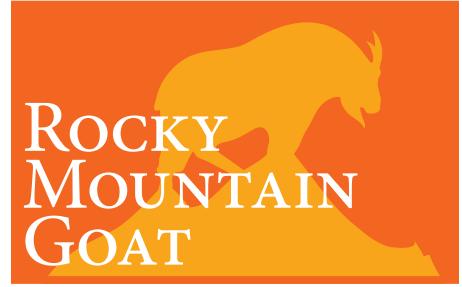


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Thursday September 29th 2022 Volume 13 Issue 35

\$2.00 GST INCLUDED (\$1.30 when you subscribe)

Man recalls near-death experience at Hargreaves landslide

Passenger train narrowly diverted

By Laura Keil

Michael McKenzie and his wife believed they were headed up Hargreaves Road to locate the Mt. Robson Heritage Cabins early Saturday morning Sept. 17th. The pair took a wrong turn and found themselves at a set of train tracks with an old shed constructed from rail ties at the base of a steep slope. They paused there wondering if they should carry on; something about the water drizzling down the shed roof made McKenzie hesitate.

"That water saved our lives," he said.

As they sat there wondering if the cabins were further down that road, they heard a tremendous rumble and rocks began skidding down the hill past their vehicle.

"I just remember yelling 'back up! back up!' I felt this tension across my body and I looked in the rearview mirror and rocks are coming down behind us and I looked ahead of us there were some wood chips and water and rocks coming in front of us and I honestly thought we were done for."

A former firefighter, McKenzie shifted into his emergency training and from the passenger seat pushed the gearshift into reverse - but it slid back into park. He popped it back into reverse, and told his wife to hit the gas as hard as she could.

"She backed up as fast as she could. We were driving backwards (by) looking through the rearview mirrors and at the camera and then - I think this was only about 10 seconds, because it feels like everything just slowed down - all of a sudden most of that shed on the railway track was taken out and a massive rock almost twice the size of our car landed right where our car had been."



Fall Buck

Male deer bucks grow and shed their antlers every year. The more tines or "points" on a set of antlers, the older the deer is. /PHOTO ANDRU MCCRACKEN, CAPTION LAURA KEIL

He said they kept backing up and told a nearby Trans Mountain security official what had happened hoping they could call 911. The man told them he couldn't, which Mackenzie thought was strange. "I don't know if they knew that they could - I forgot that I could because you can call 911 anywhere (even where there is limited cell reception)."

McKenzie and his wife drove to the ranger station and rangers phoned CN.

"I was really worried about a train coming," he said. "If you would have come from east to west on that track, you would have come around the corner and it would have been really dark - there's no light in the tunnel - you'd just enter the front part of the tunnel and then suddenly, you'd run right into the rockslide."

Near derailment

Don Bruce-Fuoco, head of Ledcor security, heard from a security guard over the radio about the landslide. As he worked to confirm the landslide's details, he noticed a passenger train heading north.

"The part that scared me was when that passenger train came through Valemount because it was going. And one of the folks in town I was talking to said they have to take

a run at that hill."

Bruce-Fuoco, a former RCMP officer and CN police, confirmed the slide with the guard at Hargreaves and called CN police to stop the trains.

"One track protection employee, an old fellow who's worked that mountain a lot of years, he came down (from seeing the slide) and looked pretty shaken up."

The Goat reached out to CN about the clean-up and whether an geotech assessment had been completed following the slide but did not hear back by presstime.

Lingering disbelief

McKenzie said he's been in the mountains his whole life, but never expected something like this to happen.

"I remember telling myself 'Okay, the shed's been here for probably like 50 years and it's still here.' Then it's gone. Yeah. This is not a normal day."

"I've been around these mountains my entire life. You just get used to trusting them and I still have this tremendous amount of

He said he'll never forget when that massive boulder the size of an SUV landed where their car had been only seconds before. McKenzie met a CN employee at a rest stop a couple days after and learned no one had been hurt.

"Is it ever fortunate someone was up there," Don-Fuoco says. "It's just a lucky string of events that everything came together." McKenzie is still processing what

McKenzie is still processing what happened.

"Who knows the real reason the universe wanted us there that day; I really hope that everything got figured out."

He wants to thank the CN employees who go in afterwards to clean up.

"I'd like to commend the workers who go out there on those tracks and do that work. That is scary stuff."



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Mandy Ross, a biologist with Simpcw Resources, her family and a number of other wetland specialists were in town last weekend to visit Cranberry Marsh, a provincial Wildlife Management Area. Tina Donald of Simpcw First Nation and Ross provided education to local students and residents generally. Also on hand were reps from Ducks Unlimited and the Province. On Saturday, Ross invited the community to help pull and prune invasive species as well as to plant native species to fill in the gaps. L-R: Janey Weeks, Cathy Greenhough, Angela Balon, Rhondi Hurlbut, Andrew and Mandy Ross. /LAURA KEIL



Ross said the native species they planted included pink spirea, red osier dogwood, lodgepole pine, birchleaf spirea and yarrow. They planted 160 new plants in the "Old Dump" area of the marsh over two days, and filled many garbage bags with invasives. Some dumps have a special location to dispose of invasives. /LAURA KEIL



The diversity of small animals found in a random sampling of marsh waters is an indicator of good water quality, says Bethany Walsh, an environmental professional focussed on wetlands and terrestrial wildlife, with Simpcw Resources. /LAURA KEIL



Invasives such as Canadian Thistle and Knapweed have become major problems at the marsh, choking out native species and spreading quickly. / LAURA KEIL



CBAL& 12th Annual

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Local volunteer Janey Weeks said while the invasives are here to stay, it's important to manage them. She's been coming here 48 years and has definitely noticed an increase. The event was funded by Columbia Basin Trust. /LAURA KEIL



Local Grant applications 2023 packages now available

Total annual fund is \$10,000.

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Valemount | McBride | Dunster | Blue River Thursday September 29th 2022

Addictions support meetings return to McBride

By Andrea Arnold

Residents struggling with addiction will have the option of attending a once-a-week support group held at the Library. Meeting facilitator, Mel Purdy, has a personal passion for seeing people get the support they need through recovery. Purdy will be one month shy of 15.5 years sober from all substances when the first meeting convenes on Fri. Sept. 30th.

"I had been living life in circles and getting nowhere," said Purdy. "I gave up a child because I was not able to care for him. I moved to Calgary and began the recovery process and haven't looked back."

Purdy moved to the Valley about a year ago. This spring Purdy realized there are no support groups in the Robson Valley, and she began taking steps to remedy the problem. In June, along with a few other members of the community, Purdy travelled to Kamloops for meetings. While attending meetings there, she picked up some literature and supplies to start a program in McBride.

"I wanted to provide support for anyone who is struggling," she said. "No one can make it through the program alone. We need to have support, and not feel alone."

Although the meetings will begin with a Narcotics Anonymous focus as that's the material Purdy has received, anyone with an addiction to any mindaltering substance is welcome. Also, anyone living with or providing support to a person with an addiction is welcome to attend the meetings. If there is enough interest for a group that focuses on other types of addictions, Purdy is open to the possibility of starting another meeting.

