

Valemount vies for strongest town

P15



Your weekly source of news, views and entertainment

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Vintage

carnival

Thursday March 9th 2023 Volume 19 Issue 09 PM42164515

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Village mulls action on illegal backyard dwelling

By Andrea Arnold

During the Valemount Council meeting on February 28, Council sought to place sanctions via a "notice on title" for the property located at 1144 6th Ave due to the installation of a wood burning appliance within an accessory building and the occupancy of the unit without an occupancy permit, contrary to both the BC Building Code, and village bylaws.

Building Inspector Dean Schneider confirmed the building is still occupied.

Pearson asked what other action is available to have the dwelling vacated. CAO Depenau said staff will look into other options besides the fines that have been issued.

Councillor Hollie Blanchette commented that this issue has been going on since Aug. 2021. She asked why the RCMP have not gotten involved and why the person still lives there.

She said there has been no payment for the fines that have been issued, and she is concerned it is a dangerous situation for the tenant as the structure livability is unknown.

CAO Depenau said the RCMP have not been involved. Councillor Blanchette moved to amend the original motion to include contacting the RCMP immediately to find out what they can do to have the tenant removed. Councillor Pearson said he isn't sure RCMP is the first step but agreed that something proactive is needed.

"Unfortunately they are making more in rent than we are charging in fines," he said. "Asking for forgiveness instead of permission, is happening too often. I agree we need to move forward, but I am not sure the RCMP are the resource to be the next step."

Through communication with the tenant, Mayor Torgerson believes the Village will have the opportunity to further engage with the property owner.

"I think that nobody wins if we go down there with a bulldozer and "get out." It's winter," he said. "But I do agree with you around compliance with the building code. We really have zero idea about the work that has been done (on the building). It has never been reviewed or stamped by building services."

Councillor Blanchette asked about having the RCMP accompany the bylaw officer to the property to have a conversation.

CAO Depenau said that he had reservations about involving the RCMP during contact with the tenant.

"At the moment, we have significant concern with the property owner who is engaged in these activities and so far hasn't reached compliance despite attempts," he said. "I don't know that the same feelings apply to the tenant in this case, who would be the one suffering potentially from an

eviction of some sort."

Depenau's second point was about jurisdiction, and if the RCMP are the ones to address the issue.

"I appreciate the safety element there around the provincial legislation for the building code is the piece that is the most concerning around the safety of the facility," he said. He agreed to find out where jurisdiction lies before involving the

During discussion, it was disclosed that the property owner is not in the community, that they live in the Lower Mainland. Communication to the owner has been through letters. Copies of these were included in the agenda for the Feb 28 meeting. Letters from CAO Depenau, Building Inspector Dean Schneider and Bylaw Enforcement Officer Evan Smith.

A letter was sent on January 19, 2023 summarizing the several violations that

have not been rectified.

CONTINUED P7

Isabelle Alexander

reprised a country-western

Skating Carnival. The 50th year of carnival was a

compilation of favourites

from years past. See more

photos P8. /LAURA KEIL

themed routine from a

previous Canoe Valley

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

MARCH BREAK

There will be no newspaper
March 16th to accommodate
staff holidays. Thanks for
your understanding and
support! We will continue to
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775 Shelby Road MCBRIDE 32 acres, fenced & x-fenced

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March 9th 2023

By Andrea Arnold

BC Assessment Deputy Assessor Erin Smith presented to Valemount Council on Feb 28th. She broke down the assessment process as well as the appeals process and timeline.

Smith explained that a majority of properties are valued on the market value as of July 1st. As market values change every year, reassessment must happen every year as well.

Some of the other factors that can affect property assessment are whether it is an income-producing property, what is the highest and best use for it, what is legally able to be built, if it is financially feasible and is it maximally productive.

There are nine different assessment categories: residential, utilities, supportive housing, major industry, light industry, business and other (anything that doesn't fall under the other categories), managed forests, recreational and non-profit, and farmland.

There are two common exemptions that will provide a release from paying all or a portion of a tax assessed: permissive - Property owned or held by a not-for-profit corporations and statutory - usually government properties or properties that provide some equivalence to government services, and also include places of worship, cemeteries and certain farm fixtures

Smith broke down the yearly timeline of the assessment process. Jan 1st - 31st is the inquiry period. "We like to have people call us with questions," she said. "Jan 31st is the final date for appeals to the first level of review."

Feb 1st - March 31st is the revised assessment roll time when appeals are reviewed. April 1st - Sept 30th assessment staff work on production tasks, and April 30th is the final date for the second level of appeal.

The remainder of the year staff focuses on roll setting. Oct 31st is the date for the physical condition and permitted use of a property as well as the deadline for municipalities to pass permissive exemption bylaws. Nov 30th is the last day they can reflect Land Title and Survey Authority changes in the roll, and the owner listed on the title as of Dec 31st is the individual responsible for the taxes. Smith provided statistics from the last assessment roll for both the province as

Understanding BC Property Assessment

well as the Village of Valemount. Overall, the property assessments for the province increased by about 12 per cent over the 2022 roll, she said.

"We assessed 2.16 Million properties for a total of just over 2.72 trillion dollars."

The Village of Valemount had 869 assessed properties with a total value of \$327.5 million. This is two more properties than last year and an increased overall property value of 24.8 per cent. 2.3 per cent was new construction, the rest of the increase from market value movement.

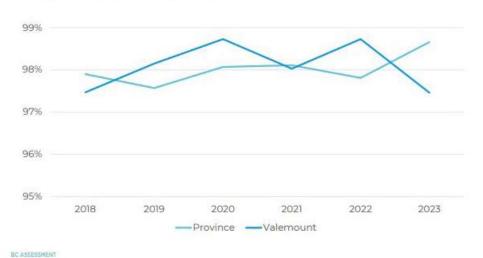
Smith showed graphs of what the overall provincial acceptance of assessments looks like with a comparison to Valemount, then showed a graph illustrating the change after the appeals have been reviewed. Provincially, there is an average 97-98% acceptance of assessment.

"Valemount does not follow the same trend as much of the province, but still falls within the 'accepted' per cent values," Smith said.

She confirmed that one of the most common calls that BC Assessment staff gets following the assessment roll out is concern that property taxes increase the same amount as the assessment percentage increase.

Smith explained that If the new assessed value of your property is lower than the average change for your property class,

Completed Roll Acceptance:



Showing the difference between the provincial average level of acceptance of the assessment roll, versus the average from the Valemount area specifically, this graph shows that on average, the people of Valemount see the assessments differently than the rest of the province. "Valemount does not follow the same trend as much of the province, but still falls within the 'accepted' per cent values," Smith said. /SOURCED IMAGE

your taxes are likely to decrease. If the change is similar to the average change, then it is likely that your taxes will stay the same. If your change is higher than the average for your property class, then it is likely your taxes will increase.

"An increase in assessed value does not necessarily mean your taxes will increase by the same amount," said Smith. "It's not a one to one ratio."

When a property assessment is submitted by the Jan 31 deadline, it goes to a review panel that is independent from BC assessment. Evidence is presented by BC Assessment and the party making the appeal in a hearing that takes an average of 30-45 min. If

the outcome is not satisfactory, either party can submit a further appeal to the property assessment appeals board.

