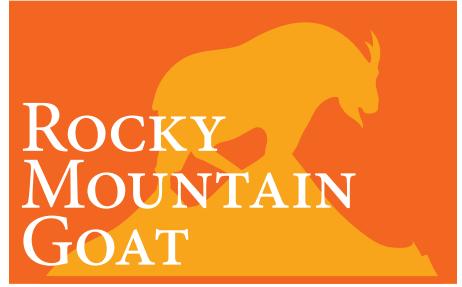


Bouldering gym takes shape P8



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Thursday September 8th 2022 Volume 13 Issue 32

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Residents clean up after epic windstorm in McBride

By Andrea Arnold

After gusts of wind travelling through the Robson Valley reached speeds just shy of hurricane speeds on the evening of Sun. Sept. 4th, many residents are feeling very fortunate that all they have to deal with is downed trees.

Environment Canada issued a severe thunderstorm warning Sunday and not long after, between 5:30 and 6:00pm, the wind howled through, and power flickered several times before going out for most of McBride. Calls started flooding into BC Hydro as well as 911 reporting several spots where trees were either on the power line, or the force of a falling tree had broken the line altogether, and one report of a tree having landed on a house. BC Hydro

reported that close to 1200 customers between Dunster and Dome Creek were without power for several hours.

Following the initial outage, Hydro was quick to respond by sending a crew into town. By 9:15pm, a crew was in town working by Gaglardi Park, starting what was going to be a very long night.

Shortly after 10:00pm the power was restored to some areas, but not long after, a transformer blew at Highway 16 and Dorval road. The McBride District Fire Department responded before Hydro to ensure safety for all in the area. MDFD contacted the Ministry of Highways, Emil Anderson and RCMP. They set up blockades until Hydro could arrive on scene.

"This was a high voltage line creating a

highly dangerous situation," said Fire Chief Dave Hruby. "We took every precaution to ensure the safety of everyone."

Amy Quam, who could see the pole from her home, posted on Facebook that she could hear the electricity buzzing in the area.

Tammy McNally lives not far from where the transformer blew. She said that the whole area lit up in an eerie green glow.

The McNally's had several trees fall around their property.

"It was a strange feeling to stand here and watch as nine trees fell," said McNally. "We are very fortunate that no structures were hit, and no one was injured."

Their picnic table was lifted several feet as the ground under it contained the root of a blown over tree, and one of their outbuildings is still at risk of being hit as a tree is leaning precariously above it. They plan to buck, stack and leave the wood to dry for future firewood.

Mike Schaffer, another neighbour, has the only reported direct house hit at this time. A tall but slender evergreen snapped off just above the ground and fell over the back corner of his home. Schaffer, whose home was deeply affected by the flooding of 2020, was in his house at the time, listening to the trees crack and fall around him.

"I thought to myself, not again," said Schaffer. "I am grateful it didn't come through and that no one was hurt. Things could be so much worse."

CONT'D ON P2

Valemount mill ships first load of product

By Laura Keil

After years of anticipation, Valemount has a mill again, and the first loads of finished product have shipped—8x8, 6-foot pieces of Hemlock destined to be used as rig mats in Alberta.

The Valemount Community Forest has been working on getting the mill operational for about three years, and hopes to employ 1-2 more people as the enterprise expands. Currently it has four full-time employees and three contractors tied to the operation.

Stockpiles of hemlock sit outside the blue

building, waiting for their turn on the conveyor. The rig mats are not the only product the mill can produce, but a good one for the slower market conditions at the moment.

"That's a really good product for our mill," said Craig Pryor, Manager of the Valemount Community Forest. "Hemlock is kind of a problem wood. Not very many companies want to want to run Hemlock. In the past, we were just selling it for pulp and losing money. It's beautiful wood. So we thought, we'll try that, and there are some markets for it."

Pryor says they are already considering

taking some custom orders and are working with two marketing companies to achieve that.

One of the most important things to figure out prior to opening was what to do with the waste wood, and they've found a home for all three waste types: the chips go to a pulp plant, the smaller pieces are sold as fuel for an electrical generating facility, and the sawdust is purchased by farmers.

They hope the mill can provide raw

CONT'D ON P3



Windstorm...

CON'T FROM P1

Two trees between three homes on Dore River road fell just moments after the power went out. The trees pulled all the lines, including Telus, tight and snapped them off the poles. At the time, it didn't seem like fire was a threat, but around three in the morning, one of the homeowners called 911 again after seeing lights flashing outside the house. He saw sparks and flame and could hear the popping and crackling of the wires. The fire department arrived, and waited until the Hydro crew was able to verify that the line had been de energized and grounded. Once confirmation had been received, the fire crew extinguished the flames.

Another pair that had to relocate after the mudslide in 2020, Gary and Mabel Moore also experienced another earth shaking moment. Gary had gone outside to check their newly shingled roof when Mabel discovered a tree had blown down.

"Thankfully it blew away from the house," she said.

On Monday morning Gary was outside working on cleaning up the debris, thinking that he may be able to salvage enough for a few pieces of lumber. He had already been over to his neighbours with his excavator to help pull out and push down a few danger trees, preventing worse damage to buildings.

Tanner and Crystal Ferenczi were out in their yard with their kids clearing up the five large trees that had fallen. One tree had fallen across their mainline, damaging the mast of the power pole. Although the mast is still attached, and they were able to get power when it was restored, they put a call in to Hydro so that the mast can be repaired, and the line to the house tightened up so it no longer hangs too low. They too will eventually use some of the wood for firewood.

Out on Mountainview road, the lines into the Foster home were pulled tight as a tree fell from the edge of their driveway into the trees snagging all the wires on its way down.

At least four other locations around the valley had downed lines due to fallen trees. Two street lights on Main Street also fell victim to the wind, one lost the lamp shade altogether, and the shade on the second managed to hang on, but barely. The sign for The Beaverview RV Park and Campground was reduced to a pile of lumber, and at least one concrete picnic table at LaSalle was destroyed by a falling tree. While most people will have a job of picking up branches, debris and other items around their yards, the common thread throughout the community is a feeling of thankfulness, as things could have been so much worse.

BC Hydro warns people not to approach downed power lines and always assume downed or damaged power lines are live, even if they're not sparking or making any sound.

If you come across a downed or damaged line, follow these steps: Dial 911 and let them know that a power line has fallen or is damaged. Keep others in the vicinity at least 10 metres (a bus-length)

Stay back at least 10 metres (33 feet). That's about the length of a city bus. Why 10m? When a power line touches the ground, the electricity will flow through the ground over a wide area - think of it like ripples in a pool of water. The voltage in the ground is very high at the point of electrical contact but as you move farther away, the voltage will drop off. At around 10 metres, the voltage drops to zero. This is why we recommend staying at least this length away.

It's also important to keep away from any object that is in contact with a power line. This is because the electricity in the line will always seek a path to the ground. This path might include a tree, a vehicle or a fence. These objects then become energized. If you touch the energized line or object, the electricity can flow through your body.



Fortunately only the wire fence was hit when this tree in the McNally's yard fell. /ANDREA ARNOLD



The ground bears a black scar where a live wire fell after the transformer at the end of Dorval road blew around 10:30pm Sunday night. / ANDREA ARNOLD



Two lamps on Mainstreet in McBride did not come out of the windstorm unscathed. / ANDREA ARNOLD



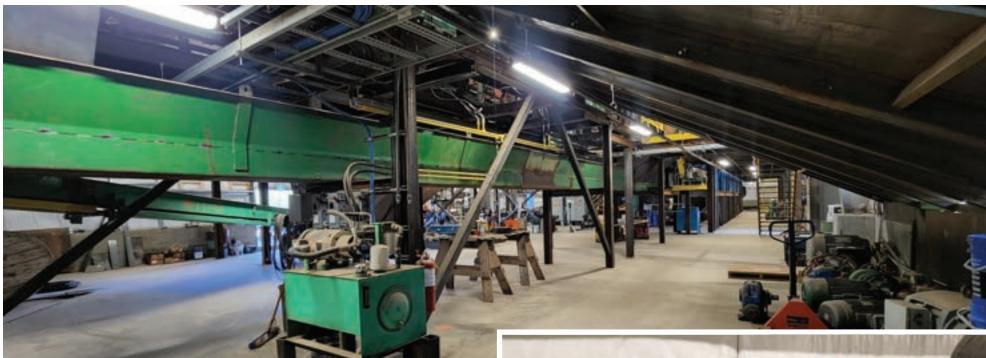
The Beaverview RV Park and Campground sign did not survive the strength of the gusts Sunday night. /ANDREA ARNOLD



The McNally's old picnic table was lifted to an unusable angle when the ground underneath it lifted as a tree fell in the windstorm. /ANDREA ARNOLD

Valemount | McBride | Dunster | Blue River Thursday September 8th 2022

Valemount Mill... CON'T FROM P1



Valemount's mill is up and running and just shipped its first load of finished product.