The meetings will allow people to gather and read addictions based literature that Purdy will provide. Together, they will focus on life without substances. Purdy explained that during meetings, they will pick a topic like honesty, addiction, or relapse and provide attendees the freedom to talk instead of turning to drink or drugs. They can discuss ways to combat the desire to use. Purdy appreciates the opportunities to go explore in nature that are available to her now that she lives in the valley, and hopes that she can encourage others to head out on adventures instead of using.

Purdy and her young son Daryl often spend Sundays exploring forestry roads and chasing waterfalls.

"My drug of choice is my son Daryl," she said. "The high I get from being around him is better than any substance."

Purdy has been in many treatment centres during her battle with addiction. Since becoming sober she has earned a diploma as a Drugs and Alcohol Treatment Specialist.

"I've always liked helping others," she said. "I want to start meetings to give back and provide support."

If there is demand and available meeting space, Purdy would like to offer a second meeting time each week. If you want more information, she can be contacted at 403-334-2727.



Narcotics Anonymous will begin meeting on Fri Sept. 30th at 7:00pm. Although the group is starting with a focus on NA, organizer Mel Purdy welcomes anyone struggling with substance use. / ANDREA ARNOLD

RCMP don't believe community at risk after incident

By Andrea Arnold

On Sunday morning, a Facebook post was circulating recounting a report from a senior Dunster resident. The report stated that she was awoken when a man touched her. She said she saw him kneeling next to her bed. An updated post on Monday said that in the middle of calling for help and the shock, she did not notice which way he

ran. She couldn't solidly confirm if she heard a vehicle. The family felt it was important to spread the word, and used Facebook as their platform. The RCMP was called

and are looking into it.

"As we look into the events we do not believe there is any risk to the community or residents at this time," said McBride RCMP Corporal Colin Bissell.



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF MCBRIDE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

NOTICE OF ELECTION BY VOTING

An election by voting is to be held to elect a Mayor and four Councillors, and that the following persons are candidates for each office:

MAYOR - One (1) to be elected

Surname	Usual Names	Residential Address
GREEN	Lucille	730 Dominion Street, McBride, BC
RUNTZ	Gene	1310 Museum Road, McBride, BC

COUNCILLOR - Four (4) to be elected

Usual Names	Residential Address
Glen	702 Dominion Street, McBride, BC
Allan	400 Shantz Place, McBride, BC
Joe	1515 McBride South Road, McBride, BC
Diane	4279 Mountainview Road, McBride, BC
Kat	944 – 4th Avenue, McBride, BC
Peter	955 Airport Road East, McBride, BC
	Glen Allan Joe Diane Kat

VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS

GENERAL VOTING DAY will be:

Saturday, OCTOBER 15TH, 2022, between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm at Council Chambers, 100 Robson Centre 855 SW Frontage Road, McBride, BC

ADVANCE VOTING will be held as follows:

Wednesday, OCTOBER 5TH, 2022, between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm at Council Chambers, 100 Robson Centre 855 SW Frontage Road, McBride, BC

A SPECIAL VOTING OPPORTUNITY will be held for qualified electors who are residents of the Beaverview Lodge in McBride at the time of voting, as follows:

> Friday, OCTOBER 14TH, 2022 **Beaverview Lodge** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

ELECTOR REGISTRATION

If you are not on the list of electors, you may register at the time of voting by completing the application form available at the voting place and making a declaration that you meet the requirements to be registered as set out below:

RESIDENT ELECTORS:

To register as a resident elector you must:

- be 18 years of age or older on general voting day Saturday, October 15th, 2022
- be a Canadian citizen
- be a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before the day of registration
- be a resident of the Village of McBride on the day of registration and;
- not be disqualified under the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in an election or assent voting and not otherwise disqualified by law.

NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTORS:

To register as a non-resident property elector you must:

- be 18 years of age or older on general voting day Saturday, October 15th, 2022;
- be a Canadian citizen
- be a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before the day of registration
- be a registered owner of real property in the Village of McBride for at least 30 days immediately before the day of not be entitled to register as a resident elector; and
- not be disqualified under the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in an election or assent voting and not otherwise disqualified by law.

In addition, for non-resident property electors:

- The only persons who are registered owners of the property, either as joint tenants or tenants in common, are individuals who are not holding the property in trust for a corporation or another trust.
- If more than one person is registered owner of the property, only one of those individuals may, with the written consent of the majority of the owners, register as a non-resident property elector.

In addition, in order to register at time of voting:

- To register, resident electors must produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature). Picture identification is not necessary. The identification must prove both residency and identity.
- To register, non-resident property electors must produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature) to prove identity, proof that they are entitled to register in relation to the property, and, if there is more than one owner of the property, written consent from the other property owners.

Sandra Salt **Chief Election Officer**

Editorial



Thank you

By Andrea Arnold, Associate Editor/ Reporter

Several months ago I wrote about the importance of being kind. Not superficially kind, expecting something in return, but true heartfelt kindness. On the other side of that coin is the importance of saying thank you.

Recently, I have had two experiences that have brought this importance to light.

Firstly, an elderly gentleman was struggling at the grocery store. This is not a new issue, as I have witnessed this sort of situation several times. I was in a position to be able to assist him, and gave him a ride home. I did not expect to get anything from him, however, a few weeks later, I received a thank you card from him. It was very sweetly written, expressing how much my simple actions had meant to him. Hearing, or rather reading those words, made me smile, and I realized I don't think I say thank you enough.

Fast forward to last week. My aunt who lives in Idaho took a turn for the worse and was hospitalized. It was not looking hopeful. I realized that I never said thank you to her for allowing my dog to come along when

my sister and I went to visit a few years ago. My aunt (and uncle) were not overly excited at the prospect, but they set aside their misgivings and we had a great visit. I realized that this was a big thing, and I never said thank you.

Realizing I may not get a chance to speak to her again, I sent a message of thanks through my sister and cousins to my aunt. I heard back shortly that in her weakened state, she'd nodded and smiled.

I didn't say thank you for the card from the first individual. He passed away not long after. It made me sad to think that I hadn't acknowledged his card. My aunt has miraculously gained strength and is once again able to speak, and one day soon, I may be able to tell her in person (or over the phone) how much her actions meant to me.

These two experiences opened my eyes to how important those two words are. A person is not always given a second chance to say them. It is an easy opportunity to make a person smile.

My recent personal examples are both extreme situations, but the lesson remains for the more common moments as well.



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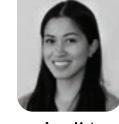
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The cost of the Goat is going up

Dear readers,

When COVID-19 restrictions arose two and a half years ago, I don't think I would have imagined sitting here in 2022. My gut reaction was that the newspaper was done. I imagine many other business owners had a similar feeling. In fact, for many who weren't so lucky, it was the end. Luckily, the valley's newspaper has endured, thanks to government support, the support of readers and advertisers, and the dedication of the people who make it happen each week.

As pandemic fears wane and restrictions drop off, supply chain issues persist and a new challenge has emerged: inflation. In the spring, the Goat was hit with a 10% increase in its printing and delivery bill. Other costs are also set to rise. To merely keep up with inflation we must look at an increase. So starting Nov. 3rd, the paper will cost \$2.25 (tax included) at newsstands.

