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Thursday April 21st 2022 Volume 13 Issue 13

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Ukrainians arrive in the valley

By Laura Keil

Local faces tackle vet shortage

Iryna Borodulina, 27, and Valerii Vinichenko, 30, had always hoped to see Canada. The Ukrainian couple was working in a factory in Poland when the war broke out in Ukraine and they were unable to return home. They researched their options and discovered Canada's assistance program for Ukrainian refugees.

"It was kind of a surprise for us because we always dreamt about it," Borodulina said. "When we heard about the program for Ukrainians, we were maybe one of the first people to come here."

The couple is now settled in the Tete Jaune area with their hosts Swanny Pleister and Taggart Wilson. They look forward to leading a normal life.

"We feel better," Borodulina said. "And when we call our family and it's all okay, we can breathe with relief."

Taggart, whose Grandmother immigrated from Ukraine in 1913, said they decided to take in a family after seeing the news.

"When the war got started, we were all feeling a bit powerless and helpless to do anything about it," Wilson said. "We thought it would be one way we could alleviate some of the suffering of people escaping the war."

Once they connected with Nancy Addison in Jasper, who was coordinating the arrival of Ukrainian families, things went really quickly: they were matched up with the pair within a day or two and two weeks later the couple was ready to fly over.

Borodulina and Vinichenko said they love being in the mountains and all the nature that surrounds them. They also said they have been treated with lots of kindness during their short time in Canada.

The couple's home is just an hour west of Kiev. The pair spend much of the year working in a factory in Poland, and this is where they were when the war broke out. Their family, however, was still in Ukraine, and while Borodulina's mother and sister managed to escape to Warsaw, Poland, many family members are still in areas of Ukraine marred with fighting.

"We try to be in touch with them every single day because it's terrifying," Borodulina said. She said her uncle's house had the windows blown out and everything stolen by Russian soldiers.

While they still worry about them a lot, landing in Canada has lifted some of the stress.

Around their hosts' kitchen table, they celebrated Easter together by decorating Ukrainian Easter Eggs and baking a special bread called baska.

During the interview with the Goat, Wilson exclaimed about the borscht he was eating that Borodulina had prepared.

Wilson said they've hosted workaway couples over several summers and so it didn't feel like a stretch to host a couple from Ukraine. They set up the basement for them so they have some privacy, and they share the kitchen upstairs.

"It seems like a small inconvenience compared to the help we can give to them," Pleister said.

Many people have donated clothing, computers, money even a car, for the Ukrainian couple.

Swanny says if anybody wants to take someone in, they can definitely help make connections.



L-R Taggart Wilson, Swanny Pleister, Iryna Borodulina and Valerii Vinichenko are getting to know one another after Ukrainians Irena and Valerii arrived last week under the government's emergency travel program. Several local families are taking in Ukrainians while the war with Russia rages on. /SUBMITTED

"There's no end of people that would like to come over here and who would need a leg up," she said."The program the Government of Canada put on actually does not support the people coming here. They don't get refugee status. They get a three-year work visa work permit with a three-year visitor visa. A lot of them come with very little means."

Wilson said he wanted to give a shout-out to Nancy Addison in Jasper.

"She has been tireless in this effort to accommodate and find housing for Ukrainians, and it's not the first time she's been at this. When the Syrian war was in its most violent times, she was also doing this type of work. She's just an amazing individual."

Borodulina says they are so grateful for the chance to come to Canada.

"Thank you for this opportunity."

Anticipating arrival

Retirees Bill and Joan Kruisselbrink are waiting for their Ukrainian refugee family to arrive soon from Poland two young girls (ages 3 and 6), a mom and a mother-in-law.

The couple said they wanted to do something to help after watching the disturbing images of the war on the news.

"That whole situation is just kind of sickening, so we thought, well, this is something we can do. It will liven up the place a little bit," Joan added, glancing around their home located on an acreage just outside Valemount.

The couple has hosted exchange students in the past. Originally they received the paperwork from the government, but the forms were complicated so they'd given up. Then they saw Pleister's note on facebook and she put them in touch with Addison from Jasper who was coordinating the effort to bring numerous Ukrainins to the area. With her help, they got the ball rolling.

The Kruisselbrinks said they look forward to meeting their family who are awaiting their final paperwork before they can land.

A friend's grandson made a card for the girls to welcome them (see photo).

"We're hoping they'll just sort

CONT'D ON P2



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Tamara Cinnamon **SUTTTON GROUP LAKEFRONT REALTY** Thursday April 14th 2022 In Print | Online | therockymountaingoat.com

Ukrainians arrive...

CONT'D FROM P2

of become our family," said Bill.

According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) "is for Ukrainians and their family members who want to come to Canada temporarily while the situation in Ukraine unfolds and then return home. It is not a refugee program."

The program page also says Ukrainians and their family members working and studying in Canada "will be able to gain valuable Canadian work or education experience to help set them up for future success should they eventually choose to seek permanent residency."

Anyone interested in hosting Ukrainians—or sponsoring refugees from anywhere in the world—can contact Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) or contact a local sponsor for more information.



The results of the Ukrainian Easter egg production together with an Easter bread called baska. /SUBMITTED



Iryna and Valerii made Ukrainian Easter eggs with the family. /SUBMITTED



The grandson of a friend made a card for the girls for when they arrive at the Kruisselbrinks. /LAURA KEIL



An excavator sank over a section of Trans Mountain pipeline in a swampy area just west of Jasper. A witness said they believed the workers had finished with a dig to inspect the old pipe and were removing the rig mats when one of the rig mats gave way. Trans Mountain did not confirm these details by presstime. The photographer said the company called in more equipment and rig mats on Monday to lift the machine off the pipe. The photo was taken on Hwy 16 just west of Jasper. /SUBMITTED





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- Initiate and plan programs and projects
- Follow legal company requirements, policies and reporting
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- Proficient in Excel and Microsoft Office programs
- Independent worker and team worker
- Good language, writing and verbal communication skills
- Ability to plan, prioritize work and manage time effectively
- Ability to meet deadlines
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Applicants will send a resume, a cover letter with contact details and references, in confidence to: Craig Pryor, Manager, Valemount Community Forest LP c/o P.O. Box 1017, Valemount, BC. VOE 2ZO, cpryor@valemountcommunityforest.ca. Open until filled.

Thank you for your interest; however, only those applicants invited for an interview will be contacted.

Bears have personality too

As bears wake up from their winter hibernation, former Valemount resident Reg Bedard who now lives in Clearwater, recalls encounters she has had with bears throughout her life.

By Reg Bedard

I grew up on a farm in Popkum BC next to the Blue Ridge Mountain Guest Ranch, on the original Old Yale Road outside of Chilliwack.

My dad gave us instructions if we saw a bear when we were out picking blackberries in the farm pasture. Never run, he told us. Plus, if there's a bear on a blackberry bush, leave the bear alone and walk quietly to another bush. It happened a few times. I'd be talking to a sister or brother, and get no answer, so I would peak and, well it was a bear. They don't speak our language. So I'd leave quietly to another blackberry bush.

The neighbour worker at the Guest Ranch always shot one bear every fall. When you see a bear fully skinned out and hung up it will scare the hell out of you. It's identical to a small human. The arms and leg muscles look the same as humans.

The neighbour gave us some bear meat—a roast—when I was about seven or eight. The meat was sweet, being that bear ate a lot of berries. My Dad would never eat bear meat. I don't know why.

Skipper Warnabolt built Bridal Veil Falls Lodge, Cafe, five cabins, a manager house, service station, grocery store and post office. A two foot steel pipe was put in the creek a little ways below the falls to produce power for all of these buildings. The pipe fed the generator when the creek water was too low to turn the water wheel. The water also fed the swimming pool in the lodge. Skipper had a wood heat system to warm the pool.

Well, the Trans Mountain Pipeline saw that Skipper had a two foot pipe with water running through instead of oil. I was in Popkum to see the Trans Mountain Pipeline through in 1953. I remember they dug up the road, placed the pipe, and had everything back in order when we went to catch the bus in the morning. That's when the second easement was bought for the second pipeline now going through.

Someone would bring Skipper a black bear cub almost every year. We would pet it and feed it ice cream cones. When the cubs got bigger Skipper would go to the bush and find a mother bear with a cub. Skipper would go get a bucket of honey and the cub and head back to the mother bear. When he got near her, he covered the cub with honey from nose to tail. By the time the mother bear licked it off the cub, she accepted it as her own..

My brother in law Chuck Bursinger raised two cubs from babies in a logging camp in Castle Rock. He fed them oatmeal porridge and bottle fed them canned milk diluted with water. He watched them and they knew how to put a bottle between their hind feet and the front paw would unscrew the top of the bottle.