/LAURA KEIL

material for other spin-off industries in the future.

This summer the community forest held a yard sale to sell off rough pieces from the mill that they can't send to market. Pryor says this has been popular with locals who are looking for pieces for backyard projects. There are still pieces for sale inside the mill yard, and people are welcome to inquire.

The mill has been an expensive endeavour (Pryor gives the rough estimate of \$5M over the duration of its set-up), but with

product now being shipped, revenue will begin to flow. Pryor says the board recently approved a \$100,000 donation to the Valemount Cares seniors housing project.

Winter logging

Pryor says their operation will be up the Dave Henry valley for the next two months, followed by blocks on the West Canoe until mid-January. They will then put in some roads up Westridge for the remainder of the winter.



Darren Battensby and Mike Milum talk to Craig Pryor about the air compressor inside the mill. /LAURA KEIL



Darryl Battensby moves some stray wood chips out of one hopper and into another. /LAURA~KEIL



Four full-time employees and three contractors form the current mill team. Above L-R, Darrell Battensby, Sam Piper, Darren Battensby, Mike Milum, Rob McLaren, Bernard Gespacher. Missing from photos is Al Houghton. / SUBMITTED

NOW HIRING

The Rocky Mountain Goat



OFFICE AND PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Rocky Mountain Goat Media Inc. is looking for someone to join our team in Valemount. The Office and Production Assistant helps manage customer inquiries at our Valemount office, handles ad inquiries and phone calls, and is keen to help the local and regional business community reach more customers and improve their brands through RMG Media platforms online and in print.

Primary duties include: managing the ad design & approval pipeline in coordination with the graphic designer, creating ads/posters for clients and the Goat, helping proofread the newspaper, handling payments, managing retail inventory, keeping files and archives organized, posting daily on the Goat's social media.

For the full job description email lauraishere@gmail.com

This position is 37.5 hours/week (8hrs/day Monday-Friday, with 1/2hr for lunch).

The post-training wage is \$22/hour.
Preferred start date: Sept. 22nd

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- Friendly, professional demeanour
- Experience handling a variety of customer service situations
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PREFERRED SKILLS (training will be provided for areas lacking):

- Familiarity with:
 Microsoft Excel,
 Quickbooks, Wordpress
- Graphic design skills

For more information contact Laura at 250-566-5135 or email your application to lauraishere@gmail.com

Editorial



Being a tourist at home

By Andrea Arnold, Associate Editor/Reporter

Over the last two years, summers specifically, I have been unable to go on long holidays that take me away from the valley. This was very different from the types of holiday's I'm accustomed to. I have had to embrace a different mentality when it comes to the definition of vacation. Quality over quantity. I started looking for opportunities to get away from work and responsibilities, even if it was just for a day here and there. I have discovered there are so many exciting and affordable things available to us within a few hours of home. Each of the admission-costing eventsI have attended have not cost over \$20 per person.

We are incredibly lucky to have countless hiking opportunities at our fingertips. Teare, Belle, and McKirdy are mountains I have hiked recently. Kinney Lake is another great day trip, and I am awaiting the re-opening of the trail.

I have kayaked in Horseshoe Lake, Purden, Kinbasket, and LaSalle. I have not made it to Cranberry Marsh but have heard that is a good option too.

The Valemount Rodeo has been put on hold for a few years, but when/if it returns, it is a fun family excursion. This year I checked out the Mud Bogs at the end of July. Earlier in the summer, I attended both Pioneer Days in McBride and Valemountain Days.

A few weeks ago, I made the trek to the Vanderhoof Airshow for the first time, and just this past week wandered the Forman Farms Sunflower farm just outside Prince George. I am not going to make it to the PGARA Speedway for their hit to pass weekend, but that is for sure on my list of next summer excursions.

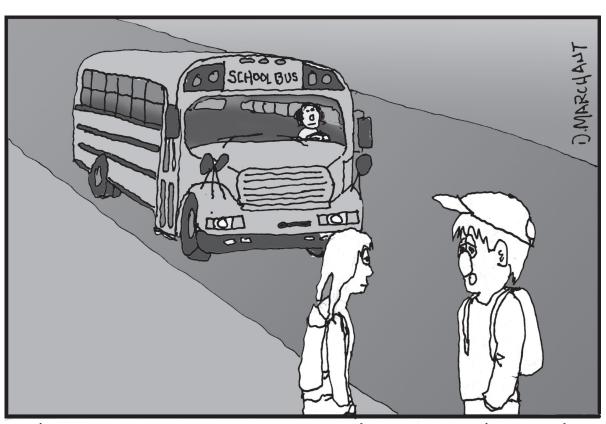
My sister and I have gone camping at one of the many campgrounds within a stone's throw of Prince George. There are countless bodies of water suitable for swimming in the area as well.

Heading east we have access to more lakes and hiking trails around the Jasper area, and if one goes as far as Edson, a stretch of the McLeod River looks like it was made to float down.

Even the Columbia Icefields fall within the three hour radius. Parker Ridge and Wilcox are two great hikes that could be done in a day trip.

There are so many other options within the three hours radius, and I look forward to checking them out as well.

Although vacations are often looked at as something that needs to be several days long, lots of planning required and lots of money spent, I have learned that a spontaneous day away can provide as much rest and relaxation. Possibly even more.



"I AM REMINDED OF SHAKESPEARE'S SONNET: 'SUMMER'S LEASE HATH ALL TOO SHORT A DATE'."

In the September 1, 2022 issue, new McBride Village employee Connor Mork should have been listed as the Deputy Corporate Officer and the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.

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CORRECTION

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Letters / Op-Ed



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 factchecked 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.



Self-righteous bad behaviour

While being certain that they were following "God's" will, the judgemental god depicted in the bibles gave devout readers the self-righteous right to, in turn, use the words in their books to judge, shun, torture and murder others.

From the book The Death Penalty:

Banner: "If Moses is our lawgiver at this time," smirked John Edwards, "Let us obey him, not in part only, but wholly, and put every sabbath breaker, blasphemer, and adulterer, to death." If the god of the bible was depicted as a god of pure and unconditional

An American History, by author Stuart love ... what purpose would that book serve for the self-righteous ones, who used and still use the words in those books to, in turn, judge, shun, torture and murder others?

> June Vandermark McBride, BC

Global Though

BY GWYNNE DYER

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



The Last Empire

This is not another pipe-sucking reassessment of Mikhail Gorbachev's failed attempt to democratise the Soviet Union thirty years ago. It's about why the Russians still don't get it.

Gorbachev was hated by most older Russians because the Soviet Union, the country they were born into, broke apart on his watch. His current successor, Vladimir Putin, is now waging a war to put it back together, but Gorbachev, Putin and most other Russians have all made the same category error. They thought the Soviet Union was a country.

It wasn't. It was an empire, fundamentally no different from the half-dozen other European empires that carved most of the world up between them in the preceding few centuries.

The British, the French and Dutch empires never confused their empires with their own countries, because their colonies were separated from the homelands by thousands of kilometres of ocean. It was trickier for the Russians, because all their imperial possessions were adjacent to their own homeland.

The Russian empire fell into the hands of Bolshevik revolutionaries in 1917 and was renamed the Soviet Union, but its borders didn't change except in the far west, where Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and

Poland gained their independence.

That's where the popular confusion in Russia comes from. Because the Communists claimed to be 'antiimperialist', and even abstained from using Russian nationalist tropes until Stalin's time, it was easy for Russians to think the Soviet Union was all the same 'homeland'. But the subject peoples noticed.

So when Gorbachev abandoned the threat of force as a means of keeping the empire together in 1991, the non-Russian nationalities took that as a signal that they could leave. And their departure really wasn't "the greatest geopolitical disaster of the 20th century" (as Putin claims); it was the final act in the dismantling of the European empires.

