application information can be found on the Village website at: [www.valemount.ca/services/grants-funding](http://www.valemount.ca/services/grants-funding)

The application deadline is Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 4:00 pm



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



FROM LORNE'S DESK

A legal primer on conflict of interest

By Lorne Welwood

A number of articles and letters have been published in The Goat recently commenting on directors' conflict of interest, so I thought I'd give some information on the topic.

Directors of corporations operate under a number of duties as prescribed by law based on the principles of fidelity, honesty and loyalty. In particular, directors must take positive actions in respect of any potential or actual conflict of interest. This duty is placed on the individual director and not the company. Failure to comply can lead to serious consequences.

Broadly speaking, there are two types of directors' conflict of interest: situational and transactional.

Situational conflict refers to where a director is under a duty to avoid a situation in which they have, or possibly may have, a conflict of interest, whereas transactional conflict refers to conflict arising in relation to a transaction or arrangement between the director and the company.

These two types of conflict can also be classified as actual and potential conflict, and direct and indirect interests.

A common example is where the director, or a related party such as a family member, holds shares in a different company with which the company of which they are a director of does business, or may do in the future.

There is no rule that an employee of a company or a person who does business with a company cannot be a director. However, whenever the directors are considering a matter affecting the private interests of such a director, that director must (a) disclose the conflict or potential conflict and (b) refrain from participating in the discussion and vote on the matter.

However, even where a conflict of interest does not arise out of any connection with another individual or organisation, problems can still arise in circumstances where a director is taking advantage, on a personal basis, of property, information or opportunity that belongs to the company.

This could be, for example, where a director stands to profit from a business opportunity that has arisen in their capacity as a company director but that they have taken advantage of in a personal capacity.

There is considerable academic discussion these days about whether directors do or should owe duties only to the company's owners (i.e. shareholders) or to other stakeholders or the broader community. To me that seems like a recipe for divided loyalties; not a conflict with one's personal interests but between the company's interests and the interests of those outside the company. However, that is a debate for another day.

(portions of this article were adapted from the website of DavidsonMorris)

Lorne Welwood grew up in McBride, practiced 15 years as a lawyer in Prince George and 35+ in Abbotsford. Using technology, Lorne can remotely provide legal services to residents of the Robson Valley.



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MCBRIDE • ABBOTSFORD Call or email for consultation

HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 9 AM-4 PM

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> CLOSED

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> CLOSED

REGULAR HOURS

MON - SAT: 9 AM - 6 PM

SUNDAY: 10 AM - 4 PM



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OPEN DAYS

A WEEK

Valemount IDA

1214 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

250-566-4594

RVCS Holiday Office Hours

We are closed:  
December 27th, 28th, 2021  
& January 3rd, 2022

Our regular business hours are:  
Monday 8am-4pm  
Tuesday 8am-4pm  
Wednesday 8am-4pm  
Thursday 10am-6pm  
Friday 8am-4pm  
(Closed Fridays in McBride)



Valemount 250-566-9107  
McBride 250-569-2266  
Toll-free 1-844-324-2004



Village enacts vaccination policy

By LAURA KEIL

Village of Valemount staff, employees, direct contractors and volunteer members of Council committees will need to be fully vaccinated against COVID -19 by February 26, 2022, according to the Village's COVID -19 Vaccination policy.

A Village press release Dec. 15th says mayor and council fully support the policy.

"It's Council's duty to protect the health and welfare of its employees, its staff, Council members and the volunteers who work with Council and staff," Mayor Torgerson said.

He noted that, while not mandatory for elected officials, all members of Council have received their full vaccinations and that vaccination is an important consideration in fighting the COVID-19 virus.

A copy of the policy is posted to the Village's website.

Mayor Owen Torgerson says the Village does not know how many of its employees are currently fully vaccinated or unvaccinated, but he says they will obtain that information over the next several weeks in the lead-up to the February deadline.

He says direct contractors would include any contractors working in direct contact with or close proximity to Village employees.

The policy notes the Village will consider accommodating an unvaccinated person with a valid reason under the B.C. Human Rights Code.

Valemount Council... CONT'D FROM P6

Burning Appliance Regulation Amendment bylaw No 848, 2021 as presented. It will now be enforced through the Bylaw Notice Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication System.

Council approved the adoption of Bylaw Notice Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Amendment Bylaw No. 850, 2021 as presented. Education will continue to be the main tool used to prevent issues, but where needed enforcement will be used as a last resort.

Council adopted the Village of Valemount Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No 845, 2021 as presented.

1. Solid waste collection fees – increase of 4%
2. Water user fees – increase of 5%
3. Sewage user fees – increase of 5%
4. Water fill station fees- increase from \$7.55/cubic m3 to \$10.00/cubic m3
5. Sewage receiving station fees – increase from \$22.64/cubic m3 to \$30.00 cubic m3
6. Remove Street Vendor Business License Fee of \$25.00
7. Increase Impoundment fees from \$20/day to \$50/weekday and \$98/ weekend & stat holiday

8. RV rates – 50% of residential fees

9. Certificate for Title Search updated to actual fee charged - \$20 from \$15

Council moved to approve the Village of Valemount Council Code of Conduct Policy No. 85, 2021. This was created after noting that there was no current municipal legislation in place to address conflict of interest among the members of council. The document was drafted to address not only conflict of interest but also other aspects of good governance practices.

**In-camera**

Council moved to an in-camera meeting for consideration of four 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.

www.valemount.ca

WOODSTOVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

\*NEW\* INCREASED REBATE AMOUNTS  
STARTING SEPTEMBER 16th:

- Non EPA/CSA Stove to Certified Wood Replacement: **\$1,300**

- Non EPA/CSA Certified Stove to Alternative Heating Replacement: **\$2,750** (electric heat pump- **\$3,000**)

- EPA/CSA Certified stove (more than 5 years old) to Alternative Heating Replacement: **\$2,750** (electric heat pump- **\$3,000**)

- Non EPA/CSA Stove to Certified Wood Replacement (secondary heat source): **\$1,000**

Please visit our website at: [valemount.ca/services/grants-funding](http://valemount.ca/services/grants-funding) for full program details or contact the Grant Clerk to determine eligibility





Phone: 250-566-4435  
Email: [grantclerk@valemount.ca](mailto:grantclerk@valemount.ca)  
735 Cranberry Lake Road | PO Box 168



# There are few things as majestic as B.C.'s forests

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**Work with Indigenous Peoples to better care for old growth** – 2.6 million hectares of BC's most at-risk old growth have been identified for potential deferral of logging through a meaningful partnership with First Nations.



**Improve how we manage our forests to help make them healthier and more sustainable** – our vision includes more community input, shared decision-making with First Nations, and greater priority on protecting critical forest ecosystems and the clean air, land and water they help provide.



**Help create innovative forest jobs to support workers and families** – we'll work with forest companies to make better use of BC logs, in areas like mass timber for greener building construction and converting wood waste to a cleaner biofuel.

It's time for a vision for BC forests that looks up and looks ahead.

[Learn more at gov.bc.ca/ForestFuture](https://gov.bc.ca/ForestFuture)



## Snowy dash



As Sandra James drove between McBride and Valemount recently she saw a couple of coyotes in a field across from Terracana Ranch. "I pulled over and stopped to take some photos. Once they noticed me they took off looking back every so often. You can see the snow being kicked up as he is running away while watching me." She said a few moose were out along the way as well. /SANDRA JAMES

### IN LOVING MEMORY

## Susan Carol Metcalf

October 1st 1953 - November 14th, 2021

At age 68 years old, Susan suddenly passed away in her home in Croydon B.C. on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Susan was born October 1<sup>st</sup> 1953 in Seattle, Washington.

She was adopted by her parents Dave and Millie Bewley in 1958. 3 short years later baby Todd was adopted. Susan loved having a live doll to play with and dress up.

In the early 70's she moved to Port Alberni, Canada, where she met her future husband Bill.

They got married soon after they met. Susan and Bill moved to the Robson Valley in the mid 70's.

They were a big part of the Robson Valley Art Council. They also helped teenagers with counselling both on Vancouver Island and in the Robson Valley.

Susan worked for the Robson Valley Home Support Society for numerous years.

Susan and Bill ran the Wildlife Holding Facility, taking care of injured and orphaned animals.

She had a great love for animals, her tatting, crafts, sewing, and of course gardening. But... there's nothing more that she loved than her family.

Susan will be greatly missed by her family and friends.



Susan was pre-deceased by Her Husband: Bill Metcalf Her Father: Dave Bewley

She is survived by Her Mother: Millie Bewley Her Brother: Todd Bewley (Adelaida) Her Son: Jeveree (Ally) Daughter: Holli (Clint) Grandchildren: Octavia and Heyden

We will have a celebration of life in the spring.

Memories unfold as we think of you, A real mom through and through. Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, You are loved beyond words and Missed beyond measure. Love You Bunches!