Chuck taught the cubs how to hunt for food by pulling old logs apart so they could eat insect eggs. Chuck tried to hide from the cubs, but they always found him. Chuck told me if you're in the bush and see a bear (non-grizzly), stand still and be absolutely silent, and hope that you are downwind as the bear relies on smell.

One man in the logging camp kept teasing one of the cubs. Well he never quit teasing it and he paid for it. The cub went into the man's cabin and trashed it. Don't piss off a bear—he'll get you. Bears have brains like dogs, and a good memory. Eventually, one of Chuck's cubs went to Stanley Park Zoo, and the other died in an accident.

When I encountered my first bear while riding range out of Pritchard on Todd Mountain, I brought the horse to a halt and watched it. That bear went over a brush

pile and never made a noise. That gave me a whole lot of respect for bears. I saw lots of bears in that open range.

One February I took the bus to help my friends, Roma and Dave Wilson round up wild horses west of Tatla Lake. Pan Phillips, BC rancher and Frontier Cattle Company co-founder was on the bus as well. At the Redstone stop, a lot of people were getting on, and Pan turned around and asked me if he could come back and sit with me. I said sure. I had heard and read lots of stories about him before this, but this was the first time and only time I got to talk to Pan.

So I asked him questions I had from what I had read. For example, what he did when he threw the rock at the grizzly bear away down at the bottom in the creek. He said as he was heading out of there the horse was bucking and he was trying to get his rifle out of the scabbard. He said that the grizzly could have had him but the grizzly only hit his chap with its front paw and kept going.

While I was up at Burns Lake in 2017, in the swamp below the house I heard a lot of noise, so I went to see what was causing it. A mother bear was making her three cubs climb up a dead tree because they were too small to safely wait on the ground. I was hearing branches cracking as the cubs climbed. The cubs were protected up the tree while mom bear was eating skunk cabbage. A learning lesson for me.

In the Fraser Valley skunk cabbage bloom is over a foot tall and bright yellow. In Burns Lake skunk cabbage is small like a calla lily and dull white, leaves and stems are short. Skunk cabbage is a healing plant if you get past the smell—it is good for human colds.

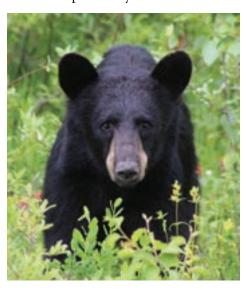
When the cubs got bigger the mother brought them back to teach them to eat skunk cabbage. The mother had them on a long log away from me until she decided to come off the end to my side of the swamp. In a loud stern voice I said, "You've been here long enough! Get out of here, go back to your side." She turned around and stepped over the three cubs and never knocked them off. The cubs turned around and followed

her. I've talked to other bears. They stand still when I'm talking. Maybe it's because I'm not scared. If you're scared your body gives off fear odour and they smell it.

My girlfriend Sharon Erickson and I were going back to work in Hunter Creek in 1996. We were around 40 miles south of Dawson City when I spotted grizzly bears. We slowed down and pulled over to the shoulder of the road. I kept the van's motor running, and told Sharon to stay in the van. I grabbed my camera and walked to the back of the van and around the other side. I started talking to these grizzlies. The mother bear went and sat behind a small tree. The brown cub went with the mother. The silver tip cub was only interested in the food. Must be a male. His nose pressed so hard into the frozen ground that his nose was curled up. He was digging lupin root to eat. I had the opportunity to dig lupin root when I was at DensTiah lake. I ate the lupin raw. They taste like raw potato. Just the pea pods are poisonous, you can eat the rest of the lupin plant.

I was about 25 feet away from the cub. I got a good picture and gave it to my son Alan.

Bears have personality too.



A bear amongst some red Indian paintbrush flowers 15 minutes west of McBride. /SANDRA JAMES





Successful projects 2022

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND AFFECTED AREAS PROGRAMS

The Village of Valemount and Columbia Basin Trust have approved 7 projects for a total of \$356,858. Recipients are as follows:

Organization	Project Name	Grant
Valemount Senior Citizen Housing Society	Valemount Cares – Commercial Kitchen	\$99,500
Valemount Entertainment Society	CHVC-TV Channel 7 conversion to Digital – Phase 1 (of2)	\$35,392
Valemount Climbing Club	Valemount Climbing Club – Phase 2	\$124,000
Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association	Snowmobile and Groomer Replacement	\$18,000
Valemount Lions Club	New Roof and Exit Door for the Lions Hall	\$35,763
Valemount Ski Society	A Community Yurt	\$38,849
Valemount Curling Club	Kitchen Fire Suppression System Upgrade	\$5,354



COMMUNITY NOTICE

ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Every year, CN is required to clear its right-of-way of any vegetation that may pose a safety hazard. Vegetation on railway right-of-way, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to trackside fires and impair proper inspection of track infrastructure.

For safe railway operations, CN will conduct its annual vegetation control program on its rail lines in the province of British Columbia. A certified professional will be applying herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 16 – 24 feet graveled area/ballast). All product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments, and municipal water supplies will be met.

The program is expected to take place from April to October 2022. Visit **www.cn.ca/vegetation** to see the list of cities as well as the updated schedule.

For more information, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at **contact@cn.ca** or 1-888-888-5909.

Consider your power

By Laura Keil, Publisher/Editor

It's not often that while watching the news we take action to help someone affected by the news we're watching. But that's exactly what several families in the Robson Valley and Jasper have done by taking in Ukrainian refugee families.

The pandemic has led to many tuning out the news and becoming more isolated, which makes this generosity all the more surprising.

When we feel powerless, when we see injustice, how do we react? How do we act?

It does not have to be big. Not everyone is able to directly support a refugee family, but we all have something to give, and doing this giving can restore some of that

power we feel we've lost. We all have something to contribute to every struggle. We all have inherent power to choose and to act.

This week, consider your own power. You may not feel as though you have much, but life-changing moments can be tiny—simple generosities and friendliness in moments of someone else's need.



BEFORE HEADING OUT INTO THE COOL MORNING AIR, RALPH SLIPPED ON HIS JACKET.

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Laydown yard built and ready to open in Blue River

Local residents upset about potential noise and ugly eyesore

By Michael Piasetzki

Anyone who has visited or spent time in Blue River will be the first to admit the main drawing card for its residents is its beautiful landscape surrounded by lush interior rainforests of cedar and spruce, majestic mountain peaks, and glacier-fed lakes.

Not to mention its quiet and peaceful serenity which allows its residents the opportunity to live in a serene environment far away from the eyesores of huge skyscrapers and incessant noise and pollution characteristic of big cities like Vancouver.

This makes the news of a laydown yard recently built by Trans Mountain in the heart of the hamlet of 280 people hard for many to accept.

"They removed all the trees in the lot. It's a completely flat industrial yard now," said Lee Onslow, a Blue River resident. "It is horrible. They told the residents on the other end they'll have to put up with construction for years. All of a sudden they're living next to an industrial yard. It should have been built across the highway instead of right in the heart of our town."

The land where the laydown yard was built is owned by Blue River 2, an investment group based in New York State, and is zoned industrial.

"This is not benefiting anyone in Blue

River except for the minimal amount of taxes this company pays for a vacant lot," said Onslow. "I can't even imagine if I lived on that street. And what about the noise and all the clanking that will happen when they're trucking in pipeline and equipment? Are they fixing the road in town after they're done? There are so many questions but where are the answers?"

The Goat reached out to Trans Mountain, but did not receive a response by presstime. However, Stephen Quinn, the director for Thompson-Nicola Regional District Area B, told the Goat that although residents like Onslow have a right to be upset, everything Trans Mountain is doing is completely within its rights.

"In its presentation of the project back somewhere between 2014 and 2016, Trans Mountain spent a lot of time with all communities along the pipeline explaining its proposals," he said. "In that presentation a laydown yard was proposed on the site it is on in Blue River. That site is zoned industrial and is compatible. It's owned by an American company. There was also a lot of information out on it in 2019, and again in October, 2021 there was an announcement they were going to go ahead with it. It's part and parcel of what they have proposed to do.

"All the objections the residents have now should have been done when Trans Mountain was making its proposals," he added. "And another side to it is there have been significant complaints about hazardous properties with people neglecting their properties leaving trees which are a fire hazard. That fire hazard is now gone."

For its part, Trans Mountain recently sent out a notice in the mail to Blue River residents offering information about the laydown yard. The memo mentions the yard has been cleared for the temporary storage of equipment such as pieces of pipeline, will hold mostly pieces of pipeline and equipment, and is situated north of Stewart Street and south of 1 Avenue, between Cedar Street and Railway Avenue. That however, hasn't done much to appease Onslow and other residents.

