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Thursday January 26th 2023 Volume 14 Issue 02

25 GST INCLUDED

Fatal avalanche claims one life

The Goat talks to a researcher using computerstoimprove avalanche warnings

By Laura Keil

A Grand Prairie-area man has died after an avalanche swept him up in the Oasis riding area south of Valemount. His riding companion managed to sled out of the avalanche and dig him out, but by then he was unresponsive. SAR has now recovered the body.

Avalanche Canada says the snowmobilers were riding at the base of a 40-45 degree slope in a feature known as Bowl 3 in the Oasis area when the size 2.5 avalanche was triggered remotely on Saturday around 11:30am.

Since December, Avalanche Canada has issued multiple warnings about the weak layers and "spooky snowpack" which could trigger large avalanches without warning.

Riding with caution

Avalanche Canada has said that reports of human triggered avalanches indicate the snowpack is very unstable in the region. "Stick to well ridden and/or simple terrain. Be mindful that deep instabilities are still present and have produced recent large avalanches. Carefully assess open slopes and convex rolls where buried surface hoar may be preserved. Avoid thin areas like rock outcroppings where you're most likely to trigger avalanches failing on deep weak layers. Recent wind has varied in direction so watch for wind slabs on

Improving models and warnings

Pascal Haegeli, a research chair in Avalanche Risk Management and lead for the Simon Fraser University's Avalanche Research Program, has spent the last 20 years studying avalanches and looking at ways to improve public safety through better modelling and better warnings. He works closely with Avalanche Canada, the national non-profit devoted to public awareness of avalanche risk.



McBride artist Karly Williamson has only to look out her living room window for inspiration. The painting on her easel shows an old structure that used to stand along Hinkleman road. See more on P9. /ANDREA ARNOLD

Part of his research is to develop evidence-based tools that help recreationists and avalanche professionals make better decisions when planning for and travelling in the backcountry in the winter.

"I think we're dealing with a challenging situation that's unusual that we haven't had for a long time where we have weak foundations that's prevalent across most of the province. And those deep persistent avalanche challenges tend to stick around for a long time and it can be really challenging for people to deal with."

One of Haegeli's projects involves using computerbased models that simulate the evolution of the snowpack based on weather forecast model output.

"So we're basically taking weather forecast data and feeding it into a model to predict the evolution of snowpack across western Canada."

Part of the work they do is correcting models if they drift away from reality, thereby improving their accuracy. Models are important when managing an area as vast as B.C.'s backcountry.

"In some of the forecast areas, there's actually not that many direct observations of the conditions and the models can provide an additional stream of data for forecasters to get a handle on what's going on in the snowpack."

On the social science side, his team tries to better understand the risk communication tools

"How well do recreationists understand the bulletin? How do they use these tools to make decisions? How and where can we improve it? Even the best avalanche forecasts in the world are going to be of limited value if the users can't understand or apply them."

He says they can't predict exact real-time conditions on specific slopes or bowls - you would need local knowledge for that. But the models are useful on a more area-based level.

"General conditions at alpine, treeline and below. That's the kind of level of detail that we're trying to provide."

He notes that one of the changes

CONT'D ON P15

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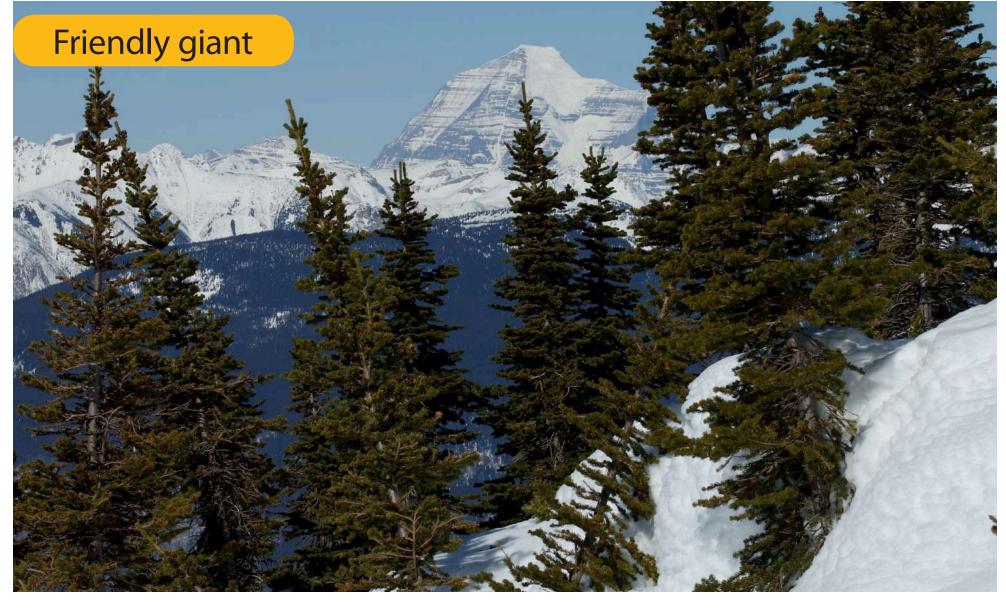
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Canoe Mountain (at 8698 feet above sea level) near Valemount offers a fantastic view of all the surrounding mountains. Mount Robson at 12972 feet rises head and shoulders above all the other peaks. /LEON LORENZ









+25%

+8%

as of July 1, 2022

\$405,000

\$235,000

McBride & Valemount see another bump in assessments One Valemount home ranks 84th most costly in Northern B.C.

Home Changes by

100 Mile House

Burns Lake

as of July 1, 2021

\$321,000

\$217,000

By Laura Keil

The average increase in residential property values for Valemount and McBride are 28 and 26 per cent respectively this year. Blue River does not have community-level stats, but rural residential properties north of Kamloops rose 10.9 per cent (single family dwellings).

A single family home in Valemount now costs, on average, \$345,000. In McBride, a similar home would cost \$197,000. Some Valemount property owners have complained that their assessment increased more than 80 per cent, after already large increases in previous years. A property on Cranberry Lake Road registered as the 84th most expensive residential property in Northern B.C. this year. The 34-acre property and 6-bedroom home built in 2008 were assessed at \$1.5 million.

Province-wide assessments for all property classes (including commercial and industrial) rose an average of 12 per cent, a smaller gain than last year.

"Most northern home owners can generally expect to see a rise of five to 20 per cent in their assessments when they receive their notices in early January, but with some exceptions depending on the community," says Northern BC Deputy Assessor Teria Penner.

"Since July 1, we know that the real estate market has changed as interest rates continue to rise and overall sales volume has declined," adds Assessor Bryan Murao. "As a result, your next property assessment will likely be higher than what the current market value might be, but that will be the same for everyone."

Overall, Northern BC's total assessments increased from about \$81.5 billion in 2022 to over \$90.6 billion this year. A total of about \$1.06 billion of the region's updated assessments is from new construction, subdivisions and the

rezoning of properties.

BC Assessment stresses that an increase in assessment value does not necessarily result in an increase in property taxes.

"Taxes are typically only affected if you are above the average value change for your community."

Rural single family properties in the Valemount rural "neighbourhood area" saw a smaller increase of 12 per cent this year compared to last year's 27 per cent. In the Dome Creek - Robson Valley "neighbourhood area," single family properties went up 16.8 per cent.