# Old Growth Deferral meeting request with First Nations, visitor centre renewal, and main street revitalization plan progress

By Andrea Arnold

The December 14, 2021 McBride council meeting was called to order by Mayor Runtz at 7:03pm.

### Delegation

Silvio Gislumberti, EDO Village of Valemount, presented on the Municipal and Regional District Tax and Governance Structure and Options.

### Old Growth Concern Action

Council discussed the content of a letter to be sent to local First Nations Communities regarding the Old Growth Forest deferral. Council asked that the letter convey the shared concerns and the importance of working together. They also want to have a meeting to discuss these items. The wording of the motion will be brought back to Council for finalization.

### Letter of Support.

Council approved the adoption of the Village of McBride Main Street and Downtown Area Revitalization Plan as presented. Council would like to see more direction provided as they proceed with specific parts of the plan.

### Fire Department Coordination Service's Establishment Bylaw

Council directed administration to provide notification to the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board of directors their consent on behalf of the electors of the Village of McBride to the

adoption of the RDFFG Fire Department Coordination Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3235, 2021.

The amended bylaw states that the maximum amount which may be requisitioned annually for the purpose of providing a fire department coordination service shall be \$156,250. This will result in an increase of approximately \$0.25 on a home valued at \$100,000.

### Bylaws

Council gave the Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw 804, 2021 Final Reading and Adoption.

Council approved the updated snow and ice policy PW-01.2 after some discussion around wording and some of the snow removal plan and schedule.

The policy states that there will be no parking on main street from 4-8am during snow events during the winter season. In order of priority: Main Street, secondary route, Robson Centre, frontage roads, fire hydrant - one metre clearance, residential areas, transfer station, commercial lanes, lanes, other public spaces.

### Visitor Centre Renewal

Council approved the extension of the Visitor Information centre Operations agreement between the Village of McBride and the McBride & District Chamber of Commerce until December 31, 2022. Council approved a letter confirming the McBride & District

Chamber of Commerce as the Sponsor Organization and sole provider of community visitor centre services in the Village of McBride.

### Main Street Revitalization Capital Program

Council directed staff to prepare a grant application to Northern Development Initiative Trust from the Main Street Revitalization Capital Program for replacement of the Village's ornamental lighting on main street with input from the Community Revitalization and Beautification Committee and Council.

### Building service agreement

Council approved the 2022 Building Inspection Service Agreement as presented, and authorized Mayor Runtz and CAO Tupy to execute the agreement. CAO Tupy will look into the possibility of including WETT inspection services to the contract.

### Grant support given

Council moved to support the Village of McBride grant application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust for the Grant Writing Support program for 2022, and agreed to support the overall grant management.

### Possible new flagpoles

Council directed staff to investigate options with costs for the flagpoles in front of the Village office that reduce the dependence on outside agencies to change out the flag after Remembrance Day.

### 2022 Schedule

Council approved the 2022 Regular Council Meeting schedule.

### Appointment

Council appointed Councillor Hruby as the voting representative of the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway Association for the Village of McBride.

### First Nation Flags

Prompted by a request from the Mayor, Council discussed the possibility of hanging the flags of the First Nation

communities represented in the area. However, it was decided that at this time, they will not be hanging any as to prevent any appearance of favouritism, as they do not have flags for all seven. Also, in the future, if they have all seven flags, a discussion as to how to display them will need to occur.

### RDFFG recent vote discussion

Council discussed a recent vote by the Regional District of Fraser Fort George board members around a natural gas extraction plant slated for the Pineview area of Prince George. A letter of concern had come from a former McBride resident who is affected by this proposal. She expressed that Councillor Frederick, who sits on the board, had voted in favor of the development. Frederick explained that the vote had been split, 7-7. Seven in favor of seeing the project move ahead, and seven voted to send it to the Agricultural Land Commission. Frederick was in favour of the latter. There are still several steps the project would have to clear, including rezoning and public hearing and input, if the ALC approves it.

### In-Camera

Council moved to an in-camera session for consideration of matters per Section 90 (1) of the Community Charter 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.

## Provincial funding for community shuttles

By GOAT STAFF

An updated inter-community transportation program is intended to strengthen community shuttles to and from rural communities.

Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) is managing the provincial program and is accepting applications from local governments, First Nations, community organizations, non-profit groups and small to medium-sized businesses for passenger transportation services.

The Province says over the next three years, the \$3 million will help applicants with the costs of introducing, expanding or continuing passenger transportation services in its service area. The organization began accepting applications to the new program on Nov. 15, 2021.

"Safe, reliable public transportation options provide vital links between rural and remote communities in B.C.'s North," said Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

The \$3 million funding announcement is specific to NDIT's Community Shuttle Program and is separate from BC Bus North, which is contracted to run to March 31, 2022.

The northern community shuttle program provides "crucial, community-led transportation support" and will replace the existing \$2.6 million community transportation grant program, which will end on March 31, 2022, a press release said. That program helped 12 community transportation services purchase vehicles and provided four years of operational support.

The Safe Restart funding will enable northern bus services, including in areas served by BC Bus North, to be sustained and enhanced, the Ministry says. The vehicles provide more than 3,000 monthly rides to people who live and work in the north, according to the Province.

Applicants can apply for up to \$100,000 in capital costs and \$150,000 in operating costs.



**REGIONAL DISTRICT  
of Fraser-Fort George**

**FREE SKATE**

**CANOE VALLEY REC CENTRE**

**December 31 from 10 am – 9 pm**

**Free admission and skate rentals**

*\* Proof of vaccine is required for those 12 and over, and those 5 and over must wear masks when not on the ice.*





ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

We are taking a break!

The Goat will NOT publish an edition **Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>** or **Jan 7<sup>th</sup>**. Our next edition will be **Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>**. Our office will be closed **Dec 25<sup>th</sup>**, re-opening **Jan 5<sup>th</sup>**, but we will be checking emails periodically. We wish you a peaceful and restorative holiday and look forward to serving you in the New Year!.

## Apply soon

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND AFFECTED AREAS PROGRAMS

Wish to apply for project funding? The Community Initiatives & Affected Areas Program will start accepting applications for Valemount on January 4, 2022.

Learn more at:

- valemount.ca/services/grants-funding
- ourtrust.org/grants-and-programs-directory/cipaap/

Apply by 4:00 PM, February 17, 2022.

Apply at: <https://forms.ourtrust.org/valemount-community-initiatives-and-affected-areas-program/>

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# Senior remembers...

## Local woman recalls hospital visit from Shirley Temple

By ANDREA ARNOLD

About a year and a half into young Zennia Downing's three-year stay at the University Hospital in Edmonton, the patients were treated to a visit from actress Shirley Temple.

"I was about 11 years old," said Downing. "But I don't remember exactly the year. Maybe 1944 or so. I was in the hospital with infantile paralysis, or polio." This was about 10 years before the first polio vaccine became available.

She was in a cast from the waist down, and unable to do very much. Her parents lived on a farm outside of the city, so they were unable to visit very often.

"My aunt came to visit often though," said Downing.

Downing doesn't remember very many details from her time in the hospital. However, she does remember the day that Shirley Temple visited. She remembers early one morning, seeing a young lady, Temple, walk in.

"She reached into her bag and pulled out this doll and gave it to me," she said. "I was so surprised."

All the girls in the ward between the ages of 9-12 received one. Downing thinks that the boys must have gotten something too, but as the boys and girls wards were separate, she couldn't say for sure.

After having her legs in casts for a year, she had to relearn how to walk, and did so with the use of crutches as she built up muscle strength. Early into Downing's teen years she was released from the hospital.

"I have kept that doll ever since," said Downing. "I didn't let the kids play with it, or brush its hair. They would have wrecked it."

Zennia Downing sits with the Shirley Temple doll(s) that she received from Shirley Temple herself in the early 1940's./ ANDREA ARNOLD

Do you have a special memory you'd like to share?

Contact us! 250-566-4606 / [goatnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:goatnewspaper@gmail.com)

## Visitor Centre chinook hatch into alevin

By ANDREA ARNOLD

The 38 Upper Fraser Spring Chinook Salmon that the Valemount Visitor Centre received as eggs are now swimming about in their tank. They hatched on November 18 and are now at the alevin stage of their life cycle, living off their attached egg sack. They will do this for 50-90 days after hatching. Visitor Centre Councillor Cassandra Knelsen figures it will be early spring before they are classified as fry and are able to digest fish food. Until then, they are mobile but are still very sensitive to light.

"People are welcome to come see them," said centre employee Ernie Romanow. "There is a small viewing hole, but the covering needs to stay on the tank for a while yet."

The conditions of the water need to be kept consistent. Oxygen levels and temperature are vital to the survival of the fish. The Visitor Centre is prepared for power outages with two battery operated air bubble machines, each with a lifespan of 48 hours—or longer with a good supply of batteries.