It's been many years since our last increase and the cost of the paper is still less than a cup of coffee. Subscription prices will stay the same until December 31st. So if you're an avid reader, and want to save some cash, contact us at 250-566-4606 / billingrmg@gmail.com to subscribe.

People have asked me lately if the Goat is still for sale. The answer is no. I've taken it off the market and plan to forge a path forward. Diving into the stories of local people, mediating complex issues and advocating for positive change are still an exhilarating part of what we do and I look forward to many more years.

Sincerely,

Laura Keil Publisher/Owner Rocky Mountain Goat Media Inc.

Letters / Op-Ed

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.



The Golden Rule

Religion is not based on the

concept of the Golden Rule. The basis of religion is "I believe that your soul is going to suffer for eternity and mine is going to be

rewarded with bliss for eternity" ...

or ... "Your soul is going to have to reincarnate many more times into new bodies on earth before it can be anywhere near as enlightened as is my soul."

The Golden Rule is based on treating others as you want to be

Religion does not accomplish that mission.

June Vandermark McBride BC



Four Year Terms Were a Horrible Idea

Here we are, our Mayor and

Council have been acclaimed, and we await the direct appointment of two more councillors. Municipal government by acclamation is not a new thing, but this lack of candidates certainly is. I warned our MLA this would happen years ago. In theory, four-year terms made sense... to some. Elections are expensive, sometimes divisive, and most other levels of government have four-year terms. The cities wanted four-year terms. After all, running a city is very complex, and new municipal politicians have a lot to learn on the job. Also, city elections are very expensive. But by caving to the demands of our cities, our Provincial Government has created a horrible reality. Simply put, in small towns where elected positions are almost volunteerism, the potential pool of candidates is too thin. In our case, only two people running for councillor, and a voter's list of only about 1000

Think about it. Even councillors in PG and Kamloops make \$20-30,000 a year. The Mayor makes almost six figures, with a lot of free meals. In other words, in cities running for office is applying for a real job. A job that builds your resume and pays a professional amount. In Valemount, our Councillors get

what amounts to a stipend, and our Mayor makes about the same as if they were on social assistance. Nobody in their reasonable mind would propose pay raises of the magnitude that would attract more consideration for the job, so what should we do?

If you are a retiree worried about the future of your town, would you sign up for two years? If you are a young person wanting a say in what the town will look like 10 or 20 years from now, how about two years? No young person can commit to four years these days, most young people do not even know if they will still have the same job a year from now. And very few retirees are going to sacrifice four full years of online beratement without a meaningful break.

Democracy is about so much more than continuity and learning how to "behave" correctly according to some consultant hired by the Province to "train" all of the small town Voices of the People. Turnover is good! Do you know what also is bad about four year terms? There is no relief valve. Inevitably there is an issue that makes a certain number of village people animated. In a functional democracy, this new special interest group, who is convinced that they alone know what is best for all, would have a shot at getting their guy in within

a reasonable time frame. But four years? Well online they go. And it festers and destroys community is that passive-aggressive form of

Democracy works not because it always picks the best people to lead, but because it is the only system where occasionally idiots are given the ropes with which to hang themselves. There is nothing that throws cold water onto political extremism like being given the reigns of power and then seeing for yourself how delusional you were. It is called Cognitive Distortion, where you assume more people agree with you than really do. Democracy is supposed to give people the chance to have their say within a reasonable amount of time. Four years is not reasonable at the municipal level for small towns. So I propose this... how about we split the difference? Two Councillors run for four-year terms, and two run for two-year terms. That way there is always a balance of power between the long haul and experienced, and the fresh and unjaded. Maybe with a two-year option, we will increase our local candidate pool from two to 20.

Joseph Nusse Valemount BC



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We acknowledge the financial support

Nous reconnaissons l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada



The Backcountry Horsemen Society of BC, Robson Valley Chapter would like to thank our sponsors for their generous donations toward our recent Poker ride. The 10th Annual Poker ride was held September 17th and was staged at the brand new MacIntosh Rustic Equine campsite on Belle Mountain near

Many thanks to the business, and individuals who helped make this event a success:

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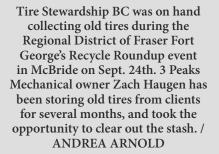
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Residents had the opportunity to dispose of old paint, electronics and batteries during the four hour event on Sat. Sept. 24. In the first two hours, the event had about 30 people come through and drop off items. / ANDREA ARNOLD

www.valemount.ca



Be Bear Aware

Garbage is the most reported attractant involved in human-bear conflicts. Bears that access garbage may be injured, cause property damage or become a risk to our community. Please take extra care to ensure that your attractants are safely secured.

- Keep garbage, recyclables, compost and other attractants secure – indoors is best!
- Keep containers that store garbage and recycling clean and odour free.
- Please do not place garbage containers out before the morning of your scheduled collection day.
- Manage fruit trees so that fruit is picked often and do not let windfall accumulate.
- Remove bird feeders and store pet food inside.

General Local Election

Notice of Appointments by Acclamation

Pursuant to section 98 of the Local Government Act, the following candidate(s) are hereby appointed by acclamation:

Office of Mayor TORGERSON, Owen

Office(s) of Councillor BLANCHETTE, Holly PEARSON, Pete

As a result of the candidates being appointed by acclamation, the advance voting poll, previously advertised to occur on October 5, 2022 and the general local election on October 15, 2022 will not take place.

Open Air Burning Bylaw No. 703, 2016

A reminder that Open Air Burning is prohibited within 100 meters of any residence and within 500 meters of any medical centre. It is also prohibited between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm during regular school days.

This Bylaw does not apply to the normal use of charcoal, gas fired or electric grills and barbecues for the purpose of cooking food or approved gas fueled outdoor fireplaces or heaters.

Job Opportunity

Certified Wastewater Utility Operator Level 2

The Operator will be primarily responsible for maintenance and monitoring of the municipal wastewater system as well as assisting with the water system. This position is full-time (40 hours/ week) and will require some weekend coverage and response to emergency call-outs.

Full details are found on the Village of Valemount website at: www.valemount.ca

Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program

It is not too late to exchange your old wood stove for a newer model or a cleaner, more efficient option.

Rebates can cover the cost of the appliance and any additional costs (installation, materials etc.) to a maximum of the following:

Old Wood Stove - New Wood Stove replacement \$1300

Wood Stove – Pellet replacement \$2750

Wood Stove - Electric Heat Pump replacement \$3000

+ An additional \$130 for permit and inspection fees. Don't forget to ask us about financial assistance for your WETT inspection.

Visit: www.valemount.ca/services/grants-funding

for more information.



Valemount | McBride | Dunster | Blue River



River crossings for most wildlife are taken in stride. Recently on a salmon spawning river I witnessed, for the first time, a chipmunk swimming. The river had a fairly fast current at this particular section, however the little swimmer never had a problem crossing over. This magnificent bull elk is on a mission to locate receptive cows and rivers don't even slow it down. /LEON LORENZ

RVCS is closed for National Truth and Reconciliation Day

McBride

There is a walk event happening September 29th at Steve Kolida Park starting at 1:30pm-3:30pm, which leads to the Bird Sanctuary with a moment of silence.