"I agree nothing illegal has been done," she said. "But I'm sure they could have found a better spot to put it. Another thing that bothers me about this is that we are getting a laydown yard yet we are not receiving any of the infrastructure upgrades that surrounding towns are getting. I feel like we're getting all of the crap that goes with getting a pipeline and none of the benefits."

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Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

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



Britain's Shame

It's generally bad form to quote another journalist, but Stewart Lee's day job is stand-up comedian, so we can make an exception just this once. Writing in The Observer on Sunday, Lee offered a summary of Britain's Conservative government as its twelve-year reign stumbles towards its close.

The Conservative politicians making headlines last week, he wrote, were "a serial adulterer and compulsive liar, a handsome but morally bankrupt financial whiz-kid, and a bully who sends immigrants to Rwanda."

"That's less like a government and more like a special team of convicted criminals given their freedom in exchange for accepting an impossible mission behind enemy lines in a 1970s Italian-funded war film. Operation Dynamite Bastards!!!!"

The 'serial adulterer and compulsive liar' was of course Prime Minister Al 'Boris' Johnson. He still won't say that he has only the seven children he admits to by various mothers, but it was the 'compulsive liar' part

of the indictment that was getting more attention last week.

For more than a year the Conservative government has been haunted by 'Partygate', an ongoing scandal about numerous drinks parties at the prime minister's combination home and office, No. 10 Downing Street, even when the entire country was in Covid lock-down.

Revelations about these parties trickled out one by one starting about a year ago, each denied by Johnson both to the public and in parliament (where deliberately lying is a resigning offence). Eventually the police got involved, as the parties were criminal offences, and the first fines were handed out to Johnson and other senior Conservatives last week

Johnson is due for up to five more fines. He is also going to have to brazen it out for lying to parliament, and while the Conservative majority there will save him for the moment, his party has irretrievably lost faith him

The 'handsome but morally bankrupt financial whiz-kid' is Rishi Sunak, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (finance minister), who was universally seen as Johnson's chief rival and possible replacement – until he fell from grace a week ago.

First it came out that Sunak's wife, an Indian heiress, has been exploiting a tax loophole to avoid paying British taxes on her dividend income of \$15 million a year. Then came out that Rishi and she had both kept their US-issued green cards. And that was the end of Sunak's prime ministerial ambitions.

Then there's the 'bully who sends immigrants to Rwanda', Home Secretary Priti Patel. She announced the plan last week while handing a £120 million down payment to Rwandan dictator Paul Kagame for taking asylum seekers off Britain's hands.

It's probably illegal, and Patel may even know that. She's probably just throwing

some red meat to the racist and antiimmigrant voters who helped to put Johnson & Co. into power in 2019. But she hasn't solved the bigger problem, which is Johnson. Nobody has.

Johnson's popularity has collapsed, and even his Churchill tribute act cannot restore it. But following the decline of Rishi Sunak's star, the Conservatives have no other candidate who will tickle the electorate's fancy. Moreover, Johnson certainly won't go without a fight.

The likeliest outcome is stalemate: an unpopular government heading into a cost-of-living crisis with no visible strategy and two years to go until the next election.

The Johnson government had no policy beyond 'Brexit', which no longer inspires even its former enthusiasts, and his Labour rivals' fondest wish is that he stays in office until that election rolls around at last. He probably will.

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Canadä

Community project funding, TUPs, zoning bylaw

By Andrea Arnold

Mayor Torgerson called the April 21, 2022 Valemount public hearing portion to discuss the following temporary use permit applications. Councillor Gee was absent from the meeting.

TUP 22-01 for 1301 9th Ave proposing a temporary residential structure for up to two years.

TUP 22-03 for 1460 7th Ave proposing a temporary residential structure for up to

TUP 22-04 for 1915 Cranberry Place proposing a temporary residential structure for up to two years.

Councillor Pearson asked what happens if midway through the two years, the unit itself changes. Are these permits for the site or the unit? Village Planner Krista Etty explained that the permits are for the site location. If the unit itself is going to change there is a staff process that needs to be completed to ensure proper certification for the unit, but the site permit does not need to be readdressed.

TUP 22-05 for 1122 8h Ave proposing a temporary residential structure for up to

Receiving no comments from Council, applicants or public, the public hearing was adjourned and the meeting transitioned to the regular council meeting.

In-camera items from March 22, 2022.

The following items were recorded as brought out of in-camera in the minutes from the meeting held on March 22, 2022, and included in the adoption of the minutes from that meeting.

Item 5.1 - Village Housing Options IC Res # 24/22

Council moved to issue a Request for Expressions of Interest for a developer to

design and build a fourplex unit and to purchase the Village-owned property at 1155 – 6th Avenue.

Item 5.2 - Canadian Mountain Holidays Snow Removal Agreement

IC Res # 25/22

Council declined to enter into an agreement with Canadian Mountain Holidays and will continue with snow removal at the Valemount Airport as time permits.

Item 5.3 - Geothermal Project Report IC Res #27/22

Council directed staff to contact legal counsel regarding an agreement between Borealis and the Village of Valemount, subject to grant funding approval for the Geothermal project.

IC Res #28/22

Council moved that subsequent to funding approval, it is confirmed with Borealis that as per the language in the current MOU, the Village will not be providing funding for this project, and that the project must be funded through grants.

Item 5.4 - CAO/CO Selection for Interviews

IC Res #29/22

Council directed staff to contact the applicants chosen by Council to proceed to the interview process.

Stumpage fee resolution to be submitted

Council agreed that the following be submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities as a resolution, and to North Central Local Government Association as a late resolution.

WHEREAS The tabular stumpage rate system that currently applies to community forest agreements provides the means through which community forests innovate, operate in contentious areas, invest in long-term forest stewardship and provide jobs and other benefits to their communities;

AND WHEREAS The ability of community forests to innovate and invest in community priorities including climate change adaptation, wildfire risk reduction, ecosystem restoration, old growth management, recreational infrastructure development, and community economic development relies upon the current stumpage rates;

AND WHEREAS Any change in the current tabular stumpage policy that results in an increased stumpage rates and additional administrative burden for community forest tenures will greatly reduce and undermine the capacity of community forests to provide key socioeconomic benefits to the communities that they support. The tabular stumpage policy enables community forest agreement holders to implement modernized forest policies and to meet the full range of community objectives while operating viable businesses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia maintain the tabular rate structure for community forest agreements.

Building permits

Council received March 2022 building inspection and permit values for information.

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION VALUES:

Building Permits: \$6,928,000 Plumbing Permits: \$45,000 Total: \$6,973,000

The majority of this total reflects the new daycare and affordable housing project on 5th Ave. It also includes included a new secondary suite in an existing single—family dwelling

PERMIT FEES COLLECTED: Building Permits: \$28,061.00 Plumbing Permits: \$828.00 Total: \$28,889.00 PERMITS ISSUED: Building Permits: 2 Plumbing Permits: 5

Bylaw Enforcement

Council received March 2022 bylaw enforcement summary report. In the month of March there were four new bylaw contraventions. Two animal control violations, one traffic/parking violation and one business license bylaw violation.

Low speed vehicles

Council received the low speed vehicle report. The report outlined the regulations put in place by the Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and the Motor Vehicle Act regarding low-speed vehicles. It concluded by saying in addition to the restrictions imposed by these governing authorities, the Village of Valemount Recreation and Off Highway Vehicles Bylaw No 318, 1990, prohibits the use of off-road vehicles on public lands within village boundaries.

Community project funding

The following funding recommendations provided by the adjudication committee were approved by Council. The projects will receive money from the Columbia Basin Trust -Community Initiatives and Affected areas program. The motion was presented and voted on as a block item. Councillor McLean excused herself for the entirety of this motion due to her ownership of the proposed location of the climbing wall.

- 1. The Senior Citizens Housing Society receive \$99,500.00 for their project, Valemount Cares Commercial Kitchen.
- 2. The Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association receive \$18,000.00 for their project, Snowmobile and Groomer Replacement.
- 3. The Valemount Curling Club receive \$5,354.74 for their project, Kitchen Fire Suppression CONT'D ON P10

www.valemount.ca

Notice Disposition of Land:

Airport Land Lease

Pursuant to Sections 26 and 94 of the *Community Charter*, notice is hereby given that the Village of Valemount intends to lease property to Spiral Contracting.

The land to be leased is a 2000 sq. ft plot located on the east side of the airport, legally described as Block A, District Lot 5705 Land District 05 THAT PART OF DL 5705, to be occupied by an airport hangar. The annual rental fee for the space is:

\$0.32 per square foot of leased space (\$606.90 per year plus GST) until April 2023, increasing to \$619.05 plus GST per year, from April 2023 to April 2024.

