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Moose Hide walk P3

The Goat takes home 3 awards

Thursday May 19th 2022 Volume 13 Issue 17

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Approximately 18,000 chinook salmon fry were released into Swift Creek near the viewing platform in Valemount on Sunday. The fry were transported in water filled holding tanks to the viewing platform from the Spruce City Wildlife Association hatchet in Prince George where they have matured under the watchful eye of the Salmon Support Team. /ANNA MATA



A gathering of locals watched the fry release process from the viewing platform above Swift Creek. Around 30 members of the community were on hand to welcome the fry's back home. /ANNA MATA

Chinook salmon fry returned to Swift Creek

By Andrea Arnold

On Sunday May 15, 2022, about 30 Valemount and area residents joined the Spruce City Wildlife Association Salmon Support Team to release about 18,000 chinook salmon fry into Swift Creek.

The fry were taken as eggs during a weekend of harvesting that the Salmon Support Team performed in mid-August 2021. These young salmon have been growing and maturing in their hatchery in Prince George and are now of an age ready to be released back into the wild. By starting their lives in the controlled environment of the hatchery, the survival rate to fry stage was increased from 4-6 per cent to an amazing 95 per cent.

Water was pumped into the holding tanks located in the back of two pickup trucks from the creek prior to the release. The creek water was added to the tanks at a controlled rate allowing the fry to acclimatize to the temperature before being released.

This process took about a half hour before the fry were sent on a speedy water slide/tube ride from the holding tanks and deposited into the creek.

Full results from this harvest and release will not be known for five years. Since 2019 when a landslide blocked the salmon during the fall run, the salmon population has been declining. That year, only one salmon was reported to have made it back to Swift Creek in Valemount. Chinook salmon have a five year cycle before they will return and spawn a new generation of salmon that will call Valemount home. The hope is that a majority will return to help start the rebuilding of the endangered run.





Salmon Support Team volunteer Sara directs the stream of water and fry into Swift Creek during Sunday's return of the chinook salmon fry to Valemount. /ANNA MATA



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Ukrainian couple settle into life on McBride farm

The embroidered shirts that Yaroslav and Mariia are wearing are made with hand-woven fabric, traditional to the western Ukrainian region where they are from called Galychyna. These shirts are among the traditional items the couple brought with them to Canada. /SUBMITTED



Yaroslav and Mariia's Nataliia (left) and Iryna daughters, are relieved to have their parents in Canada, safe and sound. /SUBMITTED



The little embroidered runner was made by Mariia's mother Vasylyna. "It's made specifically for Easter and we use it to "cover" our Easter baskets that we bring to church to be blessed," said Iryna. "It has traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs (pysankas) on it and willow branches that we bless in church on Palm Sunday week before Easter. Grandma made me and Nataliia these little runners for Easter that we both have in Canada and those have a very special meaning to us, since grandma isn't with us anymore, but she loved cross-stitching and we know how many hours of work and love she put into making it." /SUBMITTED

By Andrea Arnold

Ukrainian residents Yaroslav and Mariia Pertyshyn have arrived in McBride and are settling into life on the Westlund family's farm. They agreed to provide their story through a translator. The Goat was fortunate to once again use the multilingual skills of McBride resident Anna McLennan.

Although the circumstances that led them to this point are nothing either of them ever expected, or wanted, they are very grateful to be here.

Their Ukrainian home, in the Ivano Frankivsk region of Western Ukraine, the small community of Horodenka has not been physically affected by the war. Their town is not home to anything that is considered to be a target for the Russians, but it is located 40 kilometres from a military airport. The residents have been living with the fear and uncertainty of what is coming next as the war continues in the eastern part of the country.

Many residents from the communities along the front lines have fled to the west, and beyond.

"At this time, over three million people have made their escape into Poland," said Marija.

The couple did not intend to leave, but as the frequency of air raid warnings increased, so did Mariia's level of fear and

"Our daughters were calling every day, worried about our safety," said Yaroslav. "We wouldn't have left if it wasn't for them." Mariia agreed that it was time to leave. Yaroslav wanted to stay and be available to defend their community. Although he is beyond the age limit for military service, he planned to join a group of volunteers to serve however he could

"Mariia did not want to leave without me," he said. "So on March 18, we packed and took a bus to Poland, to the airport." They left behind their small hobby farm complete with beautiful flower beds in bloom, large vegetable gardens and many varieties of fruit trees. They gave their animals away to neighbours that were staying behind.

Only one bag per person was allowed, so the pair used some of their allotted space to bring along traditional family clothing and items to preserve some of their family history.

Crossing the border into Poland, they had to wait.

"The line-up of buses was very long," said Yaroslav. "We heard that for some, the wait to cross the border was two or three days. The bus drivers tried to guess which line was going to be the quickest, but no one really knew how long it would be. People were fleeing with their kids and pets."

"There were local people bringing food to those waiting."

Luckily, they got through in about six hours.

Their daughters in Canada set to work finding them the most direct way out of Poland. They flew from Warsaw to Frankfurt, then on to Vancouver. The Pertyshyns were among the fortunate Ukraine residents who had passports and visas prior to the onset of war. With these documents in hand and their daughters working around the clock to find them flights, they were headed to Canada within only 24 hours of having left Horodenka.

Yaroslav had fallen in love with Canada in 1991 during a trip to Saskatchewan. "I was surprised at how friendly and how helpful everyone was," he said. "Even to people they didn't know, and people who didn't speak English."

Their daughters grew up with magazines filled with stories and photos of Canadian farms, and he encouraged them to learn

English. As the girls got older, they were encouraged to travel to Canada, and both daughters attended a Canadian University, and have settled in, one in Edmonton, and the other in Burnaby.

Upon the couple's arrival to Vancouver, they stayed with one daughter for a few weeks. Although they saw a lot of the area during that time, they didn't feel like they could settle into city life long term. In Ukraine, Mariia was employed as a pharmacist, and Yaroslav worked as a government employee in a role similar to a Canadian horticulturist, conducting tests on feed crops for livestock. Both of them also worked very hard on their small farm as well. They needed to find somewhere where they could work, be physically active and productive.

Yaroslav was looking online one day and saw a post on "Accommodation, Help & Shelter for Ukrainians in Canada - Be A Host" that McBride resident Renae Westlund had posted offering up free accommodation and a job on a farm.

"Since I was 19, I have wanted to live and work on a farm in Canada," said Yaroslav. "I told our daughters to contact Renae right away."

They spent many hours talking, making sure the couple understood how remote the area is, and what life on the farm involves. When they arrived in McBride on May 4th, they were amazed to see the size of the farm, but quickly settled in and began helping.

As they have been helping, and figuring out ways to bridge the language barrier, Google Translate, charades and common sense being their favourite tools so far, the bond and admiration between host and guest has quickly grown.

"I think they work harder than we do, and they're so eager to learn how we do things," said Ron Westlund.