During a question and answer period following the presentation, Councillor Mulyk asked Smith who serves on the appeal board panel. Smith said that the assessment review panel is made up of designated constituents from different locations appointed by the Ministry. The appeal board is based out of Richmond with members from across the province. These members are lawyers, realtors, people with first hand knowledge of property tax

and law.
In response

CONTINUED PG3



TRAVEL

THE MOUNTAINS OF JASPER & MOUNT ROBSON

Through photographs, viewing tips and maps, this book will help you identify 125 peaks that are seen from the highways of Jasper National Park and Mount Robson Provincial Park.

BY DAVE BIRRELL



THE LOCT ADT OF DEADING NATURE'S SIGNS

THE LOST ART OF READING NATURE'S SIGNSThe roots of a tree indicate the sun's direction; the Big Dipper tells the time; a passing butterfly hints at the weather; a sand dune reveals prevailing wind; and the scent of cinnamon suggests altitude.

BY TRISTAN GOOLE





THE INCONVENIENT INDIAN

The Inconvenient Indian distills the insights gleaned from Thomas King's critical and personal meditation on what it means to be "Indian" in North America, weaving the curiously circular tale of the relationship between non-Natives and Natives in the centuries since the two first encountered each other.

BY THOMAS KING



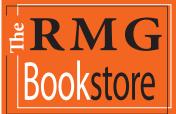


Berenstain Bears: Week at Grandma's

When Mama and Papa have to go out of town, Brother and Sister get to go and stay with their grandparents. It will be a fun-filled visit where the cubs will eat cookies, explore the attic, fish, and even attend a hoedown!

BY STAN & JAN BERENSTAIN





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Valemount Council - BC Assessment breakdown, Wind Ring Proposal, & notice on title

By Andrea Arnold

VALEMOUNT COUNCIL NOTES

Mayor Owen Torgerson called the Valemount council meeting to order on Feb 28, 2023. Prior to addressing the agenda, he extended a Happy Birthday to his wife.

BC Assessment

Council heard from Deputy Assessor Erin Smith presenting BC Assessment 2023 Assessment Roll Review and Highlights. Smith outlined how assessments are made and the process of appeal. She also covered where Valemount stands against the provincial average. (See story on page 2 for more details)

Wind Ring Proposal

The Village has received a proposal for the installation of a wind turbine variant, brand named

WindRing, on municipal property and connected to the Village Office. Code Project Enterprise Ltd, a Village of Valemount business license holder, is asking for Council to consider the installation of a first-in-North-America 10.5kW generating capacity WindRing adjacent to

the Valemount Tourist Centre.

Council voted in favour of requesting further information on the proposal, including detailed costs and regulatory requirements prior to making a decision on whether or not to move forward.

Councillor Pearson requested that the proponent also provide a delegation to be able to address questions from Council directly.

Grant pplication

Council directed staff to apply for the Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program - Indigenous Engagement Grants for up to \$150,000 over three years, to support consultation activities between the Village of Valemount and the Simpcw First Nation. The money would cover activities that disseminate information to Indigenous organizations, activities directly related and attributable to Indigenous participation in dialogues for the sustainable and responsible development of natural resources, or outreach forums such as conferences, workshops or e-forums.

Notice on title

Council directed the Corporate Officer as authorized by Section 57 of the community charter, to place a notice on title for the property located at 1144 6th Ave. This is as a result of the installation of a wood burning appliance within an accessory building and occupying a structure without an occupancy permit, contrary to both the BC Building Code, and village bylaws.

Following a lengthy discussion, Council also passed a motion to have staff determine where jurisdiction lies on the matter. (See story on page 1 for more details)

Community grant

Council approved a grant to Sherry Tinsley in the amount of \$318.15, to cover the cost of the Community Hall Rental for a 100th birthday celebration for Alice Olson. Councillor Pete Pearson explained that with the new grant procedure, there is no actual cash exchanged, it becomes a line item in finance. Mayor Torgerson clarified it as waiving fees without waiving fees.

Temporary Use Permit

Council gave initial approval for a two-year temporary use permit 23-02, to permit one recreational vehicle to be used as a residence at 1292 Fowler Place.

ReDi Grant

Council voted to receive the Columbia Basin Trust ReDi Grants Program Public Input Process for 2023 report. Public engagement for 2023 will be held online via a survey on the Village of Valemount's online engagement platform, Civil Space and an in-person public input engagement meeting was held March 5th 2023.

Road Closure

Council approved the adoption of Road Closure Bylaw No. 872, 2023 as presented. The plan for the Valemount Senior Citizens' Housing Society's proposed housing development includes the closure of a portion of the road just south of the high school. This road closure has been identified as a requirement for the subdivision of the land,

Councillor reports

Councillor Pearson requested and received council support to attend the TransCanada Yellowhead Highway Association AGM in Edmonton on May 5th.

Councillor Pearson also presented a request brought forward by a local business regarding traffic patterns on Highway 16 through the park asking for an upgrade on the west park gate similar to what has been done on the east gate. The request stems from concerns regarding delays during peak season. In discussion, economic impact, environmental impact and traveller safety resulting from delays were presented. Councillor Pearson made the motion, read by Mayor Torgerson: Whereas, all commercial truck traffic that passes through the east gate of Jasper National Park also passes through the west gate of the park. And whereas Highways 16 and 5 the Yellowhead Highway, are the primary transportation corridors for commercial, tourism and local traffic, and the designated oversize route for industrial traffic movements. Therefore, be it resolved a letter be written to the Government of Canada, Parks Canada, requesting that the west gate of Jasper National Park be upgraded

to be consistent with the east gate improvements, an additional kiosk lane and a bypass lane, that have recently been completed proving beneficial to all travellers.

Mayor Torgerson requested a per-diem (3 days total, no travel) for a meeting with Valemount, McBride, Carrier Lumber, Simpcw, Valemount Community Forest and Gilbert Smith Forest Products of Barriere to try to understand where the Province may be headed towards prior to the Province's announcement regarding old growth forests. Mayor Torgerson also requested council's support in joining a working group with the previously mentioned regional partners around trade and old growth management, and working with the Simpcw on a communications strategy. The group will be sending an open statement to Victoria along with Simpcw and the Village of McBride, working towards a balance in well managed old growth being integral to both the multiple economic sectors (forestry, backcountry tourism and recreation) and biodiversity, and how the Village will support Simpcw taking the lead on old growth management within their territory. Council agreed to support the request.

In-camera

Council moved into an in-camera meeting for consideration of one item per section 90 (1) (k) of the community charter to discuss matters related to negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of council could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

Thank you to VCTV for providing recordings of the Valemount Council meetings.

Meeting schedule changes & tourism sector tax

By Andrea Arnold

Mayor Gene Runtz called the Feb 28, 2023 McBride council meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Included in the minutes from The February 14, 2023 meeting were two motions brought out from in-camera: Council moved to appoint Sandra Salt as the Interim Chief Administration Officer, Interim Corporate Officer, Interim Approving Officer and

Interim Director of Operations and Capital Projects, commencing January 29, 2023 and until such time as Council recruits a permanent CAO and that Salt swears their oath of office. Council also approved the consulting services agreement for former CAO Christopher Tupy.

Schedule revision

Council approved receiving the 2023 regular council meeting schedule for discussion and consideration. Following discussion, Council approved keeping the March 14, 2023 meeting as previously approved and requested that staff cancel their hotel reservations for that same night in Prince George. Council members will make their way to the 2023 Local Government Leadership Academy Elected Officials session in PG on Wednesday morning.