Of course the subject peoples left. To outsiders, some of them seemed quite similar to Russians - the Ukrainians, for example - but their real historical grievances were as deep and irreconcilable as those between the Irish and the English.

Trying to put the decolonised pieces of that former empire back together now is as foolish and futile as a British attempt to reconquer Ireland would be. Yes, Russians and Ukrainians have a lot of shared history. Yes, it's hard for people who don't know them well to tell them apart. But no, they will not live happily

together.

Is this the 'narcissism of small differences' that Sigmund Freud talked about? Yes, but some sort of shared identity is needed if we are to live together peacefully and productively in the large numbers that have become standard since the rise of the mass civilisations, and constructing such common identities is hard work.

So two languages, Russian and Ukranian, that are really no further apart than Glaswegian English and Jamaican English, are erected into a sharp dividing line between different 'nations' by Ukrainian nationalists.

History, fake or true, helps too. Russians share a story about an alleged genocide of Russian-speakers in Eastern Ukraine in the present; many Ukrainians believe that the famine of the early 1930s (the 'holomodor') was deliberately caused by their Russian

There only so many people whom you can hope to bring into the same identity, which is why there are 52 countries in Africa, and seven countries where Yugoslavia used to be. It's just part of the decolonisation process, but the Russians have not yet grasped that this is what they are going through.



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VALEMOUNT HOURS

MCBRIDE HOURS **CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS**

Re-opening September 5th

The Rocky Mountain Goat serves a population base of approximately 5,000 residents from Valemount to McBride to Dome Creek and Blue River. It is 100% locally owned. RETURN UNDELIVERABLES TO: The RMG, Box 21, Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Nous reconnaissons l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.

Mew books in store!

WHEN WE LOST OUR HEADS

When We Lost Our Heads is a page-turning novel that explores gender and power, sex and desire, class and status, and the terrifying strength of the human heart when it can't let

BY **HEATHER O'NEILL**



THE OVERSTORY

There is a world alongside ours--fast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, magnificently inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe



ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE

Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous



The little-known story of Pearl Hart, the most famous female bandit in the American West. On May 30, 1899, history was made when Pearl Hart, disguised as a man, held up a stagecoach in Arizona and robbed the passengers at gunpoint. A manhunt ensued as word of her heist spread, and Pearl Hart went on to become a media sensation and the most notorious female outlaw on the Western frontier. Her early life, family and fate after her later release from prison have long remained a mystery to scholars and historians—until now.



RMG Bookstore

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

1170 5th Avenue ACROSS FROM THE IGA DOWNTOWN MCBRIDE HOURS: MON 9am-3pm **TUES 12pm-3pm** WED 8am-12pm 411 Main Street - Unit 102

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.

Bear sightings near school

By Laura Keil

Valemount residents aren't used to dodging bears outside their homes, but that's exactly what happened Sunday and Monday this week.

Two residents living on 8th place and Gorse Street have seen bears outside their homes, and one of them crossed the elementary school field.

"So a nice big black bear just walked through the elementary school field to the gate at 9th & Gorse," Pete Pearson posted online. "RCMP guided it back into the schoolyard where it climbed the fence and headed toward the arena."

Residents are encouraged to remove fruit from trees, remove bird feeders, keep garbage secure and remove any possible attractants to avoid snooping

Queen's medallions to four more residents

By Andrea Arnold

Four more area residents were unable to attend ceremonies hosted by MP Bob Zimmer to receive a Queen's Platinum Jubilee medallion in recognition of their contributions to the area. These four will be presented with their medallions at a later date. McBride RCMP Corporal Colin

Bissell was recognized for his role as a first responder, and long-time Dunster resident Pete Amyoony for his ongoing contributions to the community through many forms of community service. Yellowhead Helicopter employees Matt Morison and Garry Forman were honoured for serving the area through wildfire support and search and rescue activities.

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www.valemount.ca

Do you have Delinquent Taxes?

Property Tax Sale

A tax sale is a public auction of properties within a municipality which have *unpaid property taxes* from two years prior to the current year.

Annual Tax Sale

At 10:00 am on the last Monday in September, the municipal collector must conduct an annual tax sale by offering for sale by public auction each parcel of real property on which taxes are delinquent.

Delinquent taxes are any taxes remaining unpaid on December 31, two years after the year the tax was imposed. For example, taxes imposed in 2020 and still unpaid become delinquent on January 1, 2022.

The tax sale is held in the council chambers at the municipal hall of each municipality in B.C.

Stage 1 Water Restrictions

June 1st - September 30th

Watering is permitted between the hours of 7 am - 10 am and 7 pm - 10 pm on any day of the week.

2022 Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan

<u>Amendment</u>

All interested members of the public are invited to view the 2022 Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan Budget AMENDMENT online at:

www.valemount.ca

The public consultation period for this amendment is from September 6 - September 21, 2022.

Comments are to be received by the Director of Finance at dof@valemount.ca prior to September 21, 2022 at 12:00pm.

All comments received will be provided to Village Council for consideration in advance of the adoption of the bylaw, which is expected to be on the agenda at the September 27, 2022 Council

Notice of Correction

Candidate Nomination Package

Candidate Nomination Packages available on the village website prior to August 24, 2022 stated that Village of Valemount candidates require two (2) nominators who are eligible electors of the municipality. Village of Valemount candidates require ten (10) nominators who are eligible electors of the municipality.

Free Burn-It-Smart Workshop

When: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Where: Valemount Community Hall grounds, 101 Gorse Street

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Worshop will include Installation Safety, Health and Environmental Considerations, Burning without Smoke, Maintenance of Wood Burning Systems, and Wood Heating Options.

Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program

It is not too late to exchange your old wood stove for a newer model or a cleaner, more emclent 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 Thursday September 8th 2022

Valemount Council considering electronic attendance

By Andrea Arnold

Valemount council recently passed a motion giving first and second reading to a bylaw amendment that would allow all Council members to attend meetings electronically, with some conditions. The previous bylaw limited electronic attendance to one person, except in the case of a health, environmental or safety emergency. Also, the person chairing was not able to do so electronically.

"During the BC Provincial State of Emergency due to COVID-19, municipal and regional governments were granted the authority to hold electronic meetings, including participation of members during in-camera sessions closed to the public," said Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson.

With the adapted bylaw approved, all members of Council or a committee could attend virtually as long as the public is provided with a venue they may attend to hear, or watch and hear the proceedings.

In the case of a closed meeting, members may only participate electronically because of a health, environmental or safety emergency. Valemount Village CAO Eric Depenau says this amendment allows for better use of electronic meetings and is compliant with the Community Charter.

McBride Village properties up for sale

By Andrea Arnold

The Village of McBride has put four parcels of Village-owned properties up for sale. The properties at 964/976 2nd Ave and 1127 Frontage Road have been owned by the Village for several years, but have not been used. 848 1st Ave and 1032/1044 2nd Ave were acquired by the village through the annual tax sale process.

According to McBride Village CAO Chris Tupy, the properties have been owned by the Village for some time and Council recently decided to advertise the sites for private purchase.

"When the properties are owned by the Village, taxes are not collected on them," said Tupy.
"Further, it deprives the community of the ability to re-purpose the spaces into something of more benefit to the community as a whole."
The decision was also fuelled by some of the Council's strategic priorities and initiatives to

increase economic capacity and community development, and for fiscal and corporate health.

The Village has posted basic appraisal reports for each of the properties on their website.

These reports cover the physical characteristics of the property, the area, included services, legal notations, charges, liens, and interests, zoning, a map, photos, sale history, structure assessment, property assessment and taxes, land use controls, as well as information regarding the community as a whole.

Anyone interested in the properties can arrange tours through the Village office by calling 250-569-2229. Sealed bids can be submitted at any time. Council may consider bids as early as the Sept. 27th Council meeting. Bids should include the property, proposed price, deposit information, desired closing date, transfer costs responsibility, conditions, names of purchaser and ownership structure as well as the proposed use of the property. Details of the requirements can be found on the Village of McBride website.

Council will be reviewing all offers. They will decide if the proposed usage is keeping with the overall vision for the community and aligns with its Zoning Bylaw and Official Community Plan. The Village says this may mean they may not choose the highest bid, or they may refuse all offers for a specific location.