For more information please contact:

Carleena Shepherd

DCO, Village of Valemount 735 Cranberry Lake Road

PO Box 168

Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0

- (T) 250.566.4435
- (E) <u>corporate@valemount.ca</u>





The Village of Valemount is currently accepting applications from area community members interested in serving on both Board of Directors, for a two-year term.

The Valemount Community Forest (VCF) and the Valemount Industrial Park (VIP) support the community by maintaining local control over forest resources, creating local employment and economic diversity with the Village of Valemount.

Role of Directors and Desired Competencies

The Board of Directors assist with decision making for the Valemount Community Forest and the Valemount Industrial Park, in the best interests of the Companies, and in accordance with VCF/VIP Policies and Village of Valemount Policy No. 81.

The Board of Director's Regular Board Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m. Members will be notified in advance of changes to a meeting date and/or time. Directors are expected to attend all meetings of the board, participate in board discussions and vote on matters before the board.

Cont.

Applications are available on the Village website @ www.valemount.ca, and are to be submitted to the Village Office by 4 pm on May 9th, 2022, referencing the following:

Attn: Deputy Corporate Officer
Re: Application for VCF/VIP Board of Directors

Applications can be submitted in person to: 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC. Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, 1:30-4:30pm

Or via email to corporate@valemount.ca

A Toilet is Not a Trashcan

Flushing anything other than toilet paper and human waste risks damage to septic tanks, the sewage treatment plant, and can cost you thousands in plumbing repairs.

Please **DO NOT** flush down the toilet:

- $\cdot \ \text{Feminine hygiene products} \\$
- · Cooking grease or food
- · Baby wipes, wet wipes, (including "flushable wipes") cleaning wipes
- · Diapers
- · Q-tips, cotton balls
- · Paper towels
- · Pills
- · Cigarette butts
- · Clothing



Men's Shed, sidewalk repair needs, and TUPs

By Andrea Arnold

Deputy Mayor Diane Smith called the April 12, 2022 McBride Council meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Public Hearing

Council moved to a public hearing portion for temporary use permit 2022-02 for 522 Main Street at 7:03pm. One letter of support was read from neighbouring property owner Linda Fry stating that she was in support of the proposed use of the space and of the application. No other statements were received either written or verbal by members of the public, the applicant, or Council, so the regular meeting was reconvened at 7:09pm.

Men's Shed

Jana MacMaster, Operations & Support Services Manager for Robson Valley Community Services presented the plans for a Men's Shed in McBride. A small group of men have been meeting through RVCS in McBride since July 2021 working on growing the Men's Shed to a sustainable group where men of all ages can socialize, take part in activities and learn new skills. Their goal is to support projects that give back to the community. Men's Sheds are currently in 19 communities across the province, providing their communities with a hub for men, specifically seniors, and that aims to create a product, service or process that will benefit society. The purpose of the presentation was to

introduce the concept to Council, and ask that the Village consider how they can support the group.

Elks utility bill request

Al Bernie, treasurer for the McBride Elks #247 presented a request from the group to be exempt from utility charges this year. Bernie reported that the group's Village utility bills are \$888.46 this year. They are not making the request to be a burden and are asking for this one exemption. The use of the building and the utility services has been minimal in the past two years, so they feel that they are not out of line to make the request. Three weeks ago, their bank account was down to \$6. They have been working hard to raise funds and hope to see a successful Pioneer Days to continue their work and are appreciative of the support from community members.

Horseshoe Lake Road property development

Andrea and Steven Garhammer asked for a continuance to present their plans to develop Lot 2 on Horseshoe Lake Road at a later date, as they were still meeting with CAO Tupy to discuss the options available to them for developing the property in preparation for a mobile home. Council approved the request

Report to Council - Revised 2022 Budget Schedule.

Council moved to receive the Revised 2022 Budget Schedule for consideration and discussion, and approve it as presented.

Sidewalk safety concern

Council received the letter from St. Patrick Parish and

directed staff to investigate the reported issues. The letter reports that portions of the sidewalk have sunk up to two inches resulting in a tripping hazard. The ramp that was installed two years ago no longer has a smooth transition to the sidewalk causing accessibility issues for the church's aging congregation. Councillor Frederick said that he would like to see this as an item in the upcoming budget discussion.

Stumpage fee resolution

Council agreed that the following be submitted to UBCM as a resolution, and to NCLGA as a late resolution.

WHEREAS The tabular stumpage rate system that currently applies to community forest agreements provides the means through which community forests innovate, operate in contentious areas, invest in long-term forest stewardship and provide jobs and other benefits to their communities;

AND WHEREAS The ability of community forests to innovate and invest in community priorities including climate change adaptation, wildfire risk reduction, ecosystem restoration, old growth management, recreational infrastructure development, and community economic development relies upon the current stumpage rates;

AND WHEREAS Any change in the current tabular stumpage policy that results in an increased stumpage rates and additional administrative burden for community forest tenures will greatly reduce and undermine the capacity of community forests to provide key socio-economic benefits to the communities that they support. The tabular stumpage policy enables community forest agreement holders to implement modernized forest policies and to meet the full range of community

objectives while operating viable businesses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia maintain the tabular rate structure for community forest agreements.

Council moved to present a resolution to NCLGA regarding the loss of tire recycling services in the north. Councillors will meet to discuss and create the resolution by the end of the week.

Temporary Use permits

Temporary use permit for the space between the Scotiabank and Horseshoe Lake Ventures, 333, 345 and 355 Main Street, for wholesale use was presented to Council. There continues to be ongoing discussion regarding if the items for sale are considered wholesale or retail. Council directed staff to carry out public notification and requirements prior to bringing the proposed TUP back to Council for approval. The matter will be presented in a public hearing, after which, a decision will be made and a decision as to the use being retail or wholesale be made.

Council approved the temporary use permit 2022-02 to permit an office and rental of a residential suite within the existing home at 522 Main Street for two years ending April 12, 2024, and authorized CAO Tupy to issue the permit.

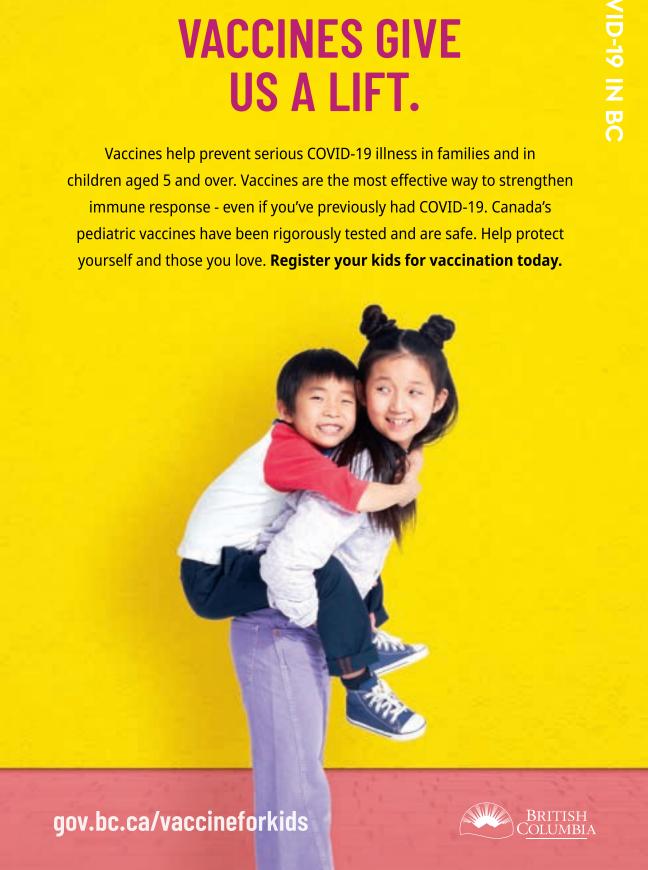
Conference

Council approved CAO Tupy's attendance at the 2022 Local Government Management Association of BC Annual Conference at the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre June 21-23, 2022.

In camera

Council moved to proceed to in-camera for consideration of matters of the Community Charter related to Section 90 (1) (c) Labour Relations or other employee relations.

The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.