Council approved cancelling the May 9, 2023 regular

meeting as it conflicts with their attendance at the 2023 North Central Local Government association Annual General Meeting and Convention in Dawson Creek.

Tourism sector tax support

Council supported the McBride Tourism Committee's recommendation to approach accommodation providers outside the municipality, in the McBride area, asking if they would consider voluntarily collecting and remitting 2% of revenue from short-term stays to the Village of McBride to be used for dedicated tourism marketing and promotion programs that align with the Municipal and Regional District Tax one-year tactical and five-year strategic plans. Council also directed staff to write a letter to these accommodation providers inviting their participation in this initiative.

In-Camera

Council proceeded into 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 and (i) the receipt of advance that is subject to solicitor-client privilege including communication necessary for that purpose.

The public meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.

Assessment...

CONT'D FROM P2

to a question by Mayor Torgerson regarding appeals that have been found in favour of the appellant, Smith gave some surprising news.

"I would say that at the first level, at the review panel, we lose most of those, which is why we end up taking some of them to the second level of appeal," she said. She then went on to explain that when someone calls in January, adjustments can be made if an error is found. This process is called a bypass, without going to the review panel.

Councillor Blanchette asked if when a call comes in with a concern does a person get sent out, or is it dealt with over the phone.

Smith said that typically they try to do it over the phone.

"But we will go do inspections if needed," she said. "We also allow for property owner photo submissions."

Smith said collaboration with municipalities helps them make more accurate assessments. Municipalities provide them with information around permits, bylaws, and boundaries.

If anyone has questions about the assessment process, they can first visit the BC assessment website as it contains the answers to many of the questions that are frequently asked. The Gov.bc website has information about appeals, homeowners grant and property tax deferrals.

Editorial



Laura Keil Publisher / Editor goatnewspaper@gmail.com

Free contraception shows BC's leadership on healthcare

I've been following AccessBC's campaign to get free prescription contraception in the B.C. budget for years now, and was delighted to see it included in the latest budget. Starting April 1st, BC will be the first jurisdiction in Canada to make prescription contraception free to all residents.

This is a program that's expected to pay for itself, by reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies and the cost, both financial and mental, that comes with that.

In Canada, unintended pregnancies cost Canadian health systems over \$61 million annually. Studies have shown that providing universal contraception coverage could see that entire amount saved in as little as six to twelve months. But it goes beyond the savings.

"Access to contraception is an issue of equity – barriers to access, such as cost, fall disproportionately on people with uteruses, and more significantly affect those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged," said Marisa Levesque, a UBC medical student and AccessBC Campaign member. "Allowing all people to make choices about if and when they have children promotes gender equity in areas such as educational attainment and lifetime earnings."

We know from the research that women's health and education directly impacts their children. Ensuring women can choose if and when to reproduce promotes not just healthy, thriving women, but healthy, thriving children if and when they do have children.

Forcing women to cover the cost

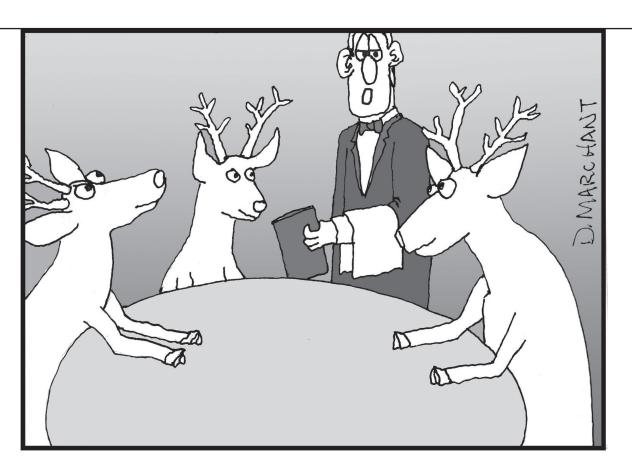
of contraception out of their own pockets has essentially been a tax on women - one that costs up to \$400 a year.

Reproductive freedom is on a continuum of course. We have only to look at other countries around the world to see how little freedom exists for those who are not allowed contraception and are forced to marry at a young age.

Reproductive rights are human rights, and contraception has played a big role in the gains we've seen in women's rights and freedoms in Canada over the past century. Covering prescription contraception is the next step. Put simply, as family doctor Sarah Malleson did, "I support free prescription contraception because the power to choose should not depend on your income."

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Semi parking etiquette poor

Just a little note in conjuction with your article. Sandy was pulling out of post office parking on Saturday March 4th and a semi was parked in front of Valemount Vacation Inn in front of the no parking sign. As Sandy was driving by, the trucker opened his door so Sandy honked his horn on our LSV cart to make him aware and then drove into Petro to purchase a couple things. The truck driver followed him calling obscenities and assaulted him. Pushing him and calling him out. Now of course Sandy is a heart patient and not going to fight but did get video and the name of the truck company.

So what are we going to do? We need CVSE to enforce and town to do something for parking before someone is seriously hurt either by hitting a vehicle due to limited visibility around these vehicles or by something else.

Donna Hamilton Valemount, BC



Intelligence and MENSA

The organization known as MENSA existed, in the public sphere he would whatsoever. was founded in England in 1946 by a barrister named Roland Berrill, and Dr. Lance Ware, a scientist and a lawyer.

Some people insist that it's not possible to fail a MENSA IQ test, and that is a ridiculous conclusion, because slammed shut in their faces. there are those that belong to MENSA, It is not however a good idea to and there are those that are not allowed entry into the organization of if the children succeed, the idea that MENSA.

Albert Einstein's parents were informed by his teachers in elementary school that he was having problems with learning. He was probably bored with the subjects being discussed and wanted to study only math and science, as those were indeed suited to his intense personal interests. Later he was labeled as being losers ... which in turn could result an intellectual genius ... yet if he lived in an era before math and science

have been unknown.

If adults want to strive to belong to the group known as MENSA, it is their he had a low IQ. I don't remember the right to apply, and either be allowed to enter through the door, or to have the door to the Mensa organization

subject children to that test, because they are much more intelligent than others could go to their heads and result in them being insufferable bores, as are so many adults that believe they are exceptionally intelligent.

And if the children fail the test that allows them to belong to MENSA, it would be tragic for them to believe that they are nothing other than dumb in them losing faith that they are able to succeed in any field of endeavor

I once read a book that was written by a man whose brother was told that title of the book, or the exact words, but I do remember the gist of the quote by the brother who was labeled as having a low IQ, and it went as follows ... "Because of what we don't know, we are all dumb."

I suggest that his statement was and is correct, and that in contrast, there should not be any doubt that the scientist and lawyer that started the organization of MENSA were certain that they were so very intelligent by what they did know, as to be fully qualified to teach others the unadulterated meaning of that word "intelligence."

June Vandermark McBride, BC

Global Thoughts BY GWYNNE DYER



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

Starmer and Gray: A Dastardly Plot?

At first, it just looked like dumb luck.

Less than a year after he was driven from office by his own party, former British prime minister 'Boris' Johnson was getting his final comeuppance. The cross-party Privileges Committee that was created to determine whether he had lied to Parliament issued its interim report last week, and it

It said that Johnson must have known about the frequent drinks parties held by his personal staff to celebrate birthdays, people leaving, or simply the fact that it was Friday. How could he not have? It all happened in his own official residence in Downing Street, and eye-witnesses and photos say he often took part. The police even fined him for

The crime was not drinking wine. It was drinking in large groups at a time when ordinary people

were not even allowed to visit hospitals to say farewell to dying parents.