Community Futures of Fraser Fort George LEAP for Women

Conference Ticket Sales are now Open

BC's Premier Event for Women

Prince George, BC— August 30, 2022 — Community Futures of Fraser Fort George's Leadership & Entrepreneur Accelerator Program for Women (LEAP) has opened up early bird ticket sales for the third annual LEAP conference for Women at the Coast Hotel in Prince George. Last year's hybrid event hosted 268 women from across the province. This year, the LEAP team expects to register over 300 attendees. High-level Keynote Speakers such as Samra Zafar, the author of "A Good Wife," and Dr. Nadine Caron, a recent recipient of the order of BC will be presenting.

Community Futures Fraser Fort George's LEAP initiative has impacted over seven hundred women throughout British Columbia and beyond since its inception in 2019. Last year's conference attendees stated that the event was "Uplifting, Valuable, Inspiring," and "Well Worth the Time and Money." Susan Stearns, General Manager of Community Futures Fraser Fort George says, "it is exciting to host the 3rd Annual LEAP Conference! The positive response from participants over the past two years has enhanced Community Futures Fraser Fort George's ability to continually improve on the value and content each year. The LEAP Project Lead, Sarita Parmar and her team have ensured they incorporated feedback from past participants to bring you an exceptional line up of speakers and training while recognizing the desire for more networking with peers. I invite you to come out and enjoy the 2022 LEAP Conference as it will, once again, be "uplifting, valuable and inspiring" and "well worth the money."

Tickets for the 2022 Conference

The LEAP Conference is constantly growing and improving based on positive feedback from past participants and sponsors. Early Bird tickets are available at https://leapconferenceforwomen.com.

Background

Community Futures was established by the Federal Government in 1985 as a community-based economic renewal initiative. Our main objectives are to help rural Canadians start or expand a business, and to help sustain and improve communities and local economies. Community Futures Fraser Fort George (CFFFG) serves Mackenzie, Prince George, McBride, Valemount, and surrounding rural areas. In July 2019 CFFFG was awarded an agreement with Pacific Economic Development Canada to deliver a Women Entrepreneurship Eco-System Project, which we have named LEAP for women.

For more information: https://leapconferenceforwomen.com/

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Thursday September 8th 2022 In Print | Online | therockymountaingoat.com



Rebecca Wylie and John Crowley gave the Goat a tour of the upcoming bouldering gym. The Climbing Club aims to open in October. /LAURA KEIL

By Laura Keil

A new sport is on the horizon for Valemount residents, one that proponents say is user-friendly, incrementally challenging, and good for many ages: indoor bouldering, which is wall climbing without ropes.

Thanks largely to a grant from Columbia Basin Trust, the Valemount Climbing Club has been hard at work upgrading a space at the Trading Post to turn it into an epic climbing spot for kids and adults. John Crowley and Justin Wilkes have been volunteering their time to construct the interior and get it up to code, while other board members have taken on promotion and operations.

"Different people have different skills sets," says Rebecca Wylie, a board member. "Kelsey Brick is our other board member who has been super instrumental, she's done a lot on the website."

Volunteer Jory Wong has also been active, helping to design fundraising T-shirts.

The club expects the 14ft-high climbing walls to be installed this month, with a tentative opening date in October. The pre-fab climbing walls are being constructed by a company on Vancouver island, and will be shipped and installed by the company. Below the walls will be thick crash mats. Near the entry will be a designated climbing area for little kids.

Wylie says indoor bouldering is a great activity because it's very low-risk and great for kids and adults alike and has a low barrier to entry. All climbers need is a set of climbing shoes.

Crowley says, like gymnastics, bouldering requires a combination of balance, tension, core strength and general strength.

It's a full-body work-out, Wylie says. "It could be cardio if you're really fast, it could be all those big muscle movements that you're doing which are really good for everyone, but especially kids with, say, ADHD and kids who don't get those big body movements which are really important for development."

She says she likes to think of bouldering as a full-body puzzle. The holds on the wall are colour-coded to provide different levels of difficulty in the same space.

"The size and distance (of holds) and the grade of the wall are all things that make the climb more challenging."

She says a route is often too hard the first time, and the climber has to attempt it again and think about how they will "solve the problem." Wylie loves watching different people solve the problem in different ways. And people with different

skill levels can all be in the same space and encouraging one another.

The other aspect to the gym is socializing. Wylie says people who have come from climbing gyms understand what a community space it is.

"In November when it's dark and we have a space to come after work and hang out and be active, it's going to be such a benefit. But I think people who haven't been to climbing gyms before are like, 'oh, this is such a great play gym for the kids."

The upper mezzanine will be an area for nonclimbers to watch climbers at eye-height and visit with others. The upper space includes a public washroom and a party room for birthdays. Wylie says other clubs noted an important element to a successful climbing gym is making it communityoriented so people want to hang out in the space.

"This space really captures that," she said.

"They also said proximity to a hip coffee shop," John added, referring to VALE Coffee in the same building. "That's pretty much the best thing you can get."

Wylie says the idea is to have drop-in days each week, and the rest of the time to allow members access via a key fob from 7am-10pm, 7 days a week, which will allow greater flexibility and lower staffing costs.

Wylie and Crowley say landlords Ryker and Rena have been incredibly supportive and gone out of their way to help.

Despite the grants, the club has a construction shortfall of around \$10,000 and is looking for sponsors to help them finish off the construction and install a better heating system. Sponsors that donate over \$1000 will have a place on a sponsor wall inside the gym.

They've begun selling year-long memberships for \$525 and 6-month memberships for \$275 (includes membership to the Climbing Club). The pre-sales will help them raise the funds they need to complete construction. Once they're open, people are welcome to trade volunteer hours for passes.

"We need volunteers," Wylie says. "I think Valemount's such a great community, everyone helps each other out, so it'd be sweet to make sure we're also part of that and continue the active lifestyle trend that's going on."

Additional grants that have made the gym possible thus far include a grant from the Regional District of Fraser Fort George to cover utilities the first winter season, and sponsorships from the Valemount Community Forest, Gravity Gear and Coulee Climbing.

For more info, visit Valemountclimbingclub.org.



Indoor bouldering is a low-risk, low entry barrier sport suitable for kids and adults alike. The club hopes the space also becomes a spot to hang out and socialize. /LAURA KEIL





Drawings showing the final design of the gym. /SUPPLIED

Valemount | McBride | Dunster | Blue River

Thursday September 8th 2022

Free Food Farm Stand launches in Valemount

SUBMITTED BY REBECCA WYLIE, FOOD SECURITY COORDINATOR AT RVCS

The food security program at Robson Valley Community Services (RVCS) recently launched a community fridge that will supply free or by-donation produce to anyone who wants to access it. Increasing our intake of fresh local produce will benefit the physical and mental health of our citizens, reduce the amount of fresh food going to the landfill and increase emergency food access in the Valley for folks experiencing food insecurity.

The Free Food Farm stand can be accessed during RVCS business hours at 99 Gorse Street and is located in the main entrance of the building. Anyone accessing the fridge is able to come in, take or leave produce without having to speak with anyone if they choose. The idea behind the farm stand is to create a space where food is available for free with very few

barriers, and for local growers to share and trade surplus. All vegetables and fruit are accepted as long as they are in good condition, and have not been processed.

Folks accessing free food options rarely get the opportunity to choose what food is given to them. This fridge will offer the choice and dignity to take food that is going to be used. Our hope is that the fridge will be used by folks from all walks of life. Those that have the financial ability to donate back to the food security program will do so and those that can't will take what they will use without feeling any obligation to give anything in return.

In the first week since opening we had lots of positive feedback, donations from the Village Greens and offers for donations. We hope that everyone feels comfortable taking or trading food from the fridge and this way we will keep a good supply of fresh food flowing in and out.







The fridge is stocked with fresh produce for the RVCS Free Food Farm Stand in Valemount. /SUBMITTED



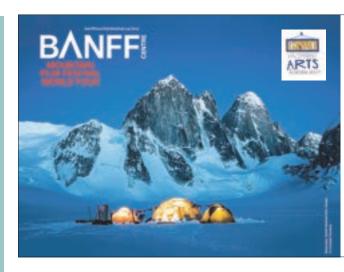
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.tans. registration not required!

September 16th Valemount Community Theatre

Tickets at Infinity Office & Health

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

> (942 3rd ave) - Goats, donkeys & donuts

*No need to be a grandparent or have a grandparent to join!



..... events@rvcsbc.org



By Laura Keil

Is it Maui or Valemount?