SEND YOUR RESUME BY APRIL 28TH TO: manager@valemountlearningcentre.org

Thursday April 14th 2022 In Print | Online | therockymountaingoat.com

Village housing planning begins

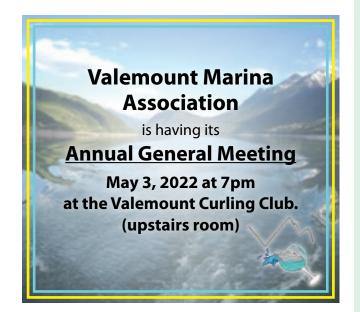
By Andrea Arnold

The Village of Valemount is taking steps to provide accommodation options in the community

An in-camera item from the March 22 Valemount Council meeting regarding housing was made public at the April 12th council meeting: the Village agreed to issue a Request for Expression of Interest for a developer to design and build a fourplex unit, and to purchase the Village owned property at 11554-6th Ave. The motion was carried.

The Village is using bcbid.gov.bc.ca to gather information and gauge if there is enough interest for the acquisition of land and construction of housing, said Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson.

"The REOI is intended to address the Village's immediate need for professional staff housing within the community, including teachers, nurses, consultants, municipal staff, etc," said Mayor Torgerson. "The information provided may assist the Village in the development of a future public procurement process for a potential housing project." The deadline for REOI submissions from builders and developers is April 29, 2022.







BC Gov commits to more funding for vet school

By Andrea Arnold

On April 4, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training along with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food sent out a news release announcing their commitment to increase their support for veterinary students from BC.

The Province is providing nearly \$10.7 million to double the number of provincially subsidized students from 20-40 attending the Western College of Veterinary Medicine on the University of Saskatchewan

campus in 2022.

The BC Government has partnered with the WCVM for more than 55 years. Dean Dr. Gillian Muir said in the release that they are excited to see the BC government's commitment grow.

"This increased investment enables more B.C. residents to achieve their dreams of becoming veterinarians," she said. "It also allows the veterinary college to better serve the diverse needs of communities throughout B.C., to support the health of companion animals and

livestock, and to protect food safety and animal welfare."

Following the announcement, local vet student McKenna Dolbec-Edmand confirmed that she will be one of the students receiving the subsidy,

"My tuition next year will be \$12,000, not \$70,000," she said.
"While the commitment for this next year's funding is great, it is a small step in what is needed overall as the support has not yet been extended beyond 2022."

Jasmine Vogel

By Andrea Arnold

Jasmine Vogel grew up with a first hand view of the world of rural veterinary practice as she watched her father operate his Dunster clinic.

"I think growing up around animals and my unique exposure allowed me to have a better idea of what the career and lifestyle were like," said Vogel. "There wasn't a specific moment that sparked my interest. I have always had an interest in practising medicine and decided veterinary medicine was the best fit for me."

Vogel has completed her schooling at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown PEI. Upon graduation this spring, she will be returning to northern BC.

"I have signed on with a clinic in Prince George," she said. "I am starting out my career in small animal general practice."

She said the fourth year of her program consisted of a number of clinical rotations that provided the opportunity to work alongside clinicians in the hospital and to be involved in patient care and client interaction. She's glad for all that experience gained along the way.

"I think the most important thing for anyone interested is to get involved with a clinic or multiple clinics and get a better idea of what veterinary medicine is about," said Vogel. "Every clinic is different



Jasmine Vogel has successfully completed her North American Veterinary Licenseing Exam and is returning to Northern BC to work in a Prince George clinic. /SUBMITTED

and gaining a variety of experiences is important." For those interested in the field, Vogel recommends doing some research to understand the depth of commitment required.

Isa Gasser

By Andrea Arnold

McBride resident Isa Gasser is nearing the end of her first year of veterinary studies in Calgary. Gasser moved to Truro, Nova Scotia for a two year preveterinary medicine course at Dalhousie University. Upon completion, she had the prerequisites to apply for the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary.

"When I am done school I would like to work in a mixed practice, large and small animals, in a rural setting," said Gasser. "Where, exactly, remains to be seen."

Gasser is no stranger to animals. She has been surrounded by them most of her life and enjoys working with all species and sizes.

"I grew up on a sheep dairy farm in Chase BC, and then farmed in Switzerland for approximately five years," she said.

More recently, she has been working alongside her parents on their sheep farm in the Robson Valley. Last summer, the whole Gasser family herded their sheep on Belle Mountain in a trial partnership with McBride Community Forest to help control underbrush.

"I have always dreamed of becoming a veterinarian but only decided to pursue this dream later in life," she said. Dunster based vet, Dr. Vogel has provided her with opportunities to gather some hands-on experience.



Isa Gasser's goal is to serve a rural community as a vet following her graduation from university in three years. /SUBMITTED

"I really enjoyed working alongside Dr. Vogel," she said. "I was able to learn what it meant to be a country vet and my experience working for him made me more determined to become a vet. I hope to work with him again in the future when my life is less chaotic."

Gasser has been using student loans to help cover her costs. As a mom, she also has the opportunity to apply to a number of focused provincial and federal bursaries that will help her complete her dream.

Valemount | McBride | Dunster | Blue River Thursday April 14th 2022

Local vet, Dr. Janet's concerns about the national vet shortage

By Andrea Arnold

Doctor Janet Jones serves the Robson Valley through the Valemount Veterinary Clinic as well as the Jasper area at the Jasper Veterinary Clinic.

"There is an acute shortage of veterinarians all across Canada," said Dr. Jones. "This is a crisis that has been building for a long time for many different reasons and has been ignored by provincial and federal leaders until it has reached close to breaking point."

The pandemic added to the stress load that already existed for veterinary staff. Longer wait times and shorter facetime with doctors or technicians are not the way that Dr. Janet wants clients to experience appointments.

The influx of people to the Valemount area has added to the pressure felt by the Valemount clinic, as Dr. Jones says that a surprising number of pipeline workers have brought their pets with them.

"Along with more demand for vet care at the Jasper clinic this has placed a great deal of strain on our staff," she said. "In Valemount specifically we are further hampered by the short time we are there in

She says that all across the country there are not enough veterinary professionals. Not only vets, but also technicians are in short supply too. She feels that it is creating physical and mental health issues for staff, and affecting the relationships with clients.

"Governments at all levels from municipal to federal must step up and recognize the seriousness of this issue and do what they can to help," said Dr. Jones. "Pets are very important to people and owners are now expecting increasingly sophisticated vet care, all of which puts extra strain on the system."

She asks that pet owners join in applying pressure on elected officials to do more to fix the problem by making veterinary education more financially possible. She also requests for understanding as they work as hard as possible to provide timely service. "We hope that owners can be forgiving if we occasionally fall short."

McKenna Dolbec-Edmand

By Andrea Arnold

Valemount resident and first year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine student, McKenna Dolbec-Edmand has always loved being around animals. As a child, she begged her family for a horse, in addition to their seven cats and two dogs.

Her interest in the world of veterinary medicine began very young.

"I was five years old and at the Valemount Veterinary Clinic with my mom," said Dolbec-Edmand. "While she was distracted with the cat, I wandered into the back surgery room while Dr. Jones was doing a surgery. I'm sure you can imagine the chaos that ensued after."

Years later, Dolbec-Edmand volunteered at the same clinic, and worked some summers during university, under the guidance of Dr. Jones.

"Dr. Jones has been one of my biggest supporters and I am very thankful," she said.

Dolbec-Edmand is attending classes at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine on the University of Saskatchewan campus. The first two years are very general. She plans on pursuing both small and large animal medicine.

Her hope is to eventually return to Northern BC and work in mixed animal medicine. "I'll be graduating with quite a bit of debt," she said.

McKenna said that the problem is that the province of BC doesn't fund enough seats at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, so she is paying a far higher international rate to attend.

"Myself and other BC students in this situation have created a petition to ask the BC government to subsidize more seats so that we can address the shortage of veterinarians in BC."

She is planning to pursue emergency medicine in the United States, with a view to pay off her debt faster.



McKenna hopes to return to serve a small community in BC as a rural vet once she has paid off her student debt after graduation in three years. /SUBMITTED



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Request for Proposal **Dunster Community Forest Society**



Project Name: Inventory Storage

CLOSING DATE: May 3, 2022 at

Location: 894 1st Avenue McBride BC

Project Number: RE0018

Request for Proposal Packages can be picked up at 894 1st Avenue in

McBride BC 8am-4pm Tuesday-Thursday, or contact Katharina at 250-569-3175 or email admin@dunstercommunityforest.ca

Scope of Work: Construct new building as per engineered plans.

