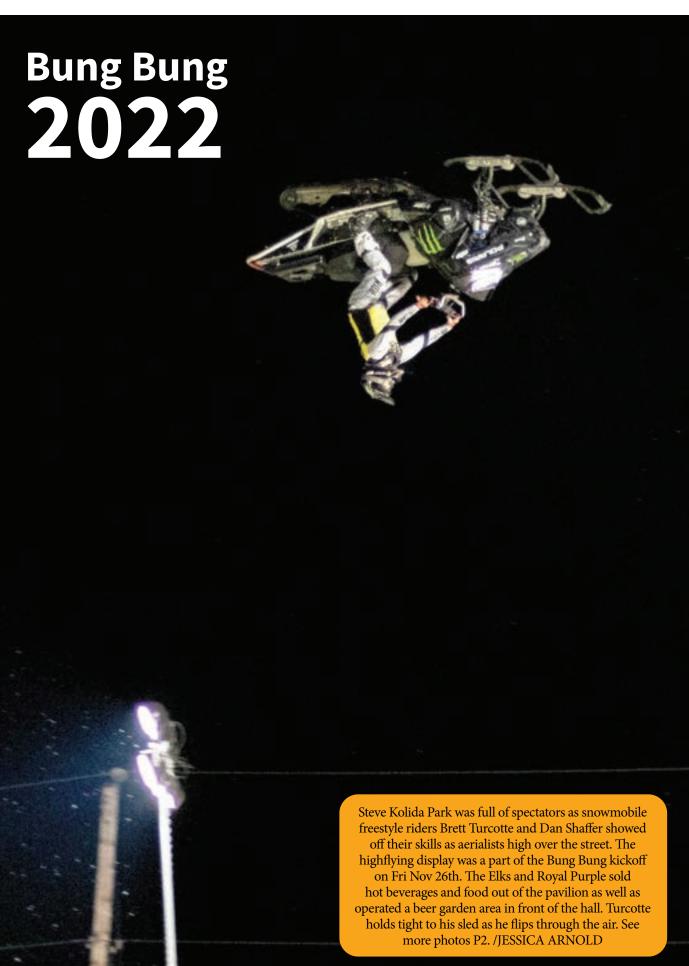


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Thursday December 1st 2022 Volume 13 Issue 44

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Council lifts sanctions on mayor

By Andrea Arnold

McBride Council lifted sanctions put on Mayor Runtz during the previous term, with Councillor Smith opposed to removing the sanctions.

Those previously sitting on Council had put into place two sanctions: The first, that a councillor attend each of the Mayoral meetings along with Mayor Runtz, and the second, that a councillor monitor the Mayor's emails to ensure messages were followed up on and information shared in a timely manner. The information about these sanctions were brought out of in-camera following the October 25th final Council meeting of the term. During the last term, Mayor Runtz was off work for months due to health reasons.

The current Council was presented with this information at the Nov 22 Council meeting. They were provided an opportunity to discuss and vote to either keep the rules in place or remove them.

Council first voted to rescind the sanction regarding a Councillor attending meetings with Mayor Runtz. Councillor Kolida asked CAO Tupy if a new motion could be written so council could make sure a representative was at all mayoral meetings, even when Mayor Runtz couldn't be there. CAO Tupy said a new motion would be presented to Council at a future meeting.

Council then discussed the sanction regarding the mayor's email.

Councillor Smith gave examples of situations in

CONT'D ON P3





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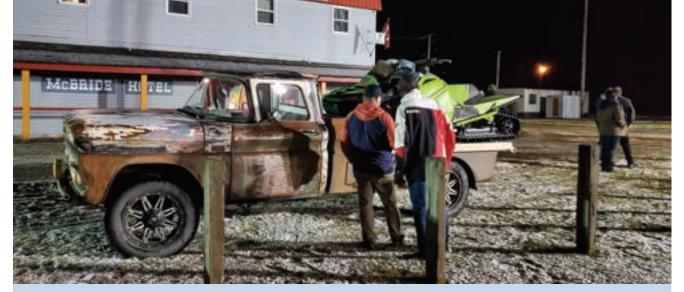
With the half moon shining brightly to help light my way, I slowly snowshoed up into rugged yet spectacular rocky mountain goat country. My goal was to capture some rutting behaviour action of these hardy creatures in mid-November. An early 6:00 AM trailhead start was instrumental in getting up into their part of the world and hopefully capture some images of these beautiful long white haired beasts and make it down off the mountain by nightfall. With the temperature dropping to -25 C at night, I really didn't want to spend the night up there. Here are some interesting facts on the rocky mountain goat. A dense inner wool is combined with long outer guard hairs that can grow up to 20 centimetres (8 inches) in length which will keep them warm throughout the worst ice cold blasts of winter. They live close to rocky crags which will enable them to escape predators more easily and they feed where the wind has blown most of the snow away from the grassy areas. /LEON LORENZ



Some of the runs may not have felt just right, or the riders were warming up both themselves and their sleds. Dan Shaffer took a couple of runs testing out the angles and line between the landing pad and the take off ramp before the event officially started. These jumps were less visually exciting, but still impressive as they completed each jump without incident. /ANDREA ARNOLD



Once again, the street in front of the McBride Elks Hall was lined with snowmobiles. The sleds ranged from brand new to sleds so old, getting them to start up proved to be a challenge. Bung Bung attendees could walk among the sleds and talk shop. Several large bonfires were lit in the street for people to warm up during the event. /ANDREA ARNOLD



Bung Bung attendee from Blue River Jamie Iwaschuk rolled up in his show-stopping 1961 Chevy, hauling an equally as impressive 2022 Arctic Cat Hardcore. /ANDREA ARNOLD



Pyper Page and her mom, Niki Bell, visiting from Waskatenaw Alberta, checked out the Bung Bung festivities for the first time after a full day playing on Belle Mountain. During Dan Shaffer's warm up runs on the ramp, Pyper kept cheering for more. /ANDREA ARNOLD

PureFibre connectivity, outdoor rink approved, & Mayor sanctions removed

By Andrea Arnold

Mayor Gene Runtz called Tuesday, Nov 22. 2022 McBride Council meeting to order at 7:00pm. Councillor Smith attended via ZOOM.

Brought out from in camera

In the minutes to be approved from the November 8th meeting, there were several in camera items approved by members of the previous council to bring forward into public viewing, during the in camera meeting on October 25th. These decisions had been made at

different points within the term, and the outgoing council decided to bring them forward before the term was up. Council approved proceeding with the Lagoon Liner Replacement Project in 2022 & 2023 with up to 73 per cent funding.

Resolution IC070526.20 – Council carried a motion approving Councillor Frederick to monitor Mayor Runtz' village email account to ensure emails are followed up with and information is shared in a timely manner.

Resolution IC060526.20 – Council approved an appropriate available Councillor to attend each Mayoral meeting with Mayor Runtz, given each meeting's circumstances.

Resolution SIC04061620 – Be it resolved that Council shall address what it believes to be conduct unbecoming a member of Village Council by way of: a) motions of censure (expression of Council's displeasure with one of the members) and b) restricting physical interaction and verbal and written communications with Village Staff by requiring the Mayor to only do so through a Council designated intermediary. In other words, the Mayor shall not be allowed to interact and communicate directly, by email, phone or in person before, during or after meetings, with Village staff except through a Council-designated intermediary. Council approved both sanctions "a and b" regarding Mayor Eugene Runtz.

Active Transportation Plan

Council moved to adopt the Village of McBride Active Transportation Plan as presented. The plan outlines ways the Village can help encourage residents to choose humanpowered transportation over vehicles more often.

PureFibre connectivity

Council directed staff to write a letter to Connecting Communities BC, Ministry of Citizens' Services, in support of TELUS' application (Zone 4 application A) to provide PureFibre connectivity to residents and businesses in and adjacent to the Village of McBride. The area included in the proposed project encompasses the entire municipality as well as some areas of Regional District of Fraser Fort George Area H along Highway 16 between Lamming Mills to approximately 15km East of McBride as well as Mountainview Rd, Eddy Rd and some other side roads. CAO Chris Tupy reported that at the most, the project would be completed by the end of 2026, with the possibility of an earlier wrap up.

Bung Bung porta-potty

Council approved the request from Sara Olofsson and the Elks/Royal Purple for permission to set up a portapotty during the Bung Bung event at Steve Kolida Park on November 25, 2022.