Yaroslav's love for Canada has resulted in a deep knowledge and understanding of the nation's history. The couple find it amusing that in the 1800's many Ukrainians came to Canada, settling in the prairies. Since the pair arrived in McBride last week, some land clearing needed to be done on the farm, and they joke that they are just like their ancestors who chopped down trees to clear land.

They had planned to come to Canada in 2026 when Vancouver will possibly be hosting games for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Yaroslav is a huge fan of the sport and was looking forward to making the trip then. This early arrival, and the circumstances leading up to it, was not something they could have predicted. Yaroslav and Mariia have been watching the news and reading about what is going on back home. It is breaking their hearts to see the reports.

"There has been help from European countries and others," said Yaroslav.

"Justin Trudeau was in Ukraine a few days ago. The supplies that were sent for fighting were helpful but the people are fighting with weapons from World War II."

"We are so grateful to have found such a beautiful home," said Yaroslav. "Seeing the mountains every day is so beautiful. We only hope that we are being helpful on the farm. Ron and Renae have been so welcoming, we want to make sure they know how grateful we are."

"What the Russians are doing is horrible," said Mariia. "It is not just affecting Ukrainians. It is affecting all of the European countries, and even into Canada and the US. We are so thankful for everything everyone has done." Mariia said that in this area, between McBride, Valemount and Jasper, approximately 95 Ukrainians have been welcomed into homes, dozens have already arrived and many more are in the process of booking travel.

Valemount | McBride | Dunster | Blue River Thursday May 19th 2022

Moose Hide Campaign Walk





Students from Valemount's elementary school walk to show support and solidarity for ending violence against women and children. The Moose Hide Campaign Day is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and women who are standing up against violence towards women and children. May 12, 2022 was a day where all Canadians were called to join together to take a stand against violence towards women and children and to take practical steps for our collective journey of reconciliation. /ANNA MATA



Tourism Valemount charts new course amid bed shortage

By Laura Keil

Tourism Valemount is usually not in the business of making people think twice before they visit Valemount, but with the hotel room and camping spot shortage due to pipeline workers, Society President Pete Pearson says they will be encouraging people to plan ahead.

"It's so hard right now because of the accommodation sector," Pearson told the Goat. "Even for camping, there are so few spots."

He says the vision for Tourism's marketing campaign this year will be largely to maintain Valemount's presence and encourage people to plan ahead, similar to the approach taken by other North Thompson Valley communities.

"Clearwater, Wells Grey, Blue River and us, we're all in the same boat as far as pipeline pressure so I think our messaging is going to really focus on 'We're here, but plan ahead. Call ahead and see what's available first. Don't show up on a Friday and expect to get rooms for the weekend to go biking." With tourism re-opening, it's going to be tough, he said.

"We want to still be able to welcome people. You don't want to chase people down the road to Revelstoke or something."

He said the Berg Lake Trail being closed is another big blow to local tourism. He was surprised by the data from Parks this year that the Berg Lake Trail economic impact is more than \$2 Million/year.

"I had no idea that just the Berg Lake Trail would have that kind of impact ... just on the valley."

He said Tourism has had to shift their focus from the Berg Lake Trail to other trails like the new Terry Fox trail

"Just because Berg Lake's gone doesn't mean you can't hike in the valley."

Tourism Valemount's interim manager Pierre Frigon is working remotely from north of Edmonton. Pearson said he was a big part of setting up the Destination Marketing Organization in Jasper when they went through that process.

Stay tuned for an upcoming story with Pierre in the Goat!

Valemount Industrial Park

• • • • LOGO CONTEST • • • •

- Guidelines
 - Colours in hues of yellow/orange/browns
 - Shapes are curved surfaces like ovals/ circles
- The winning LOGO becomes the property of the Valemount Industrial Park company for future reproduction and branding.
- Prizes-\$500 and other cool items
- The logo is to reflect the company purpose which is:

To attract a diversity of business and operations to increase opportunities for sustainable employment in the community.

- Decisions for the winner are determined by the Board of Directors committee
- Entries to be submitted by July 31 2022.
- For further details contact: admin@Valemountcommunityforest.ca Ph. 250-566-4610

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Land Act:

Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that <u>Jody Cinnamon</u> from <u>Valemount, BC</u>, has applied to the Ministry of Forest (MoF), <u>Omineca Region</u>, for a <u>Licence of Occupation for Commercial</u>
<u>Recreation</u> situated on Provincial Crown land located at <u>UNSURVEYED CROWN</u>
<u>LAND IN THE VICINITY OF SMALL CREEK, CARIBOO DISTRICT.</u>

The Lands File for this application is **7409938**, **7409939**, **7410230**. Written comments concerning these applications should be directed to **Tricia Klein**, Land Officer, Omineca Region, MoF, at **5th Floor 499 George Street**, **Prince George**, **BC V2L 1R5** or **Tricia.Klein@gov.bc.ca**. Comments will be received by MoF up to **June 18th 2022**. MoF may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

Please visit the website at: https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/applications#splash for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Forests Office in Omineca Region.

A hard copy MAP showing the location and extent of the application area may be acquired by calling the land officer named above at **250-649-4303**.

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Editorial

Goat recognized for excellence at annual newspaper awards gala

By Andrea Arnold, Associate Editor

Along with most of the other Rocky Mountain Goat staff, I had the opportunity to attend the celebration of the 2022 Ma Murray Community NewsMedia Awards in Richmond May 14th. The event, hosted by the British Columbia & Yukon Community NewsMedia Association, also celebrated the association's centennial anniversary.

The Goat received awards in three categories: Silver was awarded to the whole RMG staff
- Newspaper Excellence Category A (size of circulation). Silver awarded to Arthur Tanga - Online Advertising Award for an online animated ad he designed for Bikes and Bites. Bronze awarded to Sandra James - Feature Photo award Under 10,000 for a photograph of a Pine Siskin eating a seed.

This trip gave our staff an opportunity to gather and further build cohesiveness as a team through face to face conversation. As a rurally located paper, some of our staff work remotely and this was a chance for us to meet and interact in a non-work environment.

It was a full evening of hearing about, seeing and celebrating the accomplishments of other



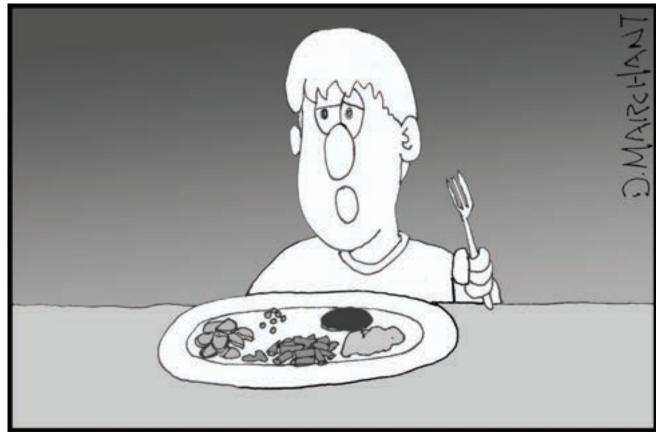
newsprint organizations that work hard to provide their readership with a quality product. It was humbling to hear the stories behind the stories as award winners gave brief background information regarding their submitted piece. We, as an industry, take very seriously our responsibility to inform and educate our readership through not only the fun lighthearted times, but also when the topic is sad, somber and even scary.