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

LOVE LOCAL CONTENT? therockymountaingoat.com/subscribe Thursday April 14th 2022 In Print | Online | therockymountaingoat.com



As Pat Williams stared out of the Shell station window at work around 12:15 Monday April 18th, he noticed a flare-up of dust in the Swift Creek slide area on Swift Mountain. Last summer's major slides led to an evacuation alert for 40 downstream residents. Mayor Owen Torgerson said it's not surprising a steeper grade and dry weather is producing some surface movement and whiffs of dust. When the evacuation alert was lifted, he said the area of the landslide had been assessed by qualified professionals who advised there was no imminent risk to public safety. He reminded residents that while no trail closures are in effect, landslides are a natural hazard in mountain valleys. He encouraged residents to sign up for emergency alerts through the Village's Voyent Alert system. "Of course, the landslide potentially poses a risk to Swift Creek, which is the water source for the Village of Valemount," he said. "Per recommendations, monitoring of water levels in the creek is ongoing. This will be a tell-tale sign of blockage upstream and outburst flooding." He said in response to the Swift Creek landslide last year, the Village hired Kalageo Geosciences Ltd. to conduct an exploratory water-well drilling program in December 2021. The Village Public works and a drilling contractor drilled near the pump house north of Golden Years Lodge. He said the water well program was initiated in case Swift Creek was not able to sustain a suitable source of drinking water, both long-term volume due to community growth as well as in emergencies. Council has not yet received a report outlining the drilling results. Torgerson said the Atmospheric River event in the southwest portion of the province has kept many geotechnical companies busy, including Kalageo. /LAURA KEIL

Valemount Council Notes... CONT'D FROM PG

System Upgrade.

4. The Valemount Entertainment Society receive \$35,392.00 for their project, CHVC-TV Channel 7 Conversion to Digital - Phase 1 (of 2).

5. The Valemount Lions Club receive \$35,763.00 for their project, New Roof and Exit door for the Lions Hall.

6. The Valemount Climbing Club receive \$124,000.00 for their project, Valemount Climbing Club Phase 2.

7. The Valemount Ski Society receive the remainder of the funding in the amount of \$38,848.98 for their project, A Community Yurt.

Upcoming election appointments

Council appointed Carleena Shepherd, Deputy Corporate Officer as Chief Election Officer for the 2022 General Local Election, and that Grant Clerk Tracey Dennis be appointed as Deputy Chief Election Officer. An oath of office was conducted for both appointees.

Temporary Use Permits

Council approved TUP 22-01 for 1301 9th ave proposing a temporary residential structure for up to two years.

Council approved TUP 22-03 for 1460 7th ave proposing a temporary residential structure for up to two years.

Council approved TUP 22-04 for 1915 Cranberry Place proposing a temporary residential structure for up to two years.

Council approved TUP 22-05 for 1122 8h Ave proposing a temporary residential structure for up to two years.

Council gave initial approval for TUP 22-06 for 1155

14th Ave proposing a temporary residential structure for up to two years.

Street Vendor alternative locations

Council agreed that the public consultation requirement for Street Vendor II Alternative Locations remains in place, requiring permit applications to be submitted every year if the requested location is not within the assigned zoning. Every three years, the location is presented to the public for approval. This discussion came as a result of a request made by David Grant, owner of the Funky Goat Eatery, proposing that after six years – two three-year temporary use permits – the alternative locations become permanent without the need to reapply to the Village.

Board of Directors for VCF/VIP

Council received a report from the Valemount

Community Forest and Valemount Industrial Park Board of Directors regarding appointments to the board. Both current members and the Village want to provide as much time as possible for interested individuals to apply for board positions. The report outlines the tentative timeline for applications.

April 21 st - First VIC/VIP Ad for letters of interest May 5th - Second VIC/VIP Ad for letters of interest (15day min. for advertising is met)

May 9th - Deadline for applicant submissions May 10th - Submissions forwarded to VCF/VIP Manager May 31st - VCF/VIP Annual General Meeting -Appointment of Council Rep. to Boards

June 10th - VCF/VIP recommendations to Council for final approval

June 14th - First Council Meeting following VCF/VIP AGM - Council approves final appointments to VCF/VIP Boards

Bylaws and Policies

Council gave the Village of Valemount Zoning Bylaw No 847, 2021 Amendment Bylaw No. 858, 2022 first and second reading. The amendment addresses not only the issue raised regarding the removal of "Automotive Repair Shop" use from being included, but also Accessory Dwelling Unit regulations.

First, the proposed amendment would add "Repair Shop" as a permitted use to the C4 zone as well as C2 zoned properties west of Fir Street. This restricts the use to areas where it is most fitting, while also returning the use to properties in which it was removed.

Accessory dwelling unit (ADU) regulations inadvertently limited the number of ADU's in commercial zones to one. The amended bylaw will provide separate regulations for residential and commercial zones, and update the uses in each zone to correspond with the changes.

Council approved the amendment of Leave of Absence Policy No 15, 2013 to permit employees to pay back benefit contributions after a leave of absence, rather than pre-paying beforehand.

Council reports

In the council reports portion of the meeting, Mayor Torgerson reported that he met with CAO of Northern Development Initiative Trust, Joel McKay. In discussion on the Northern Healthy Communities Fund the topic

of community growth in Valemount was brought up. Mayor Torgerson provided Council a draft copy of a letter requesting Valemount's inclusion in the Northern Health Communities Fund distribution due to explosive community growth. The letter also requests that McKay advocate for the community to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Council approved the letter.

Public Comment

Rashmi Narayan addressed Council regarding the letter Mayor Torgerson will be submitting regarding the NDIT funding.

She stated that she approached NDIT about the Northern Healthy Communities Fund a year ago. She said that wrap around services for supportive living also falls under the funding, and the seniors housing project qualifies as well.

Council proceed to an in-camera portion for consideration of four items per Section 90 (1): (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality, (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, and (i) the receipt of advice that is subject that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose (two items).



Will the golden egg go to the clever or the lucky? The vigilant or the quick? A Mercury conjunction to Uranus suggests that the golden egg will land like the golden tickets did for Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. A prize may go to the greedy, the spoiled and the cheaters, too, but the top prize will go to the humble, curious searchers. Friday, we celebrate Earth Day in the first days of a solar journey through the earth sign Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're building a support system. Make your project, ideas and needs known so people can figure out how they might help. You won't find all you're looking for at first, but this is a blessing. It gives you a chance to hone your pitch to attract quality partners who can add strength, ease, options and magic to your team.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your social acuity is on point and it benefits every part of your life. You've an excellent sense of how far to take a joke or how much work you can delegate to others. Knowing when to push and when to back off is not only kind but efficient. It's how you get the best result for the longest stretch of time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The role of whimsy, playfulness and mystery cannot be underestimated. Without such things, the scene has the potential to tip into deadly boring territory, and nothing good can come of that, whereas something wonderful could come of all your clowning around.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). While others exaggerate the problem at hand, you minimize it, thus making it much easier to fix. The mechanics of a solution will be the easy part. Emotions are what have the

HOROSCOPES

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

potential to make things hard, but you will navigate feelings like a pro and be all the more attractive and successful as you do.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The dawn is a prize for those who wake up early enough to be awake for it. The sunset is a treat for outsiders and

those with a window seat or a room with the right view. As you take advantage of the free pleasures of the week, expensive ones will also fall to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have a few tricks up your sleeve. You may seem like you're minding your

own business, but you're well-aware of what's going on. Because you know the importance of paying attention, and the value of reading the room, getting what you want will be smooth and easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Communication is to relationships as water is to plants. Some need a lot; some just a little. This is governed by what type you're dealing with. Figuring out the rhythm of need is a key to health and success. Avoid making assumptions based on how you'd like it to be. Success comes from dealing in reality.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will embark on a journey of empathy, going the extra mile to understand where loved ones are coming from. As your knowledge of another person grows, so does your capacity for love, wisdom and vitality. Seeing the world how another

person sees it gives you new sensations, experience and know-how.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People want what you offer, but it's in limited supply. Therefore, the price should be raised. This probably has nothing to do with money. The commodity in question is something intangible. The exchange is more subtle and complex than a financial deal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Loving someone doesn't mean they won't occasionally drive you bonkers. When the little annoying behaviors test your nerves this week, you can safely assume it's not personal or deliberate and take it as a sign of intimacy. The prize for overlooking the less than optimal is mature, healthy relationships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Much is going well, though it doesn't look how you thought it would. Sometimes it's still challenging to open your mind to the way things are. As for the parts you disapprove of, they can be changed, though you can't change them and resist them at the same time. Embrace what's going on now.