BC Assessment's website at bcassessment.ca includes more details about 2023 assessments, property information and trends such as lists of 2023's top valued residential properties across the province.

The website also allows anyone to search, check and compare 2023 property assessments for anywhere in the province. Property owners can unlock additional property search features by registering for a free BC Assessment custom account to check a property's 10-year value history, store/access favourites, create comparisons, monitor neighbourhood sales, and use our interactive map.

"Property owners can find a lot of valuable information on our website including answers to many assessment-related questions, and those who feel that their property assessment does not reflect market value as of July 1, 2022 or see incorrect information on their notice, should contact BC Assessment as indicated on their notice as soon as possible in January," says Penner.

"If a property owner is still concerned about their assessment after speaking to one of our appraisers, they may submit a Notice of Complaint (Appeal) by January 31st, for an independent review by a Property Assessment Review Panel," she says.

> Many communities in Northern B.C. saw increases in property values. /BC ASSESSMENT

Most northern home owners can generally expect to see a rise of five to 20 per cent in their assessments

Bella Coola +21% 5190,000 \$231,000 Chetwynd \$246,000 +9% \$267,000 Dawson Creok 5280.000 +2% 5261,000 \$178,000 +12% Fort St James 5199,000 Fart St John \$329,000 +4% \$343,000 \$157,000 Fraser Lake \$204,000 +31% -11% Granislo \$75,000 561.000 Hazelton \$203,000 \$251,000 +24% Houston \$226,000 \$257,000 +14% \$173,000 \$188,000 +8% Kitimat \$329,000 \$343,000 +5% Mackenzie \$157,000 \$161,000 +3% Masset 5163,000 +28% \$209,000 McBrida \$157,000 \$197,000 +26% New Hazelton \$161,000 \$192,000 +19% Northern Rockies RM \$129,000 3141,000 +9% \$124,000 Port Clements \$171,000 43.8% Port Edward \$268,000 \$297,000 -11% \$193,000 Pouce Coupa \$204,000 5% Prince George \$401,000 \$450,000 +12% Prince Rupert 5389,000 \$443,000 +14% Queen Charlotte \$208,000 5232,000 +1175 (Haida Gwaii) Quesnoi \$294,000 \$329,000 +12% +14% Smithers \$438,000 \$498,000 Stowart \$122,000 \$157,000 +28% Taylor \$205,000 +11% \$225,000 +7% Tolkwa \$416,000 \$445,000 \$439,000 Terrace \$461,000 +5% Tumbler Ridge \$145,000 \$151,000 44% +28% Valemount \$268,000 \$345,000 Vanderhoef +16% \$280,000 \$323,000 Wells \$341,000 +8% \$151,000



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\$395,000

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<u>On-line</u> registration is required for Kindergarten in all School District No. 57 (Prince George) elementary schools.

This process will begin at 9 am on Tuesday February 1, 2023 at www.sd57.bc.ca

Children whose fifth birthday falls on or before December 31, 2023 are eligible to enter Kindergarten in September 2023.

Upon submission of the online registration, you will receive an e-mail confirmation along with a link to additional forms requiring completion. Bring completed forms, along with a copy of the Birth Certificate, BC Services Card, and proof of residency, to your in-catchment school by February 17, 2023 in order to retain your spot.

Staff at the school will be available to assist you as required.

For more information please refer to
Policy 5119 – School Catchment Areas, Registration and Student
Transfers available at www.sd57.bc.ca

Editorial

Feeding deer isn't doing anyone any favours



EDITOR/REPORTER

Deer sightings in McBride, especially in the winter, are not a new thing. However, the number of deer within the village keeps growing, and the concern for the safety of residents is growing too. While feeding deer is

not technically against the law (as deer are not a predator), the actions could lead to some pretty serious consequences. Consequences that could result in the loss

First, if you are feeding deer and something happens to you, and you are unable to continue feeding them, then what? Some of the current deer population was born in town and perhaps have not learned the natural ways to find food because, well, why would they? This scenario could result in a couple of outcomes. One, the deer starve because their food source is gone. Or, as I read about in a news report, they go looking for other

By Andrea Arnold Associate human food sources. One lady actually had a deer follow her into her house looking for food. When the food was not produced, the deer proceeded to stomp on the lady injuring her. It was later discovered that her neighbour had been feeding the deer.

> There is also concern that someone, specifically a child, a senior, or anyone not quick enough to escape, could be approached by a deer looking for food, or get between a deer and its food source resulting in an attack.

> I have done a little research and asked some of my own questions. There has been at least one instance in the valley where a lady was attacked by a deer and had to receive medical attention.

An increase of deer (prey) will inevitably result in an increase in predators. Recently there was a report of a pack of wolves comfortably lounging in a field just out of village limits, and there were cougar sightings within the village boundaries not long ago. It isn't just an increase in predators hunting deer that are a concern. Feeding deer can result in other dangerous wildlife being attracted to the area. There is no way that someone putting out feed for a deer can guarantee a hungry bear that's waking from hibernation, or getting ready to hibernate, doesn't

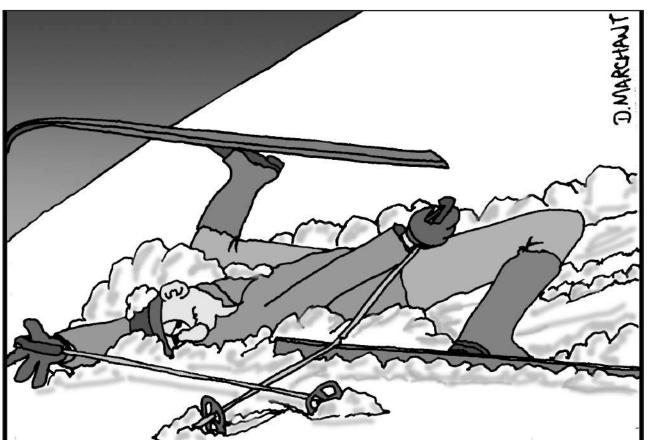
also find the food source. I don't want to think what could happen if someone startled a bear mid-feast.

Also, as a dog owner, it is hard enough to find places to safely walk my dog. Adding in free-roaming deer with not only no fear of people, but an aggressive approach to humans and canines is scary. I have heard accounts of people out for a walk with their dog, being followed by a deer. I have personally seen what a barbed deer hoof can do to a dog's face. We got off lucky with only a few stitches between my pup's eyes. If you want a more detailed visual, I'm sure google could provide you with

One other area of concern is the possibility of collisions with cars. Increased animal traffic could result in accidents within town.

It's hard to imagine that deer could be anything but gentle. However, the barbs on the hooves of a doe are used to stomp predators or enemies. Bucks use their antlers to fight off and even kill other bucks during mating season. They are unpredictable wildlife. I believe it is our duty to help them remain wildlife, and to keep members of the community safe.





"IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR RALPH TO START QUESTIONING THE IDEA THAT OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO A HEALTHY BODY."

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CORRECTION

In last week's editorial, a mistake was made regarding the impact of the Mica Dam. In fact, the CBT's office in Golden is in proximity to the Mica Dam's reservoir. We apologize for the error and have corrected the error on our website.