After some locals discovered a route up to a series of gorgeous waterfalls, social media has exploded with photos of Valemount's "Hawaii, BC" hike.

The route ascends through a slide area, meandering through thickets of slide alder before emerging onto a rocky look-out with views of glacier-fed waterfalls and Kinbasket Lake. Two rope-assisted routes also descend to the base of the waterfalls.

The area has been used by residents to collect wild plants for some years, but thick underbrush made access to the waterfalls difficult. Additional clearing and wayfinding has now made the route an enjoyable 1-2hour hike with stellar views.

beautiful spot.

Hikers have the option to do just the look-out (roughly 600m distance and 100m of elevation), or climb down to the base of the waterfalls with the assistance of ropes. Heads up that the stinging nettle grows plentifully along the edges of the trail.

The first time I hiked the trail, we heard a large animal thunder through the bushes and we retreated while making plenty of noise to scare off what we figured was a bear. As always, make lots of noise as you hike and you are less likely to run into one!

The trailhead is about 20 feet prior to the 15km marker on the West Canoe Forest Service Road. As of Sept. 1st, the forest service road was in fairly good condition and accessible by car, though the road does have potholes.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Difficulty: moderately challenging (a

couple steep spots). Rope routes (challenging) are optional.

600m distance, 100m elevation to Distance &

main ridge viewpoint. elevation:

stinging nettle, bears, slippery wet Watch out for: rocks & drop-offs near the base of

the falls.

several, both up top and down near **Viewpoints:**

the base of the waterfalls.

Time to budget approx. 3 hours from Valemount (25min commute each way). for this hike:





Grizzly bear encounters

By Leon Lorenz

For me, filming along remote rivers for grizzly bear behaviours during the Chinook salmon spawning season is paramount each year. As usual it's one thing to see something interesting but it's often quite another to capture the moment. Such was the case early one morning as I was towing my kayak upstream through a section of fast water, too shallow water to paddle in, when I spotted

a good sized grizzly heading my way at about 75 yards. My first thought was, I wonder if I can get my camera out of the waterproof hatch in the kayak and get set up in time. As my backpack was lashed over the hatch cover I quickly realized there wasn't enough time. The bear was now coming out of the deep water and had entered the shallow section where I was. Surely, I thought, it's going to realize I'm in its path and will turn and run the other direction, but no, it held its downstream course and never broke stride. This bear clearly had an attitude and started

blowing loud snorting sounds. It wasn't backing down to me even though I politely called him Mister Bear. I backed further into the river as he thankfully went past me at 25 feet.

A couple days later another grizzly which was much smaller than the other one decided to use a large log for its path across the edge of a large log jam. What it didn't realize was that I was positioned at the stump end of the log with my camera. At 30 feet I quietly said "okay" and it stopped in its tracks, wheeled and was gone.



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If you advertise in the 2022 General Local Elections, it's important you know the rules.

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Find our guide for third party advertisers and the expense limits for 2022 at **elections.bc.ca/localelections**.

The advertising rules in local elections can be complex. Contact Elections BC before advertising to make sure you know the rules.

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A Zoom meeting is obviously not very exciting...

but we are actively looking for more board members. Contact <u>vars.valemount@gmail.com</u> for the Zoom link!

We're looking for people who recognize the need for more housing of all types here in Valemount, and can help us work toward **Phase 3 - more housing for singles and couples**

September 26th at 7:00 PM, via Zoom.



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RCMP warn residents after terrifying break and enter

SUBMITTED BY VALEMOUNT RCMP

Valemount RCMP has spent months collecting information pertaining to serious offences which have occurred in Valemount. Prior to police intervention and investigation, these matters had not been reported to police.

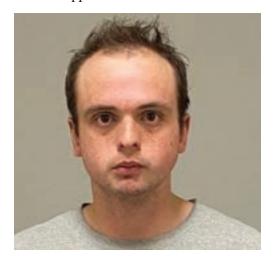
Thursday September 8th 2022

Through investigation, it was determined that on November 25th, 2021, three males, Trevor Richardson, Ange Hatot, and local resident Jonathan Williams, entered a Valemount residence by force, produced knives and a firearm, and proceeded to forcibly confine the three resident occupants. The three occupants were tied up with rope and zip-ties while held at knife and gunpoint. A prohibited handgun was used in the offence, and was discharged in the commission of the offence as well. The three victims were bound, and their lives threatened if they did not cooperate with demands. The victims were then all tied together, and brought into the basement of the residence where they were again tied to a support beam and left. The house was ransacked and phones, watches, cash and other items were stolen.

Months of investigation led to a search warrant being executed at Jonathan Williams' residence. Here, further corroborating evidence was located indicting Jonathan Williams in his involvement in the home invasion. Jonathan Williams has now officially been charged with Section 344(1) of the Criminal Code of Canada in committing a robbery with a restricted weapon, Section 279(2)(a) of the Criminal Code of Canada in forcible confinement, Section 95(1) of the Criminal

Code of Canada in possession of a restricted loaded firearm, Section 85(1) of the Criminal Code of Canada in committing an offence with a firearm, and Section 90(1) of the Criminal Code of Canada in carrying a concealed weapon. This investigation is now before the courts pending trial.

The Valemount RCMP are releasing this statement to the general public in order to advise of what is happening in their community, and for the community's awareness and safety. This high profile, extremely dangerous file, a home invasion where a firearm was used and discharged, involved three local victims. Through extreme circumstances, this was only brought to police attention after proactive efforts were made by police in order to learn what is happening in their community. The Valemount RCMP are encouraging anyone with information they wish to share with police, regarding this incident or any other, to please contact your local Valemount RCMP Detachment at 250-566-4466, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.





Black eyed Susans are native to North America and one of the most popular wildflowers grown. These golden-yellow beauties are in the plant genus Rudbeckia, which contains both perennial and annual types. If you're looking for perennials, you want Rudbeckia fulgida while the annual varieties you see growing along the side of the road are Rudbeckia hirta. This daisy-like flower blooms from June to September, only living for about six to ten days. While not considered invasive, black eyed Susans self-seed, so they do spread if not kept in check. They are available as perennials, annuals or biennials. / SANDRA JAMES



Choose fire resistant plants

By making the right choices in your yard, your property will be more resilient to wildfire. Coniferous trees, with cones and needles, are highly flammable and should not be within 10 metres of your home. This includes spruce, pine, fir and cedar.

Find plants to lower the risk of wildfire damage at FireSmartBC.ca/Landscaping-Hub

Complimentary FireSmart Reviews

Are you interested to learn more about how to make your home and property FireSmart? The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is offering **complimentary** FireSmart Reviews to homeowners in your community this summer.

During a FireSmart Review, our team 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 furnace tech for the Robson Valley

By Andrea Arnold

About 18 years after taking over from Glen Salt, Dunster resident Ken McNaughton is retiring from the furnace repair and installation business and handing it over to newcomer Terrance McNally's Robson Valley Ventures. McNaughton originally got into the business so that he could supplement the farm in the midst of a mad cow disease outbreak, and learned on-the-go. The furnace business quickly became his main source of income. Last fall, McNaughton let people know he was retiring and considered letting his Wood Energy Technology Transfer inspection certification expire. But he didn't close up shop completely.

"I couldn't just walk away and leave people without service," he said.

Around the same time, McNally and his wife Tammy arrived in the Valley. The McNally's had lived off the grid about 100km from their nearest neighbour, "close" to Mackenzie.

"We expected it would take some time to sell our house," said McNally. "We were shocked that it only took two days. We were suddenly looking for a house."

The McNally's didn't know where they would be moving, and they started looking around the province.

"When we arrived in McBride, saw the valley and met the people, it was a no-brainer," said McNally.

McNally loves to keep himself busy with hunting, fishing and trapping, and the Robson Valley presents opportunities to do all of these things.

As the couple went though the steps to purchase their home, the inspector mentioned the hot water tank needed replacing. McNally, holding a sheet metal worker ticket for HVAC, assured the man that he could handle it. The inspector suggested that McNally contact McNaughton as rumour had it, McNaughton was ready to step down.

The timing wasn't quite right, and McNally continued to work away from home, grading roads and often working night shifts before making the drive from PG to McBride on the weekends.

"Every time I made the trip back and I drove into the valley, surrounded by the mountains, I thought to myself, what am I doing?" said McNally. "This isn't the way to meet people, build relationships and make this a home."