"The temperature of the water is 4 degrees," said Knelsen. "It needs to stay between 3-5 degrees. 4 is ideal. If we need to, we can add frozen creek water to help keep it cool."

The tank is available for viewing during regular business hours, but the staff would like to remind people that they will be closed from noon on Dec. 23 until Jan. 4.

"Of course, we will still be checking on the fish," said Knelsen.

All 38 of the eggs they received from the Spruce City Wildlife Association out of Prince George following their successful harvest from Swift Creek in mid-August are thriving. This is the first time Chinook Salmon have been raised in a stewardship program outside of the controlled hatchery setting.

An event showcasing their return to Swift Creek is being planned for the spring of 2022.

38 Upper Fraser Spring Chinook Salmon alevins are exploring their tank in the Valemount Visitor Centre. Although they are hard to catch a glimpse of at this stage, (and even harder to photograph) they are available for viewing during regular business hours. /COURTESY VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT





# Shapeshifters



Even though these two immature bull moose have safely made it through the hunting season, there are still highly skilled wild hunters they must be wary of like the far ranging timber wolves that often travel in packs. /LEON LORENZ

## Our holiday wish is a community with immunity!

We're getting closer every day! Let's continue to work together by getting vaccinated and following the Public Health Orders. Northern Health's orders will be in effect until at least January 31, 2022, and include the entire NH region.



Personal gatherings, of fully vaccinated people: 10 indoors, 25 outdoors



Indoor seated events: 50% of capacity venue, with proof of vaccination



Outdoor event capacity: 50% of capacity venue



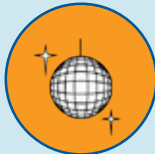
Worship services: 50% capacity, and everyone over the age of 11 is vaccinated



Restaurants: alcohol service ends 10pm



Restaurants, fast food, cafes: require vaccination to dine in



Bars and nightclubs are closed

Full details on the orders and vaccination clinics for everyone aged 5 years and older at [northernhealth.ca](https://northernhealth.ca)

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**2022**

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Tsítslem te Swucwt  
(HAPPY NEW YEAR)

On Behalf of Simpcw  
First Nation Staff, Chief  
& Council we wish you a  
Happy New Year



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NEW YEAR!**

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HOLIDAYS!**

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and Healthy New Year!

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

We hope your New  
Year is filled with Friends,  
Family and Good Times!



# G I A N T CROSSWORD

## Across

- 1 Permanent mark
- 5 Student score
- 8 Solicits
- 12 "Angels & Demons" author Brown
- 15 Sows and boars
- 19 IV units
- 22 Sip from a flask
- 25 Untangle your hair
- 26 All-too-common campaign tactic
- 27 "X-Files" agent
- 28 Some strange sightings
- 30 Resort
- 31 Slight in build
- 32 Suggestive
- 33 French friends
- 34 Small shark
- 35 In between
- 36 One of the Ringling Brothers
- 37 2004 French Open finalist \_\_\_\_ Dementieva
- 38 Relating to aircraft
- 39 State
- 40 Soviet fighter
- 41 Fresh water
- 42 Jellystone Park bear
- 43 Actor Harris and others
- 44 Citrus fruit
- 45 Dearth
- 46 Freshwater carp
- 47 Rock musician Matthew Good is from this city
- 51 Canadian city named after a British general
- 55 Canadian city and river
- 57 Ontario city named after a WW II cruiser
- 58 Letter carriers' org., down south
- 59 Med school subj.
- 61 Popular Aegean island
- 62 Avenues of access
- 64 Ostrich relative
- 65 Theatrical scenery
- 66 "Time in a Bottle" singer
- 68 Nasty
- 70 "Forget it!"
- 71 The art of putting hymns to music
- 75 Earnest requests
- 78 The one over there
- 79 Unlicensed
- 82 Period pieces
- 84 Bank takebacks
- 85 Suffix with acid
- 86 Genetic material, abbr.
- 89 File menu choice
- 90 Latin word on a cornerstone
- 91 Capture
- 93 Flower pot
- 94 Taunt
- 95 Bountiful
- 98 "Hogan's Heroes" setting
- 101 Loosened shoes
- 104 Repetitive practice
- 107 Dropped by
- 108 A, in Acapulco
- 109 Football helmet feature
- 111 The Giants' Manning
- 112 Strong desire
- 113 Partnership for Peace grp.
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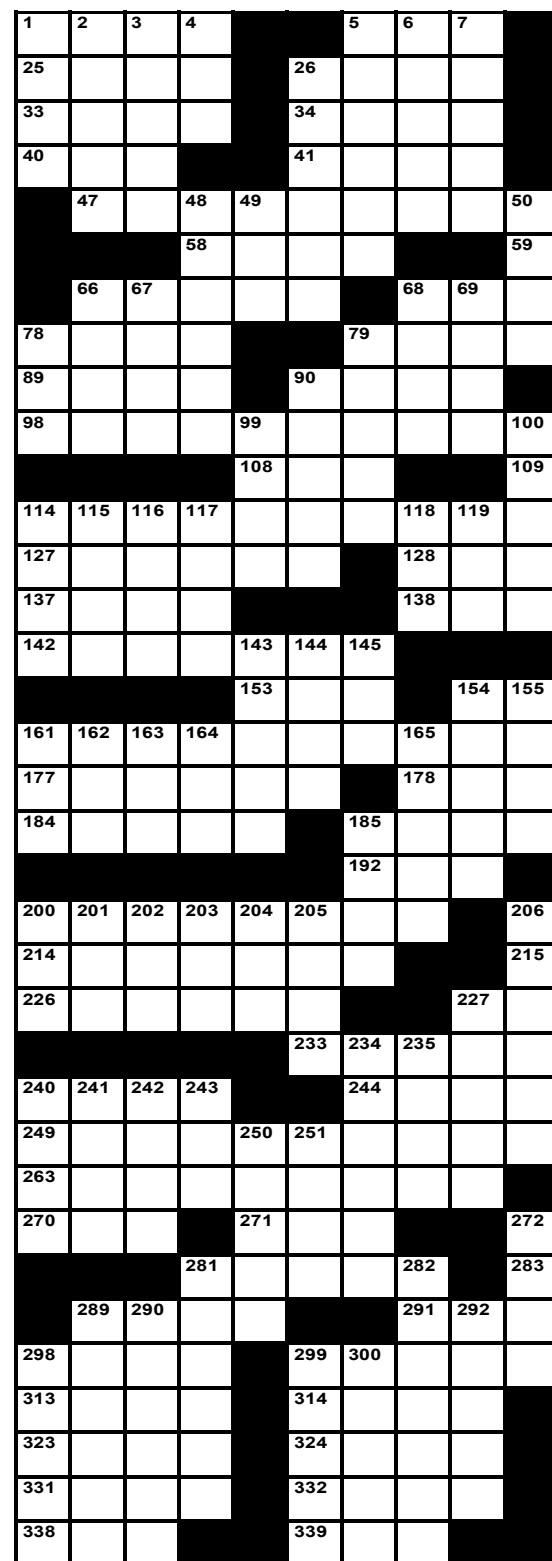
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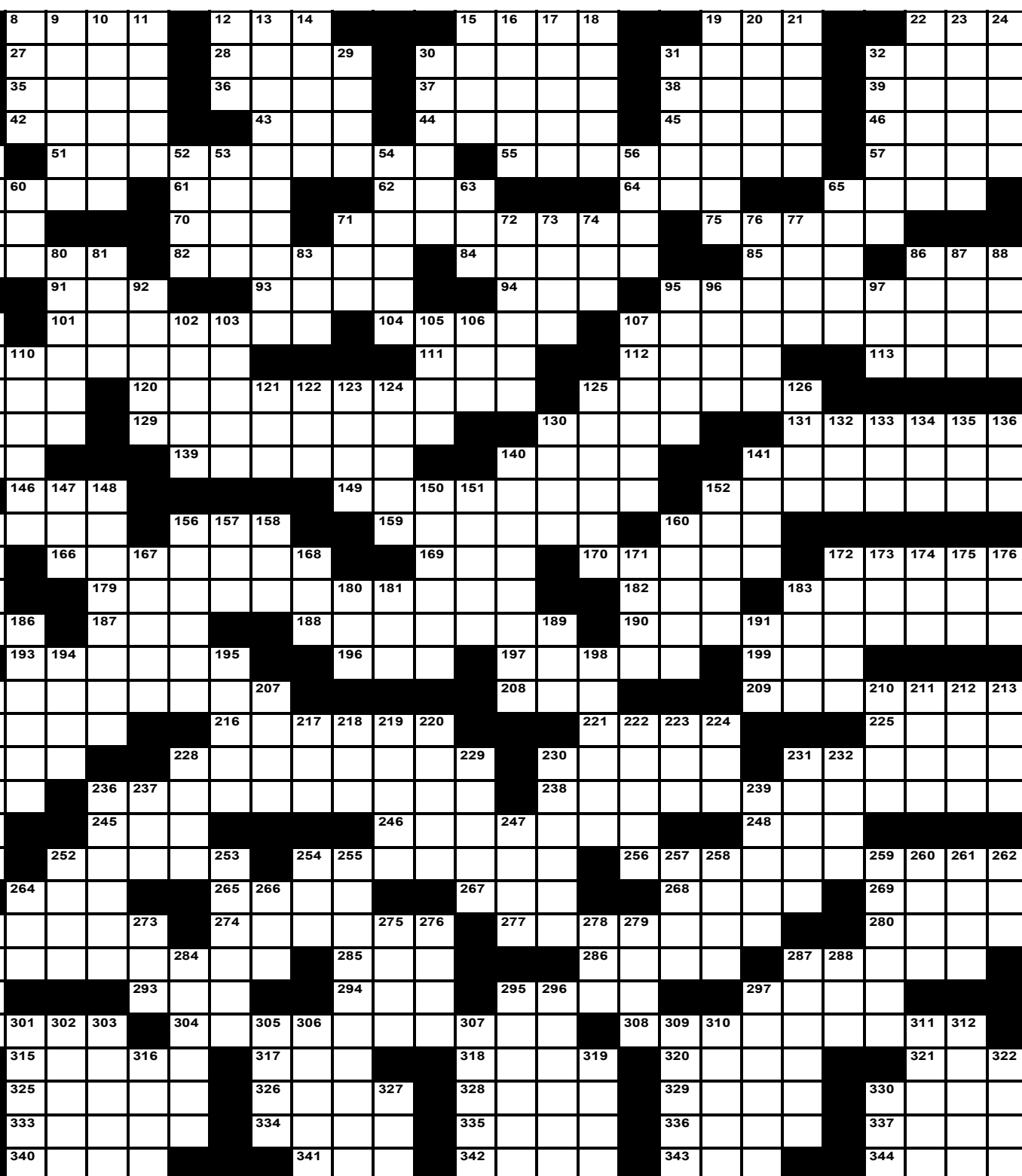