Outdoor rink approved

Council approved the request from Stewart Reimer to build an outdoor public skating rink for the third year in a row in the empty Crescent Park. Reimer estimates that approximately 200 different people used the space last winter, and at least 15 volunteers provided snow removal. The neighbours created and maintained it throughout the season. The following conditions have to be met before the space can be used for this purpose: The Village requires the user group to obtain sufficient liability insurance coverage and to add the Village of McBride as an additional insured party, and for the group to accept responsibility for the extra associated costs; and ii. Council will not support the use of any Village of McBride resources into maintaining the outdoor public ice rink. Councillor Smith voted against the request, saying she would like to see the Rec Centre get more use now that it is available.

Mayor Sanctions

The current councillors were given the opportunity to vote on the sanctions put on Mayor Runtz that were brought out of In-camera at the October 25th meeting.

Council first voted to rescind resolution #IC060626.20 ensuring that a Councillor attends each Mayoral meeting with Mayor Runtz. Councillor Kolida asked CAO Tupy if a new motion could be written for an upcoming meeting that would provide a way that council could make sure that a representative was at all mayoral meetings, even when Mayor Runtz couldn't be there.

Council then discussed the sanction regarding the mayor's email. Councillor Smith gave examples of situations in the last term when emails were not responded to or forwarded in a timely manner, and the Village missed out on important information. She asked that the sanction be upheld. Councillor Kolida said that he would like to start fresh, and not lean on past situations.

"If it becomes an issue, we can look at it again," said Kolida.

CAO Tupy said that in many larger municipalities there is a village staff member that is automatically forwarded all of the mayor's incoming emails to make sure things are not missed. However, in McBride, they do not have the manpower in the office, so they would be asking that a councillor step into this role.

Mayor Runtz moved to rescind the resolution. He said his email is his and he doesn't want other people to be reading it.

"If I am forced to do it, I am not going to cooperate," he said. "I don't answer all of my emails all the time. If it is important, you can call me on the phone."

Council voted in favour of removing the sanction by a vote of 4-1, with Councillor Smith opposed.

Ancient Forest Working Group

The Ancient Forest Working Group is organized and managed by Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. This planning group exists to advise and support the development of the Ancient Forest Management Plan and the Ancient Forest Enhancement Plan. Stakeholders, including BC Parks, UNBC, various recreation groups and the Village of McBride, are invited, from time to time, to attend Working Group meetings. Since late 2020, the Village has been invited to send a representative. Council appointed Councillor Smith as the delegate and Councillor Frear was appointed as the alternate.

Primary Care Collaborative Table

The Primary Care Collaborative Table is an opportunity for locals to have input in what primary care should look like in a community. Council appointed Councillor Kolida as the delegate for the group and Councillor Caputo as the alternate

Funding application for Train Station enhancement

Council directed staff to prepare an application to the Destination Development Fund for the McBride Train Station Enhancement Project and bring cost estimates back to Council at a future special meeting for a resolution of support for the project. The fund will award grants across two streams: Activate, which provides 100 per cent of funding up to \$1,000,000 per project and Elevate, providing 100 per cent of funding up to \$500,000 per project.

Council meeting schedule

Council approved the next year's schedule of council meetings. CAO Tupy said that there may be a few adjustments made to it as the year progresses due to outside commitments the village has that Councillors are expected to attend.

Christmas cards

Council directed administration to prepare and send out Christmas cards.

Addition Item - Wording of Public and Press portion of agenda

Mayor Runtz made a motion to have administration alter the wording of the Public and Press portion of the agenda to make it more inclusive and in keeping with Council's desire to be more transparent. CAO Tupy said he would work on it, and see if changes to it would require a change to the bylaw as well. The motion was passed with a 4-1 vote, Councillor Smith opposed.

In-Camera

Council moved to proceed to an In-Camera council meeting for consideration of matters of the Community Charter related to Section 90 (1) (c) Labour Relations or other employee relations; (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land of improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality, and (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor- client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

Mayoral Sanctions

• • • CONT'D FROM P1

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Council voted in favour of removing the sanctions by a vote of 4-1.



All members of McBride and Valemount councils attended a combined training session held in McBride on Wed. Nov. 23rd. The training covered topics such as legislative frameworks, roles of Mayor & Council, governance/management, ethical and respectful conduct, conflict of interest, financial frameworks, open/closed meetings, strategic planning, asset management, emerging/local issues, and more. (L-R) Valemount CAO Eric Depenau and DCO Carleena Shepherd, McBride Councillor Glen Frear, Valemount Councillor Hugo Mulyk, McBride Councillor Pete Caputo, Valemount Councillor Donnie MacLean, McBride Mayor Gene Runtz, Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson, McBride Councillor Joe Kolida, Valemount Councillor Pete Pearson, Valemount Councillor Hollie Blanchette, McBride CFO Sandy Salt and CAO Chris Tupy. McBride Councillor Diane Smith attended via Zoom as she was out of town for a family commitment. / ANDREA ARNOLD

Editorial



Saving some Christmas spirit for January

By Laura Keil, Publisher/ Editor

The Goat's events section is packed this week with some fantastic events leading up to Christmas.

Many events are at the nexus of socializing, shopping, and entertainment. Despite the wicked colds, flus and COVID, people are still managing to get out, visit with friends and spend some dollars locally.

While the valley never shies away from November and December events, January looms like a stormcloud on the horizon.

It can be hard to entice people out of their homes in January, but the lack of broad community events becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. So here's my proposal: why not create a new annual tradition that breaks up those gloomy dark winter days? Think Jasper in January or Carnavale in Quebec City. Something that gets us into our never-used-enough winter gear and admiring those late sunrises and early sunsets. That encourages us to explore our local retail outlets instead of spending our evenings browsing Amazon. And that ensures we have a way to break up that cabin fever.

Here are some ideas from elsewhere to get us inspired (Canada's top 10 winter festivals as per canadianbucketlist.com)

Carnaval de Quebec, Quebec City

Quebec's Winter Carnival is the largest winter festival in the world. Some 475 tons of water is used to create snow sculptures and an ice palace. Competitions include dog sledding, canoeing and sleigh racing. The night parade is something to behold, making use of lights, movement and the guest of honour the Bonhomme Carnavale.

Winterlude, Ottawa

Ottawa's 8km long ice rink along the Rideau Canal lends itself to ice-skating shows, while Winterlude also hosts a triathlon and an annual Bed Race (where people race metal bedframes outfitted with bike tires). Other highlights include a snow sculpture competition where each entry must be five metres high, three metres long, and weigh 40 tons.

Winter Festival of Lights, Niagara Falls

Niagara becomes a winter wonderland with over 125 animated light displays and three million tree and ground lights including coloured lights on the waterfalls. Concerts, performances and fireworks add to the festivities.

Toonik Tyme, Iqaluit

In April Nunavut residents celebrate the return of the sun by gathering for a week of games, music and feasting. With temperatures still well below zero, the Toonik Tyme festival showcases Inuit traditions and skills. Events include seal hunting, igloo building, dog team races, fishing and traditional outdoor games. The event also includes snowmobile climbs and a craft fair.

Festival du Voyageur, Winnipeg

This annual festival celebrates the history and culture of the fur traders known as the voyageurs, who used canoes to carry furs and supplies to various outposts, including one called Fort Rouge, which eventually became Winnipeg. Held in the French Quarter (Saint Boniface), the Festival du Voyageur includes various events, music, a torchlight walk, beard growing contest and celebration of Cajun culture.

Jasper in January, Jasper

This two-week festival boasts music, sports, arts and culinary events. Marmot Basin offers reduced lift tickets and special events include an art exhibit, wine and whisky tastings, and a multi-day pond hockey tournament. Daily events include wildlife tours, cookoffs, concerts, sports, demonstrations and pub crawls.

Caribou Carnival, Yellowknife

Since 1955, the Caribou Carnival has celebrated life in the Far North, evolving from a trappers gathering into a spring celebration that attracts thousands. Originally, only the toughest competed to be Bush King. Today, survival games and competitions take place at the Snowstage. You can also catch dogsled derbies, feast on pancake breakfasts, and dance away at fiddle parties.

Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous, Yukon

A sourdough is the name given to a person who has lived through a full Yukon winter, from freeze up to spring thaw. The gold rush-inspired festival includes some interesting events to watch and participate in such as the Flour Packing Competition, Axe Toss, Chainsaw Chuck, Log Splitting, and separate activities for the Kids Fest. You don't have to be a sourdough to take part.