-Hosted by RVCS' PEACE, Indigenous Literacy

Valemount

There is a walk/run event happening September 30th at Centennial Park starting at 11am, which will follow the Bigfoot Trail. Chili and bannock to follow





IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Ron Goodell

The Goodell Family is sad to announce the passing of Ron Goodell on July 11, 2022. He leaves behind his wife, Linda, their sons and daughter in-laws Oliver (Orlanda) Goodell and Joe (Alyssa) Goodell and his brothers Norm and Bob Goodell, as well as other family and friends. Ron was 77 years old at the time of his passing. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday October 1st at the Tete Jaune Community Hall at 1 p.m., with a preceding graveside service the same day at 10:30 a.m. at the Valemount Village Cemetery.

REGULAR HOURS





MON - SAT: **9 AM - 6 PM**

SUNDAY: 10 AM - 4 PM



October 7th 7:30pm Valemount Community Theatre

Tickets at Infinity Office & Health

GA: \$25.00 Student/Senior: \$20.00 \$25/\$30 at the door Cash only



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Pete PearsonAcclaimed Valemount Councillor

My name is Pete Pearson and I live here in the community with my wife Kerry. When asked we are quick to tell people we live in paradise. I have lived in Valemount for 25 years now and truly enjoy all the area has to offer and being "in the middle of everywhere." I retired from CN Rail 5 years ago and enjoyed a short stint at the Canoe Valley Recreation Centre before putting my name forward and successfully running for Village of Valemount Council in 2018.

Having a mix of experience and new faces on Council, we were excited at what the future would hold and how we could be a part of it. Little did we know that a global pandemic was on the horizon and how it would affect our world locally and globally. As we move forward into a new term, I look forward to picking up where we left off and getting the momentum back to do what we can, as a Council, to continue to move Valemount in a positive direction. There is much to be done but by listening to the voice of the community I believe we can be successful.

I think we all recognize there are many issues facing our community, but housing is top of the list in most conversations. How much do we need? Where does it get built? Who funds it? What does the market look like after the TMEP project moves on? These will be the basis of many discussions moving forward. While this is an important issue, it can also be an opportunity to create affordable and sustainable housing stock in the community that supports all sectors including seniors, lower income citizens and staff housing.

I am disappointed that we will not be having an election here in Valemount and that we will be tasked with appointing 2 councillors to fill the slate, but I am looking forward to another 4 years serving the residents of Valemount to the best of my abilities.



I am a life-long resident of Valemount and have been actively involved with local government since 2011, volunteering at first with the Village of Valemount Advisory Planning Commission, Integrated Sustainable Community Planning Team, and the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives Adjudication Committee. In 2014 I was elected municipal Councillor where I was able to assist in advancing recreational development and tourism, forestry, municipal infrastructure management, and emergency planning. In 2018, I was elected Mayor. I am Valemount's representative to the Regional District Fraser-Fort George Board of Directors where I also serve as chair on both their Agriculture Land Use Committee and their Public Safety and Emergency Management Committee. I am the RD's nominee to the Columbia Basin Trust where I also serve on their Housing Initiatives Committee (chair), Investments Committee as well as the Columbia Broadband Corporation subsidiary (director).

I never, ever thought of being a community leader during a global pandemic. For me, the pandemic presented at times some truly intense situations, even frightening, but we were, as a team, still able to move on much of our strategic

priorities. I want to thank Councillor Sheri Gee and Councillor Donnie MacLean for their many years of dedicated service to our community and I wish them all the best in their future endeavours. There are several issues and opportunities facing the community; the most immediate issue and opportunity is filling two vacancies in the Office of Councillor. Councillor Blanchette, Councillor Pearson and I will form government on November 8, 2022. We will then have 30 days to appoint two Councillors. Should we fail to do so will require provincial intervention and the Minister of Municipal Affairs will do it for us, and this is something we certainly do not want to happen. This role is not something we want someone in Victoria working off the corner of their desk, and it could potentially happen. So, if you were on the fence during the nomination period, or want to contribute to the sustainable growth of a village we all love, bring your name forward.

Hollie Blanchette Acclaimed Valemount Councillor

Hello everyone....

For those that don't know me, I have lived in Valemount since 2005. I have been working at our public library for 17 years and I have served on several community committees and boards over the years.

I am starting my 4th term as your municipal councillor and I am excited and ready for the challenge. Housing continues to be a struggle and our non-profits have really met this head on. We need to continue to support them and we need to keep applying pressure to provincial government to partner and work with us to build more diverse housing: apartments, condos, tiny homes, mixed-use. Council needs to work on bylaws, zoning and variances to work with developers and homeowners to make this

process workable for everyone.

I know this sounds cliché, however, the people here are the opportunities. Everyone I talk with, work with has ideas, has a vision, a plan. We have so many large and small business owners and entrepreneurs who all do amazing things. We need to work together to move Valemount forward.

I am always available to listen. Reach out when you need/want to.

hblanchette@valemount.ca



The Goat the 2022 I however v themselve the candid communi

Lucille Green *Running for McBride Mayor*

I am Lucille Green, a proud McBride resident for 27 years. I have served on Council for the last 5.5 years; I was Deputy Mayor for 12 months and filled the role of Acting Mayor for 6 months. I am retiring from the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure at the end of this year. My experiences as a Provincial Gov't employee as well as my diploma in Civil & Structural Engineering Technology and as a Village Councillor have given me budgeting experience, legislative insight, and a wide range of valuable contacts throughout BC. My experience in government has given me tools to effectively lobby the Provincial Government on issues important to our area.

I believe that the biggest issue facing the community is the availability of rental housing. Lack of housing affects the community's ability to attract and retain medical professionals and other much needed workforce. Without housing options, we are unable to entice new industry or to fill numerous vacant job positions. This affects the economic growth of the community and minimizes the ability of our

health authorities to assist Local Seniors to age, with proper care, in their own community. The current council has been lobbying for more face-to-face provincial government

Kat Vickery *Running for McBride Councillor*

I am thrilled to be living and working in McBride in the beautiful Robson Valley. My wonderful husband Fred and I moved there in November 2021 from Lytton, BC. I am eager to learn more about my new community and I want to work with all stakeholders to make a great community even better.

So far, I have been involved with McBride's Elks/Royal Purple, Community Market, Community Garden, OAPO, Hospital Auxiliary, the RV Arts and Culture Council, the RVCS seniors' group, the RV Entertainment Association, Chamber events, the community Christmas dinner and the Anglican/United Church. I feel very fortunate to have moved to such a vibrant community full of marvelous, charitable, talented people.