Wishing everyone a  
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a Bright  
and Happy  
New Year!**

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To our friends,

Unfortunately we are unable to hold our New Year's Eve open house again this year, but I wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas in the hopes 2022 will be a little bit easier on all of us and visiting will be in the books again.

Let's not forget we are still so much better off than millions of others. Stay healthy and all the best!

- Maria Lerch and family

**2022**

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everyone a very  
Healthy and  
Happy New Year!**

From all of us at

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**Season's Greetings from Keremeos!**  
To all my friends in the Robson Valley

**Best Wishes for the Merriest  
Christmas and Happiest New Year!**

**From Joan Nordli & family**



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THE SOLUTION WILL BE IN OUR JAN 13<sup>TH</sup> EDITION.  
OR YOU CAN EMAIL [GOATNEWSPAPER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GOATNEWSPAPER@GMAIL.COM) FOR A COPY EARLY.

HAPPY  
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We wish to thank all  
our dear customers  
and look forward  
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2022

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COMMERCIAL AND INDIVIDUAL ACCESS



# Historic pipeline contamination “small” say experts; but even small amounts could harm fish

By Laura Keil

Several historic leaks discovered along the Trans Mountain pipeline in 2021 are relatively small, say experts. But ecologists say even small amounts of oil can harm fish habitat if they make their way into streams.

One of the contaminated sites, within 30m of a water body, is just outside the town of Jasper in Jasper National Park on the inactive TMPL 24" Mainline. In a Canada Energy Regulator report, the volume of contaminated soil is estimated at 100 cubic metres. The report says the company removed some of the contaminated soil, but when they tested again, contamination remained. The report lists Petroleum Hydrocarbons (PHC), Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) and Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylenes (BTEX) as the contaminants.

Preston Sorenson, a soil science researcher at the University of Saskatchewan who has worked on environmental assessment projects in Jasper National Park in the past, says the Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) and BTEX are of special concern when it comes to the environment and risk to human health, since they are known carcinogens.

He says the contamination is relatively small compared to other oil spills in Canada, where spills can be as large as 60,000 cubic metres. But the fact it's in a park and close to a wetland means it's still a concern.

He says there are many ways to deal with contaminated soil and ways to prevent it from spreading to water. Often companies will excavate the contaminated soil, but this obviously has its own impact on the environment, he says, so sometimes they will leave some of the contaminated soil in place.

"They might have to do what's called a risk assessment to determine, for instance, where's the groundwater? How long would it take to reach the groundwater? What's the natural attenuation rate? So what's the rate at which it binds and breaks down in the soil? So they might conclude that okay, well, the actual risk to anything is really small. And so that's better than digging it up."

He says heavier fuels don't spread anywhere near as fast as, say, gasoline or refined fuels.

"It doesn't break down very fast, naturally, but it also doesn't move fast."

Sometimes companies will pump up groundwater for a certain period of time so the water doesn't reach a flowing stream or contaminate drinking water.

"There's a variety of tools and approaches they could take," Sorenson said. "But they all have uncertainty and they cost money."

Two other contaminated sites along the Trans Mountain pipeline were noted between Edmonton and Vancouver in 2021, one near Hinton along the same inactive TMPL 24" Mainline (est. 100 cubic metres), and another at a facility in Kamloops, (est. 10 cubic metres).

The Goat asked Trans Mountain how much contamination remains at each site, which contaminants are still present, whether there are signs the contamination entered the water in Jasper, how the leaks occurred and

over what time period, among other questions.

Trans Mountain did not respond to our questions and instead issued the following statements:

"Occasionally, operations and maintenance activities encounter historical contamination as a result of former practices. While a particular practice would have been acceptable in its day, environmental practices and requirements have improved."

A spokesperson said if they encounter historical contamination, Trans Mountain manages the site in accordance with the requirements of the current Canada Energy Regulator (CER) Remediation Process Guide. The process, from discovery through clean-up and remediation, is regulated by the CER.

"During soil removal activities, if contamination is suspected, Trans Mountain will enact the Contamination Discovery Contingency Plan which is part of the approved Environmental Protection Plan. Wastes will be handled in accordance with the Waste Management Plan for Trans Mountain."

In the CER report, filed May 5th 2021, the company said an environmental site assessment will be completed "to delineate contaminated soil and confirm groundwater conditions." They also said they will create a remedial action plan or risk management plan to address remaining contamination.

The company did not say which contaminants remain or whether there was contamination of the nearby waterbody.

According to the CER website, The Trans Mountain Pipeline has reported a total of 76 contaminated sites since 2011 when the first Remediation Process Guide was first published. There have been 25 contaminated sites reported since August 2018.

But pipeline spill clean-up expert Merv Fingas says pipelines are still the safest way to transport oil long distances.

"They are orders of magnitude safer than going by rail, for example"

Fingas has written a textbook on oil spill clean-up and he says the number and quantities of spills have decreased over the past decade.

He said the small leaks are usually not detected because they fall under the threshold. He says newer leak-detection systems rely on differences in pressure to detect leaks by "processing the pulse."

"If they're small, let's say over a few parts per million, it's outside of the threshold," Fingas said. He said it would be similar in other situations like gas station tanks, which he says are also a common source of contamination.

But historic contamination can persist in the environment if not discovered. And ecologists say even small amounts of oil can harm fish habitat. Two researchers from Guelph University found that even small amounts of diluted bitumen can affect salmon development and impair their ability to swim. A two-year study will determine which life stages of the salmon are most vulnerable to diluted bitumen, whether higher temperatures in contaminated water alter egg development and whether the fishes' sense of smell, which they use to locate their natal streams, is

impaired by exposure to the substance.

Peter Hodson, professor emeritus at Queen's University, says freshwater systems are just as much at risk as marine ones when it comes to oil spills.

"The big emphasis in Canada on oil spill control and cleanup seems to be on marine systems. But in terms of the numbers of spills and the potential impacts, I think freshwater deserves a lot more attention, because the oil is in much more confined systems and less likely to dilute and spread out and therefore much more likely to cause a problem."

Hodson co-authored a 2015 study on the behaviour and environmental impact of oil spilled in aqueous environments.

"The oil can be fresh even though it's been there a long time," he says. If ground water hasn't diluted the oil, it can remain like "virgin oil" for many years, he says.

Looking at the type of contaminants, he guesses the Jasper spill was crude oil. But he brings up the old adage that "it's the dose that makes the poison."

"The BTEX, they can be acutely lethal, because they're readily taken up by aquatic species. And the exposure could be great enough to cause acute lethality. But again, it depends very much on how much is getting in the river. And unless there's an oil slick, like, visible sheen or an odour, then it's really hard to say whether or not it's getting in there to cause an issue."

The Goat visited the approximate area of the contamination, but was unable to ascertain the exact location due to inexact GPS coordinates provided in the report.