Such contempt for ordinary people was damaging the Tory (Conservative Party) brand, as was Johnson's general incompetence and fecklessness, so last year the Tories themselves ditched him. But the party is already on his second replacement as prime minister (Rishi Sunak), and

Johnson still hopes to make a come-back.

The biggest obstacle to that is the Privileges Committee, because if it finds him guilty of lying to Parliament it can recommend that he be suspended or even expelled from Parliament. That would end his come-back hopes – but there was a last-minute hitch.

Sue Gray is a senior career civil servant who worked in the prime minister's office as 'ethics adviser'. She led the inquiry into the allegations of drunken parties in Downing Street, which criticised the prime minister for "failures of leadership and judgement.'

But last Thursday she announced that she was quitting the civil service and taking a job as chief of staff to Labour Party leader Keir Starmer. Johnson's

supporters instantly realised that this could be used to wash away Johnson's sins.

As his devoted backer Jacob Rees-Mogg put it: "So much for an impartial Civil Service. The Gray

Keport now looks like a left-wing stitch up against a Tory prime minister." I'm a simple, trusting soul, so I swallowed the idea that Gray and Starmer had made a big political mistake by letting Johnson wriggle off the hook like that. Gray's change of job didn't really discredit the evidence against Johnson, but you know how people think.

However, my wife Tina Machiavelli - 'Tina Viljoen' to the rest of the world – saw right through it. She immediately asked: Why would Starmer and Gray deliberately schedule the latter's resignation for the precise week when they knew the Parliamentary Privileges Committee would be releasing

It's almost as if they want to keep Johnson in play. Another leadership struggle would further discredit the Tories, and if Johnson became prime minister again he would probably be easier to beat in next year's election.

Even if Rishi Sunak stays the course, the Conservatives will probably lose the 2024 election – they're just too far gone. At that point some of the demoralised survivors would certainly turn to Johnson to lead the party back out of the wilderness, while others would still blame him for wrecking the brand.

That could even split the Conservative party permanently. The trajectories of Boris Johnson and Donald Trump grow ever more closely aligned.

That may not all happen. From the point of view of Keir Starmer, Sue Gray and the Labour Party,

however, what's not to like?



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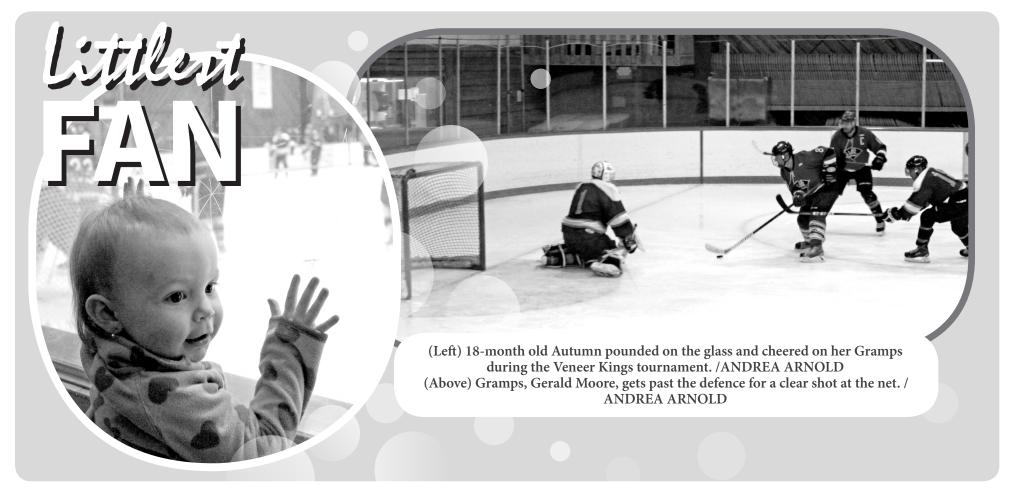
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Sledder numbers down across the valley

By Andrea Arnold

Both the McBride and Valemount communities have been affected by low snowmobile numbers so far this season.

According to the groomer report, the three main sledding destinations in the McBride area, Lucille, Belle and Renshaw fell from 8449 last season to 5740 in the same three month span this year.

"Due to lack of snow and warm weather at the beginning of the season it gave a slow start to our sled season," said Dave Mcleod, president of the McBride Big country Snowmobile Association. "Things are ramping up with new snow in the forecast."

Valemount has also seen a significant decrease in sledder tourism this year. The three most frequently visited areas around the community, Allan Creek, Chappell Creek and Clemina Creek have all had less traffic. Between December 2021- February 2022, the area had 12,738 users. This year, the same three months brought 8,330 riders to

the trails.

"There are many factors that play into this including weather, perceived lack of accommodation, as well as drastically rising costs of living," said Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association Executive Director Curtis Pawliuk. "VARDA will continue to work closely with Tourism Valemount and our other stakeholders to try to encourage users to return to our beautiful valley for recreation in the years ahead."

Sledding Numbers 2022-2023 Season

McBride	Valemount
Dec 2021 - 2,345	Dec 2021 -3,427
Jan 2022 - 2,724	Jan 2022 - 6,415
Feb 2022 - 3,380	Feb 2022 - 2,896
TOTAL - 8,449	TOTAL - 12,738
Dec 2022 - 1,728	Dec 2022 - 1,878
Jan 2023 - 1,276	Jan 2023 - 3,222
Feb 2023 - 2,736	Feb 2023 - 3,230
TOTAL - 5,740	TOTAL - 8,330

www.valemount.ca

Village of Valemount

Notice of Public Hearing

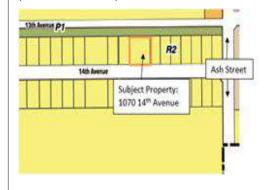
Please Take Notice that a **Public Hearing** for Temporary Use Permit TUP-23-01 will be held:

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm Council Chambers, Village Office 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC

1. Temporary Use Permit 23-01

Proposes the renewal of TUP-21-05 (TUP 23-01) to permit 1 recreational vehicle to be used as a residence for a period of 3 years.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Parcel A Plan PGP26762 District Lot 7355 Land District 05 Being A Consolidation of Lots 8 & 9 SEE CA4751352. (1070 14th Avenue)



Cont.

At the Public Hearing, anyone who deems their interest in land to be affected by the proposed Temporary Use Permit TUP-23-01 shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard. Comments may be made in person at the Public Hearing.

Written submissions can be submitted via email to publichearing@valemount.ca, or via letter to the Village of Valemount. Written submissions will be accepted until 12:00 pm on March 14, 2023.

All correspondence and materials submitted in response to this Notice will form part of a public record.

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

Digital copies of TUP-23-01 are available at www.valemount.ca. Paper copies will be available for viewing during regular office hours (Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm - 4:30 p.m.), until March 14, 2023 at the Village Office, 735 Cranberry Lake Road.

WE ARE HIRING!!

The Valemount Visitor Information Centre is hiring seasonal counsellors who are passionate about Valemount and supporting remarkable visitor experiences. If you can recommend a top-notch hiking/biking trail, a good place to eat or to stay, or read a map upside down, we'd love to hear from you!