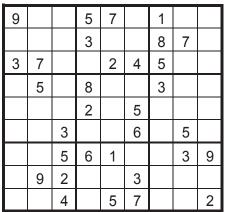
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Relationships help you fulfill your purpose, but they are not a stand-in for it. You want to contribute to a team. You prioritize being available to your loved ones and adapting to their needs. You can still do these things without neglecting your own plan. Make sure your own purposes are also being served.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:

You'll glide between worlds, know different scenery and have the experience of living a varied and exciting life. You'll gain influence where you once felt powerless, and you'll do much more to benefit others than those who had the position before you. Complex relationships settle into something simple and lovely. You'll receive visitors and create memories for people. Professional aims get excited when your contributions are a major part of the grand plan that comes together.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis. com. COPYRIGHT 2022 **CREATORS.COM**

SUDOKU



HOW TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

THE TOUGHIE

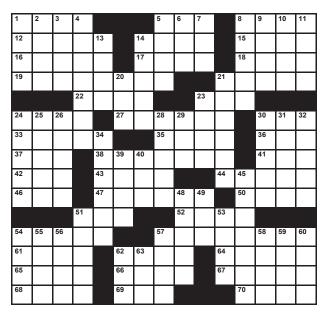
by Myles Mellor

Answers on P13

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.



Answers on P13



Across

1. Extremely thrilled

Three Stooges prop

Stitch's friend, in a

Disney movie

12. "Well, ____!"

14. Tres y tres

16. Beginning

store 19. Lycopene sources

23. EVOO part

17. Follow closely

18. Fashionable clothing

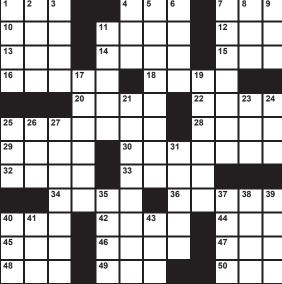
21. There's a squeezer for it

in the kitchen

22. Chemistry Nobelist

15. Speck

CROSSWORD





Answers on P13

Across

- Whiz
 - "Caught you red-handed!"
- _" movie "Vanilla _
- Damp and chilly
- Film rater's unit
- Trash bag accessory 13
- Metal source
- Present
- T.G.I.F. part Marinara alternative 16
- Polite term of address
- 20 Release
- 22 Asleep, as a foot
- 25 In which
- Tickled-pink feeling
- Lady relative
- Brother or sister
- Animal with a pup 33 Land tract
- 34 Stand Circle
- Fish caught in a pot
- Sand Royal flush card
- Nautical affirmative
- Per person
- "Matthew and ___ " Cat Stevens song
- Cincy player
- Golf course builder Pete ____
- Termination point

Down

- Play chair, perhaps
- Lightly cooked
- Is beholden to Had brunch
- Pleasing to the ear
- Carpet measurement
- Incentives
- 8 Outfit
- "Indeed" 11 Excelled
- 17 Snapper
- One awaiting a catch
- Confused state 21
- About half of all adults
- Seek help
- 25 Lived
- 26 Chroma
- Gave power to
- 31 Stock 35
- Wrinkled
- Slider's goal
- 38 Desktop object 39 Oversee
- 40 Attention
- 41 Look on
- 43 Hotel freebie

- 24. Laser-pointer battery 27. Ceiling-hung art
 - 30. Cart puller
 - 33. Damsons and
 - greengages 35. Ăngry
 - 36. "Quiet, please!" 37. Legume shell
 - 38. Green vegetable
 - 41. Stew morsel
 - 42. Waikiki wear
 - 43. Film spool
- 44. Indy entrant
- 46. Round fig. 47. Author Hemingway
- 50. Like young Abe Lincoln
- 51. Van Gogh: "___ Cypresses"
- 52. Wood factory
- 54. Sweet and juicy fruits 57. Shepherd's pie ingredients
- 61. Rights org. 62. Soup vegetable
- 64. Yes or no follower
- 65. Small, vocal bird 66. Rochester's love
- 67. Silvery fish 68. Fortune
- 69. Migratory fish
- 70. Noted Kenyan lioness

Down

- 1. Point
- 2. Middle part 3. Motley Crue's genre,
- with rock 4. Oscar winner for "Amadeus"
- 5. They may be strained for a baby
- 6. Sundial number
- 7. Night school subj.
- 8. Tag
 9. Newspaper article
- 10. Western wolf 11. Handwriting on the
- wall
- 13. James of jazz 14. Jotter

- 20. Resistance
- measurement
- 21. German song
- 23. Cassini of couture 24. Source of cider
- 25. Certain botanicals 26. Sit in on
- 28. Religious book
- 29. Sep or traditional
- 30. Pet protection org.
- 31. Coat shine
- 32. Tiger, for one
- 34. Hardware buys 39. Prefix with -nautics
- 40. Steeler's Big QB 45. Unsurpassed, as in sports
- __ record 62. "Enter the Dragon" star Bruce 63. Hurricane's center

58. Baseball's Hershiser

48. Mirrors' partner

49. Small songbird

51. Torso

53. Lad's love

55. Silk color

59. Wrigglers

54. Engaging bar

56. Baldwin brother

57. Programming language

- Answers on P13

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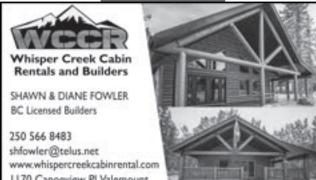
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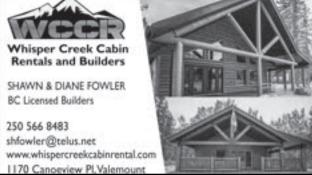


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9	4	6	5	7	8	1	2	3
5	2	1	3	6	9	8	7	4
3	7	8	1	2	4	5	9	6
2	5	9	8	4	1	3	6	7
8	6	7	2	3	5	9	4	1
4	1	3	7	9	6	2	5	8
7	8	5	6	1	2	4	3	9
6	9	2	4	8	3	7	1	5
1	3	4	9	5	7	6	8	2

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

⁴ A ⁵ H ⁶ A ⁷ S ⁸ K ⁹ Y

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¹⁶ P	Е	s	¹⁷ T	0		18 M	Α	¹⁹ A	М		
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⁴⁰ E	⁴¹ E	L		⁴² G	R	⁴³	Т		44 A	С	Е
⁴⁵ A	Υ	Е		⁴⁶ E	Α	С	Н		⁴⁷ S	0	N
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TOUGHIE ANSWERS

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VALEMOUNT

MONs Family Place Drop-In is now on Mondays from 9am-noon with Hannah. Come for the 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 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more info.

APR 25 – Fine motor skills development through the early years with UBC Occupational Therapy students

TUEs Join us for **Seniors Walking & Wheeling Group** every week at 2pm for a 30-45 minute stroll or roll around town with Shae beginning at 99 Gorse St. All fitness abilities welcome. No registration required. Call 250-566-9107 for more info or email events@rvcsbc.org.

MONs **Seniors Drop-In** is on Mondays from 1-3pm. All seniors are invited to come by for both structured and unstructured recreational, educational and social activities with Shae at RVCS (99 Gorse St). No registration required, unless stated. Call 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more info. APR 25 – Crib Tournament (registration required)

THUR APR 21 from 2-4pm it's **Tech Café** at RVCS where we offer FREE one-on-one assistance for you with your tech related questions or concerns with a device. No registration is required. For more info, please call 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

FRI APR 22 from 1-2:30pm we are meeting for **Earth Day Community Clean-Up** to celebrate Earth Day with pride! Meet at the RVCS parking lot (99 Gorse St) and we will provide you with bags and gloves. We will end up at the Valemount Community Garden where another event is taking place. Call 250-566-9107 for more info. No registration required.

FRI APR 22 from 2:30-4pm **Get Your Hands in the Garden** at the Valemount Community Garden! This event offers live music (Ben Coyle), seed saving information, a seed exchange, gardening volunteer time, kids crafts and more! For more information, please call 250-566-9107. No registration required. All ages welcome (children accompanied by an adult).

MON APR 25 from 1-3pm we are hosting a **FREE Cribbage Tournament** during Seniors Drop In (99 Gorse St). Prizes to be won and space is very limited.

Please register by April 20th by calling 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

TUE APR 26 from 4-5pm we are meeting for a **Spring Foraging Walk** beginning at the Valemount Community Garden. We will learn how to sustainably harvest wild foraged plants and learn about proper use. There's no cost to attend. Children are welcome while accompanied by an adult. Call 250-566-9107 for more information. No registration required.

FRI APR 29 from 10am-2pm it's **A Day at the Lake** for kids aged 5 - 9 years. Meet at Cedarside Regional Park (Cranberry Lake) for nature crafts, exploration, mapping of trails a campfire and hot lunch- all FREE! Call 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org to register.

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.

WED MAY 11 **The Red Dirt Skinners are performing** at the Valemount Community Theatre. Tickets go on sale at Infinity on Monday April 18th. Our last show ended up being such a success despite the power outage, I can't wait to see how awesome this one goes! Here is a sample of one of their songs: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ullNBeM9qCY

MCBRIDE

MONs **Family Place Drop-In** is now on Mondays from 9am-noon. Join 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). No registration required. Call 250-569-2266 for more info.