Montreal High Lights Festival

Montreal's celebration of "light, food and culture" includes more than 100 performing arts events - music, dance and visual arts - in the city. Top chefs and winemakers host a wine and dine experience while fireworks pop over a bustling funfair. Old Montreal turns into an all-night, outdoor art gallery, complete with performances and installations. Many art galleries stay open through the night during what's known as Nuit Blanche.

World Ski and Snowboard Festival, Whistler

During this 10-day festival, the world's best ski and snowboard riders compete while famous musicians perform on free outdoor stages and at clubs and bars throughout Whistler. There's also fashion shows, film and photography exhibitions, a dog parade, a skate zone and skiing on some of the world's most spectacular runs.

Anyone in the region who is interested in organizing something in January or February please contact the Goat. We'd love to partner with you in making it a success.



"I JUST REALIZED THAT EVERYONE ON MY CHRISTMAS LIST ALREADY HAS EVERYTHING THAT THEY NEED."

CORRECTION

The name of Local Maker Dawn Hickerty's company in last week's edition should have read "Riverside Crafts Co." Not "Riverview Crafts Co." We apologize for the error and have fixed the story online.

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Laura Keil Publisher / Editor goatnewspaper@gmail.com



Andrea Arnold Associate Editor / Reporter ajareporting29@gmail.com



Trish Gair Admin/Distribution billingrmg@gmail.com



Christine Weenk Graphic Design goatnewsweb@gmail.com



Madison Loignon Production/Marketing ads@goatnewsmedia.com



Deanna Mickelow Feature Sales dmickelow@gmail.com

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 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.



One village at a time

Hello fellow village dwellers! I know that I am not the

only one in town and surrounding area who is pondering renewable heating and cooling of my place. When you dig into the information about ex. getting a heat pump and/ or solar panels installed, increasing the insulation of your house, you know how expensive it can get very quickly.

The incentives from the governments, provincial and federal, and BC Hydro combined look like a great deal, until you look more closely.

All these years when the government set up programs with monetary incentives and I wanted to apply for one or the other of them I found out very quickly that the hoops I had to jump through to qualify for the grant were not hoops made for rural areas.

Same again, it seems, this time around. First we need an assessment done, which, so far seems impossible in our area.

So, over the years I have put up my own money, without getting any of the grants. When I did renovations I added more insulation when it worked or I exchanged a window or two with one which had a better R-value, meaning better insulation value.

With a heat pump, it seems that we need to get someone who does an assessment before we can apply for the grant from the federal government.

Like all these years before we here in rural

Canada won't find anyone who does that (at least I haven't). Too bad! Maybe I should move to a city? Or, how about we get together as the village and regional district and decide that we want to go green together?

Instead of each individual wasting a lot of time and energy figuring these things out we decide to have a windmill installed that powers the village and a solar farm built and maybe geothermal, all that to produce our own electricity and/or heat. It will power our houses and businesses and on top of that we will be part of the climate solution and feel great about it!

Don't you think we would attract people to come here when we do this, not only tourists but also young people who want a good and sustainable future for themselves and their kids?

I think so.

Instead of paying for my individual heat pump and solar on the roof of my house I would gladly contribute some money to finance this project.

Oh, and by the way, we have the perfect spot for that right here: the old mill site. It is totally exposed to wind and sun.

One village at a time!

Jeannette Lorenz Valemount, BC



Free speech?

What if those on your media site suggested getting together

an angry mob to do away with someone they hated? Would you allow them that type of speech? Squelching speech doesn't have anything in common with a government.

News outlets put limits on "free" speech due to legal reasons and also to conform with the taste of their readers.

One person's idea of free speech is another person's idea of hate speech.

There is a certain line concerning language that

must not be crossed, or total chaos will follow ... which is what occurred January 6th, 2021, when Donald Trump (using hate-filled language against Mike Pence), nearly resulted in Mike being hung... and did result in others being killed by the out-ofcontrol angry mob.

Speech is not always free ... nor should it be.

June Vandermark McBride, B.C.



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REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

What: Public Hearing regarding Zoning Bylaw No. 2892, Amendment Bylaw No. 3277, 2022 When and Where:

7:00 pm, Thursday, December 8, 2022 Via telephone conference call or In-person attendance at: Regional District Board Room 155 George Street, Prince George BC

Applicant: Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

Proposal: Zoning Bylaw No. 2892, Amendment Bylaw No. 3277, 2022 is proposed to zone unzoned lands adjacent to 14 lakes and 2 watercourses within Electoral Areas 'A', 'C', 'D', 'G' and 'H'. The lands are within a development permit area and partially zoned. The unzoned lands will be brought into Zoning Bylaw No. 2892. Additionally, the proposed bylaw will repeal Punchaw Lake Area Zoning Bylaw No. 704 which regulates the use of land adjacent to Punchaw Lake. The land will be included in Zoning Bylaw No. 2892 with the creation of a new Seasonal Recreation 4 (SR4) zone.

How can I participate and provide comment?

Anyone who believes that their interest in land is affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard at the public hearing or to present written submissions prior to or at the public hearing regarding matters contained in the bylaw. The public hearing will be chaired by a delegate of the Regional District Board.

Written submissions will only be accepted in advance of the public hearing until 9:00 am on December 8, 2022 and must be sent by:

Email: developmentservices@rdffq.bc.ca Hand/Mail: Attention Development Services, 155 George Street, Prince George, BC V2L 1P8 Fax: 250-562-8676

Written submissions received before 9:00 am on December 8, 2022, will be posted to the Regional District's website. No written submissions will be accepted after 9:00 am unless they are submitted in- person at the public hearing meeting. All written submissions must include the legible legal name of the author.

Any written submissions received before or at the public hearing will become public record, be posted on the RDFFG website, and form part of the public Board agenda. By submitting a comment, you are consenting to the disclosure of any personal information that you provide. Personal information is collected and disclosed under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Attending by telephone conference call:

Contact the Regional District at 250-960-4400 or developmentservices@rdffg.bc.ca for the telephone conference number and instructions.

Need more info? A copy of the proposed bylaw and any relevant background materials are available for review by the public on the Regional District's web-site at http://www.rdffg.bc.ca/ services/development/land-use-planning/currentapplications/ or at the Regional District office, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., between November 14 and December8, 2022. Appointments are preferred. For more information contact Daniel Burke, Planner II, 250- 960-4400.



New councillors, sidewalk agreement, building report

By Andrea Arnold

Mayor Owen Togerson started the November 22, 2022 council meeting with CAO Eric Depenau administering the oath of office for both of the new councillors, Donnie MacLean and Hugo Mulyk. Following their declarations, all members of council were asked to sign a Council Code of Conduct. This is different from the last term in that it is mandatory this year, not optional. The code of conduct will be posted on the website following this meeting.

Each of the incoming councillors were given an opportunity to speak. Councillor MacLean extended her thanks to council for intrusting her with the position again. Councillor Mulyk expressed his thanks to council for having trust in him and giving him the opportunity to work with council. He is thrilled to be there and is looking

Mayor Torgerson read a letter of congratulations from MLA Shirley Bond.

forward to the term.

Prince George Regional Advisory Committee appointment

Council appointed Councillor Mulyk to the Prince George Regional Advisory Committee, and Mayor Torgerson as

Community Hall rental fee waiver

Council approved the request to waive the Community Hall rental fees for the December 20, 2022 Community Christmas Party. The decision is subject to the Firm Foundations Christian Outreach complies with the requirements of Policy No. 12, Rental of Village Facilities and Property; and providing the Village with a copy of a Communicable Disease Mitigation Plan, as per Administrative Policy No. 2021-02.

Temporary Use Permit Transmountain Work Camp

Mayor Torgerson asked that members of council forward their thoughts and comments regarding the referral of Temporary Use Permit No. 269, Transmountain Work Camp to CAO Depenau no later than Friday, December 9, 2022. The permit is the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George's decision, and they have asked for the Village's input. No vote or resolution is required.

Meeting with paramedics

An invitation to meet with the Ambulance Paramedics of BC prompted a motion to have administration contact Troy Clifford to arrange a meeting in mid-December. This meeting is a followup to the conversations that were held during UBCM. Council approved the motion.

Building Permit Values July - October ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION VALUES

July

Building Permits: \$110,000 Plumbing Permits: \$2500 New Solid Fuel Appliances: 0

Total: \$112,500

This total reflects a removal of an existing manufactured home and a newer replacement.