Hodson says the CER report doesn't provide detail about how the spill occurred or what risk it might pose to the environment, and that itself is a story.

"Here's something that may be important but we don't know anything," he remarks. "There's so many questions about what might affect what state it's in, where it might go, and what might be affected by it."

He says oil contamination can actually migrate from one water body to another through groundwater and silt, ultimately affecting fish eggs, which could lead to deformities and a decline in fish populations—even an oil taste in fish eaten by humans.

"I think the exercise that Trans Mountain pipeline is going through right now is to investigate all our pipelines to make sure they're in good enough shape that they can be reactivated and pump more oil. And if they're discovering historic spills that they weren't aware of, then it suggests that the pipeline is not in as good condition as they would like."

He says when the company sees a big drop in pressure on their monitoring systems, they can push the panic button and shut down the pipeline .

"But the difficulty is if you have a slow leak, the pressure drop is never big enough to detect. And so you can lose a lot of oil over a period of months or years and go into the ground and nobody's going to know. And that's conceivably what's happened in this particular situation. So, minor leaks are not easily detected, but they could have just as big an effect."

## RCMP seek owner of lost items



Robson Valley RCMP are searching for the owner of a homemade mandolin and coffee mugs that were recovered recently in Valemount. If you recognize these items contact Valemount RCMP at (250)566-4466. /SUBMITTED



## Climbing Club

NON-PROFIT



SPOT light

# The Valemount Climbing Club

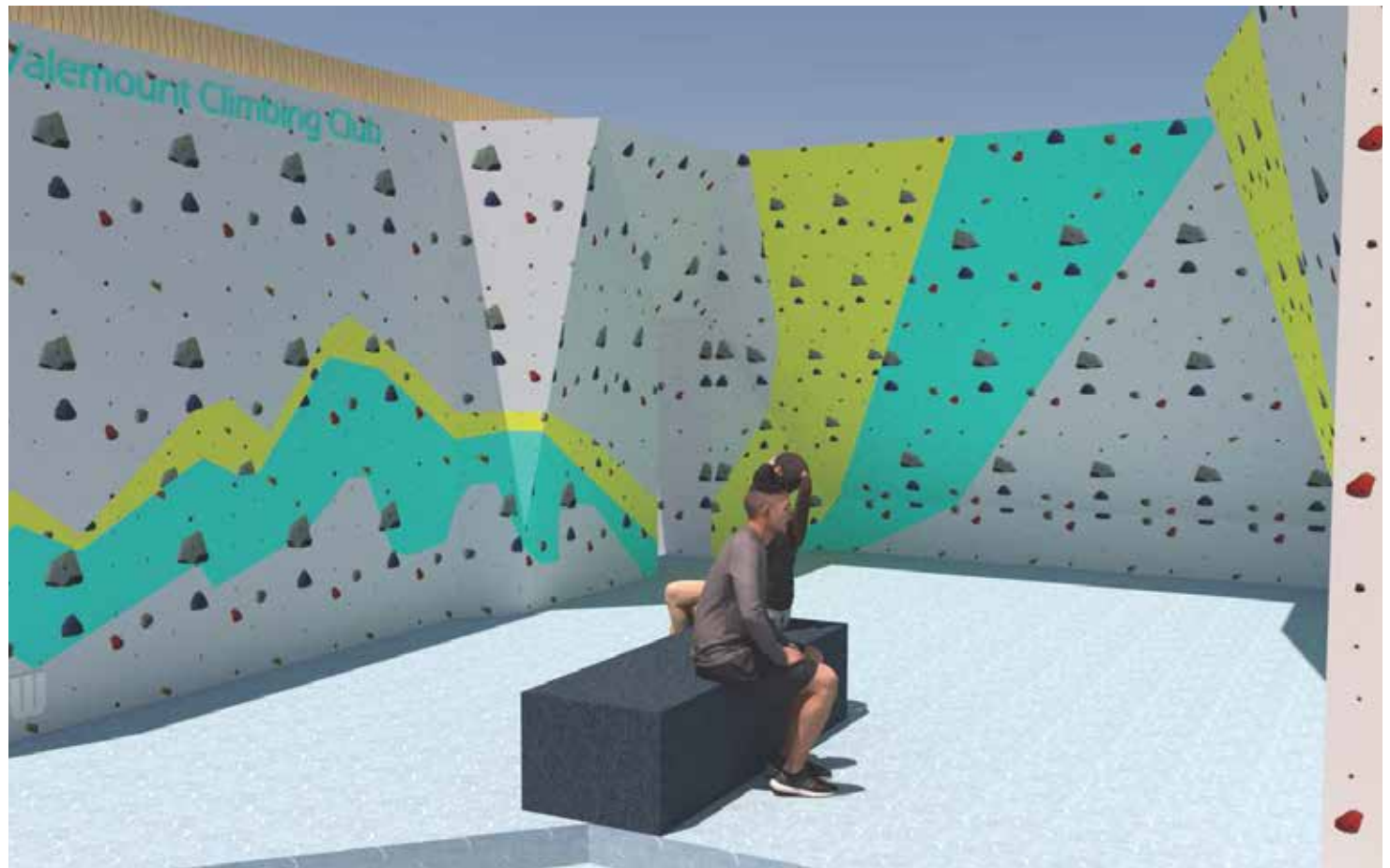
SUBMITTED BY KELSEY BRICK

The Valemount Climbing Club registered as a non-profit society in early 2021 and started planning for a three-phase climbing gym project. Through the provision of early grants we were able to fund the first planning phase of the project. In the past year, we have completed Phase One: we secured a local gym space early in the summer which allowed High Performance Climbing Walls, and sourced a professional rock climbing design firm to design a bouldering gym to our specific location. We are so excited with what they came up with and have shared the designs on our website ([www.valemountclimbingclub.org](http://www.valemountclimbingclub.org)). We are also pleased with the enthusiasm from members of the community for the project

Bouldering is a social sport that happens in a smaller area filled with bouldering problems. In a gym, these are routes made of artificial coloured rock going up the wall. So while someone is trying to solve the problem, everyone else is there to support them, offer suggestions or just have fun and connect.

Recently we started a fundraising campaign to raise money for the second phase of the project which will allow us to construct the facility and open in the spring/summer of 2022. We will need \$73,000 by April 2022 to construct the walls and another \$62,000 to add the wall elements, safety flooring, security system and other elements.

We are happy to see all of the people who believe in the project and are willing to support it financially. Our website has a funding thermometer that shows our progress towards our fundraising goal. We are continuing to apply for grants



throughout the winter, but are seeking donations from community members, local businesses, and other corporate sponsors to raise the initial amount required to open on time.

Once funding is achieved, we aim to open a secure gym space for monthly and annual members. It will have extended daily opening hours for folks with irregular or late work schedules, or those who are home during the day looking for physical activity. There will be drop-in days on weekends for non-members who are new to the sport.

We also have a solid and sustainable 10-year financial plan.

Part of our gym design has been made to accommodate birthday parties. We know kids are natural climbers and that climbing is wonderful exercise. The space will be accessible and enjoyable to anyone who wants to try. Our bodies are unique; the way one climber completes a route may be entirely different from another. There are folks of all genders, ages, abilities, and backgrounds thriving in this sport and competing at the highest levels.

The popularity of rock climbing is growing. Movies like Free Solo and climbers like Alex Honold began introducing the sport to the mainstream about five years ago. This past summer the whole world was introduced to indoor rock climbing when it became a sport at the Tokyo Summer Olympics. The future of rock climbing is just beginning and the Valemount Climbing Club is excited to promote the sport of rock climbing and create community spaces where we can climb here in our beautiful Robson Valley.

**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](mailto:goatnewspaper@gmail.com).

## Help Build a Community Bouldering Gym...

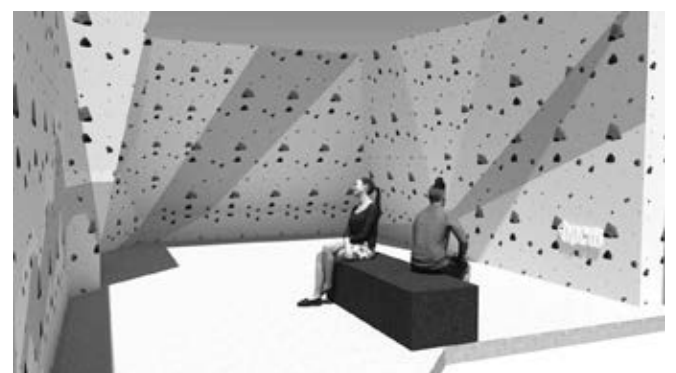
# Donate!



Fundraising campaign:  
[www.valemountclimbingclub.com](http://www.valemountclimbingclub.com)

Suggested Donations

- \$15: marks out new routes on the wall.
- \$50: helps purchase a pair of rental shoes.
- \$150: pays for 4 hours of construction labour.
- \$500: funds enough holds to set a route!