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Kevin Chiupka, Dale Stephens, Bob Callaghan and John Rivard, members of the Roadside Splinters, participated as a living exhibit in the Valley Museum Archives current "Everything Music" display. Attendees were treated to 90 minutes of music, coffee and cookies surrounded by photos and memorabilia illustrating music history in the valley. The display will be up until early April. /ANDREA ARNOLD

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Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER



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

Return of the Alliances

Alliances are as old as civilisation. Older, actually: almost every hunter-gathererer band that anthropologists have studied, from the New Guinea highlanders to the Yanomamo in the Amazon, made alliances with other groups to try to protect themselves.

They almost always ended up fighting people they had no quarrel with. 'The enemy of my enemy is my friend' is the usual logic that alliances are built on, but people overlook the fact that alliances also mean that 'the enemy of my ally is my enemy too.'

In the Atlantic world and in Asia, the various regional alliances seem to be consolidating into a single all-embracing alliance system. It was that kind of system that made the First World War happen, and we probably don't want to see that happen again.

Just three years ago there was only one major alliance in the world: the North

Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), founded in 1949 and victorious in the Cold War. Almost everybody in Europe and North America belonged to it.

The United States also had bilateral alliances or alliance-like arrangements with a number of countries in the Middle East (Israel), East Asia (Japan, South Korea and perhaps Taiwan) and Oceania (Australia and New Zealand).

Three of the world's biggest countries, China, India and Russia, had no military alliances worth talking about.

It was, in other words, a loosely-coupled world: something could go really bad in one part of the planet, and countries in other regions would not necessarily be dragged into it.

The shift began with rising concern in the Asia-Pacific countries and the United States about the irresistible rise of presidentfor-life Xi Jinping to supreme power in China. The response to that was the Quad, formally the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue: the US, India, Australia and Japan.

Then came AUKUS, an alliance uniting the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, with the initial task of arranging for Australia to get a fleet of nuclear-powered attack submarines. It was transparently designed to challenge China's territorial ambitions in the South China Sea.

All this happened before Russia invaded Ukraine again in February of last year (having done it once already in 2014).

You can see how everybody was reacting in large part to moves by the other 'side', and why Xi backed off quickly from a 'no limits' partnership with Russia once he realised how obsessed Putin was with his Ukraine legacy project.

Nevertheless, the game is now afoot, and it will be hard to stop. Germany announced that it was doubling its defence budget last July; Japan said it would do the same last

month. China is rapidly expanding its armed forces despite a failing economy, and Russia's growing derangement is hard to ignore.

All the planners and the analysts insist that they have it under control. We shouldn't think that we are living through a high-speed re-enactment of the creation of the alliances before the outbreak of the First World War. This is a different time.

My problem is that I can't see what is so different about this time.

Count Otto von Bismarck, first Chancellor of the newly united German Empire, remarked in 1878 that "One day the great European War will come out of some damned foolish thing in the Balkans." As it did, once all the alliances were in place.

The next great war may come out of some damned foolish thing in the South China Sea. Or the East China Sea, for that matter.

Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'



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Safety hazard

Local woman lobbies for better turning access to transfer station

By Laura Keil

After several near-accidents at the turn-off to Valemount's transfer station and hearing other people's similar stories, Michelle Burstrom decided it was time to do something.

The Tete Jaune-area resident is a frequent user of the transfer station to drop off her family's garbage and recycling. The transfer station is located off a short access road off Hwy 5 just north of Valemount. Over the years Burstrom has noticed many problems with the access: poor signage that is hardly noticeable from the highway (often leading to people overshooting and needing to turn around), potholes on the shoulder, poor access road quality, and no turning lanes from the 90km/h highway.

For her, the biggest issue was the lack of turning lanes. When driving northbound to make a right-hand turn, a vehicle is forced to pull over onto the shoulder of the road, which is gravel and usually filled with ominous potholes. If a vehicle making a right-hand turn stayed on the pavement, they risk being hit from behind by fast moving cars or even transport trucks, she says. Making a left-hand turn from the middle of the highway there's an even greater risk.

"I was almost rear-ended by a semi truck as I sat stationary on the highway making a left-hand turn into the dump," she said. "I looked into my rear view mirror and realized the driver was distracted, not slowing down, and was going to crash into my rear end at full speed. I quickly pulled over to the right side of the road and watched the truck speed by without slowing down a bit. Sitting on a busy highway without a left hand turn lane is a very dangerous place to be in during good driving conditions let alone without adding snow or ice to the mix." She said the increase in traffic due to the area's pipeline construction has not helped the situation.

"We are up an additional two thousand in population with our pipeline people here in Valemount. Tourism seems to be keeping our town and highway booming as well. The highway is quite busy with local traffic, tourists, pipeliners, and the usual multitude of transport trucks."

She was told by workers at the Transfer Station that the number varies, but up to two hundred vehicles a day sometimes visit the transfer station. She says the surrounding rural area boasts about a thousand residents all of whom use the Transfer Station to regularly drop off their garbage.

"This spot is seeing a high volume of traffic with absolutely no safety protocol in place to handle the risks of an entryway to a garbage dump that comes off of a high-speed highway," she says. "It's dangerous and is truly a disaster waiting to happen if left unaddressed."

She says the sheer number of skid marks on the pavement directly in front of the entrance to the Transfer Station can attest to this fact.

She would like to see a proper paved right-hand turn lane for northbound



With no turning lanes, designated slow down zone or even proper signage, the intersection at the Valemount area transfer station is a point of concern. As the population has increased, so have the number of near-accidents. /LAURA KEIL

traffic and believes a left-hand turning lane for southbound traffic is warranted as well, despite being a larger project. She started a petition about six years ago and gave it to the existing Council to deliver to the Minister of Transportation, but she never heard back.

Recently, she decided to give it another shot and eventually got the name of Kevin Lutz, District Program Manager.

"Our conversations were held close to six months ago and I've not been privy to any information on progress being made for turning lanes at the transfer station north of Valemount," Burstrom said. "I'm sure that these matters move slowly and get tangled up in piles of red tape along the way, but I'm soon going to send him another email to nudge him in the direction of considering this safety issue seriously on behalf of all who use the transfer station here in the valley."

She suggests that anyone else who shares her concerns also send Kevin Lutz an email to express their thoughts on turning lanes. His email address is: Kevin. Lutz@gov.bc.ca.

www.valemount.ca

2023 Schedule of Columbia Basin Trust ReDi Grants Adjudication Committee Select Committee of Council

- February 2 & 23, 2023
- March 16, 2023
- April 20, 2023

Meetings are at 6:30 pm at the Village of Valemount Council Chambers (735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount)

The Columbia Basin Trust ReDi Grants **Adjudication Committee Meeting schedule for** 2023 will be posted at the entrance of the Municipal Office, and on the Village of Valemount website. Please note that meeting dates and times may change. Any approved changes will be posted on the front door of the Village Office and at www.valemount.ca.

<u>Reminder</u>

2023 business and animal licenses are due. Please ensure you have renewed your licenses before January 31, 2023.