August

Building Permits: \$638,000 Plumbing Permits: \$10,250 New Solid Fuel Appliances: \$0

Total: \$648,250

The majority of the above total reflects a commercial addition and one new single family dwelling.

September

Building Permits: \$90,000 Plumbing Permits: \$5000 New Solid Fuel Appliances: \$6000

Total, \$101,000

Total: \$101,000

The above total reflects a new secondary

suite and one new accessory building.

October

Building Permits: \$136,000 Plumbing Permits: \$2500

New Solid Fuel Appliances: \$0

Total: \$138,500

The above total reflects two new accessory buildings for single family dwellings.

PERMIT FEES COLLECTED

July

Building Permits: \$130 Plumbing Permits: \$100 New Solid Fuel Appliances: \$0

Total: \$230

August

Building Permits: \$3498 Plumbing Permits: \$406 New Solid Fuel Appliances: \$0

Total: \$3904

September

Building Permits: \$728 Plumbing Permits: \$200

New Solid Fuel Appliances: \$130

Total: \$1058

October

Building Permits: \$1004

Plumbing Permits: \$100

New Solid Fuel Appliances: \$0 Total: \$1104

PERMITS ISSUED

July

Building Permits: 1

Plumbing Permits: 1

New Solid Fuel Appliances: 0

The above permit numbers are down from past years.

August

Building Permits: 5

Plumbing Permits: 4

New Solid Fuel Appliances: 0
The above permit numbers are average for

the month of August.

September

Building Permits: 2 Plumbing Permits: 2 New Solid Fuel Appliances:1 The above permit numbers are about average for the month of September.

October

Building Permits: 2 Plumbing Permits: 1

New Solid Fuel Appliances: 0

The above permit numbers are about average for the month of October

Council meeting schedule

Council approved the presented council meeting schedule.

Grant Writing Support

Council directed staff to apply for the maximum amount of \$8000.00 for the NDIT Grant Writing Support Program for 2023

Council also directed staff to request Grant Writing Financial Support in the amount of \$8000.99 from Valemount Community Forest for 2023.

Development Variance Permit 22-03 - 1170 9th Avenue

Councillor MacLean recused herself as the property in question is in her neighbourhood. Council gave initial approval to development variance permit 22-03 for 1170-9th Ave. The request is to decrease the interior side setback for a principal building from 2m to 1.52m.

Development Variance Permit 22-04 -1471 8th Place

Council gave initial approval to development variance permit 22-04 for 1471 8th Place. The request is to decrease the interior side setback for a principal building from 2m to 1.52m.

Seniors Housing Development

Both Councillor MacLean and Councillor Mulyk recused themselves for both this item and CONT'D ON P7

www.valemount.ca



CBT CIP/AAP Adjudication Committee -

Call for Members

The Village of Valemount is seeking volunteers to fill vacancies on the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Program Adjudication Committee (CBT CIP/AAP). The Adjudication Committee's role is to make recommendations to Council regarding which community organizations should receive funding from the CBT CIP/AAP.

There are 4 positions available, each for a 2-year term.

Committee applications are available on the village website at: www.valemount.ca or at the Village Office, 735 Cranberry Lake Road.

Contact Tracey Dennis at 250.566.4435 or email <u>grantclerk@valemount.ca</u> for further information.

The application deadline is December 6th at 12:00 pm.

Important Reminder

Any outstanding taxes or utilities are due by December 31, 2022. After this date, current taxes and utilities will transfer to arrears and begin accumulating interest as of January 1, 2023.

Payment can be made by cash, cheque, debit card, telephone/Internet banking, and/or e-transfers to dof@valemount.ca. Please make sure to include your name and roll number if e-transferring to ensure the funds are allocated to the correct account.

Annual Wes Hudson Light Up Contest

Start decorating your home or business for the holidays.

Prizes will be awarded for residential and commercial. Prizes for each include:

- · 1st place \$75
- · 2nd Place \$50

Judging will take place between December 13th and December 17th

Call Out for Clean Air Task Force Volunteers -

November 2022

The Village of Valemount Council is currently seeking Expressions of Interest from community members who wish to serve on the Clean Air Task Force.

The Clean Air Task Force is a Select Committee of Council whose mandate is to explore all options to improve air quality in the Village of Valemount, and to make recommendations to authorities having jurisdiction to take positive actions to reduce negative influences on air quality in the valley.

The task force currently consists of Council members and resource persons from affected public sectors. The Village wishes to add up to two members from the public to provide input to the Committee.

For further details of the committee's mandate and composition, please read the complete Terms of Reference, available on the village website at www.valemount.ca

To apply for a position on the Clean Air Task Force, please forward a brief letter outlining your relevant interest and experience by email to corporate@valemount.ca, or by mail to Village of Valemount, PO Box 168, Valemount BC, VOE 2ZO. The deadline for applications is Monday, December 5th at 4 PM.



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Thursday December 1st 2022

Legion craft fair



The Valemount Legion put on a mini craft fair on Nov. 26th where half a dozen vendors had items for display. The legion also served a hot lunch and Santa was on hand to take requests from little ones.

Donna Hamilton has been needle felting for years, and her designs have gotten quite impressive as shown by this rabbit balanced as though in motion on a burl base. Hamilton says inside is a wire armature that keeps the figure intact. She wraps the felt around and "needles" it in place. The only visible part of the rabbit that isn't wool are the whiskers which are made of horse hair. / LAURA KEIL

Jeanne Dennis had a variety of crafts on display. She also cooked lunch for the attendees. /LAURA KEIL



Robin of Tete Creek Farm showcases her assortment of soaps and wool. / LAURA KEIL



Dome Creek Christmas market

Jesse continued to work as people filed past his table admiring and purchasing his handmade fly fishing flies. / ANDREA ARNOLD



Shoppers who put in the time to get to the Dome Creek Christmas Market on Saturday Nov 26th were treated to a variety of artisan creations by 10 vendors set up in the Dome Creek School. /ANDREA ARNOLD

Natalia Rodriquez (in photo) and husband Michael Dovle mostly produce mushrooms and garlic at their **Ancient Forest** Mushroom Farm. They hope to branch out in the next year, possibly trying an asparagus crop. /ANDREA ARNOLD





The McBride Christmas Craft Fair was hosted by the Elks and Royal Purple on Sunday Nov. 27. There were 25 vendors set up in the space and attendees milled around the maze of tables as they shopped and visited. / ANDREA ARNOLD

McBride Christmas market



Josie (right), one of the two young artisan vendors at the sale, was selling jewelry that she created. Her sister Oona was helping supervise her table. / ANDREA ARNOLD



Rea Chartier of Memories in Glass displayed many different beautiful glass items that she put together by hand. /ANDREA ARNOLD

Valemount Council... CONT'D FROM P6

the following one, as they sit on the board of the Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society. Council authorized CAO Depenau to sign the amended Memorandum of Understanding between the Village of Valemount and the Senior Citizens Housing Society. The MOU was used as an alternative to a Council resolution to "provide land in principle" to the society for the purpose of developing a seniors' facility to provide housing and services to Valemount. BC Housing required the MOU to show that the land had been secured in order to grant funding to the society. In the original MOU, the term was set for 30 years. BC Housing is requiring that this term be amended to the preferred term of 60 years.

Seniors trail and sidewalk agreement

Council authorized CAO Depenau to sign the Trail and Sidewalk Works Agreement between the Village of Valemount and the Senior Citizens Housing Society. The agreement outlines the conditions around the contribution of funds and construction of the trail/sidewalk. The VSCHS would contribute 33 per cent of the estimated cost of Phase 1 of the trail and sidewalk. Councillor Pete Pearson asked the question about the amount of 33 per cent, if it was today's amounts or future amounts. CAO Depenau reported that although it was based on today's costs, there is a healthy contingency in place.

Council moved to an In-Camera meeting for consideration of one item per Section 90 (1) (a) of the Community Charter to discuss matters related to personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality.



The two new members of Valemount Council declared their Oath of Office at the council meeting on Nov 22, 2022. They then took their seats at the table. Councillor Hugo Mulyk, Councillor Hollie Blanchette, Mayor Owen Torgerson, Councillor Donnie MacLean and Councillor Pete Pearson are ready for the next four years. / SUBMITTED

Thursday December 1st 2022 In Print | Online | therockymountaingoat.com



Tumble Mountain Yarns

By Andrea Arnold

McBride residents and friends Barb Brabant and Becky Hulka have been fortunate to find a hobby they can do together, and one that brings in a bit of money. Brabant and Hulka describe their craft as playing with colour. The result of their efforts is brightly coloured and unique skeins.