We have a design and a construction team!  
Now we need funds.



Corporate, local business, cash or cheque donations contact John Crowley, President, at 250.566.1190



# Valemount hotels promise to keep rooms for sledders

By MICHAEL PIASETZKI

Winter enthusiasts may be wondering if there will be space at the inn over the holidays and beyond, as pipeliners occupy many, if not most, of the available hotel and B&B rooms in Valemount. But local hoteliers say they plan to keep rooms aside.

“Absolutely,” said Tony Bielec, general manager of the Best Western Plus Valemount. “We will have certain rooms set aside for transient guests both during the holidays and winter months. I can’t give you an exact amount of how many rooms will be available but we understand it’s a concern which we’ve addressed.”

The Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project has touched many local industries and from the perspective of hotels and bed and breakfasts, the result has been very positive. Vacancy rates are currently at almost zero and most hotels and bed and breakfasts are pretty well booked for at least the next few months, aside from the pipeliners’ holiday break between Dec. 20th and Jan. 3rd.

But Darcy Patara, general manager of Canada’s Best Value Inn Valemount concurred there will be rooms set aside over the coming months for sledders and cross-country skiers who like to eat, drink and play in Valemount.

“We have been dealing with these tourists for many years now,” said Patara. “We remain loyal to them. We are going to be saving rooms for them. It is a little hard to predict how many rooms will be needed, though. The amount of rooms we book for crews who work on the pipeline sometimes changes by the week or month. Some workers are around for a week or a month or longer depending on the circumstances. Sometimes their jobs only go to Hinton or Clearwater. So it’s always changing.”

When asked about the possibility of increased room prices during the upcoming season due to high demand, Bielec quickly said no.

“Our room rates will remain the same as usual during the winter season for tourists,” he said. “We are not interested in gouging anybody just because the demand for rooms will be high with the pipeliners around. We understand we have a long-term gain here. We’ve been seeing these tourists for years and years. We also understand these tourists will be spending money in businesses around the village, and thus our decisions could impact the business needs of the community.”

Curtis Pawliuk, general manager of the Valemount Area Recreation Development Association said he hopes the hotels come through with promises to have rooms available for tourists during the coming winter months.

“It’s an awkward situation for everybody to be in,” he said. “From VARDa’s perspective, a lack of rooms could affect our trailhead user numbers which could affect our grooming operations, our seasonal staff and have a very big effect on our operation. Hopefully, there will be enough hotel rooms available. Right now, we just don’t know. We’re in a wait and see situation.”

Ruth Hanus, who runs the Slippery Slopes Bed and Breakfast in Valemount along with partner Graham Winsor said she is aware that tourists will be looking for rooms to stay in Valemount over the coming winter months but was quick to point out that B&Bs don’t usually suit their needs.

“They tend to gravitate more towards hotels where they can party and use the facilities that are offered such as swimming pools and saunas,” she said. “We offer more of a home environment suited to those who prefer quiet stays. We’ve been able to welcome the pipeline workers and will continue to do so over the coming months.”

However, Hanus pointed out that she and Winsor will try to keep some rooms open during the holiday season—when the pipeliners leave for home—for travellers.

“For instance, what if there’s a major road closure as a result of a significant accident over the Christmas season?” she asked. “Where would people stay for the night if they’re stuck and there are no vacancies in Valemount? That’s a real problem we’re concerned about.”



The McBride Evangelical Free Church hosted an outdoor Christmas party on Sunday December 19, 2020. Attendees were treated to hot chocolate, warming fires, horse drawn wagon rides, street hockey, individualized snack options and lots of conversations. /ANDREA ARNOLD

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Wayne E. Zimmerman

AUGUST 21, 1935 – DECEMBER 13, 2021

Wayne Eugene Zimmerman, born August 21, 1935, at Mechanicsburg, PA peacefully passed away at home surrounded by family on December 13, 2021, at the age of 86 years and almost 4 months.

Wayne is survived by Joyce, his wife of almost 66 years, and family, 7 sons and 6 daughters; Eugene and Joyce of Sheldon, WI; Mary Ann and Waldon Plett of Burns, WY; Millard and Norma of Karahumi, Philippines; Nevin and Joanne of Merville, BC; Dora Jean and Randall Plett of Fisher Branch, MB; Ed and Margaret of McBride, BC; Elaine and Clinton Plett of Fisher Branch, MB; Dan and Sharon of Sterling, AK; Verna and David Unruh of Coaldale, AB; Richard and Jolene of Sapang Palay, Philippines; Beth and Elson Mast of Sierra Vista, AZ, Ernie and Janice of Lamont, MO; and Anita and Jason Menge of Spruceview, AB; 101 living grandchildren and 150 greatgrandchildren; one brother and three sisters. He was preceded in death by one son, Mark; one grandchild, his parents, and one sister.

Wayne was born and grew up in the farming community of Mechanicsburg, PA where he lived with his parents. At the age of 15 he accepted Christ as his personal Savior whom he served faithfully till his death. During his young years he developed a love for farming which led him to the successful field of selling and servicing milking equipment.

On February 11, 1956, Wayne married Joyce Baer and they began their life together close to their parents’ homes in PA. Their dedication to following Christ brought them into the Robson Valley in 1960 with three small children. During their first years in the valley, they faced and overcame many difficulties

of the pioneer life. Though farming was Wayne’s focus, he worked at numerous other jobs, some of which included logging, sawmill work, and driving school bus. As the family grew, he spent more and more time on the farm. With the help of his own sons, he built his own dairy business, milking cows for about 50 years till he retired.

Dad’s commitment to helping people brought him into contact with many neighbors in the Robson Valley, as well as in other places. He was always ready to help with any need that folks experienced. He took time for snow plowing, tilling gardens, providing firewood, mowing church and school lawns, and much more. His servant heart supported his family as various ones traveled and lived in other countries in their efforts to spread the Gospel. He was especially burdened for the salvation of his children and grandchildren. He was an avid supporter to our mother as she wrote the story, Through Sunshine and Shadow, of their first twenty years in McBride. Even in his weak condition, shortly before his death, he expressed concern for the needs of others.

As a family, we will continue to remember and benefit from his example of faithfulness and service to God and fellowmen. We know he would desire the salvation of each of our souls and that we be prepared to meet him in glory. One of his favorite verses was 3 John 1:4, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

We are grateful for all the help and support we have felt from many friends and family, the medical professionals, and others who blessed Dad’s life during his short illness before his death.





A hollowed-out tree I stumbled upon while on my morning walk with Domingo. This would have been the Pileated Woodpecker making this hole. /SANDRA JAMES



A wheelbarrow patiently waits until spring. LAURA KEIL

REGIONAL DISTRICT  
of Fraser-Fort George

REGIONAL DISTRICT TRANSFER  
STATION **HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

Please be advised of the following transfer  
station schedule for the Holidays:

	Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 26 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 27 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 28 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 30 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>
	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
McBride	9-4	9-4	Closed	Closed	9-4	Closed	Closed	9-4	9-4	Closed
Valemount	9-4	9-4	Closed	Closed	9-4	Closed	Closed	9-4	9-4	Closed

As per Provincial Health Regulations, masks are required at all Regional District facilities and for the health and safety of the public and our staff, physical distancing is required.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

RETHINK - REFUSE - REDUCE -  
REUSE - REPAIR -RECYCLE  
*this Holiday season*

Christmas is a wonderful time of year to celebrate family traditions, but it is also a time when we generate a lot of waste. It is estimated that Canadians toss out 25% more garbage during the holiday season.

Here are a few ways to make your holiday celebrations more sustainable:

Wrapping Gifts

- Create gift wrap from flyers, comics, maps or outdated calendars
- Reuse last year’s Christmas cards to make gift tags
- Make the wrapping part of your gift – use fabric, a tea towel or reusable bag

Decorations

- Try your hand at simple homemade decorations – reuse old ornaments and repurpose them into centerpieces and wreaths
- Use natural decorations like popcorn and cranberry garland – you can put it out for the birds once the celebrations are over
- Christmas packaging and boxes can be used year after year to store decorations

Meals

- Resist disposable cups, plates and cutlery
- Use cloth napkins, fabric tablecloths rather than the disposable options
- Plan out your shopping list, avoiding impulse buys and excess purchases

TIPS FOR HOLIDAY RECYCLING

Wrapping Paper

Recycle wrapping paper in the mixed paper bins at the Dunster, McBride, and Valemount Transfer Stations. (Foil wrapping paper, plastic bows, and plastic film are not accepted)

Christmas Trees

Live Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Valemount Transfer Station for composting. Please ensure all decorations, lights and tree stands have been removed.

Electronics and Small Appliances

Received a new TV or microwave as a Christmas present? Need to recycle the old ones that do not work anymore? The Valemount Recycling Center accepts electronics and small appliances for recycling. Visit [www.return-it.ca](#) for a detailed list of accepted items.