Schedule of Regular Council Meetings 2023

- January 10 & 24, 2023
- February 14 & 28, 2023
- March 14 & 28, 2023
- April 11 & 25, 2023
- May 09 & 23, 2023
- June 13 & 27, 2023
- July 25, 2023
- August 22, 2023
- September 12, 2023 (Mtg date amended from Sept 26th)
- October 10 & 24, 2023
- November 14 & 28, 2023
- December 12, 2023

Meetings have not been scheduled for: July 11 and August 8, 2023 – Amended Summer Schedule September 26, 2023 – UBCM Conference December 26, 2023 - Christmas Office Closure

Meetings are at 7:00 pm at the Village of Valemount Council Chambers, 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC.

The Regular Council Meeting schedule for 2023 will be posted at the entrance of the Municipal Office, and on the Village of Valemount website. Please note that Council may consider changing Council meeting dates and times. Any approved changes will be posted at the front door of the Village Office and at: www.valemount.ca

Utility Notice Information

Utility notices have been mailed out for 2023. If you do not receive your bill by mid-February, please call the Village office.

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Local Maker - Artist Karly Williamson

By Andrea Arnold

Karly Williamson loves to create art. It has been a passion of hers since she was quite small.

She said was a stereotypical art kid. "I was lucky to have a family that supported me from the beginning," said Williamson "Every Christmas and birthday I would receive some kind of art supplies."

It was only six years ago that she made the decision to invest in herself and focus on developing her skills as a career.

Although she can paint with both acrylic and oil, she prefers to work with oil. As she was building up her skill base and colour use knowledge, she worked with acrylic more. Currently her projects are about 90 per cent oil based pieces, a switch she credits to her mother-inlaw who is also an artist. As Williamson grows her skills and confidence in using oil based paints, she has found she has been learning to be more patient. Each piece can take up to several months to complete.

Williamson had a studio set up in the house, but had to relinquish it. For now, she has her easel set up in the living room and has to set up and clean up everytime she wants to paint. "It's totally worth it," she said. "I do hope to get a studio space again though."

As the mom of three small children, family is her first focus. She still prioritizes painting a few days, or rather nights, a week.

"I am not able to paint as much as I would like right now," said Williamson. "Life throws you pauses when inspiration and time are lacking. I make time to paint

because it is important to me. It keeps the flame burning. It is my therapy."

Since Williamson and her family moved to McBride three years ago, she has felt a shift in her perspective. Instead of looking to photos for inspiration, now she gets to be among the nature that inspires her art.

"Just look out the window," she said. "I have never felt more true to my heart."

She has also felt an overwhelming amount of support come from the community. She has noticed that, for better or worse, people pay attention to what others are up to. Landscapes and wildlife are her favourite subjects, and she is really enjoying working in an interpretive style, steering away from the hyper realistic style.

"I find trying to paint things to look real feels more like copying," she said. "The interpretive style allows for more creativity. I can put paint to canvas until I like it. It isn't a case of refine, refine, refine."

When painting animals, she prefers to focus on general creatures instead of a specific animal. This gives her creative license to choose colours, size, and details.

Although the creative freedom that comes from free painting without a set visual reference is her go to style, she counts it a privilege to be called on for commissioned art in a variety of styles. She has been surprised at the number of local commission requests she has received since moving to the valley.

"Being asked to create something with sentimental meaning is touching," Williamson said. "I can use my passion to bring others joy."

For every piece of work, Williamson's goal is that every person that sees it has a personalized response to the image.



One of Williamson's most recent paintings is an image of a cross country ski trail that was inspired by a personal experience. However, it was created to invoke a memory for anyone who has been cross country skiing. Williamson did not focus on details that would identify any specific location. /SUBMITTED

"I am lucky to do something I love," she said. "It pays off when people are interested. I only do work I'm passionate about. I don't want to paint for the sake of painting. It fills my soul. I feel so much love when people notice my passion."

Williamson has not put any of her work

in shops around town so far. She has a few pieces up in one of the Air BnBs, and has an Instagram account, karly.williamson. art that serves as an online gallery. She can be reached at karly.mercer@hotmail. com.

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ACROSS FROM THE IGA DOWNTOWN

Local builder's small home design could accelerate investment in granny suites and first-time homes

By Laura Keil

Local builder Douglas Miller wants to offer an alternative for new homebuyers and those looking to build a granny suite.

He's developed plans for a 400+ square foot house that will save buyers at least 25% from the cost of a regular build. On top of that, the house is highly energy efficient, with air tight walls and a heat recovery ventilator, meaning the heating needs can be easily met with electric baseboards.

For Miller, the idea sprung out of a feeling of responsibility to the next generation of homebuyers, many of whom are being priced out of the market.

"With this generation of millennials coming out and the job market not allowing that anymore ... if you want a small home and you're under 35 and you and your spouse don't have a \$100,000 job each, there has to be a different way."

While in previous generations, families could build their own home, living in the basement while they finished the upstairs and doing it mostly by cash, in recent times, the market has gone more towards bigger and bigger prefinished homes.

"My perspective is you're just increasing your debt," he said. "What's wrong with building a smaller home with the design to add more bedrooms as your family grows?" 400 square feet is the minimum size

for accessory dwelling in the Village of Valemount. In the Regional District is minimum is 600 sf minimum for accessory

dwelling, which can be achieved by attached a module onto the basic design. Two additional modules can be added, either at construction or down the road - a living room unit and a bedroom unit. Adding these modules would also help the house meet the Village of Valemount requirements for a principal residence.

The cost is about 75% of the square foot cost of a standard build.

"From my perspective, they've getting better value because it's a custom-built house, but was designed with efficiencies in mind to get your square foot cost as low as it can be."

While construction would take place on site, the home would remain movable, a selling feature for people who may wish to relocate or build a bigger home later.

"It has everything you'd need, not necessarily everything you might want."

He says people can add modules to it down the road as their needs change or "as the cookie jar fills up."

As far as the design, he said simplicity was key to the cost savings.

"Sure we could put rooflines and that, but it adds to the cost. We're trying to get it as simple as we can."

Miller says he is nearing retirement and wants to focus purely on "special projects of benefit" to the Robson Valley.

He hasn't built a prototype of the small house yet, but he's keen to serve residents anywhere in the Robson Valley.

"I'm looking for the first person."



Doug Miller. /RMG FILE PHOTO

COST EFFICIENT SMALL HOMES





Wild Montane Construction your local certified builder. Everything you need in a compact footprint. Put a second home on your property for additional revenue that meets Valemounts accessory dwelling requirements. Add a 200 sq ft livingroom module and you now meet the requirements for a principle residence! Call or email Doug Miller for a free consultation.





Cold weather logging — 1950s style

By Lloyd Jeck

By 1950, the piercing bark of the chainsaw had replaced the singing-saw, better known as a crosscut saw. The crosscut saw now hung contentedly on a wall. The slight curve of the teeth expressed a confident grin of satisfaction for a job well done. As an honourable recognition of the long ruling crosscut saw, horses now refused to snake logs from the stump to the landing site. Internal combustion engines now ruled the forest.