Our goal is to continue serving the Robson

Valley community through accurate reporting and sharing stories through photos and articles. Many readers that receive our paper, or read the articles online, live across Canada. By reaching people outside the valley with our reporting, we are spreading awareness of issues, celebrations, and businesses of our wonderful home.

On behalf of the Rocky Mountain Goat staff, I would like to thank you all, our loyal readers and advertising partners, for supporting us.





"BUT I HAVE ALREADY REACHED MY QUOTA OF EATING AT LEAST SEVEN VEGETABLES TODAY. I JUST ATE 13 PEAS."

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We welcome all letters to the editor

Write to us! goatnewspaper@gmail.com



About Letters to the Editor

The Goat welcomes all letters to the editor and values diverse opinions in our newspaper. Letters should address something that appeared in the newspaper or a current event. Recommended letter length is 400 words or less due to space constraints. Longer letters may be rejected or the author asked to reduce the length. The Goat formats letters and grammar according to Canadian Press style. No substantive changes are made without the author's approval. All letters are fact-checked and reviewed for clarity and libel. Letters must be submitted with a phone number for verification purposes and the location of the author, but only the name of the author and location will be published. We do not publish anonymous letters. Write to us! goatnewspaper@gmail.com. We ALWAYS confirm receipt of letters. If you have not received a reply from us, please call us at 250-566-4606 so we can make sure we receive it. Our letters deadline is Sunday 5pm the week of publication. Letters received after our deadline may still be included if space is available, otherwise they will be bumped to the following week.



Recognizing our amazing school staff

Dear Editor; I would like to recognize the excellent

school staff of the communities of Valemount, McBride and outlying areas. At both the elementary and secondary levels, in our public schools, the fine private school west of McBride, the amazing institute that was the Dunster School of Fine Arts, and the Distance Education Programs through the School Districts, I have served as a parent volunteer in many capacities. I have seen all staff go far beyond the call of duty to bring children, adolescents and teens into the fold. From cleaning and office staff through resource teachers, education assistants, substitute teachers, Aboriginal support

staff, teachers and principals, I have personally witnessed and our family has been the beneficiary of countless acts of love and positive reinforcement, as well as firm limit setting and role modelling that should make us all very proud and grateful. In addition, the high level of training, huge creative energy and beautiful dedication to expose our little learners to so many inspirational facets of the world around us, is of the highest calibre. And how many of us have seen the not-so-late model vehicles in the school parking lots well into the evening, on weekends and holidays? A recent conversation involved a staff person making themselves available to ferry kids to an out-of-town summer event. And we all

know of the international program that takes Valemount students to help build liveable homes for deserving folk in Mexico. You school staff SO DESERVE those few precious weeks of summer, although I know some of you get extra training and do grant applications, even then.

And huge kudos to the brilliant parents who are in the school doing many roles, connecting our schools and families. Sure didn't see parents in the schools when we were kids.

After Dunster School of Fine Arts was closed when my oldest was only two, our family had a five-year adventure known as homeschooling (under the supervision of fine Distance Education Teachers the kids sent assignments to

the school district and received report cards). This was supplemented by dozens of local programs through our fine libraries, museums, Robson Valley Support Society, Exploration Place Homeschooling Program, Valemount Play and Learn, Dunster Play Group, Ready Set Learn and I'm probably forgetting some.

And to think I was somewhere between reluctant and terrified to place my little ones in the hands of what I now know are the incredibly competent staff of our local schools. Best thing ever for our family. Thank you all from the bottoms of our hearts.

Ernie and Carol Romanow Valemount, BC

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.



Farewell Neutrality: Sweden and Finland

It's easy to imagine Vladimir Putin coming into the shop marked 'Sweden', breaking some fine china accidentally on purpose, and growling: 'Nice little shop you've got here. It would be a pity if something happened to it.' But Sweden is not a pottery shop, Putin is not a Mafia capo, and what's going on in the Baltic now is not a protection racket.

The Russian president has stampeded both Finland and Sweden, two neutral countries of long standing, into joining the NATO alliance, the very 'threat' that Putin claimed he was trying to drive away from Russia's borders. (Finland has a 1,300-km. border with northern Russia.)

The Swedish and Finnish response to his invasion of Ukraine probably surprised Putin. He would see no connection between his invasion of Ukraine, a former Russian imperial possession that needed to be whipped back into line, and two independent countries that have not been in Russia's sphere of influence for over a century.

Finland and Sweden, however, did see the connection. A neighbour they previously rated as dangerous but rational had suddenly shown himself to be an aggressive and probably irrational gambler. No fully sane and competent Russian ruler would have attacked Ukraine

with the inadequate forces and haphazard, overconfident strategy that Putin employed.

You might think that Putin's sheer incompetence would be reassuring to the Swedes and the Finns, but it is not. On the contrary, it frightens them.

Finland and Sweden are relatively small countries (Sweden has ten million people, Finland five million) with very good military forces. They might even be able to stop the Russians dead in a conventional war, and nobody else is in a position to invade them.

That's why the Swedes chose neutrality: they reckoned they were safer that way. The Finns lost a lot of territory to the Russians in the Second World War, but they fought hard enough that Moscow let them be neutral rather than reducing them to satellite status.

So why have both countries now decided to join NATO? They are still such tough nuts to crack that they would do a great deal of damage to Russian invaders. Stay neutral, and even in the worst case the Russians will probably pass you by.

That remained a valid assessment until 24 February 2022, and then it suddenly wasn't. Putin invaded Ukraine, and immediately began issuing veiled warnings

about using nuclear weapons if he were thwarted.

The Russian attack in Ukraine bogged down almost at once,: too few Russian troops, too many lines of attack. And the hints from Moscow about resorting to nuclear weapons to compensate for a conventional defeat multiplied.

This is crazy stuff, and all military skills and hardware the Baltic countries could bring to bear in a conventional war would be irrelevant if they were faced with similar Russian nuclear threats themselves.

The only effective counter to a nuclear threat is a credible promise of nuclear retaliation. Since Sweden and Finland have no nuclear weapons, the only way they can have their security guaranteed by a nuclear deterrent is to join NATO. So that is what they are doing.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is demanding that the two Baltic countries expel some anti-Turkish Kurdish activists as a reward for not vetoing this NATO expansion, but this problem will be finessed. It will take months to do the legal work, but in practice the two Baltic countries are already covered by NATO's nuclear guarantee.



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

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



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

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Canad'ä

Clean financial audit, Community Sports Day Association requests, and bylaws

By Andrea Arnold

Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson called the May 10, 2022 Regular Council meeting to order. Absent from the meeting was Councillor Hollie Blanchette.