The pair purchases spun wool prepared for dying. It is fingering peruvian highland wool. It is a fine sock yarn that is very versatile, quite soft, has a nice twist and is machine washable.

The pair purchases spun wool prepared for dying. It is fingering peruvian highland wool. It is a fine sock yarn that is very versatile, quite soft and has a nice twist.

"A nice twist means it bounces back evenly when you stretch it," said Hulka.

Once the yarn arrives, they prepare it for dye using a closely guarded secret method. They place the yarn into a vat of dye, one skein per vat. Once the strike, or penetration is complete, usually about 15 minutes later, the yarn is removed from the dye, rinsed and hung to dry. In the summer, they hang the yarn outside, and in the winter, the drying takes longer due to the need to hang the yarn inside. The whole process has to be done carefully and with cautious timing. Some skeins of yarn go through the dying process several times to create multiple, layered or overdyed colour effects.

At times the yarn can curl, creating a headache to untangle. The pair is careful to follow their tried and true methods in order to avoid the mess, but they still have skeins go awry sometimes. It is not only tangling that can cause a skein to come out wrong. Sometimes, the dye doesn't strike as well as they expected.

"We will sometimes re-dye the yarn," said Brabant. "We do not make that decision until it has fully dried though. The colour of dry yarn looks very different then wet yarn."

They will use the same vat of dye for several different skeins, producing a gradient effect as the dye solution becomes less concentrated after each use. As with most handmade items, the skeins are each a unique product, no two exactly the same. Each skein absorbs differently, so it is a surprise when they dry, every time.

As knitters, both Brabant and Hulka are aware of what makes a saleable product. They have a high standard, and if they are not happy with the end result, they don't sell it. They either keep it for their own projects, or they redye it. Sometimes they are presented with the opposite



Becky Hulka and Barb Brabant (L-R) hand dye each of their skeins of wool. Once the wool passes their standards for colour and texture, it is put up for sale. /ANDREA ARNOLD

problem though. When a colour comes out exceptionally beautiful, that skein is sometimes hard to part with, and never leaves the shop.

"We knit for our own pleasure," said Brabant. "I have sold a few items, but overall, I do not knit to sell. There are 10,000 stitches in a pair of socks using our yarn, so they take a lot of time to make."

"You have to be very special to get a hand-knitted item from either of us," said Hulka. "I don't think my husband has gotten there yet."

"Our funnest days are dye days," said Brabant. "It is a creative outlet. It is very satisfying to make pretty usable things, and to work with our hands."

The pair finds colours that fit the season, and if they are preparing for a change in season, they plan ahead. For example, choosing fall colours in early August. As they have experimented to find all the colours they want to use, they have learned a few things.

"It is amazing how little fuchsia dye you need," said Brabant. "That colour really pops."

Hulka is surprised at the different things they have discovered, trade secrets, that makes the dye strike more effective.

"There are very few ugly skeins of yarn," said Brabant. "You can always re-dye. The result is not always what we think it will be, but almost always, once it is dry, it looks nicer than it appears at first."

The name Tumble Mountain Yarns is a hybrid of the two names they had worked under before. Brabant and her husband Steve have named each of their homes Tumble Bee Farm for years, and Hulka hand-dyes silk scarves under Mountain High Illumination.

"We combined the names and came up with Tumble Mountain Yarns," said Brabant. "The proximity to Tumble Dick Creek had nothing to do with it, but it fits nicely."

Hulka had been dying silk scarves and was following, through social media, another fabric artist that was getting amazing colours. She wondered if she could get a vibrant result in yarn. However, her yarn knowledge was limited. She turned to neighbour



Becky Hulka and Barb Brabant (L-R) hand dye each of their skeins of wool. Once the wool passes their standards for colour and texture, it is put up for sale. /ANDREA ARNOLD

Brabant and asked if she wanted to dye yarn together. Brabant's response was a resounding yes.

At first they created colours for their own use. They started with merino wool, but switched to their current product quite quickly.

"We had to start selling because we dyed more skeins than we could use," said Hulka. "Barb had said when they first moved here that one day she wanted to sell something at the Whistlestop Gallery. So we started selling there right after our big reveal at the Christmas craft fair in 2017."

They also provide yarn to "Top Drawer Yarns" in Prince George. Two other venues that were carrying their product closed due to COVID-19 hardships.

Hulka recently had shoulder surgery, so they haven't had dye days recently. As a result, they will not be attending any of the markets this Christmas season.

Recently Brabant and Hulka started a new chapter in their yarn dying adventure. They have locally sourced Robson Valley fleece and will continue to send it to a mill in Alberta that spins it into yarn before shipping it back to them. For these skeins, they are using all natural colouring agents found locally through bark, lichen, flower pedals and other gathered items. As this chapter is just beginning, they have a limited selection of this product available at the Whistlestop so far.

The multicolored creations as well as some items that have been knitted with the yarn can be seen on Instagram at tumblemountainyarns. Brabant and Hulka can be contacted by email tumblemountainyarns@gmail.com or by phone 250-569-7630.

Boreal EmporiuWild plants for medicinal prope

By Andrea Arnold

When McBride resident Joy Flemke chose the name Boreal Emporium for her herbal medicine, she did it knowing that the Robson Valley is not identified as part of the boreal forest. The word also means relating to, or located in northern regions. The plant life in the Robson Valley is quite similar to that of the boreal forest due to the proximity of the forest boundary along the BC/Alberta border.

"I decided to include Emporium so that it opened up the 'shop' for more types of products," said Flemke.

She has been gathering plants and mixing elements to create things since she was very small.

"I remember making mud pies, and mixing teas with juniper or mountain ash berries," she said

Flemke graduated from mudpies and moved on to study botany in post secondary school. Then, during the isolation of covid she decided to also take a nine month Herbalism course from Pacific Rim College. These experiences plus years of self study have brought her to where she is today.

Flemke creates tinctures, salves, lotions and teas. She just completed processing a batch of devil's club tincture.

"A tincture uses an alcohol base," said Flemke. "The alcohol extracts a higher concentration of the herbal properties"

She also creates a glycerine tincture for her lemon balm. It is strong, but kidfriendly, or good for people who avoid all uses of alcohol.

She has three types of pain relieving salves available right now. The first, the Balm of Gilead, she refers to as nature's polysporin. It has the same smell as a walk through a forest in early spring. The Comfrey Salve is a pain relieving skin conditioner. Flemke says that it has a historic background as 'knit bone," as it has properties that help bones heal. Her personal favorite for overall pain relief is the Devil's Club Salve. She finds it to be the most effective and she receives the most positive feedback from customers who use this product.

She also creates a Wildrose Face & Body Cream. Flemke says she uses it regularly and finds that no matter the skin ailment, dryness or acne, the cream balances out the issue.

All of the ingredients she uses to make her products are natural. She uses no essential oils.

"My favourite part of the process is the gathering," she said. "I love getting out into the forest and harvesting. If I can do that and make a little money too, that's great." She said that gathering becomes a

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erties

social event with members of the plant community. Her five-year-old daughter has been gathering alongside her since she was born. When they go out on walks with small friends, Flemke often hears "Don't eat that unless Joy says you can."

Flemke makes a point of harvesting

sustainably. For example, when she is picking rose petals for her lotion, she only takes a few from each flower, leaving bee food intact. Even devil's club, which seems to grow wild and rampant, has a source root that many of the shoots we see in the forest all originate from.

"I have many locations that I harvest from to mitigate damage to the devil's club patch," she said.

She is cautious about where she picks though, making sure there have not been any pesticides used close to where she is working. She is extremely concerned about the use of pesticides both commercially as well as privately.

Flemke finds that no matter where she goes, she can find usable things growing, even as close as her backyard. Plantain, chickweed, dandelions and nettles are examples of plants commonly found in yards across the valley. Many common place plants can be chewed up, mixed with saliva and used as a poultice for relief and healing. Flemke says she uses a plantain poultice for insect stings and bites.

One of the things that Flemke enjoys the most about working with a natural product is that she never stops learning.

"If I see a plant I don't know yet, I have to find out if it is medicinal and what I can do with it," she said. "It drives me crazy until I figure it out."

She knows she wants to explore the antibacterial properties of the oregon grape and would like to make her yarrow tincture into a bug spray.