I am the stepmother to Fred's two outstanding sons and step-grandmother to two amazing granddaughters. I have been a teacher for over 30 years and have taught K through Gr.12, and in Japan and in China. Unfortunately, I have had five back surgeries and am unable to work full-time now but am thoroughly enjoying working with the students of McBride and Valemount as a Teacher-on-Call. I love to travel, meet people and learn about other

Allan Frederick *Running for McBride Councillor*

My name is Allan Frederick and I have lived in the Village and area for over 22 years. I served on Village Council for two terms from 2002 to 2008 as well as the last term from 2018 to present. My background includes over 30 years of banking experience as well as many years of local business operations. I have served on the McBride & District Volunteer Fire Department for over 20 years. I am a member of the local Royal Canadian Legion and formerly a member of the Chamber of Commerce. I have served on several of the committees of Council and have been the McBride Representative to the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George for the last four years.

I believe that my experience and commitment to the duties of Council will help in forwarding OUR community with consistency to the plans laid out by the present Village Council. We need to use the input and suggestions from our committee members and the public as well in moving forward in a positive and progressive manner.

Our community has limited industry and tax revenues to work with, so we need to try and attract industry to

Pietro Caputo *Running for McBride Councillor*

Did not receive submission by presstime

reached out to all those who put their names into the ring for Municipal election. Valemount candidates have been acclaimed, we felt it was important they too were able to introduce es to the community. The following information was written by dates hoping to outline what they see as important goals for their ties. - The following are the responses we received by presstime.

services in McBride, and now that the BC Government is looking favourably to providing such services, the question arises: "Where do we house these needed government service providers?"

I've been talking about housing opportunities with businesses, industry, our First Nations neighbours and various levels of government officials in my capacity as Councillor and as a Board Member of the McBride and District Housing Society (MDHS). I'm receiving positive interest in housing partnerships that would support MDHA's applications for Provincial and Federal funding.

There are opportunities to streamline development processes and to encourage new development within McBride by updating Zoning bylaws and the Official Community Plan. I would like to create opportunities for more community input.

To ensure continuity for work already started and to be able to provide political influence to meet Council's goals and community needs, please vote for me, Lucille Green for Mayor.

cultures. I graduated from UBC with a Bachelor's degree in Theatre with a concentration in History. I completed my teacher training, also at UBC, in

the Multicultural Teacher Education Programme. I studied visual arts at Emily Carr University of Art and Design. My areas of expertise are History, Drama and Visual Arts.

What I have seen in my brief time in McBride is that the community would need to attract industry to supply job opportunities, provide low-income housing for an aging population, employ a full-time pharmacist, create easier access to government services, and repair roads and sidewalks. I would do my best to advocate to make these things a reality. Tourism opportunities and improved infrastructure could be strengthened throughout the Robson Valley. Attracting and retaining skilled workers, providing homes and securing financial resources are essential for businesses. Sharing knowhow and resources through partnerships with all the local governments along Highway 16 will strengthen our capacity to support us all.

the community and area to help us move forward and maintain the services for the Village.

Presently some of our challenges are housing for any work force that we can attract as well as a seniors housing facility. Our infrastructure is aging

and requires upgrades and/or expensive maintenance in the future. Another issue for our area is the connectivity or internet services locally. Grants are a large part and important tool for the community.

Village Council benefits from experience in tandem with a willingness to learn and listen and a commitment to be part of a valuable and hardworking team for the future. In the past four years of my being your Village Councillor I have attended all but one of the Regularly Scheduled meetings and I hope to continue to work hard for OUR community for the next four years with your support.



About myself: I was born in Portland Oregon in 1947 to parents who both worked full time (mother a nurse, father a truck driver). Youngest of three children. BS in Forest Engineering from Oregon State University. 1970 married to Susi, first of two children born, infantry soldier in Viet Nam. 1972 moved to Port Alberni (Forest Engineering). 1977 Iran. 1979 Registered Professional Forester, coastal BC., 1985 to present - McBride as Forest Consultant. President of Elks for two decades. Love gardening and sports.

Biggest Issue: Lack of good paying jobs. With more money, many but not all issues will take care of themselves. The way – Promote and assist the local mills to expand and evolve. Example 1: Raj has done a fabulous job at BKB expanding in employment and product line, but he must move more into cedar specialty lumber products in the next 10 years to compete in the future. Help him to do so. Example 2: Jerry Smith has done a great job in Post and Rail and has worked tirelessly to promote Bioenergy (Boreal

Bioenergy). Sounds like this project will go in the short term as a black pellet research facility. We should all know more in the next month. The facility is easily expandable and takes every wood type. Example 3: Forest Recreation is huge here but is

Hydro power: Large but can be expanded differently. Comments: I am not running to beat another person. I am running to change the attitude, for people to feel good about themselves. This election is not about me or council. It is about us, we, all of us, you and me as a team. I am looking forward to seeing everyone as I come door to door. I want to know your concerns and hopes. Together we are a power. Example: Look how the Elks and Royal Purple are a powerhouse and get

still an infant compared to possibilities. Example 4:

things done.

Diane Smith Running for McBride Councillor

I moved to McBride in 2007, a newcomer compared

I love living here and it is my home. I have been on several committees.

I appreciate the "heart" of the people who live here. It is unlike anywhere I have lived before. People here have worked very hard to make this rural/remote area as diverse as it is.

These past four years have been a huge learning curve for me. I have been committed to my position as councillor, trying to make knowledgeable, informed, fair and honest decisions on behalf of the village

Because of a knee problem I will not be going door-todoor. I can come to you or you are welcome at my home. I hope people vote for me for continuity, experience, and commitment that was definitely given by councillors that held things together during some

challenging times.

1. Healthcare was a common thread at UBCM for all communities. We are much more fortunate here than other

places but we must keep lobbying the government and the healthcare authority to make things better.

2. Another commonality is housing. Living Legacies being offered by Doug and Christine Monroe. My heart is with the seniors. They deserve to live out their lives "at home" in a great facility.

We have a housing committee that is looking at increased housing in McBride. Both these opportunities create other housing being freed up for sale or rent as folks move into other spaces. I offer my wholehearted support to both projects.

Joe Kolida Running for McBride Councillor

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Joe Kolida, born and raised, and lifelong resident of the beautiful town of McBride.

With a tremendous amount of consideration and encouragement, I have decided to follow in my father's (Steve Kolida's) footsteps and participate in the future of our town by running for Councillor within town office.

If elected, I'll ensure to bring the issues to light that the citizens of McBride wish to have addressed. I vow to be transparent, approachable and support solutions to increase the economic growth and viability the town of McBride needs, by creating ways to promote and support our existing small businesses and to encourage a place where new businesses can proudly build their foundational roots.

With this vision, I strongly believe our town will thrive with new employment, educational opportunities, new

development in housing, healthcare and improved infrastructure to support this growth.

By continually working closely with the Chamber of

Commerce and interest groups, to create a place that is inclusive to all people. I want to promote our outdoor and scenic values and ensure they are accessible to the elderly and people with disabilities. Recreational and tourism opportunities could lead to wide open adventures, from town to surrounding forests, rivers, lakes, and our exquisite mountain tops.

Together we can grow and secure the values that are so deeply embedded and proudly displayed in the town we fondly refer to as home, the town of McBride.