Financial Audit

Representative Micaela Roque from KPMG presented the Auditors report and consolidated Financial statements. Mayor Torgerson was thrilled at the healthy state of the report, and the clean audit.

Possible reservoir surcharge

Councillor Donnie MacLean brought up the reading file item regarding the reservoir. She stated that she had read something about a potential surcharge being applied again this year. The surcharge in this instance refers to the reservoir being filled above full pool level. Mayor Torgerson commented that there have been recommendations from the joint committee Golden/ Valemount to ensure there are funding contingencies in place should it happen. He believes it is around \$200,000 extra. This was approved by the comptroller water rates.

Accounts Payable

Council received the accounts payable report for March and April 2022.

Bylaw Enforcement

Council received the Bylaw Enforcement Summary for April 2022. In the month of April, 30 new bylaw files were opened. 22 Business License Bylaw, one traffic/parking bylaw and seven zoning bylaw infractions were reported.

Valemount Community Sports Day Association Requests

Council waived the facility use fees for the use of the Sportsplex, John Osadchuk Park and the Community hall in the amount of \$725 plus tax, and required that the custodial fees although included in as part of the waived fees request, be covered by the Association in the amount of \$300 plus tax

Temporary Use Permit

Council approved Temporary Use Permit 22-05 for 1155 14th Ave proposing a temporary residential structure for up to two years.

Bylaws

Council moved to adopt both the Village of Valemount Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No 857, 2022 and the Village of Valemount Tax Rate Bylaw No. 859,2022 as presented.

Council Reports

During Councillor reports, Councillor Pete Pearson requested council approval to attend the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway Association AGM in Edmonton on July 8, 2022. Council approved the request.

In Camera

Council moved to proceed to in-camera for the consideration of five items per Section 90 (1) of the Community Charter to discuss matters related to (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an

officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality, (c) labour relations or other employee relations, (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 in 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 (two items).

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned.



The Valemount Historic Society Annual General Meeting

Wednesday May 25 at 2:00 PM

Downstairs at the Valemount Library

Everyone welcome!

For more info call Paul @ (250) 566 9154

www.valemount.ca

<u>Village of Valemount</u> <u>Notice of Public Hearing</u>

Please Take Notice that a **Public Hearing** for Zoning Amendment 22-02 will be held:

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 7:00 pm Council Chambers, Village Office 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC

1. Zoning Bylaw No. 847, 2021 Amendment Bylaw No. 858, 2022

A zoning amendment to:

- •Add Automobile Repair Shop as a permitted use in the C2 and C4 zones.
- •Update regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units.

Does this amendment affect you?

- •Accessory Dwelling Unit amendments affect the Village as a whole in all zones.
- •Automobile Repair Shop will be added as a permitted use to the properties outlined in black in the map below.



Cont.

At the Public Hearing, anyone who deems their interest in land to be affected by the proposed Zoning Amendment 22-02, shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard. Comments may be made in person at the Public Hearing. Written Submissions may be submitted by email to publichearing@valemount.ca, or via letter to the Village of Valemount. Written submissions will be accepted until 12:00 pm on May 24, 2022.

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

A Digital copy of Zoning Bylaw No. 847, 2021 Amendment Bylaw 858, 2022 is available at www.valemount.ca. A Paper copy will be available for viewing during regular office hours (Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm - 4:30 p.m.), until May 24, 2022 at the Village Office, 735 Cranberry Lake Road.

Job Opportunities

Visitor Information Centre Counsellors

Public Works Labourers

Visit https://valemount.ca/village-office/job-postings for full employment details.

2022 Tax Notices

2022 Tax notices have been mailed out. If you do not receive your bill by June 15th, please call the Village office at 250.566.4435 or email adminservices@valemount.ca to request a copy.



Expression of Interest

The Village is seeking a non-profit organization to run the concession during the evening of July 1st (Canada Day) at the Sports Plex grounds from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

If serving higher risk foods, a temporary food permit will be required by Northern Health to sell these items.

Interested parties are to submit an EoI that details their plan for use of the concession on or before **May** 31, 2022 to dof@valemount.ca

Cemetery Maintenance

The Village asks that the number of mementos and floral arrangements placed on grave spaces be limited, so as not to interfere with regular mowing and maintenance of the cemetery. If the size or number of items on a grave space is such that they interfere with maintenance, or the items are in very poor condition, they will be removed.

Residents are also reminded that the placement of a memorial marker or plaque in the cemetery requires a permit from the Village, and that the planting of flowers, trees or shrubs, or the installation of fencing or railings in the cemetery is not permitted other than by an employee of the Village of Valemount. All unpermitted items will be removed by Public Works staff.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Municipal Office at 250-566-4435.

We thank you for your co-operation as we work to maintain the cemetery grounds to the highest possible standard.



Temporary Use Permit defeated - Back Country Horsemen support and approval of three Development Variance Permits

By Andrea Arnold

The McBride Council meeting was called to order on May 10, 2022 at 7:02pm by Mayor Gene Runtz.

Public Hearing

Council moved to conduct the Public Hearing for Temporary Use Permit 2022-03, 333,

345 and 355 Main street – Wholesale use. Two letters from citizens were received on the matter of installing product silos in the yard attached to Horseshoe Lake Ventures. Linda Fry expressed concern for the possible deterioration of the alley due to increased use and the mud being transferred out onto adjacent streets. She is also concerned about spills and the possibility of rodents and birds being attracted to the area. Although she wants to see the business succeed, she is hoping that the Village will mitigate any negative impact. Phyllis Sivecki lives adjacent to the business and has expressed concern in a letter regarding the "mess" in the lot that is visible from her house. She is concerned about the increase in traffic and the increased likelihood of the alley and her lane being blocked for extended periods of time.

Business owner, Justin Martin spoke, addressing the matter of "wholesale use" referred to in the TUP.

"Nothing we are doing is wholesale," said Martin. "It is all retail. It is bulk, but it is for the retail market."

He also addressed the blocking of the lane saying if what they are doing is an issue, they can move much of their unloading and loading into the yard itself.

Hearing no other comments on the matter, council moved to reconvene the regular meeting at 7:15pm.

Audited Consolidated Financial Statement presentation

Tabitha Bosch from KPMG presented the draft 2021 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements to Council. Following the presentation, Council had no questions for Bosch.

Public Comment

Steven Garhammer spoke on the development variance permit that he and his wife Andrea are trying to obtain to begin developing their home at 455 Horseshoe Lake Road in McBride. He spoke regarding a covenant that the Village wanted to have put on the agreement preventing any development aside from the residence

being constructed until a hydrant can be put in nearby, by the village. Prior to the meeting he had presented letters from their lawyer and insurance underwriter stating that the presented covenant was not to be executed as presented. He said that the property would not be usable for the purpose they purchased it for with the covenant in place. He asked that Council reconsider that portion of the permit.