Visit: www.valemount.ca/village-office/job-postings/

Bid Opportunity

2023 Valemount Lift Station Projects

(Dogwood and East Area Lift Station)

Reference No.: 0433.0052.03

Tender Documents and reference material for this Contract will only be distributed electronically in digital format through the tendering website at: https://urbansystems.bidsandtenders.ca/.

Tender Closing Time: 02:00:00 Local Time **Tender Closing Date:** March 16, 2023

through the tendering website

at: https://urbansystems.bidsandtenders.ca/.



Valemount | McBride | Dunster | Blue River

Thursday March 9th 2023





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Illegal backyard dwelling... CONT'D FROM A1

A stop work order was issued for unauthorized alterations and structural repairs in August 2021. In January 2022 a bylaw violation was given due to the unauthorized installation of a wood burning appliance. March 2022 a final notice was given regarding the bylaw violations. And in December 2022 another letter inviting the property owner to be heard by council or submit comments and information by noon on Jan 10 was sent. However, no response was forthcoming. The letter also stated that there is a fee to have a notice on title removed once it it in place.

The letter sent in January contained similar information and gave the property owner another opportunity to be heard by council at the meeting on the 28th, or submit comments and relevant information by noon on Feb 27.

Depenau reported that contact was made with the individual on Monday, Feb 27 at 11:50 am. He said that the owner seems to show willingness to comply. They said they are unaware of any previous correspondence regarding the secondary structure but village staff are not convinced that statement is accurate.

By unanimous vote, Council agreed to proceed with placing a notice on title on the property, protecting those with an interest in the property.

"A notice on title can be removed once outstanding issues are addressed," said CAO Depenau. "The Village is in contact with the owner and we look forward to working together to resolve the current concerns."

Councillor Blanchette again expressed great concern regarding the wood burning appliance and safety. However, with the new knowledge that the owner is not on site, she agreed sending the RCMP may not be the best option.

Council agreed to determine where jurisdiction lies and then move forward to resolve the issue.

"It is hoped that the owner of the property in question will work to reach compliance with the building code and local bylaws," said CAO Depenau.





MON - SAT: **9 AM - 6 PM REGULAR HOURS SUNDAY: 10 AM - 4 PM**

Valemount IDA 1214 5th Avenue 250-566-4594

Alyssa poses on the "red carpet" during the Canskate 2 and 3 performance

VALEMOUNT HISTORIC SOCIETY

AGM, WED MARCH 22nd at 2:00 PM

Downstairs, Valemount Public Library. We need new board members, please come out if you are interested in the history of Valemount and the Robson Valley.

For info, call **Paul**

250-566-9154



The Valemount Community Sport Days Association's Annual General Meeting is April 6th at 6:30pm at the Rocky Mountain Goat (1170 5th Ave, Valemount). Consider joining our board or becoming a volunteer! For more info contact Laura: lauraishere@gmail.com

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The Pine Siskin is a relatively common, small finch of conifer woodlands and some mixed woods. Perched on a branch this little one is enjoying some black oil sunflower seeds. In the winter Siskins gather in groups with lesser Redpolls and feed on seeds in birch and alder woodland, as well as bird tables. They tend to flock to thistle or nyjer feeders and other small seeds such as millet or hulled sunflower seeds. They may hang around whole sunflower seed feeders if heavier billed-birds are messy eaters and drop seed bits. There are also contact calls,

which birds can use to talk to each other when foraging for food. When looking at the back of the male Pine Siskin you will see they are brown with a whitish and coarse, dark streaking on the belly. The female Pine Siskins are similar to the males in appearance, but their tails are greatly reduced in colour. For reasons that are not fully understood, Pine Siskins are particularly susceptible to salmonella. When large numbers of Pine Siskins congregate day after day, particularly during the stressful winter months, salmonella can quickly spread through a local population. / SANDRA JAMES





On the Feb 18th day of Family Day weekend, VARDA and the Best Western Plus Valemount Inn and Suites held a BBQ at the Allan Creek alpine shelter. VARDA GM Curtis Pawliuk says riders were greeted with amazing food, smiles, high fives and music as they came to the shelter for a warm up or rest. Best Western and VARDA staff and volunteers put on the BBQ which was by donation. All donations were to be split between the two local schools for use towards their food programs. \$850 was raised that day and each school received a donation of \$425. SUBMITTED





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Better Acoustics ~~ Moreon McBride Community Centre

By Andrea Arnold

The McBride Community Centre is finally receiving some upgrades that will vastly improve the sound quality in the main hall area.

The original hall design included full-length acoustic block walls on the two longer sides, which would have included internal baffles. But with a vision to use the hall for floor hockey, basketball and other sports, the facilities manager at the time had the architect change the plans resulting in plywood surfaces.

Dale Stephens, a member of the Roadside Splinters, a band that often performs in the space as well as a member of the Community Consultation Committee, is thrilled to see the change finally

Stephens says with most of the surfaces in the hall being hard, the reverberation time (RT) on sound was so long that it made any sound a cacophony. In 2017 he was approached by facilities manager Lyle Lewis to see what could be done to improve the sound.

"Using acoustic software, I tested the acoustics in the hall and determined an RT of 4.5 seconds," said Stephens. "This is how long the sound bounces around until it cannot be heard. If you can imagine that every sound that is made reverberates (bounces around) for almost 5 seconds."

During an event there are hundreds of sounds being made all at once.

"It is a continuum of sounds, some fading, some just being made, some half-done."

Stephens says that it becomes like white noise with no single sound discernible. For people who are hearing impaired or have hearing aids, it has been nearly impossible to fully enjoy events held at the hall.

In every type of architecture, there are expected reverb times. For example, a gymnasium should come in under three seconds and lecture halls should have a one to 1.5 second RT time.

The 60 panels that have been installed along the ceiling of the Community Centre, in addition to panels that have been installed on the walls of

the stage area should, according to the modeled engineering, reduce the original 4.5 reverb reading down to closer to 1.25.

"This is excellent," said Stephens.

The installation has been a long time coming. The sound issue has plagued events since the building was built in 2007. Following the testing the Stephens performed in 2017, they received quotes from acoustic companies inline with the Regional Districts procurement policies, and a company out of Edmonton, Western Noise Control Acoustic Solutions, came up with an excellent solution at a reasonable price.

"Unfortunately the proposed budget was repeatedly not approved," said Stephens.

Following a \$5000 donation by the McBride Old Timers Hockey Club, approval was still not granted. In 2021 Lewis asked Stephens to request a re-quote from Acoustic Solutions as he felt the money was in the budget to complete the project.

"The company held its price from the original quote," said Stephens. "Once again the budget was not approved by the Regional District."

In the summer of 2022, the Community Consultation Committee put forward a motion to be presented by Regional District elected representative Dannielle Allen, and Council Regional District Board Member Alan Frederick.

"In August 2022 the Board accepted our motion and passed the resolution," said Stephens.

The project, supplies and installation comes in at \$25,787 without applicable taxes. The Recreation Centre capital budget has covered the amount not covered by the Oldtimers donation.

Employees from Western Noise Control Engineered Acoustic Solutions installed the baffles on Wednesday and Thursday this past week, and the difference in sound even part way through installation was noticeable.

Stephens is thrilled to see the improvements being

"I fought the decision to alter the original design, and I have fought to have it mitigated ever since," he said. "It will make a world of difference to every gathering or performance."