Hand-knit, wool liners inside of soft leather outer mitts protected my hands from the bitter cold. Those hands flitted from lever to lever in the frigid air that drifted through the open-air canopy of the 1938 Caterpillar D4 crawler tractor. I hooked the D4 to a drag of trees, which it pulled snuggly against the Hyster winch in the operator's attempt to keep the trees out of the tractor's rotating tracks. The operator addressed this maneuver as they broke over the crest of the 18 per cent downgrade. The 1950s logging site was on a mountain slope southeast of McBride. The logging process required moving the trees from stump to mill-site beside the railway tracks. The standard policy was to deck trees by the sawmill during the winter and, when spring conditions were right, we hired a small crew, and the logs were turned into lumber.

This was a small operation, quite a common occurrence during that decade in time. The operators were the chainsaw operator, my brother Cyril, and me as the cat operator. We were both single when we purchased the outfit, including the sawmill, from our father at the end of 1952. Our bachelor cabin, and the machine shed for the tractor, sat beside a small stream that passed beneath the railway near to our door. We brothers had an agreement on how camp chores would be carried out. I rolled out early and made breakfast, we each packed our own mid-day lunch, and Cyril prepared the evening

The starter coil spring sometimes required Cyril to shape a new end on a steel coil spring. So, he would heat the spring in the campfire and use pliers to shape the new end.



Oliver OC-12 skidding logs. /SUBMITTED

meal. While the repast took shape, I serviced the tractor for the next day's work. One other freezing weather rule was that we did not go to the bush if the temperature fell below minus 40 F degrees.

One other habit, which we considered to be a luxury, was that at noon time, when Cyril heard the tractor coming back, he would light a campfire and have a couple of block-chairs to sit on. We often toasted our sandwich and used up a half of an hour commiserating the feeling of cold fingers and toes. The skid distance was over one mile long and, after that long cold riding in the heatless operator's seat, I appreciated that campfire. In December 1956, we traded the old D4 off on a new Oliver OC12 which provided more horses under the hood and did create a bit

of engine heat back to the

operator. One other appreciated asset of the OC12 was that it was 60-inch gauge, rather than the 48-inch gauge of the D4, providing greater stability on the mountain slopes

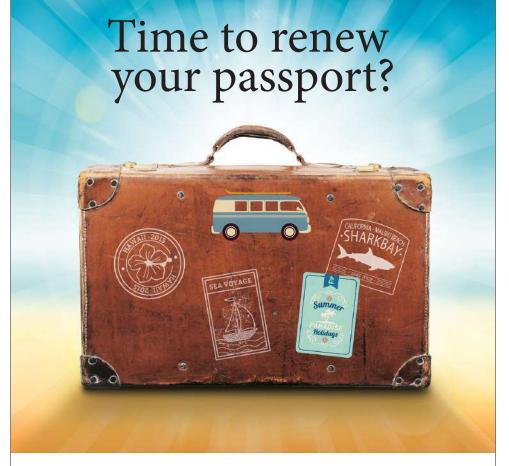
Necessary repairs in the bush were problematic. Cyril made general chainsaw repairs on top of a stump. The starter coil spring sometimes required Cyril to shape a new end on a steel coil spring. So, he would heat the spring in the campfire and use pliers to shape the new end. Tractor repairs did at times require me to handlug a 30-ton jack up that steep hill. We survived this type of operation for nine years. Our lumber products, and cedar and pine telephone poles, found their way eastward and south to Canadian and US destinations.



Ev (Osland) Jeck by load of Jeck Bros. lumber. /SUBMITTED



Load of Cedar Telephone Poles by Jeck Bros. /SUBMITTED



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Come on by to one (or more!) of our Open Houses listed below. This is an opportunity to have a coffee and meet with team members who are on site specifically to talk about working with BCEHS (BC Emergency Health Services) and the hiring process. Ask your questions and get all the answers from people who work as paramedics and other jobs within BCEHS.

Feb 7 Blue River 16:00 - 20:00 - 833 Cedar Street

Feb 8 Valemount 16:00 - 20:00 - 1450 9th Ave

Feb 9 McBride 15:00 - 19:00 - 640 King Street

Feb 10 Clearwater 11:00 - 15:00 - 620 Park Drive



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Weighmaster

POSITION OVERVIEW

Part-time, casual position. Weighs trucks in and out of the scales at the community forest yard. Team oriented worker with the community forest. Working independently at the scale house. Hours can be at times an early shift, dependent on weather. Basic computer skills for data entry and knowledge of computer programs.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Attending to the weighing in and out of logging trucks at the scale house.
- Keep the scales and scale house clean of debris, mud, ice and snow.
- Be firm on policies applying to the scales yard.
- Good communication skills
- Respectful to all workers and contractors
- Radio operation for communication

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Excel spreadsheets experience
- Strong communication skills both verbal and electronic
- Clean Criminal Record Check and pass a Drug and Alcohol test
- Must work well with team members and contractors
- Training available for the right candidate

Applicants will send a resume, a cover letter with contact details and references, in confidence to: Craig Pryor, Manager, Valemount Community Forest LP c/o P.O. Box 1017, Valemount, BC. V0E 2Z0 cpryor@valemountcommunityforest.ca.

Open until filled.

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

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Columbia trust.
Basin trust.
our future



CROSSWORD

Across

- Some arrestees can
- make this Inflate, as expenses
- Hand, slangily
- Not pleasant
- Coolness 12
- 13 It can ruin team
- spirit Sandwich bar
- Word in a bus
- schedule 16 Part of a spreadsheet
- Chow-mein
- ingredients
- Didn't take not of
- 2.3 Keyholes
- We __ family 27 "We've been _
- Football injury spot 29
- Lab rat's home
- Standing necessity
- Flick from "A Bug's Life'
- Jet set
- Creates

- 39 Shrill sounds
- 41 Pick
- Ground furrow 43
- Long story
- 48 Not close
- 49 Mesabi output
- Condo 51 Swelter
- "Maggie May"
- singer, Stewart 53 Advantage

Down

- Unexpanded flower
- Application blank
- Wicked
- Telling a whopper
- Crucial
- Battery fluid
- Distributes at a card game
- Kind of ad
- Approval, 2 words 10
- "Awesome!"
- 18 Surprised cry 19 Forest denizen
- Stand up to
- 22 Bride's list
- 24 Supervise Nears the western horizon

21 By word of mouth

Confronted issues in a public forum

49

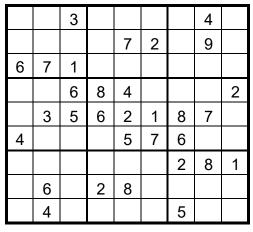
52

- 31 And so on: Abbr.
- 33 Doublemint, e.g.
- 36 Miscalculation

50

- Question for
- discussion 40 Current Continental currency
- 41 Not quite straight
- 42 Scorecard number

Answers on P13



SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY

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.

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and

Remember. You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the samee line, column or 3x3 box.