Back Country Horsemen support

Council received the letter from the Robson Valley Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of BC requesting a letter of support from the Village of McBride for a grant application for trail work along the Great Divide Trail at Moose River. Council directed staff to write the letter in support of the application.

Council gave third reading to both the Five Year Financial Plan (2022-2026) Bylaw 808.2022 and Municipal Property Tax Rate Bylaw No 809.2022.

Temporary Use Permit (TUP) – 333, 345, and 355

Main Street- Wholesale Use. During the discussion prior to the vote the Councillors agreed

CONT'D ON P9



The Corporation of the Village of McBride

Upcoming Requests for Tender

1. Revitalize McBride's Bill Clark Memorial Park and Ball Diamond Project

- Drainage improvements
- Construction of new spectator stands and player dugouts
- Installation of new and higher perimeter fencing/gate
- \bullet Installation of new sidewalk along 2^{nd} Avenue
- Installation of picnic area/picnic furniture

Site Visit – Thursday, May 26, 2022

Tender Submission Deadline – Monday, June 6, 2022

More details at: https://www.mcbride.ca/business/village-of-mcbride-tenders

2. 2nd Avenue Culvert Replacement Project

- Install foundation screw pilings
- Install open bottom culvert

Project can commence when run off/freshet complete.

Details forthcoming at: https://www.mcbride.ca/business/village-of-mcbride-tenders



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Boosters are the most effective way to restore your immunity and help prevent serious illness – even if you've previously had COVID-19. Please do your part to help protect yourself and others. **Book your vaccine booster today.**

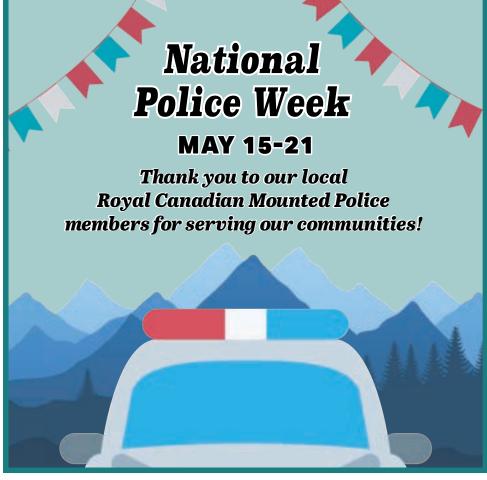




contract to do it," Elston said, of the highway clean-up. "We take pride. We want people to go to town and not see piss jugs and trash. It's frustrating." /SUBMITTED



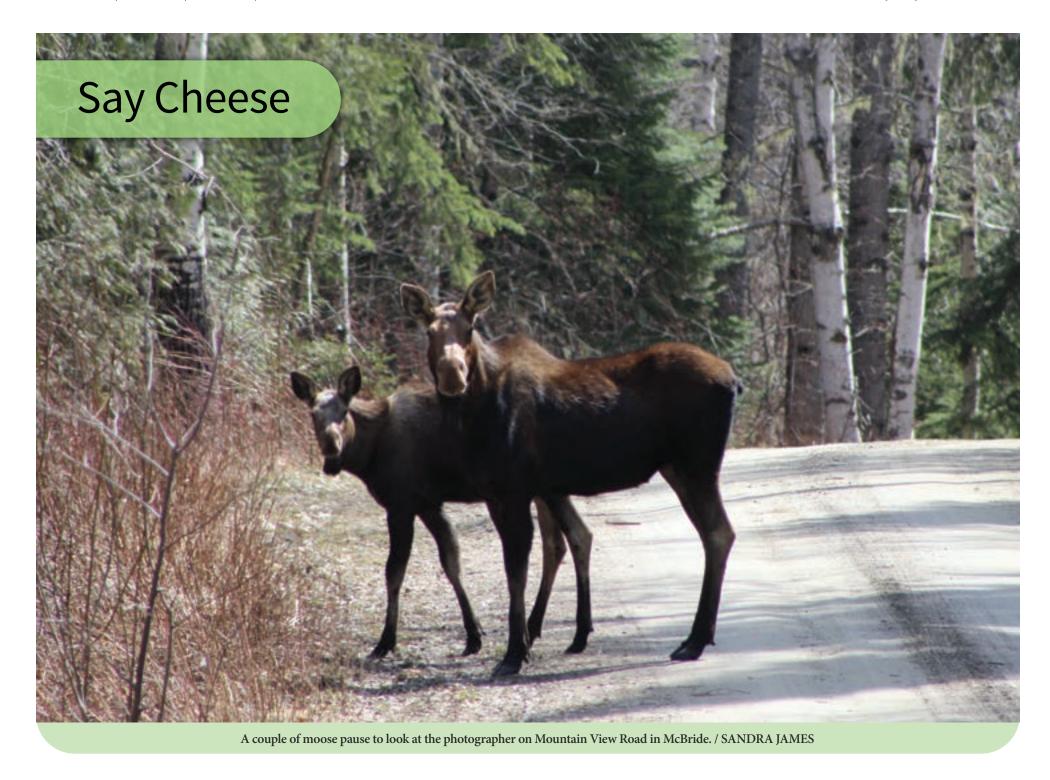
fri. Sat. Sun. June 10-12th 2022



their efforts to clean up the community. /SUBMITTED



Valemount | McBride | Dunster | Blue River



McBride Council Notes... CONT'D FROM P7

that the TUP was not needed so the direction to staff with recommendations and considerations was not needed. Councillor Rosemary Hruby first voiced her opinion that the TUP was not needed due to the fact that the proposal covers retail, not wholesale, and is within the bylaw and the zoning. Councillors Diane Smith, Lucille Green and Allan Frederick agreed. Councillor Smith recounted her experience at the current location of the bins in question during their restocking. She stated that there was some noise, only about half an hour long, and that the dust created by the loading of the bins is kept under control. She inquired as to what time the deliveries occur and how often. She was told they occur every 20-21 days, between 9-10am.

Mayor Runtz agreed that the wholesale aspect was not an issue, however he expressed concern for the potential of rodents as well as dust caused by increased traffic into the lot

Council received the written correspondence submitted from the public for information and consideration.

Council defeated the motion to approve the TUP 2022-03 to allow for a wholesale operation/feed silos to be located on 333, 345, and 355 Main Street for a period of three years ending May 10, 2025, and authorizes CAO Tupy to issue the Permit.

Village planner Kevin Brooks was in attendance via Zoom and he recommended that the wording of the zoning bylaw that currently includes bulk under the same definition as wholesale be changed through an amendment to help prevent confusion.

Council passed a motion to amend the zoning bylaw, removing the word bulk from the definition of wholesale.

Development Variance Permit-361 Dominion Street

Kevin and Jenny Taphorn are requesting a development variance permit to reduce the rear setback from 3.0m to 1.5m to allow the construction of a 93m2 storage garage to house outdoor recreational vehicles within their property. The existing accessory building size exceeds the maximum total Building area of all accessory buildings and structures on a lot, 70m2. Also,

the buildings span three lots but function as a single property. Staff is recommending that a condition of the variance be added, requiring that the owners apply to the B.C. Land Title Office to consolidate the property.