Tony Timotini hands up one of 60, 10lb sound baffles to Stephen Lance as they near the end of the installation at the McBride Community Centre. The new baffles will cut the reverberation time of noise by over half. This will provide event goers a clearer sound by eliminating most of the echo bouncing around the room. /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.



Seed Starting Care

As this is the time of year when our green thumbs really begin to itch, I want to point out how important it Others need light to germinate well. Press them lightly is to plant our seeds with care if we are starting some of our own bedding plants.

How deeply we plant the seeds is so important to success with germination. The general rule of thumb is to plant seeds about three times deeper than the seed is thick. For most seeds, a ¼ inch (.6cm) is about right.

Most seeds will respond well to subdued light if they have the warmth and humidity to encourage germination. Many people plant the seeds and then place the container inside a plastic bag that is closed loosely around the container to allow some air circulation. Others cover the container with a piece of glass. If you use this method and the inside of the glass or plastic becomes covered with moisture, turn the glass or plastic daily to get rid of the excess moisture or you could end up with a mouldy mess.

Some seeds germinate best with complete darkness. Plant them in a good potting mix (sterilized if you don't want to worry about damp-off disease) and put them in a warm place with a dark cover of cardboard over them. Seeds such as pansy, calendula, gazania, bachelor's buttons, ice plant, painted tongue and forget-me-nots

like the darkness.

into the soil, dampen them well, cover with plastic or glass and place in light to germinate. You can do this to alyssum, begonia, ageratum, coleus, lobelia, monkey flower, Nicotiana, portulaca, salvia, snapdragon, petunia, dusty miller, lettuce and celery.

You have to keep the soil moist enough to start the sprouting but not so wet as to foster rotting. Usually you don't have to water until after sprouting and the cover is removed. If the soil dries out, you can mist the surface until it is moist again but keep an eye on the cover for the next day to make sure there is not a lot of condensation on the glass or plastic.

Most seeds germinate best at around 20C (70F). Celery likes 20C in the day and around 15C(60F) at night. Some like onion, leeks and primula prefer 15C(60F) all the time. Pre-chilling in the fridge or freezer for a week will help sprouting in snapdragons, pansy, parsley, sweet peas and nasturtiums.

Many seed catalogues and gardening books tell the optimum germination temperature and light levels for each seed. You can make up your own list of the seeds

Having said all this, most seeds will germinate even if you don't give them their "ideal" temperature and light. They will just take a bit longer to show themselves!

As soon as the seeds sprout, remove the cover and place them in a bright place with a bit cooler temperatures to encourage sturdy, bushy transplants. Thin them out as soon as they get their first set of true leaves. You can water them every week or so with a dilute fertilizer of you choice - about 1/4 strength. Keep the soil moist but not wet and try to have them in a place with good air circulation. Watering in the morning is best so the soil surface can dry out before nightfall. Putting little plants to bed wet tends to encourage damp-off disease.



ROSSWORD

Answers on P13

Across

- 1 What to call a ketch
- 4 Warty hopper
- 8 Umpire's cry
- 11 "We the World"
- 12 Deeply invested
- 13 Grow old
- 14 Lady horse
- 15 Coordination activities
- 17 Rock of
- 19 Bird domicile
- 20 World's largest continent
- 22 Pump
- 24 Down-to-earth
- 27 Foot extension
- 30 Controls
- 31 Ethnic
- 33 Plead for
- 34 Ride a wave
- 35 Last word in chess
- 38 Bakers' wares
- 40 Collared

3

1

9

43 Small even number

1

6

8

3

7

5

7

2

7

8 6

- 46 Shooter pellet
- 47 Return to health
- 48 Place for a stud
- 49 Put to words
- 50 Maneuver gently
- 51 Salon job

Down

- 1 Hornswoggled
- 2 Notable period
- 4 Proctor's call
- 5 Cash-drawer contents
- 6 Absorbed, as losses
- com
- 8 Narrow street
- 9 They may be boiled
- 10 Midterm, e.g.
- 16 Sign, a contract
- 18 Throttle
- 20 Good wood
- 21 Diver's milieu
- 22 Detergent brand

9

4

3

7

5

7 2

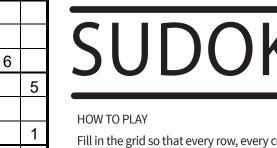
5

6

9

- 24 28 46 48
 - 23 Adjust the time
 - 25 Get the job done
 - 26 Fan
 - 27 Committed
 - 28 Boating equipment
 - 29 Polar helper
 - 32 Put to work
 - 33 Bumble
- 35 Location finders
- 36 Purview
- 37 Butler's server
- 38 Legumes

- 42 Beverage
- 44 "No ___!"



Answers on P13

4

already have a few numbers to get you started. through 9 in the samee line, column or 3x3 box.

The Toughie by Myles Mellor

Across

- 1. Aussie rock band
- 5. Piles
- 9. Goes with fi 12. Cuckoo's announcement
- 13. When many return from lunch
- 15. She follows an
- 16. Michigan town or 65. Columnist Bom-
- its college 17. Transplant facili- 66. N.Y.C. zone tator
- 18. Hide 19. Sweet sounding
- waters 22. Mouths, in zool-
- 23. Misfortune
- 24. Banana
- 28. Singer who made 4. "The Deadliest it big on TikTok
- 34. Ages
- 35. Bat's home 36. Concert ending
- 37. Where a delta might be
- 42. Fonda
- 43. Large lake
- 44. "___, vidi, vici" (Caesar's boast)
- 45. They collect in a delta

- Court decision name 50. Attorneys' org 52. It runs downhill 60. Up in ; out
 - raged 61. Origin of the
 - word "cheetah" 62. Abhor
 - 63. Ms. Zadora 64. Finished
 - beck
 - 67. Phoenician trading center
 - 68. Kind of D.A.

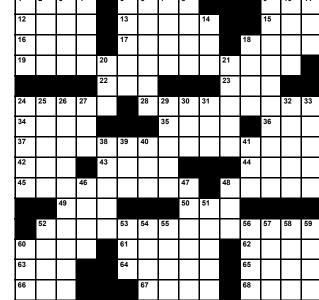
- 6. Discordant
- stone National Park
- 10. Malediction
- 14. Do wrong
- 48. Range rovers 49. 1973 Supreme
- 1. Queequeg's captain 2. Pepsi, for one 3. Slow Catch" catch 5. The lowest point
- 7. Word after beer 8. Prig 9. It starts in Yellow-
- 11. It's kept in a pen
- synthesizer 20. What a house
- stands on 21. Proprietor
- - 24. Tournament round 25. Lying face down
 - 26. Cleaning locale 27. Federal ending 29. Combo of eight 30. Expression of
 - support 31. First mate 32. Put ____ to
 - 33. Toyota hybrid car Your Hand" 38. Macho guys
- an interesting 55. 500 spot offer for you....
- 47. Orbital the carpentry shop) 48. Job
- 51. "I Saw Her
 - 52. Dr.'s orders

- 39 Unproductive 41 Yacht personification
- 45 Vein stuff

SUDOKU

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 Remember. You must not repeat the numbers 1



- 40. Bass part
- 46. Markers
- Standing There," visà-vis "I Want to Hold 60. Primate
- 39. Raw metal source 53. Definite article
- drooping 58. 24-hr. conveniences 59. Vegetarian's no-no

56. Ostrich's cousin

57. Can be pointed or

54. "

She Sweet?"