As Flemke explores options for the emporium she has started the process of making garlic honey and is trying her hand at blacksmith skills.

"I like traditional methods and skills," she said. "I want to see them keep going."

With her daughter Fin in school, Flemke is finding she has more time to dive into more complicated creations and looks forward to seeing the results. Right now she is in the middle of her creating season. Spring, summer and fall are the seasons for



Hulka and Barb Brabant (L-R) hand dye each of their skeins of wool. Once the wool passes their standards for colour and texture, it is put up for sale. / **ANDREA** ARNOLD

Becky



Joy Flemke carries devil's club in a special backpack that protects her from their vicious thorns while she is gathering. /SUBMITTED

gathering.

Flemke has been selling her products through local farmers markets, Christmas markets and at Mountain View Boutique in McBride. She plans to attend the Dunster Christmas market on Dec. 3rd. She also has some customers that she ships to in Alberta. She has not created an online presence for the Boreal Emporium as she is a small-scale home business.

"The gathering and processing takes a long time," she said. "I am just one person, and I can't sustainably gather enough and I don't have enough time to process large quantities."

Some plants that go through the infusion process have to soak for a minimum of six weeks before they are ready for the next step.

Flemke can be reached either by phone 250-569-7637 or by email joyflemke@ hotmail.com. She enjoys the process of troubleshooting with a customer, and trying to create something that helps their ailment.

"I really love doing that," she said. "Every medicine resonates differently with each individual."





For Seniors

Join us for 2 different Christmas crafts during the month of December.

Christmas Ornaments: Tuesday, Dec. 13 1-3pm
 Winter Painting with Leaha: Tuesday, Dec. 20 1-3pm

• Events held at 99 Gorse Street, Valemount

 \bullet Dec. 13th craft is accessible to those with finger/hand mobility challenges.

Pre-registration is required for all events.

Please contact us at 250-566-9107 / events@rvcsbc.org



0 Thursday December 1st 2022

Bolivia mission trip: Local youth hope to make a difference

By Andrea Arnold

On January 3, 2023, six young adults from McBride are heading to Bolivia for a month to help at the Familia Feliz orphanage and boarding school near Rurrenabaque, Beni in the Amazon Rainforest. The centre is funded and run under the umbrella of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The orphanage and school has been operational for 16 years providing refuge for children who come from one of the most vulnerable populations in Bolivia.

McBride residents Rochelle Warner, Daniel Warner, Christian Blixrud, Marcus Chernipeski, Tashy Kirby, Beth Thompson and Laura Corbett along with a dozen others from around BC, will be working with the permanent facility staff as they use the summer break to complete much needed maintenance.

Daniel Warner was the first of the group to hear about this opportunity while he was working at a summer camp in the Kootenays.

"He met another councillor, Sara Ross, and started talking about mission trip experience," said Rochelle Warner.

Ross talked about her past

experiences in Bolivia where she helped start the orphanage, and also served as the principal. She told Daniel that she was going to have to return to Bolivia to renew her permanent residency status and told Daniel he should come along.

"Daniel told me I should come too," said Warner. "Word travelled and now we have a group of six from here."

Children living at the Familia Feliz orphanage live in family housing type groupings. The girls house is the Casa de Las Lilas-House of the Lilacs, and the boys in Casa de Los Guerreros- House of the Warrior. Some of the students that attend the school also stay in the dorms while others come daily from the local area. As the school year in Bolivia is opposite of that in North America, it will be summer holiday while the team is there working, so the dorms will be their accommodation as they provide support to many different aspects of the organization.

One of the main staff members, Missy, has been working hard juggling school and orphanage operations, but also helping a very sick family member. Warner says that they hope to provide Missy with much needed support through meal preparation, supervision of kids, and in whatever else is needed.

Warner said that they are still getting information from the staff members on the ground as to what the high priority maintenance items are. So far the top of the

list is the roof for the church. Warner said they have seen pictures of the building and the roof is caving in. Also needed is plumbing work in the staff housing, electrical work around the facility and fresh paint.

The money needed to complete all of this work has been estimated at approximately \$20,000. Warner reported that the group has been able to raise enough for the roof work.

They have started a GoFundMe account, and have placed donation boxes at several businesses around McBride. On Nov. 13th the group, with help from about a dozen more members of the

Seventh Day Adventist Church, made 375 apple pies, 275 of which had been pre-ordered. The remaining 100 frozen pies are still available for \$10 by calling Warners at 250-569-0022.

One other commitment the group has made is to hold a week of evening worship singing and prayer with those in the area.

Although Bolivia is a Spanish speaking country, the group is not too worried about verbal communication issues. Many of the on-site staff are Canadian, and several of the members of the group not from the valley are from Bolivia and can speak the language.

Warner and the team anticipate they will be kept quite busy as the to-do list continues to grow. However, they hope to have some opportunities to explore the area as well.

"We will have to see how we progress on the projects before we can venture off too far," said Warner. "But I expect we will do some exploring on Sabbath (Saturday) afternoons."

As this small group of young adults heads off to this adventure, Warner thinks that they will all learn things about themselves that will help them as they take their next steps into adulthood.



At this point, the crew of volunteers, including the six from McBride have raised enough money to cover the cost of the church roof project. The roof is currently bowing and sagging. /SUBMTTED



On Sun. Nov 13th some 20 members of the McBride Seventh **Day Adventist** Church peeled, cored, cut, and spiced hundreds of pounds of apples, and mixed countless batches of pie crust as they assembled 375 apple pies as a fundraiser. The money raised by this and other fundraisers will help cover repair costs for the many projects the team will try to complete while in Bolivia. /ANDREA ARNOLD



This is an example of some of the current plumbing at the orphanage and school. /SUBMITTED





CROSSWORD

Across

- Vegetable that rolls
- Jacket border
- Pots and
- Kashmir tourist purchase
- Back when
- 13 "Look out...
- It's found in a lode
- 15 Like some funds
- Data transmitter 17
- 19 Lay
- Man with horns 20
- 2.2. Speak
- 25 Alberta expanse
- Child's plaything 28 Musical that won a 29 Pulitzer
- Shades
- Unmatched 32
- Get together 33
- E or G, e.g.
- Creepy and spooky 35
- 39 Plaza feature
- Unhospitably cold

- 44 Natural effortlessness
- Electricity attraction
- Forest female
- Attracted 47 High-tech 48
- 'fingerprint" 49 Finale

Down

- Dance night
- Mark's successor
- Like centenarians
- Pound
- 5 Diva's problem
- 6 French title
- Golf stroke Now, I see!
- Connective word
- Oz lion's demeanour
- Lamprey, for one 18 Polish text
- 21 Grape growing locale 22 Incite to attack
- 23 Had a good meal
- 24 For sure

32

- Authority Topmost band in a
- rainbow Furthermore
- 28 Patch place, perhaps
- 31 Board discussion points
- 33 Formed a junction
- 34 Was aware of
- Take the bus
- Computer figure
- Watched 38 39 Made a meal for
- 40 Scull
- 41 Deplete
- 42 Chemistry term

Answers on P13

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

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. It's full of holes and traps
- 5. Plum variety
- 9. "I understand!"
- 14. Not quite shut
- 15. Goofs up
- 16. Simple folk
- 17. Indian royal
- 18. Not cluttered 19. College in
- Atherton, California
- 20. What babies get
- 23. Snug resort 24. Spanish feminine
- article
- 25. Cheers up
- 29. Three-sided sword 31. X5 maker 34. A farewell remark
- 35. Major oil port
- 36. Inter trailer
- 37. Drooping 39. Behind
- 41. "Now hear ____!"
- 42. Helper
- 44. Pointed weapon 45. Peruvian money
- 46. Set apart 47. Eagle nests
- 48. "I think, therefore " Descartes
- 49. Library ID
- 59. Bridal path
- 51. Unwilling
- agreement 60. Like a line, briefly

- 61. Gets it done
- 64. Stagehand
- 67. Sisters

- 1. Vestments, e.g. 2. Resort town near
- 3. Eng. or Span.
- 5. Styles
- 7. Deeded over
- 9. Impish girl
- 11. Bell sound
- 12. Emerald _
- 21. Weariness
- Vista Park
- 27. Devotional watching
- 28. Diagnostic tests,
- for short
- 31. Russian dish served
- with sour cream 32. Chop finely
- 33. Salaries