This spring, McNally contacted McNaughton. They started discussing logistics and how the switchover could take place. McNally continued to work away from home as he considered his options.

He had worked in the industry for about 15 years in Grande Prairie where he built up a lot of experience working with natural gas heating systems. During the time the McNally's were in the Mackenzie area, he continued to do a few furnace-related jobs, but he took a job grading roads, ran a trap line and they rented out cabins to hunters, all off-grid.

McNaughton was thrilled when he heard McNally wanted to step back into the business.

"I couldn't be happier," said McNaughton. "I am so glad Terrance found me. He comes with a lot of experience. Experience is huge. I started out in the industry knowing nothing."

During the last week of August, McNaughton and McNally have been working together as McNally is learning what he can from McNaughton. McNaughton has shared experiences, trade knowledge, history and contacts. He has also sold McNally many of his trade tools and spare parts. However, the handoff fell short of the old ambulance McNaughton used as a service truck. McNally is fitting out a pick-up to use instead. The week of transition wrapped up on Friday Sept. 2nd. They agree they have worked well together and McNaughton says he is at peace walking away from the job leaving it in McNally's hands.

"That's it," McNaughton said. "I'm done."

"That's what he thinks," said McNally. "I'll be calling him for help."

McNally is offering installation, repair and maintenance service on a variety of air movement systems. Along with service for furnaces, ventilation, air conditioning, heat pumps, wood and pellet stoves in residential and commercial buildings, he is also offering service for kitchen exhaust ventilation systems. Like McNaughton, he is also qualified in geothermal systems.

The transition is also the starting point for the return of WETT inspection services to the Valley. McNally plans to complete the required certification as soon as it becomes available, possibly the end of September. As the official handover of the responsibilities wrapped up, McNaughton looks forward to retirement, although his expectations of getting drinks delivered to him on the couch have been quashed.

"I've really enjoyed the people," said McNaughton. "I'm glad I could be of help for most. I am going to miss the socializing part of it."

McNaughton will be forwarding all business to McNally going forward. McNally has already had an influx of phone inquiries and is grateful to McNaughton for setting him up for success.

"I'm looking forward to the new adventure and meeting the people in the Valley," said McNally. "I hope to be of some assistance to residents."



Terrance McNally and Ken McNaughton stand next to the truck that McNally is fitting out to be the service truck for Robson Valley Ventures. McNally has taken over serving the Robson Valley in the area of installation, maintenance and repair of heating and cooling systems. McNaughton has graciously shared tools, contacts and pertinent information as the two have completed a week of transition. /ANDREA ARNOLD

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ROBSON VALLEY

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

VALEMOUNT

MON Sept 26th - Please join Valemount Affordable Rentals Society for a Zoom meeting on **Phase 3 - more housing for singles and couples**. Contact **vars.valemount@gmail.com** for Zoom link!.

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.

SEPT 12: Self Care; for yourself, your child and the

SEPT 19: After Maternity: The next steps discussion SEPT 26: Indigenous stories and crafts in honour of truth and reconciliation

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.

SEPT 12: Pictionary! SEPT 19: Tech Café SEPT 26: NO DROP IN

THUR SEPT 8 3-5:30pm at the Valemount Community Garden, join Pete Amyoony for a **Seed Saving Workshop.** Seed saving is a great way to increase food security, and by saving our own seeds we save money, produce locally adapted seeds, understand the life cycle of the plants we grow and decrease dependence on seeds produced outside of our region. Registration not required. Call 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc. org for more info.

TUEs from SEPT 13, 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 15 from 2-4pm, get ready for a whole lot of fun at **Goats & Grandparents!!** All ages are welcome, but we encourage participants to bring grandma/grandpa along to meet some furry friends! Registration is not required. Call 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more info. This event is held at Whiskey Fill Farm Co (840 Whiskeyfill rd) and includes goat visits, along with snacks & crafts.

TUES SEPT 27 10:30am-4:00pm come on out for

the 2022 Seniors Fair at the Valemount Community Hall, presented by the Valemount Elder Care Collaborative! Admission is free, plus there will be a free lunch, door prizes, local senior organizational info, guest speakers & more! All ages are welcome! No registration required.

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.

Get your Family Activity Packages delivered right to your door once a month (within village limits)! RVCS staff adapt packages to age groups (0-6 years), which include crafts, activities, newsletters and resources! To receive your FREE package, call 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

SAT & SUN SEPT 17-18 **Fall Fest at the Valemount Bike Park.** The two-day event will feature low-cost shuttle rides on Saturday and Sunday, a costume event, food, music, scheduled group rides, a kids event, raffle drives, the very popular skinny riding competition and yoga. See the Valemount Bike Park facebook page for details.

MON SEPT 26th at Golden Years Lodge (afternoon, time TBD) Jess Rothenburger from Rural Coordination Centre of BC will demonstrate how to access your public health records with an email address. Introduction to MyHealthKey (Hosted by Elder Collaborative).

TUES SEPT 27th from 10:30 - 4 at the Community Hall Seniors Fair. **The Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie will be keynote speaker**. We also plan a panel discussion on aging that would include her, Dr. Markham and a few others. There will be scheduled talks, presentations throughout and free lunch (Hosted by Elder Collaborative).

TUES SEPT 27th 6:30 - 8:30pm Open House for Valemount Cares at Community Hall with the latest set of drawings. The Construction Team will be there to connect to local contractors as tenders will be out in January.

WED SEPT 28th 10:30 - 1pm Open House for Valemount Cares at Solden Years Lodge and a chance for seniors to meet / share concerns with Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie. Free Lunch.

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.

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.

SEPT 12: National Play-Doh Day at the park SEPT 19: Train safety day and Info session with Stacey for WorkBC at the park

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.

SEPT 14- puzzles

SEPT 21- Arts & Craft Day!

SEPT 28- Donkey & Donuts n Goats n Grandparents! *11am-1pm, NOT 1 to 3 pm.

THUR SEPT 15 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!

WED SEPT 28 from 11am-1pm, get ready for a whole lot of fun at Goats & Grandparents (+Donkeys & Donuts)!! All ages are welcome, but we encourage participants to bring grandma/grandpa along to meet some furry friends! Registration is not required. Call 250-569-2266 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more info. This event is held at RVCS (942 3rd Ave) and includes goat & donkey visits, plus donuts.

DUNSTER

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.



Long Term Storage Of Common Vegetables

Last week I gave some tips for short-term storage of many vegetables so we can enjoy that still fresh flavour if we have an abundance of certain crops. This week I would like to share a few tips on long-term storage of some vegetables so you can stretch the "home-grown" season. In the past week (Sept 1st) I have eaten last year's potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, garlic, herbs, squash and carrots from either the root cellar or storage in the house. I could have also gone out to the garden and picked all of the above fresh. It is what I refer to as "closing the circle" on another vegetable – meaning I have not had to buy any for a full year.

Following are the methods I have found best over the years for long-term storage. If you know of any other good ways, please call and I can include them in a future column.

Onions and Garlic: need to be "crackly"

dry before storage. If not braided, cut off the stems and store in a warm dry place or a very cool dry place- 20-50% humidity.

Carrots: Best if left in the ground until after a few light frosts – they will be sweeter. Cut off the green top and the top 1/4inch of the carrot. This will prevent sprouting and rotting in storage. Let dry well for a few hours; pack in sand or old sawdust in open pails. I pack mine loosely in a five-gallon pail to within 6 inches of the top and crumple newspaper to fill the rest of the pail. Store in a very cold 35F (2C) moist 90% humidity spot such as a good root cellar.

Potatoes: It is best to leave them in the ground until two to three weeks after the tops have died down. The skins will be well set by then. If the skins rub off while you are digging, they won't keep as long. Let them dry a few hours in a shady airy place. Store at

40F(4C) at 80% humidity in total darkness. (root cellar)

Celery: Before a frost, dig a few plants (roots and all), plant in a 2 gal. pot and water in well taking care not to wet the stalks and leaves. Remove a few of the outer stalks and use them. Move to the root cellar before frost. Water once a month with about 1 cup of water or as they dry out. You can harvest a few outer stalks each week all winter long from each plant.

Rutabaga: (Winter Turnip) Wait until after a few light frosts – they will get sweeter. Cut the tops level with the top of the turnip. Store in sand, sawdust or pails at 35F(2C) at 90% humidity.