Major Appliances

Fridges, freezers, washers, dryers, stoves, and dishwashers are all accepted for recycling **FREE of CHARGE** at the McBride and Valemount Transfer Stations. Ensure that the appliances are clean and empty.

Batteries and Cellphones

Batteries do not go in the garbage. Recycle rechargeable and single use batteries at the McBride and Valemount Transfer Stations.

Christmas Lights

Have you replaced your old string lights with more efficient LEDs? Now you need to recycle the old string lights. Visit [www.productcare.org](#) to find the Light Recycling depot in Prince George or Kamloops.

For more waste reduction tips visit [www.sortsmart.ca](#) or call the Waste Diversion Team at **250-960-4433**

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## Jupiter's Big Resolutions

Jupiter moves into Pisces, offering an opportunity to mine the riches of the soul. It's a poet's perk as the muses dance in this transit. Feelings get whipped into profound shapes and their fullness will seem to spill everywhere. Those inclined to write out their big emotions or pour them into some other kind of art will be prolific in the weeks to come. New Year's resolutions will be colorful, large and adventurous.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Creativity is your quest. Setting up a safe environment for personal expression will be an important step in ramping up your vitality. And remember that this isn't necessarily about singing, dancing or painting. Any action at all can be creative, especially when approached with a sense of play..

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Happiness is a fun thing to experience but a tricky thing to strive for. The pursuit of happiness often backfires. Most of the happiness you'll have will be an unexpected find. You're better off applying yourself to work you find meaningful or making a contribution to something you believe in.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). There's only one way to ensure that you're getting the best deal, the highest quality and in the most abundant quantity available: ask. Those who don't ask don't get. And you would be surprised how few actually do ask. It takes boldness. You have courage to burn this week, so use it well.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You command yourself to pay attention to others. Do you also expect them to pay attention to you? Reciprocity is required for balance. Balance is



required for sustainability. Relationships last when they are good for everyone. Be direct and clear. Be sure that your needs are, if not served, at least noted.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). "Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common

sense," said Gertrude Stein, who died before the internet was invented. You'll limit your exposure to the world of everything this week in order to better know your own natural motivations and inclinations.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll do your best work after waking up from uninterrupted sleep. The alarm counts as an interruption in this case. To let your body do what comes naturally shouldn't be considered a luxury. Optimal well-being involves getting all the rest and recuperation your body needs, without an ounce of guilt.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Practice never quite makes perfect, though it will move you in a good direction. The best part won't be the progress you make or any result in particular. It's the enjoyment you get from engaging and striving that makes an effort worthwhile. Bonus: You also develop the most marvelous gut instinct in the process.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). How things happen is important but how you remember them is equally important, if not more so.

Your story only happens once but it replays numerous times in your head, each run imbued with meanings, associations and clues to your identity. As you look back, work on framing things in a way that empowers you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're trying to build something beautiful. Whether it's a relationship, a piece of art or simply a mighty fine lunch, the mere intention to put loveliness in the world makes everyone's experience better. Whether you succeed by your own standards is beside the point. Just by attempting, you've already won.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's no reason to fear commitment. Oddly enough, restrictions will give you freedom. The same rules and routines that disallow you to go wild and do whatever you want will keep you productively, meaningfully focused. It's counterintuitive, but you'll actually feel liberated by your limitations.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll make a promise without using the words "I promise." Your action will set up a rhythm and an expectation. Before you know it, people are counting on you. It will feel good to be needed. A strong sense of purpose takes hold. Other benefits include new opportunities and greater self-esteem.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Developments include a shift in your self-concept. Well-aware that your physical form is only part of who you are, you'll get a strong sense of the evolving landscape of your perceptions and consciousness. You'll get comfortable with the idea that your identity is in flux as you learn and adapt to a changing world.

**THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:** You'll have days when you feel you have the strength and determination of an Olympian, though most days, you'll be doubtful about your ability to finish the items on your to-do list. It really doesn't matter how sure of yourself you are. You will do great things whether or not you feel capable of doing them. Self-esteem and belief are beside the point. You'll be amazing at keeping routines, which is your success key. Make plans into the future and then show up to them every day. Once you start, you're on your way. Three major milestones and a prize will be yours.

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## SUDOKU

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



Answers on P13

### Across

- Hot tub site
- Cover some ground
- Something to stage
- It can be cured
- Seesaw requirement
- Press secretary, e.g.
- "You \_\_\_ here"
- Daredevilish
- Beyond enthusiasm
- Father's Day gift
- Yellowstone animal
- Belly muscles, for short
- False friend
- Cash-free transaction
- Arduous
- Total control
- More indicator, briefly
- Triangular area
- Fiddler's handful
- Burst
- Pulpit VIP
- Neither goes with it
- Engagement symbol
- Turn gray, say
- Female goat
- Sights on roulette tables
- Extremely
- Source of silver

### Down

- Decorative pillow cover
- Legal or medic lead-in
- Prayer finisher
- Nautical passageway
- Have a debt
- Kind of degree candidate
- Not vivid
- Potentially slanderous remark
- Sellers' spots
- Agreeable reply
- Family folk
- Footnoter's "the same"
- To an extent
- Take one's breath away
- Dart game locale
- One with a code name
- Word with end or man
- Lab test subject
- Projectile's path
- Standout
- Den musical setup
- Medico's address
- Does work at a checkout line
- Menu option
- "D"
- Koala's hangout
- Anti's opposite
- Dispose (of)
- He may be tight in the NFL
- Latin word for "I"

### Across

- French liqueur flavoring
- Extinguishes
- Unicorn feature
- Eatery
- Digital tome
- Type of palm
- Magician's illusion
- Secluded
- Shoulder piece
- Drink in the desert
- "All systems go!"
- Datebook abbr.
- 70s consumer protector
- Doctor's order
- DC artist, Grand
- Good name for a lawyer?
- Ancient magic act
- Dentist qualification
- Take care of
- Golden or bald?
- Track competitions
- Much may follow it
- Arabian capital
- Funhouse cries
- Scrapped, as a space mission
- Midsize Kia
- What a magician pulls often
- Northern capital

- Fajita filler
- Bad idea
- Red or whitetail?
- Goes up and down
- Inbox hassle

### Down

- Flexible, electrically
- Hit perfectly
- In that case
- Java and Bali
- Painting quality
- 16th US President
- Bygone bird
- Read (over)

- Record problem
- De facto Netherland's capital, with The
- City west of Daytona Beach
- Tore
- \_\_\_-gritty
- Delt neighbor
- Recount
- Locked up
- Mob weapon
- Sahara-like
- To hang
- Academic types
- \_\_\_ chi (meditative martial art)

- To give sworn testimony
- Bull's \_\_\_
- Fragrant long-grain rice
- Communicate silently
- Bill Walton's alma mater
- Just manages, with "out"
- Maiden name indicator
- Aishwarya of Bollywood
- Indian classical musical instrument
- Bring down

- Majestic
- Ann \_\_\_, Mich.
- Crazies
- Tanning lotion letters
- Site for crafty entrepreneurs
- Inflict upon
- Darkens in the sun
- Pancake maker
- Latino rock group
- Speck
- 180° turn, slangily
- Chinese truth

Answers on P13

## THE TOUGHIE

by Myles Mellor

Answers on P13



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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	S	P	A	5	S	O	D	7	P	L	A	Y
11	H	A	M	15	T	W	O	19	A	I	D	E
14	A	R	E	18	R	E	C	K	22	L	E	S
17	M	A	N	I	A	21	T	I	25	E		
20	B	I	S	O	N	24	A	B	28	S		
26	T	R	A	I	T	O	R	30	S	W	A	P
29	H	A	R	D	32	M	A	S	36	T	E	R
35	E	T	C	38	D	E	L	T	42	A		
39	B	O	W	43	E	R	47	U	51	P	T	
40	P	R	E	A	C	H	E	R	45	N	O	R
41	R	I	N	G	46	A	G	E	49	D	O	E
42	O	D	D	S	48	T	O	O		O	R	E

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	A	N	I	S	4	D	A	M	P	S	7	H	O	R	N
11	C	A	F	E	14	B	O	O	K	17	A	C	A	I	
18	D	I	S	A	P	21	P	E	A	R	I	N	G	A	C
24	C	L	O	S	E	27	E	P	A	U	L	E	T		
29	C	H	U	G	32	R	E	A	D	Y					
34	A	P	P	T	37	N	A	D	E	R					
39	R	E	H	A	B	42	F	R	E	Y	A	45	S	U	E
47	I	N	D	I	A	N	R	O	P	E	T	50	R	I	C
52	D	D	S	55	S	E	E	T	O	58	E	A	G	L	E
60	M	E	E	T	S	63	I	N	A	S					
65	S	A	N	A	68	E	E	K	S						
70	A	B	O	R	T	73	O	P	T	76	M	A			
78	R	A	B	B	I	T	O	81	U	F	A	H	A	T	
83	O	S	L	O	86	S	T	E	A	K	89	N	O	N	O
91	D	E	E	R	94	Y	O	Y	O	S	97	S	P	A	M

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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](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org) to join.