Council moved to direct staff to carry-out public notification requirements prior to bringing the proposed Development Variance Permit back for Council approval. Council also directed staff to provide them with any additional considerations that it would like to address on the development variance permit.

Development Variance Permit - 455 Horseshoe Lake Road

Steven and Andrea Garhammer are requesting relief from the costs of hydrant installation, and road paving that they have been presented with while they are working to develop their property on Horseshoe Lake Road. The property was added to the Village limits in the mid 1990s. Before developing, the Garhammers have to meet the requirements for a village residence.

The draft development variance permit removes the requirement of installing a hydrant before development, and the requirement of paving the road. It also states that prior to a building permit being issued, a Section 219 covenant be registered on the title, restricting any further development beyond primary residence, until a hydrant is installed.

Council engaged in conversation to address Mr. Garhammer's concerns regarding the covenant that he had made earlier in the meeting. Councillor Frederick, as a member of the fire department, stated that reaching the property either from the existing hydrant at the high school, or by shuttling water is possible. Council agreed that if the Garhammers agreed to provide a 3m area around any building on the property to help mitigate the possibility of fires, the covenant could be removed from the variance, and? the request to be exempt from the paving requirement approved. Council moved that CAO Tupy be authorized to issue the permit.

Development Variance Permit - 600 1st AvenueCouncil discussed the proposed options to allow the development of the Gigglin Grizzly RV park. A

development permit had been issued to the Fry's, who had come back with a few items they did not agree to.

The initial development variance permit removed the requirement for a new hydrant installation and the connection to the Village's sanitary sewer system, as well as a covenant restricting any further development beyond the proposed 24 lots until a full fire protection assessment can be completed.

The developer has agreed to install a two-step waste collection system to collect waste water from the sites, and arrange for the collection of the sewage. They have been in contact with Northern Health regarding the possibility and will continue to work with Northern Health to ensure all health requirements are met. This removes the immediate need to connect to the village sewer system. The developer refused the terms of the covenant and suggested a cost sharing option to meet the water system requirements instead.

Council passed a motion to have staff negotiate with the developer, the Fry's, regarding a cost-sharing agreement to cover the cost of installing a new hydrant and required lengths of pipe to connect to the village system. The agreement would be finalized following the completed installation.

Financial Statements

Council approved the 2021 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements as amended, following a few minor corrections to items, by KPMG LLP for the year ended on December 31, 2021.

In camera

Council moved to an in-camera meeting for consideration of matters of the Community Charter related to Section 90 (1): (c) labour relations or other employee relations, and (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stage and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interest of the municipality if they were held in public.

The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

In Print | Online | therockymountaingoat.com Thursday May 19th 2022



The Ruffed Grouse is an elusive, medium-sized game bird, although the males become conspicuous during the breeding season through their spectacular drumming behaviour. This territorial and courtship display involves the male standing on a structure that provides good sound resonance (usually an old log), raising its crest and back shoulders "ruffs" and beating its wings, slowly at first, then into a crescendo to generate the drumming sound. The Ruffed Grouse is widespread in suitable habitat throughout the province except for on Haida Gwaii and other islands off British Columbia. /SANDRA JAMES



Land Act:

Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that Sylvatica Forestry Services Ltd. - DBA Dezaiko Alpine Adventures from Prince George, BC, has applied to the Ministry of Forest (MoF), Omineca Region, for a Temporary Licence of Occupation for Commercial Recreation Guided Nature Viewing situated on Provincial Crown land located at UNSURVEYED CROWN LAND IN THE VICINITY OFGLEASON CREEK, CARIBOO DISTRICT.

The Lands File for this application is 7410226. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to Tricia Klein, Land Officer, Omineca Region, MoF, at 5th Floor 499 George Street, Prince George, BC V2L 1R5 or Tricia.Klein@gov.bc.ca. Comments will be received by MoF up to June 18th 2022. MoF may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

Please visit the website at: https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/applications#splash for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Forests Office in Omineca Region.

A hard copy MAP showing the location and extent of the application area may be acquired by calling the land officer named above at 250-649-4303.



Valemount Community Forest Co. Ltd. Valemount Industrial Park Co. Ltd.

Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 31st 2022

Location: Valemount Community Hall, 201 Gorse St.

Time: AGM starts at 6:30pm

Refreshments provided

Tour at the Sawmill

- Before the AGM come for a tour at the sawmill
- Meet at the Community Hall at 4:30pm
- Personal vehicle convoy to 555 Cedarside Road

McBride Community Forest Corporation P.O. Box 370, 200 Robson Centre, 855 South West Frontage Road McBride, B.C. V0J 2E0 T: 250-569-0262 - F: 250-569-0026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – 2022 Prequalification List



The McBride Community Forest Corporation (MCFC) is establishing and maintaining a Select List of prequalified Contractors and Suppliers specializing in all Forestry Related service areas such as:

- Grading Winter/Summer
- Road Construction/Maintenance/Deactivating
- Sheep Grazing
- Logging- Cable and Conventional
- Log Loading/Unloading/Sorting
- Danger Tree Assessments
- Weighscalers

- Cruising and Layout
- Site Prep Tree Planting
- Brushing
- Regen Surveys
- Recreation Site Maintenance
- Log Scaling

This list will establish a Select List of eligible contractors who are most suitable and available to compete and participate in subsequent direct invitation or select invitation solicitations on upcoming contracts and/or projects. Only prequalified contractors will be invited to participate on these contract solicitations.

The MCFC does not guarantee evaluation resulting in short-listing of contractors wishing to compete on issued tenders. The MCFC reserves the right to limit the number of prequalified contractors invited to compete on any subsequent contract, as well as, the right to select contractors to compete on a rotational basis. Contractors submitting responses will receive fair and uniform treatment and submissions will be

New contractors may be added to the Select List at any time throughout the year and will be evaluated in the same manner as contractors already on the list.

Contractors interested in being evaluated for inclusion on the Select List are invited to submit a response with the Desirable Criteria:

- 1. Resume containing education, relevant employment history, skills, designations and references, show that Locally based (within the MCFC footprint), Demonstrate Service Area Expertise
- 2. Hourly OR Daily fee rate(s)
- 3. Limited Liability Insurance (with Forest Fire Endorsement of \$5,000,000 and MCFC as additional insured), Worksafe BC, SAFE Certified. (or demonstrate that these can be obtained if needed).

Please note that this advertisement and the information provided is for viewing purposes only and is not an Official Invitation to Tender. Submissions for this process will be accepted up to May 31, 2022 at 4pm local time. Paper format, fax or email submissions are acceptable.

Email: admin-asst@mcfc.ca

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The stunning images found in Abandoned Alberta offer a window into our past, showing life as it was then, and stirring in us the emotions of wonder and curiosity about those who have gone before us and the lives they lived. Where others may see only decay and rot in these long-forgotten locations, Chowaniec sees exquisite beauty.