- Answers on P13

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS Strive and Resolution FOR THE WEEK OF March 12, 2023 and control what we can. Strive and Resolution in the Week SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Balance

HOROSCOPES

of Saint Patrick The patron saint of Ireland was a child torn from his family by raiders, a slave and a victim of near starvation before he fled and found passage back to his family and wrote records of his many travails. Saint Patrick was credited with driving the snakes out of Ireland, though it has also been suggested this is a metaphor, as fossil records indicate Ireland, due to Ice Age geography, has been snakeless for a million years. Regardless, we celebrate many kinds of luck this week, with Neptune involved in strife and resolution to echo the story of Saint Patrick.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You want what another person has, but you wouldn't give up being you to get it. You'll give up envy and gain energy, plus the knowledge that your goals can and will be accomplished in your own way, and in your own time. You will love them all the more and know they are enough for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are those who see each insect as a pest and others who see each insect as magnificent and weird. You're able to swing from one mind to the other on this and any issue. You can appreciate things for what they are, but your perception and reaction shifts radically once a thing invades

your territory. GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Some truths have to be sniffed out, dug for, quested, but not the truth you discover this week. It's right in front of you, and you don't even have to be very aware to notice it. If you miss it the first time, you'll trip over it the

next. It wants to be known by you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It occurs to you that you have it pretty good. Sure, you could think of 10 ways right off the top of your head to have it better. But with your poetic perspective, you'll see how the banged-up parts of life, relationships and your material surroundings are quite worth cherishing for their beautiful imperfections.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't prefer to work under pressure, and yet you can't help but notice how good you are at it this week. Things get done quickly, not despite the stress but because of it. Furthermore. you're able to wrangle amazing deals because a quick buck is appealing to

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The work is fascinating and it goes quickly this week, especially the work you're not exactly supposed to be doing. But you'll get it all finished — the side projects as well as that which you're duty-bound to -- and make friends in the process. People admire your fairness and you'll be called on to mediate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The trick to getting the important things handled is super simple: Schedule them and stick to the schedule. You won't want to do the thing when it comes up on the calendar. Do it anyway. There are uncontrollable things happening to and because of us. There are storms inside us that ripple out, and events miles away that resonate at our core. It's a day to respect the wilderness

requires wisdom. When you are in the heat of a difficult part of life, you counteract the stress by going easy on yourself in your downtime and prioritizing your own comfort and care. But when life is coasting along, you seek challenges in your downtime to keep things interesting. You'll strike the most healthful equilibrium this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Simplicity and frugality are not so difficult to pull off this week. These qualities are what's needed to gather enough resources to execute a big plan for the future. It also helps that you don't really want to impress anyone and there's nothing to gain from showing off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). For someone to act in accordance with the greater good, they have to notice and understand what that is. You will be adding friends to your fold this week. Be on the lookout for bright minds, big hearts and observant people with a social conscience. When you align with these types, you can achieve much good together without much effort.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The task at hand seems daunting, but dive in anyway. With your gracious communication style, people will be delighted to help you. A few excellent questions get the ball rolling. You don't need to know everything; you just need to know enough to get to the next step. Bonus: Your prior experience is more related than you may have guessed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Outreach will be your success key this week. Freshen up your connections with a check-in phone call, or throw a party to enliven your social swirl. Ask friends for introductions and talk to people you don't know. The more people you tell about your dreams and schemes, the closer you'll be to making them true.

tHIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: This year represents a liberation. You'll feel freer inside of relationships and become even more comfortable in your own skin. As a result, your presence is enlivening to others and people will show you a different side of themselves. You'll have a blast in a group or class setting that meets regularly. Physical aspects of your being will be healed and strengthened with a regular practice. This will be easier to keep with the inspiring people around you doing the same thing. Family will celebrate a major accomplishment with you.

Holiday Mathis' debut novel, "How To Fail Epically in Hollywood," is out now! This fastpaced romp about achieving Hollywood stardom is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http:// www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

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ROBSON VALLEY Community Events

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

VALEMOUNT

TUEs MAR 14th, 21, 28th Dancing for Seniors with Laurel a 3 part series welcomes all skill levels and experiences (no partner needed) from 1-2:30pm this drop-in program at RVCS (99 Gorse St). Registration is required 250-566-9107/ events@rvcsbc.org.

FRI MAR 17th and 24th Yolking Around 8-10 year olds are invited to join, kids will build structures to protect an egg during an egg drop!. Registration is required for this two-part series. 250-566-9107/ events@rvcsbc.org

FRI MAR 17th and 24th Hop Into Spring ages 5-7 year olds are invited to join exhilarating activities. Registration is required for this two-part series. 250-566-9107/ events@ rvcsbc.org

WED MAR 29 from 12-2pm Seniors Painting Workshop with Leaha seniors are invited to come along and get creative at RVCS (99 Gorse St) All materials provided and registration is required by March 15th. 250-566-9107/ events@rvcsbc.org

THURs MAR 9 & 23rd Tech Support Bring your devices & tech related questions for some one-to-one assistance from 1:30-3pm at RVCS (99 Gorse St) Registration Not Required.

WEDs MAR 15, 22, 29 from 10:30-11:15am 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.

Valemount Public Library Annual General Meeting WED MAR 29th @ 7pm Downstairs at the library Refreshments provided Everyone welcome! Board positions available.

Valemount Ongoing Events

MONs Family Place Drop-In is 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). This month it's Mother Goose 9:30-10:30 am and Craft time.

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

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

MONs Seniors Drop-In is no longer running. Our Seniors Program Coordinator will instead 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.

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 and Pantry are 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! Emergency top-up food is accessible to our clients and anyone who walks through the door.

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 at 7pm the old timers play live music at the Golden Years Lodge. Bring your dancing shoes.

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. Friday, contact Pete Pearson at 250-566-1115.

MCBRIDE

MONs MAR 14, 21 & 28 seniors are invited to Dance Exercise with Jodie at the Beaverview Lodge (1084 5th Ave). Drop in and try out some seated dance moves and exercises each week. No registration required. In partnership with RVCS. Call Jodie for more info: 250-230-8035

TUEs Seniors Physiotherapy Health Series with Vanessa McGibbon is a 3 part series starting Tuesdays MAR 14th and 21st fall prevention, strengthening and pelvic floor health. RVCS (942 3rd Ave) Registration is not required.

TUE MAR 14th Slime Making and Skating ages 7-10 year olds come create home-made slime to take home and get some ice skating time from 1-4pm. Registration is required 250-569-2266/ events@rvcsbc.or

Wed MAR 15th Lego Play and Skating ages 7-10 yearolds come build cool structures using Lego and your own imagination! Along with skate time from 1-4pm. Registration is required 250-569-2266/ events@rvcsbc.org

TUE or WED MAR 21st or 22nd McBride's Great Big Scavenger Hunt Register for either date to take part in a community wide scavenger hunt 9:30-12:30pm. Registration is required 250-569-2266/ events@rvcsbc.org

THUR MAR 23 from 1-3pm Rock Painting for Seniors from 1-3pm seniors are invited to channel their inner Picasso while painting rocks at RVCS (942 3rd Ave). No artistic experience necessary and all materials are provided. Registration is required by March 14th.

THUR MAR 23 from 4-5pm it's the next Men's Shed Meeting in McBride at 942 3rd Ave. Led by men for men! Let's discuss topics the group is interested in. Snacks provided. No registration required. 250-569-2266 for more info.