- 62. Hopeless case 63. Trait carrier
- 65. Heavenly bodies 66. Praiseful poems
- Down
- Santa Barbara
- 4. Chill box, for short
- 6. Spots
- 8. Cornerstone abbr.
- 10. End of an alphabet
- 13. Day name giver
- 22. San Francisco's
- 25. Holds up
- 26. The Gem State
- 30. Brazilian national hero

- 35. Opposed
- 19 18 37
- 36. Food thickener 38. Ashley Judd's mom
- 40. Astronaut, John 43. Condescended
- 48. Ne'er-do-well 50. Picture

46. Some brews

47. Homes

- 51. Silences 52. Barrel-of-laughs
- 53. Annapolis sch. 54. Canceled
- 56 Neutral shade 57. Teutonic turndown
- 55. Silent communication
- 58. Sugar amts.
- - Answers on P13

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS A Reversal of Neptune something about everything you come into contact with this week, though you will not often

HOROSCOPES

These last days of the Neptune retrograde have us taking stock of what we have and how much we have left of it. Of course, the best things come in unlimited supply, while many essential things are noticeably limited. Time, attention and money come in finite forms, so we have to be more careful about where we spend them. Luckily, love is unlimited. No matter how we go about it, increasing the love increases the love.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You set your sights high while you stay grounded in the work that needs to be done. This is a step-by-step process, and you're committed to knowing every step firsthand. This makes it easier for you to teach others when it's time to delegate. Your brilliant plan will consist of simple measures and a lot of repetition.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you have trouble being consistent, it's only because you are so imaginative. Just know that you're in a "rinse and repeat" cycle now. The success of a project will be all tied into your willingness to keep going. The week calls for the same thing you've been doing, but you don't have to do it exactly

the same way. GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Don't worry about your timing because you're not in control of life's rhythms and tempos. Stay present and know you are part of the grand machinery. Life will wait or hurry to greet you as needed. No matter how busy a person is or how rushed a circumstance seems, the right moment will form

to fit and hold you. CANCER (June 22-July 22). You may assess a situation to know your next move, but you're not responsible for passing judgment on it. Deciding what you're going to do is different from deciding what should be done. You'll embrace the freedom in letting things be. You'll enjoy loads more energy for yourself because you keep to your own business.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Oddly, it is easier to be happy when you're not in love. Whether it's a person, a job or other, being extremely passionate about it puts the stakes so high that it's hard to interact in a relaxed way. Burn for a thing and you may burn out. Turn down the emotional heat and you'll smile more and operate at a higher level.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're so aware of your energy supply this week. You wake up with a certain amount to give to your various roles, and once it runs out, so does your ability to focus. Planning and prioritizing are a forte of yours these days. You'll put the important things first, and the fullness of your attention will flow to what matters most.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It is your pleasure to learn a little

do this in an obvious way. The question doesn't have to leave your lips to get an answer. You'll ask with your mind and let your observations inform you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're a person who others find easy to remember. This has its pros and cons this week. There's something you want people to do, a message you want to impart or a platform you stand on. It will have lasting impact coming from you. The downside is that you must always be on your best behavior.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stay open to social options this week, as they will certainly be available to you. Most relationships start casually as people find themselves in the same vicinity with similar interests. A courteous exchange is really all it takes to spark the feeling that it would be worthwhile to get to know someone better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Rushed communication will be miscommunication. Take your time. There's no need to decide everything in a day. Some conversations simply serve the purpose of putting a topic on the table for further discussion. Relationships get stronger this week as you look past flaws and see the good intentions of others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Growth is seldom comfortable. You thrive on the sense that you're improving. Though you're surrounded by familiar faces, this week the curtains open on a fresh scene. You'll witness the influence that an environment can have on people and be surprised at the different facets that are brought out by new light.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are faithful, loyal and true, so it is very difficult for you to process the startling reality that others are not this way. Your admirers and people who would be excellent new additions to your team will come in pairs. Also, if you don't have the right team, this is the perfect week to make changes.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: Success is never an outcome.

This year, more than ever, you are more in touch with the feelings and tones of things, which are the best indicators of an endeavor's success. Love is your default, and you won't have to try very hard to find reasons to appreciate the people in your life. Seeing the best in others is the stellar superpower that will take you from your current position to the one you desire. One decision at the year's end will change your personal history in dozens of

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VALEMOUNT

FRI DEC. 2nd Late-night shopping in Valemount 5pm-8pm (some businesses open until 9pm). Santa photos at the Rocky Mountain Goat.

SUN DEC. 4th Wellness fair at the Gathering Tree 10-2pm.

Valemount Public library Christmas Angel Tree. Pick a tag, buy a gift, return unwrapped item to the library by December 17th. Valemount Food bank will wrap and distribute the gifts. For more info call 250-566-4367

TUES DEC 6 from 10am-12pm seniors are invited to drop by this monthly Knitting & Crochet Group at RVCS (99 Gorse St) to work on their own project or join in on group endeavours that benefit those in need with items such as touques and scarves. This group is intended for experienced crafters as there is no instruction provided. 250-566-9107 for more info.

TUES DEC 13 1-3pm it's the Christmas Ornament Workshop for Seniors during the Craft Series at RVCS (99 Gorse St). Registration is required: 250-566-9107 / events@rvcsbc.org.

MON DEC 19 from 1-3pm it's TECH CAFÉ at RVCS 99 Gorse St. Get support with your techrelated needs. Stop by any time within the 2 hour slot- no registration required.

TUES DEC 20 1-3pm it's the Winter Painting with Leaha during the Craft Series for Seniors at RVCS (99 Gorse St). Registration is required: 250-566-9107 / events@rvcsbc.org.

Ongoing Events

SUNs Pancake breakfast at the Valemount **Legion** Sundays 8 to 11. By donation!

SATs 10am-11:15am Creative writing group at the Rocky Mountain Goat office. Join us for writing and friendly conversation. Everyone welcome.

SATs 1-3 pm Crafty Stitchers meet downstairs at the Valemount Public Library everyone welcome! 250-566-4367 for more information.

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 (99 Gorse St) unless location otherwise stated! Call 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc. org for more info.

Dec 5— Create an ornament for a woman you love (in honour of the 16 Days of Activism with Cat)

Dec 12— Cookie decorating

Dec 19— Holiday party & sing-alongs (Rebecca is covering this day)

Dec 26 & Jan 2— no FPDI

MONs Seniors Drop-In is no longer running. Keep an eye out for a new program starting in the New Year called SOAP: Seniors Outreach Activity Program. Our Seniors Program Coordinator will be planning intergenerational programming, crafting workshops, cooking classes, digital literacy courses and more! Call 250-566-9107 or email events@ rvcsbc.org for more info.

TUEs It's Winter Art Club in Valemount for kids ages 8 -13 years! Beginning Nov. 22 and running for 4 weeks each Tuesday until Dec. 13 from 2:45-3:45pm, kids will learn new arts skills through a variety of mediums at RVCS (99 Gorse St). Contact 250-566-9107/events@rvcsbc.org to register.

THURs beginning NOV 3 join us for Food Sense: Healthy Cooking on a Budget at the Valemount Secondary School from 3:30-6:30pm weekly until Dec. 8th. This free cooking class is

geared towards adults, though 13+ may join with an attending caregiver. Make delicious recipes, learn about nutrition, connect with others and eat your creations. Pre-registration required: Please call 250-566-9107/events@rvcsbc.org to secure a

MON through FRIs the Valemount Seed Library is OPEN during business hours at RVCS (99 Gorse St). Stop on by to share seeds, save money, promote local adaptations, increase genetic diversity and select flavourful diversity. Contact Rebecca at 250-566-9107 or foodsecurity@rvcsbc. org for more information.

MON through FRIs the Free Food Farm Stand is available for anyone who would like some free, fresh produce. We accept donations of unprocessed fruits and veggies also. The stand is accessible in the front lobby at RVCS Valemount (99 Gorse St) and is available to everyone- just help yourself!

FRIs & SATs Drop in curling at the Valemount Curling Club. \$10.00 plus a \$10.00 membership fee for the season. 7:00 pm, clean shoes required.

NOV 25 - DEC 10 show your solidarity for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence by displaying purple décor, lights, hearts, etc. on you, your home or business. You can also show your support by taking part in the virtual social media campaign. Keep an eye out for RVCS posts daily during the 16 days where we will share and honour women, take a stand against violence and hopefully inspire the fire from within to make change within our world

FRIs is open mic at the legion! Looking for a place to perform? Book a Friday spot on the legion stage. Available from 7 - 9pm. Sound equipment onsite. For more info, or to book a Friday, contact Pete Pearson at 250-566-1115.