BY IDE CHOWANIEC



GRAIN ELEVATORS

Rising above the landscape, the grain elevator heralds a time when wheat was king across the West. At their zenith, 5,758 of these prairie giants defined the economy and skyline of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

BY CHRIS ATTRELL, TEXT BY CHRISTINE HANLON





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BY CAROL & RICK BLACKLAWS



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BY REGIS ST LOUIS, RAY BARTLETT, OLIVER BERRY





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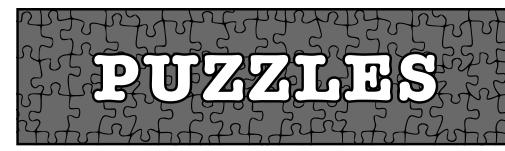
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McBride office: some titles may not be available for browsing and must be preordered. Titles by local authors are available at both offices.





CROSSWORD

Across

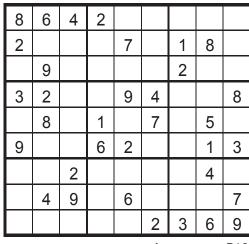
- Teeny
- Bit of sweat 4
- Genetic stuff Unhospitably cold
- Turn over (regarding an engine)
- 13 Hangup
- 14 Any boat
- 15 Telephone disk
- _ true!'
- Throng
- 19 To the point
- Captain's position
- Rung 26 For a short period
- 29 Have the helm
- Attractiveness 31 Lethal
- 32 Willful damage
- 33 Cushion
- 34 Ancient stories 36 All's well, that
- well
- 40 Pursue
- 42 Summon, as a taxi Take the cake

- 45 It's always charged 46 Animal instinct
- Tram's haul
- "Honor Father" (Talese novel)
- Hollow in a surface
- 50 Innovative

Down

- Desire
- Bounce in a cave
- 3 Peepers
- Open, say
- Fit to be eaten Auto option
- Supermarket
- section Lacked purpose
- Brazil, e.g.
- Stomach muscles, for short
- Days in April
- Beverly Hills home, typically
- 22 Kind of beetle
- 24 Scaleless fish
- 13 15
 - 25 Act the snoop
 - 26 Appear in a movie
 - Reporter's question
 - 28 Barbershopquartet specialty
 - It makes waves
 - 31 Pattern
 - Stock unit
 - 35 Thump
 - Broadway illumination
- 38 Be brave enough for
- 39 Healthy pot
- 40 Punster, for one 41 Exclaim in pleasure
- Serve to be replayed

Answers on P13



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.

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 samee line, column or 3x3 box.

The Toughie by Myles Mellor

Across

- 1. Org. for Annika Sorenstam
- 5. There's nothing
- 10. Voucher
- 14. Pitching stats
- 15. Gen. Rommel
- 16. Wine, prefix 17. No similarities
- 20. Olympic
- 21. Bowl material
- 22. Early craft
- 24. Stun gun
- 25. Superpower until 1991 29. Pin holder
- 33. Energy source
- 35. Reed or Summer
- 37. Mythical monster
- 40. Zero, for sure
- 43. Suitable
- 44. Italian province 45. Combat zone
- 46. Pro sports gp.
- 47. Pretentious one 48. Inaccurate
- 53. Track
- 56. Sale benefit
- 60. Mournful compositions
- 65. The best kind of 67. Builder's need
- 68. "Same here"
- 69. Hess who was a dame

- the time in the world
- 71. Showbiz twin Mary-Kate or Ashley 72. Make an effort to
- find

Down

- 1. Zooming device 2. Play thing
- Arthur
- 5. Andrea Bocelli, for
- 6. Grp.
- 7. Go for a dip 8. Article for Mozart
- 9. Abbr. on a business
- letter 10. Pause
- 11. Chrysler engines
- 12. All 13. Copier need 18. Crete's highest
- mountain 19. Meal starter
- 23. Anchors25. Annapolis sch.
- 26. ___ at nothing 27. Paving stone
- 28. Word of support
- 30. Dots on a map
- 31. Let go, for Shakespeare 32. One ___ million

- defense 4. Tennis great,

65

- 34. Prefix indication wrong action 36. Words between
- one day" and "time' 37. Chef's need
- 38. Marriage destination 39. Grouchy
- crustacean? 41. Actress, Long
- conditions
- Vanilli 50. Eastern belief 51. Great view 52. White or Red
- follower
- 42. Hosp. units 48. Modify to new
- 49. Pop music's
- 54. Small theater in ancient Greece
- 55. Grunts
- 57. Beehive, e.g. 58. Diamond of note
- 59. Explosives 61. Tach readings
- 63. Dublin country 64. Neb. neighbor 66. Genevieve, e.g.
- Answers on P13

62. Marvin of Motown

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Lunar Eclipse Investment Strategy

The message in this lunar eclipse is on the topic of energy investment. Like money, we invest our energy where we expect to see a return. In the best-case scenario, the return is amusement, pleasure, fun and fulfillment that somehow raises our energy level to more than we started with. There will be many worthy investment opportunities for our energy this auspicious week under the Taurus sun.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even as authentic as you are, there's a performative aspect to socializing. It is, after all, an art form, and all art takes effort to master. You'll put thought into your interactions. You'll analyze what works and grow from what you learn. Picking the right people to share yourself with will be your first success key.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Excellence in ordinary things is the accomplishment that matters more than any standout performance you could give. The only trouble is, this important work often goes unacknowledged, while flashier fetes garner attention and praise. Credit and cheer yourself on. Also, recognize the subtle, essential work of others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Most people, at some point in life, struggle with feeling good enough for the situation at hand. While such assessments are a part of growing and knowing oneself, if you can figure out how to skip the selfevaluation this week, you'll save yourself a lot of time and trouble. You're more than enough, so dive in and handle it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As Carl Jung suggested, the self is a "coincidentia oppositorum" -- both bright and dark and yet neither. Since it is impossible for a person to produce purely good or purely bad outcomes, don't fret. You'll complete 25 important things before the week is through, all with the best intentions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's something good about whatever style you approach with this week. If you overthink things, at least you care, and you'll probably come up with something the others missed. Underthinking shows trust in the universe, and it leaves room for people to help you, so connections get made. All will be well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your natural curiosity and openmindedness will take you to unusual places this week. You'll accept things you don't yet understand, and people will accept you before they understand you, too. This spirit of inclusivity -- an extension of trust and a willingness to learn one another -- keeps life interesting and fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The contradictions stand defiantly before you, daring you to make sense of them. It's a trick. They cannot be reasoned into a peaceful state. Stand back instead. These ideas are like the south side of two magnets: in a state of repellent instability that just might cause one