APR 25 – Games day at the park

WEDs **Seniors Drop-In** is on Wednesdays from 1-3pm with Sandy. All seniors are invited to come by for both structured and unstructured recreational, educational and social activities at RVCS (942 3rd ave). No registration required. Call 250-569-2266 for more information.

APR 27 – No drop in

TUEs Join us for **Seniors Walking & Wheeling Group** every week on Tuesdays at 2pm for a 30-45 minute stroll or roll around town with Sandy beginning at 942 3rd ave. All fitness abilities welcome. No registration

required. Call 250-569-2266 for more info.

WED APR 20 is the start of **Cooking Connections for Seniors** at McBride Secondary School, a free, six week healthy food skills program held every Wednesday from 4-7pm. Participants who successfully complete the program receive a \$25 gift card to AG Foods! To register: call 250-569-2266 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

THUR APR 21 from 4-6pm RVCS (942 3rd ave) is hosting another **Men's Shed Meeting** where you can ask your questions about home improvement projects, car repair work or other similar topics. No registration is required. Call 250-569-2266 for more info.

THUR APR 21 between 9am-4pm at Elks Hall is the **2 & 3 Year Old Fair** facilitated by Northern Health, RVCS & the McBride Public Library. Join us for a fun day of activity and resource stations led by community experts in the fields of child development. Please call Community Care @ 250-569-2251 to book a spot!

THUR APR 21 from 10am-2pm it's **McBride Community Clean Up!** Come on out and celebrate
Earth Day by clearing our streets of litter. Pick up your
bags, gloves and maps at the village office, and enter
your name into a draw for a gift card. For more info, call
RVCS at 250-569-2266 or the Village of McBride: 250569-2229

MONs **Mom's N Tot's Group** McBride Health Unit 10-11am Pre & post-natal education and breast feeding support. 250-569-2251 ext 2044

TUES, FRI, & SAT McBride & District Library welcomes children 8-years and older to the computer lab between 3-5pm. Ages 15+ welcome anytime.

THURs **Fibre Arts** McBride & District Library is knitting up sweaters. Attend from home via Zoom 10am-12pm. Computer access is also available at the library. Call 250-569-2411 for details.

FRIs **Writers Group** McBride & District Library 1:30pm. Attend in-person or online. Call 250-569-2411 for details.

DUNSTER

SUN APR 24 **Circle Dance** 7 - 9pm at Dunster Hall. Donation towards Hall rental. A fun way to socialize while enjoying dance and music. For information, call Debby 968 4429 or Rashmi 566 1302.



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.



Potato perfection

As I was washing ten or fifteen "mini nugget" potatoes (some would call them small culls) for supper the other night, I once again noticed the differences in shape, colour of skin, flesh colour, etc. With a collection numbering up to 70 at times, I guess I should be more aware of this than if I thought of potatoes as only "red or white" as I did as a young man before collecting!

The potato was the main food source of ancient Andean cultures in Central and South America. The basic time unit of the Incas was how long it took a potato to cook. Some of the blue and purple skinned ones and some of the small banana or fingerling potatoes are the most closely related to the original varieties from that area. The first conquistadors from Spain to arrive in Central America in the early 1500's actually thought potatoes were a firm truffle (like a mushroom) and found they were a real taste treat after the long voyage across the Atlantic. When they sent some home to Europe, the trouble began!

The citizens of Burgundy came to the conclusion that they were the cause of leprosy. The Swiss came to the conclusion that they caused tuberculosis. Because they were not mentioned in the Bible, the Scots figured they were ungodly! The English thought they encouraged lust. Only the Catholic Irish took to growing and using them but did sprinkle their seed potatoes with holy water just in case!

The more I read about potatoes, the more I see it is possible to become a "potato connoisseur" just as one would be seen as a wine connoisseur. There are potatoes that are more waxy than most and thus great for potato salad or mashed potatoes. The drier varieties like the Russets, Caribe or Kennebec are much more suited to using as baking or frying. Nooksack was developed especially for the French fry market. And of course, some are suited to please the eye as well as the taste buds. Ones such as the True Blue with its purple/blue skin and blue flesh or the All Red with the bright red skin and stripes of red through the flesh are such a visual treat when sliced thinly and roasted on a lightly oiled cookie sheet in a 400F oven for about 20 minutes.

For those who are fans of "French Fries", you may be interested in knowing that they could better be called "Belgian Fries". Back in the early 1700's (before the potato was even widely accepted in France) the Belgians were used to frying small minnows in hot fat to supplement their simple diet. In the winter, when the fish were not available, they cut potatoes in narrow strips that looked like the minnows and invented what is known today as French Fries.

In England, the commoners and eventually the aristocracy gradually came to accept the potato. Stephen Switzer, who was an English seedsman and gardener for the upper class wrote about the potato in 1733, "That which was heretofore reckon'd a food fit only for Irishmen and clowns is now become the diet of the most luxuriously polite."

No matter if you boil them, bake them, roast them or eat them raw as some of us do, the potato has become a mainstay in the diet of many in the Western world. In Canada alone, it accounts for over 40% of our annual vegetable crop and is worth over half a billion dollars per year.

Growing your own potatoes can be done by anyone who has a bit of garden space and some good seed. Remember not to use store-bought table potatoes for seed as they are sprayed with a chemical to prevent them from sprouting. Try to find good certified disease-free "seed potatoes" and go out on a limb and try one or two new varieties that you have never tried before. You could be in for a pleasant surprise!

Making magic out of clay

By Sandra James

Carla Trask works in her parents white barn creating another one of her masterpieces. The piece of clay which sits on her potter's wheel will become a mug with hand painted stunning blue mountain scenery inspired by local views.

Trask, lifelong McBride resident and owner of Cottonwood Pottery, started making pottery in 2017 when she approached another potter Stefi Maclane in the Valley for lessons. Enjoying her time learning this craft, Trask kept going every couple weeks for the following couple of years. Trask says she feels so blessed being able to learn while they talked about life and pottery, and she treasured her time there.

Ceramic artwork and pottery is one of the oldest crafts and human inventions originating before the Neolithic period. The earliest ceramic objects have been dated as far back as 29,000 BC. People who make pottery today are called potters and this word comes from the Old French word "poterie."

Space is an important factor for pottery and is the reason Trask set up in her parents barn in 2020 as this provides enough space, is heated and has the hook-ups for her kiln: you need both heat and water for the clay.

Trask first started selling her pottery at the Christmas craft fair online in 2020. Some of these items include mugs, bowls, teapots, plates and even Christmas ornaments her sevenyear-old daughter made. Trask is passing down the craft to her daughter as well.

"The community has been very supportive," Trask said. Currently a lot of her work has a glaze painted on them with mountain scenery as there has been a demand for this but the ideas are limitless. There are many techniques, ways of firing and glazing, all different. Trask calls her style "functional pottery."

While creating her pieces mostly on a pottery wheel, she explains that you can also use a technique called hand building which allows you to create forms with clay and your hands, without using a throwing wheel.

Wheel throwing is the technique of shaping around ceramics using a potter's wheel.

"You can't let the clay move you especially when it comes to the bigger pieces" Trask said as she wetted her hands and pulled the clay.

Clay is the basis of pottery and an abundant and naturally occurring resource.

"It's magic how the clay forms on there," she said as she explained about all the various things you can create with

Creating a piece of pottery is like telling a story: there is a clear beginning, middle and end. First, one must have a slab of clay and cut off a piece and then throw it on your potter's wheel which is essentially making and shaping the piece.

Now it is time to wait two or three days for it to dry to a state called leather hard.

After that, it goes back to the wheel for trimming; handles, if required, will be attached at this point.

It all goes for drying again until the piece is in a state called bone dry which can be done with a fan or dryer. Clay is bone dry when it has lost all the moisture that it can lose before it's fired.

Once in this state it is ready to be fired once at a lower temperature for about 10 hours and will be glazed after this. Once painted and glazed the piece is fired again for another 8 hours and then it is sanded.

If all goes well and there are no misfires or if the glaze turns out not too thick then it takes Trask two weeks to complete each piece.



Trask prepares to take this piece of the potter's wheel which will eventually become a mug. /SANDRA JAMES



"You can't let the clay move you" Trask says as she works a piece of clay spinning on the wheel controlling the speed with a pedal and her foot. It is like magic how the clay forms. /SANDRA JAMES



Some of the mugs created by Trask, adorned with blue glaze and mountain scenery. /CARLA TRASK







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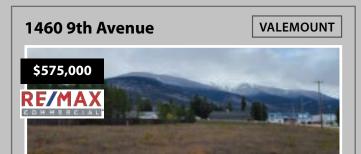
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