WEDs at 7pm the old timers are playing live music in the Golden Years Lodge

MCBRIDE

FRI DEC 2 Late Night Shopping @ Welcome Home. Open until 8pm. Free regular coffee & Hot Chocolate.

TUES DEC 6 OAPO Christmas Luncheon for McBride and area seniors. Free admission but tickets are required. TIckets are avilable at the Beanery 2 Bistro and at Welcome Home.

WED DEC 7 Ladies Christmas Tea at the McBride Evangelical Free Church. Ladies of all ages welcome. Doors open at 5:45pm.

THUR DEC 8 from 1-4pm we are creating beautiful wreaths during the Holiday Wreath Making Workshop for Seniors at RVCS McBride 942 3rd Ave. Supplies are provided, though you're welcome to bring special items. Registration required: 250-569-2266 / events@rvcsbc.org

THURS DEC 8 from 2:45-4:30pm it's the Christmas Crafty Fun Fair at McBride Centennial Elementary School for 5-12 year olds. Join us for holiday crafts, card making, cookie decorating & more! Kiddos under 5 are welcome with a caregiver. Entry is free but registration is required: please contact events@rvcsbc.org to sign-up! In partnership between PAC, Little Munchkins Daycare & RVCS.

THURS DEC 8 the Robson Valley Jr. Academy preseents A Traditional Christmas Concert @ 7pm at the SDA Church

SUN DEC 11 Pancakes with Santa @ 9am. Tickets are free and can be picked up at Welcome Home. There are limited seats available. Postcards to Santa, Toonie raffle table and photos with Santa. 2 lucky ticket holders will get to sit at Santa's table.

THUR DEC 15 3-5pm join the crew during the next Men's Shed Meeting in McBride. We meet at RVCS 942 3rd Ave, where a space has been offered in the interim. Let's discuss topics that matter to us and get this program fully set up! Led by men, for men. Call 250-569-2266 for more info

SAT DEC 17 McBride and District Public Library presents Christmas from the Harp. Live @ 2:30pm.

WED DEC 21 from 1-4pm at RVCS 942 3rd Ave Eleanor is hosting a **Chocolate Making Workshop** for Seniors. Registration is required: 250-569-2266 / events@rvcsbc.org

Ongoing Events

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 at the elementary school Strong Start room (3rd Ave entrance) AND 1pm-4pm at RVCS or Steve Kolida Park (Weather permitting). Join for connection with other families, parenting resources and fun for you and your 0-6 year old children. No registration required. Call 250-569-2266 for more info

Dec 5— Letters to Santa

Dec 12— Santa Craft

Dec 19— Ugly Sweater Day

Dec 26 & Jan 1— no FPDI

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.

WEDs is **JUST DANCE**, a dance class for seniors every second Wednesday beginning Nov. 2 and running until Dec. 14 from 3:00-3:45pm at RVCS (942 3rd Ave) with facilitator Jodie! No registration is required and attendance is free for this drop-in style program. Contact Jodie for more info: 250-230-8035

TUEs & THURs it's time to Dance during Community Fitness with Jodie at the Elks Hall from 7:00-7:45pm. This drop-in program is grant funded by the Federal Government and in partnership with RVCS, and offers free admission to seniors and youth. Other age groups are invited to pay by donation or pay what you can. Call 250-230-8035 for more info.

MON through THURs, McBride RVCS now has a FREE FOOD PANTRY that's available to all! Emergency top-up food is accessible to our clients, preschool program and anyone who walks through the door. We share and accept donated foods that are safe and fresh for use. Contact RVCS at 250-569-2266 or email foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org. The local Food Bank is also available: 250-569-3186

DUNSTER

SAT DEC 3 The Dunster Schoolhouse will be having its **Christmas Market** from 2 - 6pm! Bake Sale, Chili and Chai, Vendor Tables. Tables are \$25 please call or email Kat 250-569-7401 or frankekatharina@yahoo.ca

SAT DEC 17 is the **Dunster Christmas Concert!** Matinee concert and senior luncheon at 12:30pm - Tickets by donation. Evening cabaret, serving snacks and spirits 7:30 pm. - Tickets \$20. Phone 250-968-4435 to book your tickets! Transportation provided for seniors luncheon (Valemount & McBride).

Annual Emergency Services Dinner

McBride District Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dave Hruby welcomed the dinner guests at the start of the Annual Emergency Services dinner hosted by the McBride District Volunteer Firefighters. Later in the evening, Chief Hruby was locally congratulated for the Queen's Jubilee Medallion that he received in August at a presentation in Prince George for his service to the community. /ANDREA ARNOLD





Christine Munroe presented kindergarten students Berci and Jaxson with the honour of Fire Chief for a Day as department chief Dave Hruby looks on. The boys completed an assignment given to them in October when Munroe and other members of the department visited both the McBride Centennial school and Robson Valley Jr. Academy. /ANDREA ARNOLD



Sparky gave out hugs and presents to all the guests 12 years of age and younger. Some kids were hesitant to return a hug, but not Teagan. / **ANDREA ARNOLD**



Department member Christine Munroe was presented with her 30-year service pin. /ANDREA ARNOLD



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.





OFFICE: 1275 5th Ave, Valemount BC V0E 2Z0

Soil Types – Sandy Soil

During the Winter months when the ground is a "little" too hard to dig, it may be a good time to deal with some of the theory of gardening so we can understand a bit better how the whole process works.

The basis of any garden is the soil (not dirt!). For the next few weeks I will deal with the different types of soil and the needs of each type. Our Valley is a great place to study different soil types as we have areas of almost pure sand and others of almost pure clay and all the varieties in between.

If you pick up a handful of sand and let it run through your fingers, you will understand why it drains so well in the spring or after a heavy rainfall. The particles don't stick together because they are very rough and irregular shaped so the water can run in between and drain away quickly.

This can be a real advantage in the spring when others are waiting for their gardens to dry up enough to be tilled or worked. A person with sandy soil can get a head start on the season and be eating radishes when others with clay soil are still waiting for their gardens to dry up. The disadvantage is that your garden will dry out much faster in warm or dry times and you will have to water

much more than your fellow gardeners with clay.

If you do have very sandy soil, you can really improve the water-holding ability by adding organic matter to it on an ongoing basis. Every year add some compost, aged manure, tilled under garden residue such as pea vines or green manures, peat moss and any other material which is or was alive and growing.

The organic matter acts as a binder to hold the soil particles together so it does not drain so quickly. It also acts like a sponge to soak up water and nutrients and hold them close to the roots of the plants where they can be used for growth.

The aim of adding organic matter or peat (or even sand) to the soil you have in your garden is to reach a stage where you can say you have "loam". A sandy or silty loam is the ideal soil for gardens. They hold enough moisture but drain well and don't become waterlogged. They have enough organic matter to support the rich life of microbes in the soil. They have enough mineral matter (e.g. sand) to supply all the trace minerals needed for plant growth. Loam soils are easy to work and don't compact after the winter or a heavy rain. The aim of all gardeners should be to "work toward loam".



Notice of Proposed Property Disposition

Pursuant to Sections 26(3) & 94 OF THE COMMUNITY CHARTER

TAKE NOTICE that the Corporation of the Village of McBride (the "Village") proposes to dispose of its interest in the following land to D & T Industrees (2019) Ltd., of PO Box 282, 940 2nd Ave, McBride, British Columbia, V0J 2E0:

Address: Legal:

964-976 2 Ave, McBride, British Columbia Lots 22 & 23, Block 7, District Lot 5316, Cariboo District, Plan 1373

(PID: Lot 22 013-918-346 and PID: Lot 23 013-918-524)

The proposed disposition of a sale of the Land (the "Sale"). The consideration received by the Village is a purchase price of \$60,000 and associated costs conveying the Land.

Any enquiries concerning the Sale may be directed to:

Chris Tupy

Chief Administrative Officer Telephone: 250.569.2229 Email: cao@mcbride.ca



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Shelly Battensby REALTOR



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several outbuildings and a greenhouse. With terraced gardens and mature trees, it is your mountain oasis come to life.

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- 12 stall barn with full hay loft Quonset with 14' overhead door and
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- 1128-3rd Ave
- 4 Brdm 2 Bthrm home - Split entry daylight basement - Excellent location in the village
 - Estate sale excellent value
 - \$265,000