I have lived in McBride for more than 40 years, ever since I came to visit family after graduation. My father grew up here and the village has felt like home from the moment I stepped off the train. I have been involved in the community for many years, serving on the boards of the Arts Council, Valley Museum and Archives, the Whistlestop Gallery and participating in the vintage car portion of Pioneer Days. When I worked for the highways I was the shop steward and safety officer and was on the bargaining committee. I have also driven logging trucks, worked for BC ambulance for 35 years and recently retired from the Village of McBride public works. I am also a moderately successful artist with a few public art works scattered around the valley.

I believe the largest issue facing our community is the aging infrastructure and the increasing demands being put upon it. Having worked in public works I have an insight into some of the problem areas and can work to target the critical spots.

The largest opportunity, I believe, is the recent trend for people to relocate here. We have a beautiful location, well placed with short travel times to larger centres and with many

of the amenities that make a community livable. I offer a thoughtful and positive can-do approach.

Some things I would like to work towards are: a filtration system for the water treatment to minimize boil water advisories, address the old chevron property, work towards business-friendly development policies and timely decisions, and review current bylaws so that they reflect the values of the community and are not overly restrictive. I would value the input of the various organizations in the valley, for we are all in this together.





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Wildfire embers can collect under your home's decks and balconies. Don't use these areas for storage – keep them clear and remove debris and sources of fuel. The bases of the decks, balconies and houses can also be sheathed with a fire-resistant material to reduce the risk of them being ignited by sparks and embers.

Complimentary FireSmart Reviews

Interested to learn more? Request a **complimentary** FireSmart Review. The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George will identify your wildfire risks, and outline the steps to take for a FireSmart property. The work involved can be simple, easy and inexpensive – like creating a non-combustible zone around your home, relocating flammable items and clearing debris.

Request a FireSmart Review at rdffg.bc.ca or 1.800.667.1959





New books in store!

IT ENDS WITH US

Lily hasn't always had it easy, but that's never stopped her from working hard for the life she wants. She's come a long way from the small town where she grew up, moved to Boston, and started her own business. And when she feels a spark with a gorgeous neurosurgeon ryle seems too good to be true



A TOWN CALLED SOLACE

A Town Called Solace--the brilliant and emotionally radiant new novel from Mary Lawson her first in nearly a decade--opens on a family in crisis: rebellious teenager Rose been missing for weeks with no word, and Rose's younger sister, the feisty and fierce Clara.

KLARA AND THE SUN

THE WINTER WIVES

From her place in the store, Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her, but when the possibility emerges that her circumstances may change forever, Klara is warned not to invest too much in the promises of humans.

A thrilling new psychological drama from Scotiabank Giller Prize winner Linden MacIntrye,



weaving threads of crime, disability and dementia together into a tale of unrequited love and delusion. Two old friends, who first met in university, get together for a weekend of golfing: Allan, a football hero, worldly and financially successful, and his quieter friend, nicknamed Byron, lame from a childhood injury, a smart fellow who became a lawyer but who has never left home, staying put so he could care for a mother with Alzheimer's.



VALEMOUNT HOURS: MON 9am-5pm TUES 10am-4pm

WED-FRI 9am-5pm 1170 5th Avenue ACROSS FROM THE IGA DOWNTOWN **TUES 12pm-3pm** 411 Main Street - Unit 102 ACCESS FROM 4TH AVE

MCBRIDE HOURS:

MON 9am-3pm

We accept used books by donation or for store credit! \$2.50 from each used book sale goes to **Meals on Wheels**, which provides seniors with hot meals several times a week and helps them live independently for longer.

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



5-year-old Jaxson Spencer of McBride is jumping for joy as autumn is here. Spencer says that his favorite thing about Autumn is that he is able to play at the park because it's not too hot and there are no mosquitoes. / SANDRA JAMES

Former Swiss Bakery owners largely unscathed after Fiona

By Laura Keil

After Bogdan Wasaznik and Silvia Jungo sold the Swiss Bakery to Tim Haus and Susan Umstot last year, they relocated permanently to their quaint house on the shores of Newfoundland. This past weekend, their usually placid view turned into a nightmare as post-tropical cyclone Fiona made landfall, wreaking havoc across the

"It was two days in hell," Wasaznik said. "I was all the time at home, watching and waiting for the worst."

Silvia is currently in Switzerland and could do nothing but wait and watch. Forecasters called for waves up to 38 feet high making landfall where they live and up

"It was a nightmare not being there," she said. "They had no power but I kept getting people's pictures and not being able to help or go home; not knowing what will be left, will people die or be injured."

For a while there was no power and she lost contact with Bogdan. She lit candles in her church in Switzerland and prayed for a miracle.

Jungo said their home is in an exposed spot in Rose Blanche, an area not far from the hard-hit Port-aux-Basques, but the only damage is a missing older door and the outdoor stairs down to the rocks.

"Not everybody got out as lucky as we were. And that only one person dies in Portaux-Basques is truly another miracle. Structural damage can be replaced, of course sentimental value and hard work cannot."

On Monday Wasaznik said he was busy baking breads for people in need.

"We are fine, almost no damage to our property. Silvia is in Switzerland right now, I am alone here and I am happy for Silvia she didn't have to see that."





CROSSWORD

Across

- Enjoyment
- One lap around the
- track, sav Some stay at home
- Not divided
- Boat mover 12
- 13 "Whoops!"
- 14 Paid announcements
- 15 Tornado aftermath, typically
- 17 Design
- 19 "The best things in life
- _ free "Yum!" 20
- 22 Method
- Atelier item
- Likely to miss the bus, 28
- Inspection of 29 knowledge
- Cheers up
- Common yule colour 32
- 33 "The door's open!"
- 34 This __ that
- 35 Poem

- 43 Dated
- Took to court 44 45 On behalf of

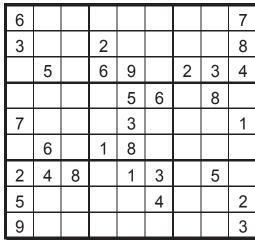
39 Poison remedy

- Hair substitute
- Kind of socks 47
- Other side
- James Bond, for one

Down

- 1 Head
- Fix a faux pas
- Brooder's place
- Type of diet Pencil holder
- "The _ story ever
- told' _s of Hazzard"
- "Caught in the act!"
- "Man's best friend" 1967 Monkees song
- 16 Have a bawl
- 18 Individual unit
- 21 Draw
- 22 Active struggle
- Absorbed, as a cost
- 15 23 25 26 27 33
 - 24 Go on
 - 25 Proportionately
 - What a woodsman
 - wields Nipper
 - 28 Seduce
 - Harsh
 - Conclude Assistant
 - 34 Seating sections
- 37 Faux pas
- 38 Nervously irritable
- 39 Inquire
- Whoopi Goldberg plays one in "Sister Act
- 41 Gadget in golf
- 42 Overly