Answers on P13

The Toughie by Myles Mellor

Across

- 1. Sofa part
- 4. Mandela's org.
- 7. Precious stone
- 12. __ few rounds 13. Small dam
- 15. Silenced
- 16. Monkey in
- Disney's "Aladdin" 17. Yes _ (answer
- choice) 18. Frees
- 19. Talking to oneself
- 22. Goblet feature
- 23. Carmaker Ferrari 24. Jerusalem native
- 28. Wagon train
- 33. Wine fruit 35. Jambalaya grain
- 36. Sharing one's
- opinion 42. NYSE banner events
- 43. Ice skater Cohen
- 44. European kingdom
- 48. Checks 52. Pastry creations
- 54. Spanish boy 55. Talks to some TV
- judges 60. Dance like Shakira
- 62. Prepares for battle
- 63. Gloaming
- 64. Articulates silently
- 65. Roger of "Cheers" 66. First name in horror

- 67. Like dishwater 68. Que. neighbor
- 69. Calendar spans, abbr.

Down

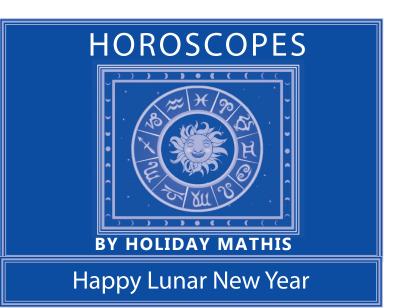
- 1. Four-time champion of the Australian Open
- 2. R2D2, et al.
- 3. Roughhousing one 4. Away without
- permission, abbr. Green Lantern supervillain
- 6. Roulette bet
- 7. Younger 8. Sports channel
- 9. American Revolution
- supporter 10. Velvet finish
- 11. Mormon church
- letters
- 14. Playboy 15. Exclamation of joy
- 20. Ezra Pound's style
- 21. Corporate abbreviation
- 25. West ender 26. Time delay
- 27. Google's was stellar
- 29. Writer Huffington 30. Be a contestant
- 31. N.C. State is in it
- 32. Formerly known

- 34. Coast Guard rank:
- Abbr. 36. Cookie Monster's
- original name 37. Monkey 38. Hither's partner
- 39. Cup handle 40. Compass point 41. Greek letter
- 45. Burnout consequence
- 46. Solemn ceremonies
- 47. Famous falcon 49. Tough, in meat
- 50. "Well, (surprised response)
- 51. At minimum 53. Box-office draw
- - 59. Now, see here... 60. Baseball V.I.P.'s
- 55. Grime
- 58. "I agree!"
- 56. Stetsons 57. Fig Newton rival
 - - Answers on P13
- 61. "__ Are My Sunshine"...

- You eventually figure out what

helps you and end up helping many others. Mutual love and respect lead to adventurous plans with your favorite people. More highlights include a favorable international exchange, the sale of something old and an event

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.



Uranus goes direct -- a firework to welcome the Year of the Black Water Rabbit. According to legend, the Jade Emperor disguised himself as a beggar and set out to find an animal to help him create the elixir of life. The weather turned cold, so he built a fire. In an act of self-sacrifice, the rabbit jumped into the fire to feed the beggar. The Jade Emperor would have none of it. He saved the rabbit and took him to the moon, where he remains and can be seen today, mixing life's elixir night after night. To life!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Young children can have difficulty distinguishing between subjective worlds in their heads and the objective world we share. They sometimes believe their thoughts can directly cause things to happen. It's not all wrong. Thoughts do change things, but only when combined by action, as you'll prove this week.

TAURUS (April May 20). Getting where you're supposed to be will not require you to be assertive this week, so you can relax knowing that if it's the right door, it will open for you without work. It's safe to make yourself like water, finding the path of least resistance. You'll interact especially well with Scorpio and Pisces.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Many of the week's interactions are based in an implicit social contract, the details of which may be different to each person involved. Since the specifics of a "deal" are never talked about, it takes a lot of paying attention to gather and live up to what they are. You win loyalty making every effort in this regard.

CANCER (June July 22). Who is on your side? You, hopefully. Who else? Look around to see who is onboard with support for your goals. More importantly, who is onboard with support of you, just as you are, goals notwithstanding? Your support system should include people who don't require you to be or do anything to be loved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can't grow as a person without growing in awareness. New possibilities open when you can see, feel and know more. You welcome all chances to improve, even if they involve a moment of humility. No one said it would be comfortable. The opportunity to learn what you were doing wrong and correct it is a gift.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What you pursue will run from you, and that's just nature. The animals get around it. The lion stalks, the alligator sinks below the surface, the spider works on auspicious positioning then waits. You'll think of your own less than obvious method of getting your prize and be quite effective this

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

you're supposed to do and do it. Whatever sort of false starts, missteps and confusion that happens before that is simply what it took to bring you onto the journey. How you got there will be a dim and inconsequential memory. It's what you do when you get there that matters.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your way will be made light this week, mostly by your own excellent attitude. You may compromise because it would be harder for the others involved to do the same. Still, it won't be worth it unless you can do it gladly with love and nonchalance. Don't put yourself in a position to be resentful further down the road.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're so good at getting along with different types of people that you will find yourself in the role of a human bridge between people who otherwise wouldn't get along without you. In the spirit of tolerance, you'll set a fine example and bring harmony to the scene.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The limits and rules you've set are quite reasonable considering your scene and the sort of people in it, therefore you won't have to do much to enforce your boundaries. But this isn't a "set it and forget it" kind of plan. Check back as things change. Be ready to make new systems for different

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are many wonderful things that come with you being you, just how you are right now and exactly how your mind and body are in this moment. Focusing on your uniqueness as an asset will put you in the mindset to maximize your gifts. The world will want to celebrate you, so let

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just in case someone out there is wondering how they can be a better friend to you, model the behavior you'd most love to receive. You've been there for yourself all along and know exactly how you want the world to support you. The more you give yourself what you need, the quicker others will be to follow

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:

There's a peace, a grace, a slow ease to the unfolding of this year. Serenity isn't a butterfly you'll have to chase with a net because, in your many contemplative moments, it will land on your still shoulder. You will invent what you throw that's the talk of the town.



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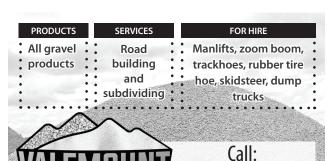
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PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

| ¹B | ² A | 3 I | ٩L | | δP | 6 A | 7 D | | ⁸ P | 9 A | ۱V |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| ¹¹ U | G | L | Υ | | ¹² | С | Е | | 13 E | G | С |
| ¹⁴ D | Е | L | Ι | | 15 V | Ι | Α | | 16 R | 0 | ٧ |
| | | | 17 N | ¹⁸ O | 0 | D | L | ¹⁹ E | S | | |
| ²⁰ F | ²¹ O | ²² R | G | 0 | Т | | 23 S | L | 0 | ²⁴ T | ²⁵ 5 |
| ²⁶ A | R | Е | | 27 H | Α | 28 D | | ²⁹ K | N | Е | Е |
| | | _ | | | | _ | | | | _ | _ |
| 30C | Α | G | ³¹ E | | 32 L | Е | 33 G | | 34 A | N | Н |
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| 30 35 | A | - | T | ³⁶ E | 32 L | E | G | ³⁸ I | 34 A L | N | 1 |
| 30 35 | A | G | T | ³⁶ E R ⁴³ R | 32 L | Е ³⁷ В | U | ³⁸ I | 34 A L | N | 1 |
| ³⁰ C ³⁵ E | A L | G | T | ³⁶ E R ⁴³ R | ³² L ⁴⁰ E | Е ³⁷ В А | U | ³⁸ I | 34 A L | N D | 1 |
| ³⁰ C ³⁵ E ⁴¹ O | A L | G I ³⁹ S T | T | ³⁶ E R ⁴³ R | ³² L ⁴⁰ E | E ³⁷ B A | U | ³⁸ I S | ³⁴ A L ⁴⁵ A | N D | 17 S |