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Shouldn't true love also be easy love? And yet, were it really so, there would be no love stories. This week, the plot thickens. The rules will be reviewed and possibly rewritten. Loyalties will be tested. You'll learn more about the person you love and about yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you can't figure out why something happened, it's natural to go into mental overdrive trying to work it out. But people have acted on their feelings, and there may be no reason that will suffice. Get ready for exciting new happenings. Stop analyzing the last thing. Choose a takeaway. Put it to rest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Communication conundrums will occur. When you don't know what to say, you're in a good place. You're recognizing the complexity of the situation, the need for careful listening and discernment. A pause can be an invitation. People get in trouble overusing their lips, not for overusing their ears.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've known yourself to strive for a pure heart, clear mind and devout soul. You've also known yourself not to worry so much about it. Maybe the latter way suggests greater selfacceptance and a kinder overall demeanor. It's a week of not trying, just being, and deciding that's perfectly fine.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). More than any other time in history, people have come to expect to be entertained at every juncture. Your advantage is your curiosity. You don't wait for others to captivate your attention. Instead, you find your own reasons to engage, which is a sign of special intelligence.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: You've worked hard to become who you want to be and you enjoy the company of those on a similar trajectory of improvement. There have been times when you set the bar high to disappointing effect, but this year's relationships will exceed your lofty expectations. You'll create your own definition of success and live it. Things feel so much more satisfying when they come to you on your own terms. After some schooling, you'll take on a fascinating and risky venture and see profits.

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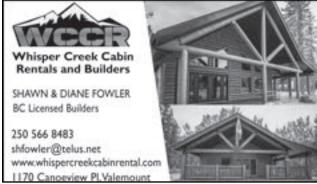


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Michael Peters Station Manager

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LAND FOR SALE

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

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Community Events

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

VALLEY-WIDE

MAY 14, 15, 21 & 22 at 9am - 3pm each day is Robson Valley Spay & Neuter Society Highway Clean up. If we have helped you in the past, or if you have always wanted to help us out, we need you! We will be cleaning up trash along the highway between Valemount and Tete Jaune. We will provide garbage bags, high visibility vests, and grabbers. Come out for a few hours, or a few days and help us raise funds for RVSNS and clean up our community. Call 250-566-9198 or 250-566-9706 for more info, or to add your name to the list. All invited! Call us!

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.

MAY 23 - Victoria Day, no drop-in MAY 30 - Planting Seeds at RVCS office

TUEs Join us for **Seniors Walking & Wheeling Grou**p 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. MAY 23 - Victoria Day, no drop-in

MAY 30 - Birding at the Marsh

THUR MAY 19 learn about the wonderful gardening technique of Hugelkulture with Jean Ann from McKirdy Creek Farms! Hugelkulture is a form of permaculture consisting of hills of decomposing wood, compost, yard clip-pings, and are wonderful way to grow fruitful gardens in smaller spaces. Event location: Valemount Community Garden (behind Secondary School). No registration required.

SAT MAY 28 learn to identify naturally occurring food and medicine plants, and cook with what you harvest during the **Foraging with Jean Ann Workshop!**Starting at 3130 McKirdy Rd at 9am-11am, and then 101 Gorse St from 11am-1pm, this two part workshop requires registration, sturdy shoes, notebook, and vessel for foraged goods is recommended.

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.

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.

MAY 23 - Victoria Day; no drop-in MAY 30 - Aboriginal Awareness Week, Seven Teachings activity book & 'Sabe' paper bag puppet

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.

MAY 25 - Pet therapy with Skidboot the dog

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.

THUR MAY 26 from 4-6pm it's the next **Men's Shed Meeting** where guys get together and chat about topics like mechanics, woodworking & more! Get advice or offer it. No registration is required. For more info, please call 250-569-2266 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

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

SAT MAY 21 from 11:00 to 1:00 **May Dunster Farmer's Market** at the Dunster Community Hall. Vendors welcome - no charge for table. Burger Concession. Bedding plants, baking, crafts, odds and ends, etc. Buskers Welcome. Weekly Markets start July 9th. Contact: Pete 250-968-4334 or Loretta 250-968-4453



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.



Growing your own strawberries

For the first time in many years, I gave in to the temptation of buying a container of California strawberries this past week just to see if there was any improvement over the last ones I bought. The big appealing looking bright red fruits turned out to be a whitish yellow in the center and had all the taste appeal of damp cardboard! I must admit there was a slight aftertaste of strawberry flavour, but I have a feeling it will be another twenty years before I fall for that "look appeal" again.

Growing your own strawberries is not as difficult as many people imagine. The first decision is to decide if you want most of your crop early in the season or you would prefer to have it spread over the period of June to the first frost in the fall. Basically, strawberries are divided into three types: June bearing, ever bearing, and day-neutral.

The June bearers produce a single large crop in our area around the end of June and the first of July. They have loads of runners that should be kept under control if you don't want a maze of plants. They also have the most intense "strawberry flavour".

Next, the breeders developed the "ever bearing varieties" that produce a large crop of berries in the spring and then again in the fall. They have the advantage of having a lot fewer runners to keep under control. However the berries are usually somewhat smaller and don't have the flavour of the June bearers.

The most recent varieties to be developed in the 1970's are the "day-neutrals" that produce fruit from the end of June until frost. They don't depend on

day length to encourage flowering as the other two types do. Day-neutrals have few runners like the ever bearers, but have a larger and more flavourful crop than the ever bearers.

You can plant about fifty plants for a family of four and that should yield enough for fresh eating and jams for most of the year. Choose a sunny location and be sure to have any perennial weeds under control before planting strawberries. Quack grass, thistle, etc will soon take over the young strawberry plants!

Dig in about three inches (8cm) of compost or well-rotted manure in beds about one foot (30cm) wide. Trim off any broken leaves or roots and all flowers and buds and soak the plants in a pail of water for no more than a couple of hours. Dig holes about six inches (15 cm) apart in a staggered pattern down the bed. Make a small mound in the center of the hole and spread the roots out in a fan pattern over the mound. The next step is the most important in planting strawberries!

Make sure that the "crown" (the solid area between the roots and the leaves) is positioned so the roots and the bottom half of the crown are covered with soil but the top half of the crown and the buds are above the soil level. Water the plants in well and again check for the position of the crown. You can lift the plants up a bit or cover with a bit more soil if necessary until it is positioned just right. The top of the crown and buds will rot if covered with soil.

As soon as the plants are watered in well, you will have better results if you mulch with straw, leaf mould or other mulch about 3 inches (8cm) deep This will keep

the moisture around the roots and also help keep the berries up off the damp soil at harvest time. For the first month after planting, keep all flowers removed to let the plant put out a good root system and grow good leaves. Also cut off all runners that may form. Otherwise you will have stunted plants and small berries. Keep well watered and enjoy the fruits of your labour!









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Shelly **Battensby** REALTOR



DIFFERENT BETTER

Lot 2 Small River FSR

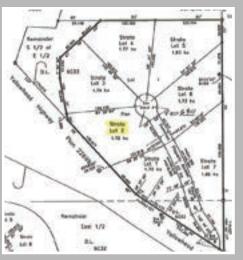






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MCBRIDE

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- 3 Bedroom Home Fully fenced yard - Excellent location
- Great value

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