Pumpkin and Winter Squash: Harvest as soon as the first frost hits the leaves. Wipe off all dirt. Cure in a very warm 70F(20C) dry place until your thumbnail will no longer go

through the skin. Only then can it be stored at 50-60F(10-15C) at 50% humidity on shelves lined with paper. Check and roll over every month.

Cabbage: A light frost will not harm cabbage and tends to make it sweeter. Cut off the stem as low to the ground as possible. Remove only the dead or damaged leaves. Hang upside down in a cold place 35F (2C) with 90 % humidity. Check outer leaves for mould and remove them before it spreads into the head. I have also seen cabbage stored in layers in sawdust (a layer of sawdust and a layer of cabbage so the heads did not touch one another). Mike and Sadie Frye gave me a head of crisp juicy cabbage out of their sawdust storage one year in June!

These are a few of the most common vegetables we grow in our area. Call if you need any further information.



CROSSWORD

Across

- Something to build on
- Three-point shot's trajectory
- Healthy piece
- Wrigley Field plant
- Kind of chest or paint Bathroom floor item,
- often
- Sketch out, as a route
- Like Mickey Mouse
- Hopeless
- Eatery check Taxi part
- Very, to teens
- Training session Deal with adversity
- Witnessed
- Some chessmen
- Prime-time hour Pass it in church
- Quiche, essentially
- Put up for sale
- Fatherly and motherly
- December 24th, e.g.
- Tend a text
- Puts in the mix
- Sushi stuffing
- Copper source

Get up 5

Down

Was the head of Standards

A, B, or O

Poke holes in

48 Signing aid

Branch

49 Wipe the dishes

Round, almost

- Burning
- Pint at a pub 10 Napping place
- Calendar month abbreviation
- In a crowd
- Place for the place setting
- 22 Try to win, in a way
- iPad buy 23
- 24 Sure
- 25 Specified
- 26 Handcoordination
- Portion of the world's population

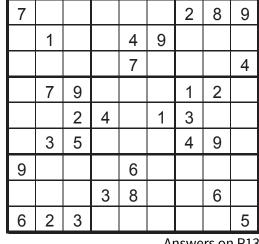
15 23 25 26 27 33 39 40

- 28 Person in a big white
- 31 Hot, in a way
- 33 Mat coup
- Contents of some
- carry-ons Broadcast signal
- 37 Without cease
- 38 Count
- Low-tech projectile 39
- 40 Tot up

Answers on P13

41 Free from, with "of"

42 Don't just seem



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. Athletic type, slangily
- 5. Little bit 8. Rugged
- transportation 12. Stadium
- 14. Kuwaiti or Qatari
- 15. Mater lead-in
- 16. Bogotá babies 17. Sounds of
- disapproval 18. Hair holder
- Respects
- 21. Fleet component
- 22. Made fun of
- 24. Triangular sail 25. Endure
- 28. Manx, e.g.
- 30. Project
- 33. Languid
- 35. Pepsi, e.g.
- 36. Canadian neighbor
- 37. Handy multitasker 41. ___ mission
- 42. Soprano's song, maybe 43. Make a loud sound
- 44. One-eighty
- 45. High points

- 48. Gorbachev was its
- last leader (abbr.)
- 49. James or John, e.g. 50. Address a woman,
- politely
- 52. French writer Cocteau
- 54. Custodian

- 58. Exercises, in a
 - 59. 2007 Ellen Page movie 62. Words with hole

way

- or all 63. Isn't injured
- 64. Actor Sharif
- 65. Give a recap 66. Trains, with in
- 67. Pack away 68. Predicament

Down

- Miss Marple of mystery
- 2. Blast furnace input
- 4. Unthoughtthrough reaction
- 5. Next year's grads 6. Bourbon-barrel wood
- 7. USA alternative 8. One of the
- 9. "Enchanted" Anne Hathaway role 10. Glow, in a way
- 11. Soft food
- 13. Totally confused 14. Drifting, maybe
- 20. Fig. of concern to a car buyer
- 21. Antacid (abbr.) 23. Spout off about
- 24. Dump
- 25. Small and delicate
- thing 26. Vacuous 27. Rot
- 3. Copper coin brothers Grimm
- 29. Internet laughter symbol
- 30. Disloyal one
- operators 32. Type of gun
- 38. Hall of Fame quarterback

Tarkenton

- 31. Computer
- 34. Without exception
- 52. "Light My Fire" singer, Feliciano
- 46. Collegian's
- decision 47. Programming language
- 49. Divers' gear 51. Liquor
- _-en-Provence 53. "Ghostbusters" role 40. Lightweight metal for Harold 55. Volume
 - 57. Sales people 58. Dance 59. Mud
 - 61. Jazzman Adderley

Answers on P13

60. "Kill Bill" star, Uma

56. Culpability

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Coach Venus

When the workout is hard, it's a reflection on the weightlifter, not the weight. The weights always weigh the same. They are what scientists refer to as "the control," the unwavering, measurable constant by which the variables can be compared. Venus gets meticulous, serious and hardworking as she moves to the realm of Virgo. Declare a factor of stability by which you can measure the coming improvements.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have someone in your life who you trust enough to be silly around. You can disclose a bit of foolish nonsense to this person and feel accepted, loved even, for the perfectly flawed human you are. A relationship like this is a treasure, and you count yourself among the blessed. You love and are loved.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've seen plenty of projects through to fruition, so you should trust yourself when you feel like something is a little off with the plan. Certain processes begin to feel cumbersome and become not worth it. Heed your instinct. Better to cut a bad investment loose than to go deeper in, trying to prove something.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). This week highlights the difference between love and positioning. Positioning is situational and conditional. Love moves freely. You'll experience both. Note that both people can benefit from a relationship even if feelings aren't mutual. Giving love is its own benefit, which expands and strengthens the heart.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It always takes more than one person to create a power struggle. One way to end the back-andforth of a psychological tug-of-war game is simply to let go of the rope. The other person may go reeling backward, but if you don't pick it up again, you're free of the arduous game, which may be even better than winning.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's no shortage of difficult tasks to potentially take on, but just because it's a challenge doesn't make it worthwhile. Seek relevant endeavors. It's not about looking for an easier way to do things; it's about making sure a thing is worth doing in the first place. Does it bring you closer to the person you want to be?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You won't waste your brainpower coming up with answers in realms that already have many experts. The right strategy for you has already been proven by hundreds of others just like you. Just follow the formula. You'll get the best results working inside a group, especially one that meets in person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're bursting with creativity this week, so it will be challenging to focus solely on what's immediately relevant. But once you meet the needs of the current situation, the world will be your oyster and a felicitous pursuit of your wild imaginings will ensue. Fire sign compatibility figures prominently

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're feeling curious, and you may dabble in this or that in hopes of getting a more realistic feel for how much the pursuit really holds for you. This week's mood is good for shopping but bad for buying -- good for borrowing, renting and posing hypothetical questions but bad for making promises, commitments and deals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As you repeatedly work or hang out with the same people, a culture forms around you. Maybe you don't love everything about it, but there's much in this group that seems about right for where you are now in your life. You just may look back and call these times "the good old days."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The language of your heart speaks in feeling and attraction, in a sense of expansiveness, oneness and connection. Fear has a language, too. It speaks through judgment, restriction and the urge to hide or flee. You're an expert interpreter and will find helpful ways of applying what's communicated to you this week.

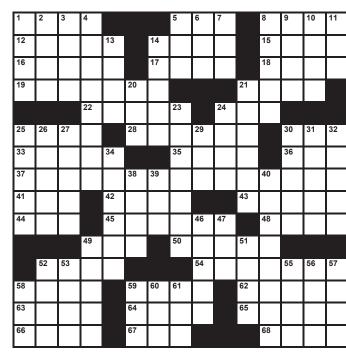
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can't help how you feel, but a funny thing happens once you accept and express those feelings -- they change. Full expressions will be particularly lucky this week. Instead of smiling, dance; instead of pouting, sing the blues. Your scene will be painted beautiful by freed feelings.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your imagination is strong, and as you visualize your own success, you'll figure out which version seems to fit well. Still, your mind can get to a place in seconds that your reality may take years to catch up to. Don't let it stop you. These hopes and dreams are the first steps to setting goals and making plans.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:

Your love of humanity, which has suffered a few knocks, will surge this solar return. You'll forgive and be forgiven. You'll understand and be understood on a deeper level than before. You'll find new reasons to root for people, to be curious about them, to trust them. Your popularity surges as people move in closer to your warmth. Your business booms, and you'll be able to afford some lifestyle changes that brighten your domestic scene. Your life expands to hold more and better relationships.