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

| ¹ A | ²R | 3 M | | ⁴ A | ⁵ N | °С | | | | ⁷ J | в | 9W | 10 E | "L |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 12 G | 0 | Α | | 13 W | Е | Ξ | 14 R | | 15 H | J | S | Н | Е | D |
| 16A | В | U | | ¹⁷ O | R | N | 0 | | 18 _U | N | Р | Τ | N | S |
| ¹⁹ S | 0 | L | ²⁰ | L | 0 | Q | υ | ²¹ | z | - | N | G | | |
| ²² S | Т | Е | М | | | | 23 E | N | Z | 0 | | | | |
| ²⁴ | S | R | Α | ²⁵ E | ²⁶ L | ²⁷ I | | 28C | Α | R | ²⁹ A | ³⁰ V | ³¹ A | ³² N |
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NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: Tristyn Wiegers

TAKE NOTICE THAT Michelle Myers has filed a Statement of Claim, Claim with Court Action Number 2203 01148 in the Court of King's Bench of Alberta in the Law Courts of Edmonton, Alberta which you are named as the Defendant. The Plaintiff is claiming judgment against you. A copy of the Statement of Claim will be mailed to you upon request directed to the attention of Basil Bansal, the Solicitor for the Plaintiff, at the law firm of Diamond and Diamond Lawyers LLP at 4246 97 Street NW, Suite 100, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 5Z9 Phone: 780-665-1616; Fax: 780-665-

Your whereabouts being unknown, the Court has ordered substitutional service upon $\,$ you by directing that this advertisement be published on this occasion alone.

_" DAYS from the date of the publication of this advertisement to file a Statement of Defence or Demand for Notice with the Court of King's Bench in Edmonton, Alberta. If you fail to do so, the Plaintiff may proceed to note you in default, and you will not be entitled to notice of any further proceedings. The Plaintiff may then seek relief in your absence.

The Plaintiff has obtained an Order from the Court of King's Bench in Edmonton. Alberta, allowing them to serve you by way of posting this Notice of Action in the Valemount, BC newspaper.

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VALEMOUNT

JAN 22-29 Family Literacy Week Cooking Challenge Make a recipe as a family and send a photo along with the recipe to be entered in a draw and help build a cookbook. For more info hblanchetter@cbal.org, or call/text 778-915-

MON JAN 30 is a fun Who 'Dun It? A Mystery Party held at RVCS (99 Gorse St) from 1-3:30pm for local seniors. Decode the clues and solve the crime. Registration is NOT required. 250-566-9107 for more info

TUES JAN 31 from 1-3pm seniors are invited to join us for a snowshoe- we have 6 pairs to loan out if needed. Meet at RVCS (942 3rd Ave) for 12:45pm before we head out. Registration is NOT required. Contact RVCS 250-569-2266 for more info.or more info

WED FEB 1 from 10:30-11:15am each week until March 29th our WorkBC team is holding Drop-In Information Sessions where they will share what resources and training opportunities are available FREE to clients. We can help you increase your skillset and gain meaningful employment! Drop by the office (99 Gorse St) and no registration is required. 250-566-9107 for more info.

SUN FEB 19th Winter Fest comes to Valemount, BC. The fun begins at 11am on Sunday of the Family Day long weekend at 98 Elm Street. Fun cross country ski relay race at 1pm and dog sledding will be available for the duration of the Festival.

TEEN TECH Learn how to research, film, edit and produce your own video to go live on VCTC. To register for this free event email hblanchette@cbal.org or call/ text 778-915-4934

Ongoing Events

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.

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

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.

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.

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!

WEDs from 10:30-11:15am each week until March 29th our WorkBC team is holding Drop-In Information Sessions where they will share what resources and training opportunities are available FREE to clients. We can help you increase your skillset and gain meaningful employment! Drop by the office (99 Gorse St) and no registration is required. 250-566-9107 for more info

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

WEDs Telling Our Life Stories Jan 25-Mar 1 6:30-8pm, on ZOOM. Introduction to guided autobiography process. To register email hblanchette@cbal.org.

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.

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.

MCBRIDE

MON JAN 30 from 1-3:30pm seniors are invited to join us for a good time filled with mystery during "Who 'Dun It?" Solve the clues to discover the criminal mastermind. Meet at RVCS (942 3rd Ave). Registration is NOT required. Contact RVCS 250-569-2266 for more info.

Ongoing Events

The next Men's Shed Meeting in McBride will take place in the New Year after a small break over December. This program is led by men, for men. Call 250-569-2266 for

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

WEDs Seniors Drop-In Coffee House 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 @ 10:30am Songs & Stories at the Library for children aged 0-5 and their caregivers.

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.

MONs & WEDs it's time to Dance during Community Fitness with Jodie at the Elks Hall. Twice weekly from 7:15pm-8pm this drop-in program offers free admission to seniors and youth. Other age groups are invited to pay by donation or pay what you can. Call Jodie at 250-230-8035 for more info.

THURs & FRIs Weekly Adults' Programs at the McBride Library: Fibre Artists (Thurs, 10:30am), Writing Group (Fri, 1.30pm). Call 569 2411 for details.



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.



Getting Organized To Order Seeds

If you have ordered seeds from any catalogues in the last My inventory is an alphabetical list of vegetables and few years you are more than likely the proud owner of at least a few 2004 "garden dream books". My catalogues started arriving around the first week of December and I now have six to browse through. Everything I see that looks interesting or is a "good deal", I circle as I read through but the actual ordering process is much more organized. I usually wait until all my favourites arrive before I place any orders. Over the years, I have learned to "shop carefully" and by doing so save lots of money every year. (Actually, I rarely "save" money as I just spend it on more seeds!)

The first step in my seed ordering process is to take inventory of what seeds I have on hand. I save a lot of my own seeds and also order some seeds in large quantities because they are so much cheaper in bulk. With the exception of parsnip, most seed will have good germination and be quite healthy for four to five years if they are stored in a cool, dark dry place or in a freezer. I keep mine in airtight containers in a cool dark corner of my basement.

another list for flowers and bulbs. Beside each variety, I write how many packets or seeds I have on hand. Once the inventory is done, I can look through the catalogues as they arrive and circle anything that looks interesting. When my four or five favourite catalogues have all arrived (I get 15-20 altogether) I set aside one day around the end of January as "seed-order-day" and get to

With my inventory list on one side of the desk or large table, and all the catalogues spread out around the desk, I make up a rough master-order form on graph paper. I take my favourite catalogue and open to A for asparagus and look through all the catalogues to see if I have marked anything to order. I can check my inventory to see if I already have it and check all the prices to get the best deal and then mark it down on the left column of the master order list. On the right half of the page I have made up columns for the four or five main catalogues that I deal with and one column for "miscellaneous". For example I would write Bean: Kentucky Wonder and

check William Dam Seed if they had the best price. Then in the William Dam catalogue I would circle the amount of seed I wanted and the price. In all other catalogues I would mark an X through that item so I don't order it

This may seem like a lot of work but it really pays off. I have seen one catalogue offer 10 seeds for \$3.49 and the next offer the same variety at 50 seeds for \$1.50. That is a savings of 88%!