Answers on P13



Answers on P13

SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY

16

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. First cards turned
- 5. Cygnet's mother 8. Shed item
- 11. Dynamic leader
- 12. "Carmen" composer
- 14. Legal departure 15. It may be brown
- or Spanish
- 16. Gold than silver 17. Vitamin
- 18. Fine skipper
- 21. Hosp. picture
- 22. N.Y.P.D.
- employee
- 24. For all to see 28. Estranger
- 33. St. Petersburg's river
- 34. "___ She Lovely?" 35. Uncle Sam poster
- word 36. Split
- 41. Sea bird
- 42. A way to start 43. Raise a stink
- 44. Set down rules and codes of conduct for
- 47. Range rovers 48. Actress Mazar
- 49. Word after "long"
- 51. Anne Hathaway and Amy Adams,

for example

- 59. Hippie play 61. Corporate concern
- 62. Nevada
- gemstone 63. Temperature controls,
- briefly 64. Shade of black
- 65. Plane part 66. Thus far
- 67. French sea

Down

- 1. Cultivate by growing
- 2. Movie princess 3. "The Two
- 4. Coffeehouse reader, perhaps
- 5. Pop star from Guam
- book 7. Poet's adverb
- 8. Supercuts employee 9. Wise one
- 10. Right angle extension
- 12. Winter comment 13. Prefix with state
- 17. Baseball's
- Alejandro 19. C.P.R. expert
- Towers" army 6. Old Testament
- 20. Beethoven's "Choral" Symphony 23. Combined

25 26

- resources _ Majesty's
- Secret Service" 25. Took evasive
- action 26. Billy Graham, e.g.
- 27. Radiation unit
- 29. Unit of petrol
- 31. Benz ending 32. Sweetened
- rocks
- 38. Fish spawn 39. On Soc. Sec.
- 40. Exasperation 45. Over, in Germany
- 30. Relative of -esque 46. Macbeth prop
- biscuits 37. Thin layers of
- 47. Condo

Answers on P13

management

group, abbr. 50. Quiet valley 52. Board member: abbr.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS **Cosmic Counterbalance** The pendulum will swing, the Where should you focus? The scales will tip and all will feel timeworn adages will ring true, precariously out of hand. Then like, "safety first" and "blood runs the new moon in Libra reminds thicker than water." Also, the everus the truth: Things were never in useful "measure twice, cut once" hand to begin with. Control is an could save the day. illusion, but if it calms you down SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Social so you can see your way to your

HOROSCOPES

one. Venus enters Libra midweek to reinforce the notion that, with a little faith and tenacity, balance will be restored. ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your you go out, you'll think ahead so most powerful mode is always you can get yourself into the right mood, and you'll plan and practice going to come from an integrated what you'll say. state of mind in which you accept your weaknesses and strengths alike. To compensate would take energy and probably draw attention to the very flaw you'd

next right move, it's an effective

your vulnerability. TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't feel entirely secure in the way things are, and your vision of the future is hazy, too. But if there's one thing you can count on, it's your ability to elevate any situation. You'll lift the adequate to stellar. You'll put a brilliant spin on the subpar and wind up with something uniquely great. Your attitude makes it so.

rather hide. So instead, you'll be

upfront, honest and beautiful in

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Being in a position to keep up appearances can be excellent if the way you want people to see you also happens to be the best version of who you really are. Would you do the same thing if it was just for you and there was no one else to impress? The answer will guide you to your next winning move.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Serving the needs of others is truly one of the most fulfilling things you can do with your time. But it isn't always so easy to find the ones who need precisely what you offer. It's time to look outside of your immediate circle. New opportunities will give you the confidence to let go of situations that aren't the right fit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can't always regulate your thoughts as closely as you would like to. Some ideas pop to mind willy-nilly and without rhyme or reason. You will, however, feel in total control of the way you value your thoughts. You'll brush off negativity and give a high value to useful ideas, which will keep you on a successful track.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) People will miss the mark with you, and when they don't treat you right, it seems humiliating to have to ask them to. Try modeling instead. Keep in mind that the behavior you'd prefer isn't a universally known standard. But with your patient and consistent modeling, it could become well known in your world at least.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's a busy time! Events are both many and much! Everything seems important, and maybe it is. Prioritizing becomes a challenge. situations can be nerve-wracking. Though you've often made a winning impression, you'd still like to be more consistent in the way you show up, summoning charisma on command. Before

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This week, you'll become a master at setting the mood, instead of responding to the one that was already in the room when you got there. The way you feel will shift the way you're acting, which will dictate the response you get, demonstrating time and again that, without a doubt, your feelings matter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Those with a limited perspective may say confusing things as though they are stating obvious facts. They assume their inner world experience is the one everyone experiences. Their terrible communication isn't your fault, but to come to an understanding, you'll need to work patiently and without judgment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You like your relationships the way you like your vocabulary -- clearly defined. You'll stick your neck out emotionally to find out how the other person sees things. Loosen up on your interpretations. Leave room for poetry. Complexity, contradiction and uncertainty can exist inside profoundly loving ties.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you're attractive, extra energy will be directed your way. This is a chance to make something interesting happen, but not every interesting thing should. The decision to ignore someone or engage with them can alter destiny. Use your truly prescient imagination to envision the future of your decisions.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: Your life has been building to some

well-earned rewards, which you'll now accept. This opens resources and the freedom to approach projects differently. You'll break out of limiting constructs to fashion routines that suit your need to stretch. A sweet soul will be a companion and the mirror that sharpens your perspective. Let your attractions guide you and do what it takes to bring ideas to life. You'll develop an ability beyond what you or anyone expected would be possible. You could make money at this, but don't chase it. The venture will pursue you if you

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ROBSON VALLEY

Community Events

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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.

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. Call 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more info.

TUEs from SEPT 20, 27 & OCT 4 2:45-3:45pm at RVCS (99 Gorse St) for an hour of fun after school during **Play BIG: Big Movements for Small Children!** We will have obstacle courses, games, and explore nature plus more! This program is available for 5-8 year olds and requires registration. Please call 250-566-9107/events@rvcsbc.org to secure a spot!

THUR SEPT 29 3-5:30pm at RVCS (99 Gorse St) is a **Vermicomposting Workshop with Cathy Greenhough**. Learn about this easy, indoor composting technique that produces rich compost throughout the year. Registration not required. Call 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more info.

THURs **Valemount Farmers Market** at the Visitor Info Centre 4-7pm.

MCBRIDE

THURs & FRIs **Weekly Adults' Programs** at the McBride Library: Fibre Artists (Thurs, time varies), Writing Group (Fri, 1.30pm). Call 569 2411 for details.

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SEPT 26: Truth and Reconciliation & Orange shirt 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), unless the location is stated elsewhere. Call 250-569-2266 for more information.

THUR OCT 20 from 4-6pm, join the next **Men's Shed meeting** at RVCS McBride (942 3rd ave). Have questions about home improvement projects? Want to know more about car repair work? Come with your ideas and partake in the group discussion!

DUNSTER

SAT OCT 8 Three Valleys Community
Development Co-operative invite you once again
after a two-year pause, to our **LOCAL POT-LUCK HARVEST SUPPER** at Dunster Community Hall.
Supper at 5:00 pm sharp. Door Prizes draw at
6:30 pm. Film at 7pm (To be announced) Please
bring something home-grown or home-made from
each person for the door-prize table then everyone
can go home with a door prize! Cash donation
at the door to help pay for the hall use. For more
information call Pete at 250-968-4334.