December 27- NO DROP IN (office closed)

January 3 - NO DROP IN (office closed)

January 10 - TBA

January 17 - TBA

January 24 - TBA

January 31 - TBA

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](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org) to join.

December 27 - NO DROP IN (office closed)

January 3 - NO DROP IN (office closed)

January 10 - Pet Therapy with dogs

January 17 - Foot Care Discussion with Brenda

January 24 - Gentle Chair Yoga with Donalda

January 31 - Zentagles with Carol

TUES JAN 4th **Clay Play Workshop**, an art workshop series where kids express themselves with clay on January 4, 11, 18, 25 & February 1, 8 from 2:45-3:45pm in Valemount (99 Gorse St) for 9-12 year olds. Please call Rebecca at 250-566-9107 or email [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org) to join.

THURS JAN 13th **Winter Wonderland** - Outdoor program for Children 5-9 years on Jan 13, 20,, 27 & Feb 3 from 3:30-5:30pmin Valemount (99 Gorse St). Join us for a four-week program, where we will learn new winter skills like shelter building, playing with snow, snowshoeing and so much more.

TUES JAN 25 **Seniors Tech Café** from 2pm - 4pm join us for Seniors Tech Café, where you will receive one-on-one support with your basic technological needs. Bring your devices for assistance! Please call Shae 250-566-9107 to join or email [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

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

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.

**Valemount Curling Club Drop in and League Curling** Tuesdays 7pm-10pm, Fridays and Saturdays 5pm-10pm, and Sundays 11am-4pm. Proof of Vaccination required

MCBRIDE

MONs **Family Place Drop-In** iis 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 27 - Closed (No drop in)

January 3 - Closed (No drop in)

January 10 - Skating at the Crescent

January 17 - Tobogganing at Johnsons Pit & Winnie the Pooh Day activity book

January 24- Skating at the Crescent & Family Literacy Day activity book

January 31- Tobogganing and snowshoeing at Johnsons Pit

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 29- Soup & Bun

January 5- Trip Around the World with Photos (Bring photos of your past travels or experiences to share and tell stories)

January 12- Pet Therapy with dogs

January 19- Painting with Jessica

January 26- Soup & Bun

TUES JAN 25 **Seniors Tech Café** from 2pm - 4pm join us for Seniors Tech Café, where you will receive one-on-one support with your basic technological needs. Bring your devices for assistance! Please call Sandy 250-569-2266 to join or email [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

**McBride RVCS Office Closures:** Dec. 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.*



## Resolutions for Garden Visitors

With the New Year come the resolutions, so I thought it appropriate that I dig up a few for the garden visitor in the coming year.

1. Unless you live in a “constant visiting” type of neighbourhood as I do, always call the gardener to warn them that you may be dropping by with Aunt Flo from Florida to have a look at the greenhouse and gardens. I can recall days when I had 20,000 transplants still left to do and as soon as I had 500 cabbage plants out of their containers on the table and ready to transplant, the stream of 6 or 8 visitors began at 9:30am and didn’t stop until supper time. Knowing about the visits ahead of time would have made me a much happier camper!

2. If a gardener has raised beds and paths, try to remember to stay on the paths and not walk into the bed to get a closer look at an interesting plant or flower. You may be crushing the next planting of seedlings or compacting the soil in the bed that the gardener spent hours trying to lighten up.

3. Never pull weeds without asking first! Some “weird gardeners”- not mentioning any names - actually eat pigweed and chickweed in their evening salads. The

radishes that have gone to seed in your garden may be headed straight to the compost pile, but in a seed-savers’ garden they need to be left to mature! I am also reminded of the time a well-meaning fellow gardener came and informed me that while I was in town she had pulled all those pigweeds in the garden and put them on the compost pile while remarking that they looked like they had been planted in rows! The fact is they had been planted in rows and were an experiment for Organic Gardening Magazine and were actually amaranth (the same family as pigweed)! End of experiment!

4. Try not to pull plant labels out of pots or out of the ground. If you push them in the wrong spot or next to the wrong plant, you could have one very angry gardener if he or she is trying to save rare seeds! You can lift up the pot or ask the name of the plants if you want to know.

5. Don’t be afraid to ask questions. Most gardeners love to share their experience and to be asked how you do things. In such exchanges, both participants go away a little more informed and a little wiser.

6. If you see something you want, don’t be afraid to ask where you could buy such



a plant or if you could get a cutting or a “start” when the gardener has time.

7. Every gardener has times when the weeds get out of hand or things are somewhat behind and hearing wise-cracks like “nice crop of pigweed” or “healthy looking thistles” is not appreciated as much as, “I am all caught up in my garden and would like to help you for an hour or two – what can I do?”

8. Know when to leave – If your host seems to be wanting to get back to the transplants or weeding or pruning, don’t

suggest going in the house for a cup of tea! If the host insists it is “coffee time” anyway, then go for it! Just be aware of the needs of the gardener you are visiting.

9. Be sure to invite the one you are visiting to come over to see your place and that will put you on the receiving end so you can keep in touch with what you like and dislike about “garden visitors”.

May your garden and all your garden visitors in the coming year be the best ever!!



# Youthful chorus



Students at Valemount Elementary spread cheer to seniors and community members by singing carols at the Golden Year’s Lodge, the Valemount Health Centre and the Community Services building last week. /DIANNE ST JEAN

VALEMOUNT

1275-6th Ave

- Older well kept 2/3 bedroom home
- Super large lot - detached garage
- Alley access - lots of parking
- Great views - great location

\$219,000

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- Level some grass /small trees
- Services available

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1301-2nd Ave

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- Great Location

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MCBRIDE

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- 79 acres of fertile farmland
- Level - all in hay
- Minutes from McBride
- Excellent small farm potential
- 2 titles

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**902 DOMINION ST**

**\$319,900**



Location does not get any better than with this beautiful property that is only a short stroll away from downtown McBride. This 0.3 acre property is on a cul-de-sac with huge mature trees in your backyard giving you zen for life! The yard backs onto greenspace with a trail system for your use. The family log home is full of warmth, character and is so cozy. Call today to book your showing as you don't want to miss out on this one!

**1431 GRENFELL PLACE**

**\$756,000**



Finally, the property you've been waiting for! This home has been substantially redone in 2016 and is beaming with ownership pride and love. The 4 bed, 2 bath open concept layout is perfect for family life. Location could not be any better with this 0.46 acre property tucked privately away at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac and with a trail system along the creek backing onto your property. The fenced yard with spectacular mountain views is your secluded oasis for you and your pets. Mature trees, a gorgeous fire pit and the distant sound of the babbling creek below are all yours to enjoy in your daily life. The 26x26 detached garage is what makes this property really the perfect package. There are not any other properties like this one here in town!

**2350 BAILEY RD**

**\$1,200,000**



This gorgeous parcel of land is overflowing with subdividing potential. The demand for residential properties in Valemount is at an all time high. Located only 5 minutes south of town on the way to Kinbasket Lake is a prime location for smaller acreages. The zonings being CR1, RR1 and SH give you many options. The majority of the land is situated with Bailey Rd on one side and Canoe Rd on the other. The market is strong and it is time for a new residential development in Valemount. So call today to start putting your plans into action!

**317 13TH AVE**

**\$595,000**



The property you've been waiting for has arrived! Rural living at its most convenient location. This property is just on the outskirts of town limit, being only a 2 minute drive to downtown. The 2015 home is in phenomenal shape and will be stress free for many years to come. There is currently a decommissioned trailer on the property used as storage. Act quick, cause this one is going to be gone before you know it!

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

**Shelly  
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REALTOR



**DIFFERENT  
BETTER**

**4469 Eddy Road**

MCBRIDE



**NEW LISTING!**

**\$325,000**

Nearly 90 acres only 10 kms from the edge of town, this property is your next recreation or rural dream location. With power and telephone lines in place and a current water license, you are steps ahead in developing the property for your future. With a good mix of cleared and natural-state land, you've got options galore.

**1160 4th Avenue**

VALEMOUNT



**\$215,000**



This is a move-in ready deal. Updated windows, siding and roofing makes this home efficient and comfortable while a great floor plan makes it a good bet for your next home. With two bedrooms, propane heat, and an open concept living/kitchen area inside and an RV parking spot outside, why not grab it now?

**701 Dominion Street**

MCBRIDE



**\$390,000**



This great 3 bedroom family home could be yours. On over 0.3 acres within town limits, the yard is its own oasis. Inside you'll find a cozy family room, entertaining space in the living room and an efficient kitchen on the main floor, with bedrooms and a hobby room above. Complete the basement and you'll have even more to come home to.



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