After I have gone through all the catalogues, I have a master order list and know exactly what I want to order from each company. That is when I make up each order and send it off. I find most of my orders go to four main companies.

I also take into account the fact that I won't order any genetically modified seed, any seed which is patented (pvp), any treated seeds, very few hybrid seeds and try to order as many organically grown seeds and as many heritage varieties as possible.

Avalanche Canada has implemented is adjusting forecast boundaries depending on conditions. In other words. Valemount could be in one forecast area one week and another forecast area a different week if its conditions shift.

Haegeli says there's always space for improvement in communicating avalanche risks.

"There's always so many factors that come together in these accidents, but there's definitely space for improvement in trying to potentially communicate avalanche risk and its consequences in a more tangible way," he said.

Some of their research has shown that people are quite good at answering questions in surveys around what the different terms mean in the avalanche bulletin, but when they are put in a situation where they have to evaluate different slopes or choose a trip under certain conditions, they sometimes fail to apply this knowledge.

"The important step that recreationists need to make is how they relate this info to what they're going to do in the field," he says.

"That's a difficult step to make."

The Avalanche

The avalanche was remotetriggered close to the edge of the bowl at a point. The riders were about 20 m from the toe of the slope. Avalanche Canada has not reported whether they were moving or stopped at the time. The avalanche ran on a layer of facets near the base of the snowpack, which had been set down in November, with a crown depth between 80 and 120 cm.

On Saturday, Avalanche Canada said conditions were particularly bad around Valemount and that it had received numerous reports of large human and remote triggered avalanches throughout the day, and warned people to choose safer

"Remote triggered avalanches are a strong sign of an unstable snowpack," Avalanche Canada said. "This is a dangerous snowpack and it seems to be particularly volatile in this area at the moment."

The issue of weak buried layers has been a major one this season, they say. Forecasters have compared the

potential for avalanches this year to that of 2003, when 29 people died across Canada. Many humantriggered avalanches that occurred in the week leading up to the fatal avalanche were very large avalanches at upper treeline/lower alpine, on both a 50 cm deep surface hoar layer in the middle of the snowpack and weak facets at the bottom of the snowpack.

"Avalanches like these are most likely to be triggered on steep, shallow and previously undisturbed slopes," Avalanche Canada reported last Thursday.

On Monday, Avalanche Conditions were considerable at and above treeline in both the McBride, Valemount and Blue River regions (see map). Conditions were set to deteriorate further in McBride riding areas this week.

This is the third avalanche-related death this month in the province. On Jan. 9, two off-duty police officers were caught in an avalanche near Kaslo. One died that day while the other died Saturday after being hospitalized for critical injuries.

Reports of human triggered avalanches indicate the snowpack is very unstable in the region. Stick to well ridden and/or simple terrain. Be mindful that deep instabilities are still present and have produced recent large avalanches. Carefully assess open slopes and convex rolls where buried surface hoar may be preserved. Avoid thin areas like rock outcroppings where you're most likely to trigger avalanches failing on deep weak layers. Recent wind has varied in direction so watch for wind slabs on all aspects.

What Avalanche Canada says...

Avalanche Problem 1: Deep Persistent Slab A layer of large and weak facets sits near the base of the snowpack. This layer has most recently been problematic in upper treeline/ lower alpine elevations. Avoid thin and rocky start zones where weak layers sit closer to the surface, riders are most likely to trigger an avalanche on this layer in steep, shallow previously undisturbed terrain or by first triggering a layer further up in the snowpack. Remote triggering is a concern for this layer, avoid travelling below steep slopes.

Avalanche Problem 2: Persistent Slab A reactive surface hoar layer is found 40 to 70 cm deep throughout the region. Be especially cautious around steep convex openings at treeline and below. Remote triggering is also a concern for this layer.

Backcountry users should always check their regional avalanche forecasts the morning they recreate at www.avalanche.ca. Everyone in a backcountry party needs the essential rescue gear transceiver, probe, and shovel—and the knowledge to use them.

Avalanche Summary

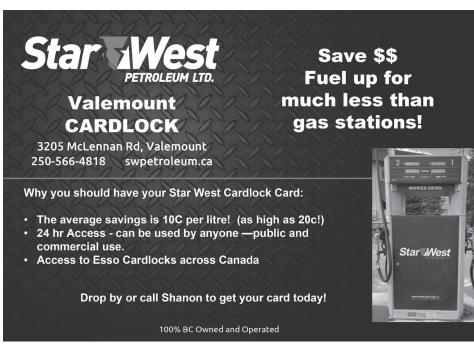
On Saturday a serious avalanche, which resulted in a fatality, occurred in the Oasis riding area south of Valemont. The avalanche was on a north-northwest aspect at 2100 m. It was remotely triggered and ran on the November facets near the bottom of the snowpack. This large avalanche (size 2.5) had a depth of 80 to 120 cm. There were several other reports of humantriggered avalanches from nearby areas. Over the past week, there have been numerous reports of large human-triggered avalanches on both a 50 cm deep surface hoar layer in the middle of the snowpack and weak facets at the bottom of the snowpack. A very large deep persistent slab avalanche (size 3) occurred naturally in alpine terrain in the western Cariboos Jan 18. All of these very large avalanches occurred at upper treeline/lower alpine. Avalanches like these are most likely to be triggered on steep, shallow and previously undisturbed slopes.

Snowpack Summary

New snow continues to gradually accumulate, with 5 to 15 cm of new snow expected each day this week. Westerly winds will continue to affect exposed terrain and form wind slabs near ridgetops. By Monday, 20 to 50 cm of recent snowfall could sit above a layer of surface hoar as well as a sun crust on steep solar aspects. Below 1600 m, recent snow is accumulating above a rain crust. A prominent layer of buried surface hoar can be found roughly 40 to 70 cm deep. It has shown ongoing signs of instability in the Valemount area, and could potentially be problematic throughout the Cariboos and Northern Monashees. The bottom of the snowpack is made up of large weak facets buried in late November, which has caused a deep persistent slab problem across much of interior BC.



The outline of the size 2.5 avalanche in the Oasis area can be seen in the centre of this photo. Avalanche Canada reported the avalanche above the bowl, was triggered remotely late Saturday morning. It was one of several area avalanches reported over the weekend. / AVALANCHE CANADA РНОТО







January 22 - 29

Celebrate Family Literacy Week with Cooking!

- Dust off that fun family recipe
- Take a picture of everyone cooking it together
- Send us the recipe & picture so we can build a cookbook & enter you in a draw



TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT: Hollie Blanchette, Community Literacy Outreach Coordinator kblanchette@cbal.org 🕻 or text 778-915-4934 🌐 www.cbal.org









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Block G DL7365 Hwy 5 S





This large acreage is just under 30 acres and within close proximity to town. Partially cleared, there are several good building sites available, all of which afford you 360 degree views of the mountains surrounding Valemount. Both residential and commercial use are allowed.

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