SATs Weekly **Dunster Farmer's Market**, 11:00 to 1:00 at the Dunster Community Hall. Vendors welcome - no charge for table. Burger Concession. Bedding plants, baking, crafts, odds and ends, etc.. Buskers Welcome. 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.



Improving Soil With Green Manures

If at any time of the year you have a bare patch of ground in your garden and don't intend to sow another crop there, you might try planting a "green manure" crop to help improve the soil. This is a crop where you give back to the soil rather than taking from it.

Any number of plants can be considered green manure crops – even weeds such as pigweed, or chickweed or others as long as they do not go to seed. The most common ones are alfalfa, buckwheat, peas and winter rye. Because alfalfa, buckwheat and peas are members of the "Legume" family, they have the added benefit of taking nitrogen from the air and adding it to the garden soil as they decompose.

Any green manure crop helps not only by adding nutrients and organic matter to the soil but also protects the soil from water and wind erosion. Bare soil is asking for trouble!

Green manures can be allowed to grow until just before they go to seed or they can be mowed a few times. The tops can be added to the compost pile or they can be left on the ground to decompose in place. The word "green" manure comes from the practice of turning in the crop while it is still growing. Many folks use the tiller to turn under a green manure crop. For small areas, a hoe can be used to chop the tops and incorporate them into the soil.

At this time of year (fall), you can still plant a crop of "fall rye" which will germinate and grow a bit this fall before the frost comes and then grow more in the early spring so there is a lot of organic matter to turn under before planting next year's garden. It is best to turn under any green manure crop a few weeks before you plan to plant your garden crops.

To plant the green manure crop, just prepare the soil as for any other crop, broadcast the seeds quite thickly and rake them into the soil. You can plant between two and four pounds of buckwheat, oats or rye per thousand square feet. Alfalfa and clover are usually broadcast at around ½ to 1 lb per thousand square feet. There is no

problem if you sow any green manure crop thicker and it has the benefit of choking out weeds if they have been a problem on that patch. You can spread a light layer of straw over them to help hold in the moisture and speed up germination if the soil seems dry.

If you plant one of the legume green manures, it is usually better to follow it with a crop that requires a lot of nitrogen. Lettuce, greens, cabbage or other leafy vegetables would be fine. If your leafy greens are bitter or if the fruiting plants such as tomatoes have great amounts of leaves and no fruit, you more than likely have too much nitrogen in that area already.

All this extra humus and organic matter turned into the soil gives better water retention, better drainage, nutrients for both the plants and soil organisms and is a great attraction for a gardeners favourite soil builder – worms! Try some green manures and your garden will reward you with better and healthier vegetables.

McBride company the "spyder" under many RV hoods

By Andrea Arnold

Spyder Control Corp. has purchased the building at 222 Main in McBride where three years ago, they set up shop on the top floor. About a year ago, they expanded into the main floor space as well and they have grown to a staff of 10. In spite of their three year presence in the downtown core, not many people know what it is they do. Contrary to their name, the employees of Spyder do not have anything in common with arachnids.

The company designs and manufactures control systems for RVs and marine markets, says Clayton Lorenz, Vice President of Technology.

"We control or interface with basically everything in the RV that isn't chassis related. Not the driving part, but the living part."

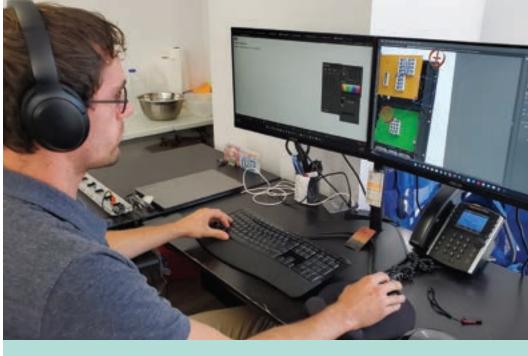
Lorenz says most of the high-end RVs and even travel trailers that come through town likely have a control system they designed for slides, awnings, lights, water pumps, generators or any of the other electrically operated features inside. They also work on the RV energy management systems, to prevent campers from tripping breakers when they plug in to outlets at campgrounds, the Auto Gen Start that tells the generator when to kick on, and tank monitoring systems.

The staff in the McBride office focus on development and integration. This involves coding, hardware development, circuit board layout and prototyping. Once the prototype is ready for production, they hand it off to one of the manufacturing partners the company has around Western Canada. The parts of the system are mass produced by these companies before being assembled and installed into the appropriate vehicle.

Three of the employees in McBride also work as a part of the customer support team. They answer calls and emails from clients requesting troubleshooting for systems or requesting an order of parts.

Spyder Control Corp. originated in Lacombe Alberta. The name was chosen by founder Curtis Letniak while he was out on his quad. Lorenz thinks that the similarities between a web and the visual of many circuits connecting at a central hub may have played into the naming.

Lorenz worked for the main office in Lacombe but wanted to return to the Robson Valley. He brought with him the desire and knowledge to open Spyder's first satellite office. A location in Indiana has since been added to the company.



Spyder Controls Corp employee Christian Blixrud works as part of the customer service team located at the McBride office. /ANDREA ARNOLD



These are an example of the control panels designed by Spyder employees that are found in a Tiffin Zephyr motorhome. Most large motorhomes have one large LCD displaying information and various smaller, more detailed LCDs at convenient locations throughout the motorhome. /ANDREA ARNOLD





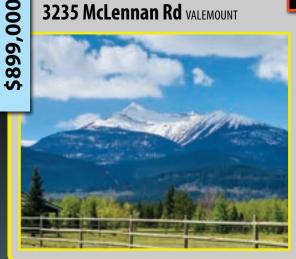






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power that could be converted to a guest cabin. Lower level of land has a year round creek running through it and is fully fenced and set up for horses with a small barn. Truly a fantastic piece of paradise and even has an RV site! By appointment only.





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Shelly **Battensby** REALTOR



DIFFERENT BETTER

1370 8th Avenue VALEMOUNT



This great family home features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a fully finished basement. Close to schools and shopping, and with a secluded and landscaped backyard, you are in the perfect location whether inside or out. With plenty of updates, there is nothing left for you to do but unpack.

1322 8th Avenue VALEMOUNT



Whether looking for a starter home or an income property, this 2 bedroom bungalow is a sure bet. Well maintained and with a bright, open concept living space, you'll be amazed at how spacious this home feels. And the yard is big enough for a garage, garden, hot tub or all three!

1310 9th Avenue VALEMOUNT





Can you say SIX bedrooms? This large home has a lot of space, with open concept living, a large rec room below, and three bathrooms. The fenced yard features a detached garage with alley access and the split level entry would allow for conversion into a secondary suite.



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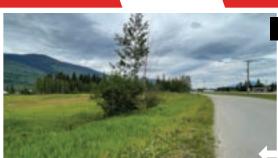


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318 Mountain View

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- Stunning views!!
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- With accessory residential
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- Zoning allows for a great variety
- \$565,000

of commercial



MCBRIDE

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- Quonset with 14' overhead door
- and mezzanine
- Large rancher with full basement - Fencing
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