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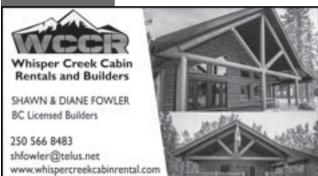
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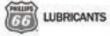
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PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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8	6	2	4	9	1	3	5	7
1	3	5	7	2	8	4	9	6
9	8	1	5	6	4	7	3	2
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Does BC have a rat problem? Hard to know, says expert

By Laura Keil

A Valemount business owner was shocked after discovering a rat that was not a common pack rat, but rather a black rat a foot and a half long.

The business owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, told the Goat they'd never seen this kind of rat before. The person trapped it, but says they're concerned it's one of a growing number of rats in the valley. Other residents have reported seeing similar rats, and say they must have hitchhiked to the area via train or boat.

Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson and CAO Eric Depenau say there have not been any complaints about rats to the Village.

The Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship says it's difficult to identify the species of rat based on the photo provided by the business owner, but it appears to be a roof rat (black rat). It could also be a Norway rat. The Ministry spokesperson said rats are not native to B.C. and apart from the nuisance they present to property owners, rats can also transmit disease and compete with other wildlife.

Kaylee Byers, a Post Doctoral Fellow at UBC's School of Population and Public Health, says B.C. lacks a comprehensive reporting system for rats which makes monitoring their populations difficult.

"To be honest, we don't really know what's going on with rats in BC. BC is huge. Even in Vancouver, we don't really know, (and) that's where our research has been."

She says information about rats is generally anecdotal, and comes in via pest control companies and local governments.

"There's significant biases in that kind of information," she says. "The people who call the city are the ones who really care about it, or maybe see something that's a one-off. Or maybe ... they're just concerned about rats associated with waste (management). If you're in an area where you see rats all the time, you're probably not calling every day; and then calling pest control professionals to come manage rats implies you've got the funds to pay someone."

She says in order to say anything about the rat population, even at a neighborhood level, you need surveillance systems, in other words, a program to monitor rat sightings or evidence of rats like burrows, oily marks

around small spaces, or rat

"These are things where you don't actually have to see a rat or catch a rat to have some general idea of how many rats are in an area. So that's really helpful. We don't really have that (in BC). I think New York has programs where they actually go through and they do those kinds of what we call habitat assessments. But there's nowhere in BC that I know that does anything like

BC lacks what she calls "foundational data" about rat populations. In other words, knowing the baseline rat populations for rat varieties in different areas.

"It's very possible that there are new sightings or that there's been an increase in population and so people are starting to notice them. But without a sort of baseline, it's really hard to say if it's a new thing.'

The Goat spoke to several long-time locals who say they've dealt with the occasional solitary pack rat, but have never encountered a black rat or Norway rat.

The Province says there are a number of things people can do if they suspect rats are in the area. Sealing up holes and cracks larger than ¼ inch on buildings, keeping garbage securely stored, keeping building perimeters clear of debris, and safely cleaning up areas where rodents have been to avoid attracting new ones.

Byers says the health warnings are well-founded, as rats are common carriers of pathogens transmittable to humans, though only when humans come into close contact with them. Another health impact is the mental health one i.e. the fear of rats and their pathogens. She says trapping rats does not always solve the problem. In fact areas that have been trapped have been observed to have greater disease spread likely due to mixing of different rat communities. She says rats have long thrived alongside humans. The most effective way to tackle a rat problem may be to figure out how to keep rats

attractants. Wildsafe BC says rats tend to thrive only in urban areas where food is abundant or where winters are mild but that rats have now expanded their range as far east as the Kootenays. Rats are prodigious breeders, they say, and a pair of rats could theoretically produce over 900

out of our spaces and reduce

Two heads are better than one is the saying, however eighteen are counted in this case so far on a single stalk. In Lorne and Hazel Sprecher's garden on Mountain View road in McBride there stands an approximately six feet tall single stalked multi headed sunflower. "I have never seen a sunflower like this one in our garden before" said the Sprecher's son Cougar, while showing off the big yellow beauty. Many bees, flies and insects were enjoying its bounty of pollen and nectar. There are many varieties of sunflowers which can have multiple heads. In fact, just the standard wild sunflower can grow up to twenty heads per plant. This is just a testament to just how much they can vary from plant to plant. / SANDRA JAMES offspring within a single year. be dangerous to pets, children Online resources: They can cause significant and other wildlife especially damage to buildings, electrical raptors which are natural rat tinyurl.com/2wacyzpd predators. tinyurl.com/healthlinkbc

wiring, and crops and can chew through metal. They also threaten native wildlife and have decimated populations of ground-nesting birds. Rats will prey on small livestock such as chickens, especially their eggs and chicks, and can contaminate feed with their urine and feces. Controlling food and water sources, limiting denning areas and using exclusion techniques are key to keeping rats in check, Wildsafe says. Trapping rats may be required once access to habitat needs have been addressed. Rats are not a species the Conservation Officer Service deals with so if a resident needs help they can contact a pest control company. If trapping rats yourself, avoid using techniques that cause undue suffering or poisons that can

wildsafebc.com/species/rats/





Valemount | McBride | Dunster | Blue River



Only a day old, the billowing smoke from the fire towers above the mountain range. Taken around 2:30pm local time Friday. /SUBMITTED

By Andrea Arnold

A wildfire started by lightning around 1:30am Thursday morning on Chetamon Mountain near Jasper had grown to more than 6000 hectares as of Monday.

McBride resident Cassandra Johnson traveled through the area on Friday going both directions and said she could see two helicopters with buckets working on the fire, and the wind was horrible.

"It was raining ash in Hinton," she said. The fire is north of the community of Jasper and spreading northeast, away from the town. Early on residents of Jasper were cautioned that a power outage was possible as the fire is close to power lines. The municipality of Jasper was working with ATCO, making arrangements for a switch to generator power if needed and crews were on location making preparations. Saturday morning, specialized fire crews began making fire control lines to help protect the community's power line. Sunday night, the power went out, but only briefly. However, then again around 4:00am Monday morning.

Jasper National Park posted the following to twitter, "ATCO says their crews are enacting their emergency plan and working safely to switch over to generator power for the critical sites." These sites include the hospital, traffic lights, the Jasper Activity Centre (Reception Centre location), the water treatment facilities and water wells. School will not be resuming on Tuesday morning as planned, however the daycare will remain open. All three pharmacies are open however, some nonessential services are closed, including some gas stations. Only some restaurants remain open, and some of the businesses on Patricia street have power.

The Jasper airstrip has been closed to all private aircraft, allowing only firefighting aerial traffic.

In a statement provided, Parks Canada said that they had deployed helicopter bucketing and aerial retardant to protect infrastructure and keep the fire within natural control features and roadways. Due to the location of the fire, the steep terrain and lack of available water, crews have not been placed along the edges of the fire at this time. They closed Snaring and Celestine Lake roads and the surrounding areas, including campgrounds.

By midday Monday, the Wabasso Campground had also been closed and Parks Canada sent out a request asking that all visitors consider delaying their visit to the park.

Parks Canada also reported that a full National Incident Management Team was in place on Sunday to provide additional emergency response assistance.

Saturday morning, Environment and Climate Change Canada issued a special air quality statement for the Jasper area as well as the Hinton-Grande Cache area. The cloud of smoke traveling through Hinton is causing limited visibility.

There was no concern for evacuation as of Sunday, but Jasper Mayor Richard Ireland urged residents and visitors to prepare themselves for a possible extended power outage. Following the restoration of power, Ireland said that due to damage to infrastructure, it is unknown if they will be able to provide power at full capacity. Fire officials continue to report that there is no risk to communities at this time.

The Jasper area received between three to five millimetres of rain overnight Sunday night providing fire crews with a bit of a reprieve by reducing the smoke and fire behaviour.



The fire is not currently threatening the Jasper Townsite, as it's blowing east. /JASPER NATIONAL PARK MAP



Loads of smoke led to an air quality advisory for the region over the weekend. /JASPER NATIONAL PARK



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