Sat. MAR 25 McBride Farmers Institute Banquet with guest speaker Vanesse Foord, M.Sc. P.Ag. Research Climatologist. Location is the McBride Community Centre 441 Columbia St. 2pm Check out the display booths, 5pm Meet and Greet, 6pm Dinner. Tickets can be purchased at Horseshoe Lake Ventures and Welcome Home. \$25 per adult, and \$1/year for children. Children 0-3 are free. Silent auction, door prizes, product booths and more.

McBride Ongoing Events

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.

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

MONs Family Place Drop-In is on Mondays from 9am-noon at RVCS (942 3rd Ave) and 1pm-4pm. 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

TUESs Chess Club - 5-6pm at the library. All ages and abilities welcome.

WEDs Seniors Drop-In Coffee House is every second Wednesday from 1-3pm with Sandy. All seniors are invited to come by for some social time, a warm beverage and snacks at RVCS (942 3rd ave). Next dates are: MAR 15 & 29th. Call 250-569-2266 for more information.

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

MAR 11 The Open Gate Community Garden is hosting

DUNSTER

the 10th Annual Seedy Saturday 10-3 pm at the Dunster Schoolhouse Doors open at 9:30. There will be presentations, displays, vendors, bee displays, seed library, gardening magazines and books, homemade preserves & goodies, earth ware pottery planters, seed sales and lots

Notice of Intent Fort George District Road Closure

Notice is given, pursuant to Section 60(2) of the *Transportation Act*, that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has received an application to permanently close an unconstructed road right-of-way located approximately 26 kilometres south of Valemount, B.C., near Highway 5, and consolidate it with the following adjacent lot:

Lot A, District Lot 5739, Cariboo District Plan 21779

A copy of the plan showing the proposed road closure can be emailed upon request.

Anyone supporting or objecting to this road closure should submit written comments to the ministry's Fort George District office at 360-1011 4th Avenue, Prince George, B.C., V2L 3H9, or by email to DA.FortGeorge@gov.bc.ca no later than April 9, 2023.

For more information, or to request a copy of the plan, please contact the ministry's Fort George office at 250 565-4410 or at DA.FortGeorge@gov.bc.ca



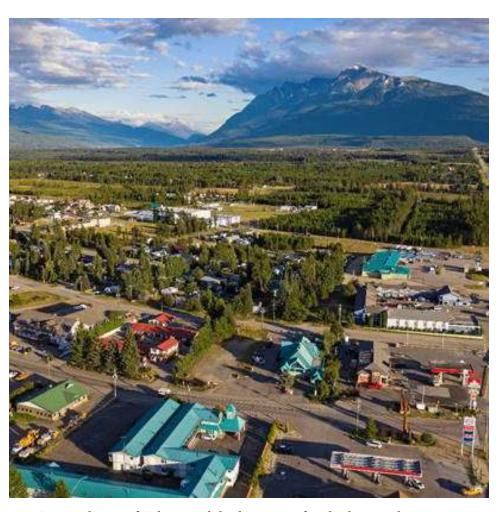
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Valemount vies for **STRONGEST TOWN TITLE**



An aerial view of Valemount's highway interface looking at the majestic Canoe Mountain. While the Highway could make it easy to drive past without visiting, the great work done by locals to create a place worth visiting pulls thousands off of the highway and into our mountain paradise every year. /TOURISM VALEMOUNT

By Goat Staff

The Village of Valemount has submitted an application to the international Strongest Town Contest organized by Strong Towns, a non-profit based in the US. Communities nominate their town or city for embodying the Strongest Town

approach to building stronger and more financially resilient communities.

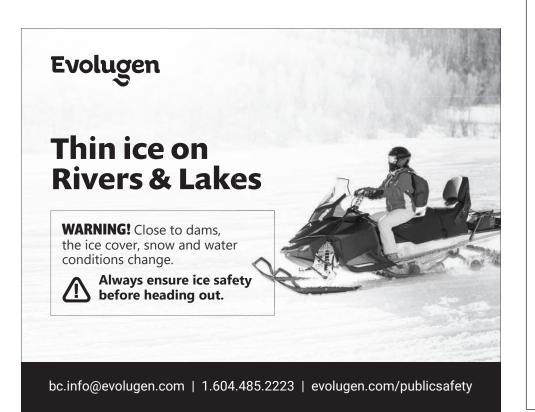
Mayor Owen Torgerson said in an email that the contest is not necessarily looking for those communities that have it made, but are more interested in highlighting towns and cities doing the hard work of becoming stronger, putting in place the processes, systems, and commitments that build enduring resilience and long-term prosperity.

"We think Valemount has a mix of physical and policy items that make our community well positioned to be featured in the contest."

On Mon. March 13th, the top 16 finalists are published, and Strong Towns readers vote for the strongest.

The Village encourages people to join Team Valemount in promoting the village and all it has to offer on social media by tagging @StrongTowns.

The Village says on March 13th it will announce details on how to get involved should Valemount make it into the voting stage.





Reducing Food Waste

Food waste is an urgent, but solvable, crisis. Globally, one third of all food produced is wasted, and closer to home, it is even worse. In Canada 63% of the food we throw away each year could have been eaten – this is equal to 140 kilograms of wasted food per household!

With this in mind, the Regional District wants to help residents make their food go further and waste less. Here are some simple tips from Love Food Hate Waste to reduce food waste:

Plan it Out

The most effective way to reduce food waste at home – and save money – is to make a meal plan. Buy just what you need and use everything you buy. The less you buy, the less you waste.

Keep it Fresh

Do you know the best way to store produce and stock a fridge? Love Food Hate Waste shares proven methods, and also a freezer guide and details on shelf life.

Use it Up

Use up all the food you buy – from reviving food past its peak, to decoding best before dates and using up leftovers. Love Food Hate Waste has recipes to salvage foods destined for the garbage bin, and tips on drying or canning fruits and vegetables.

For more food waste reducing tips, visit **lovefoodhatewaste.ca**, or follow them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Recycling Kitchen Scraps

Potato peelings, coffee grounds, egg shells, banana peels and apple cores are all kitchen scraps produced on a daily basis. Instead of throwing them in the garbage, they can be easily recycled:

- Offer fruit and vegetable scraps to farmers to feed chickens, pigs or goats.
- Try vermicomposting, an effective food scrap composting process that uses Red Wriggler worms. It can be done indoors on a small scale, and it does not take up much space.
- Backyard composters can handle uncooked food scraps, coffee grounds and egg shells. Compost adds nutrients to the soil, and improves its texture and balance – making your food and ornamental plants grow better.

For more composting details, visit **reaps.org** or find REAPS' virtual workshops on Facebook.



Purchase your own Composter

When residents start composting, up to 50% of organic waste is diverted from the landfill so the Regional District has a program to help you get started turning food and yard waste into nutrient-rich soil for your garden. Purchase an Earth Machine[®], a durable 80 gallon backyard compost bin, and a helpful Wingdigger stirring tool at reduced rates, subsidized by the Regional District.

To order composters and stirring tools, email environment@rdffg.bc.ca

Earth Machine® composters \$50

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Wingdigger stirring tools \$24





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VALEMOUNT



Close to town and with easy access to the highway, this nearly 30 acres sits along the Valemount Industrial Park and offers good opportunity for light industrial development, recreational development or potential mixed use to include an onsite residence for the business

1460 9th Avenue

VALEMOUNT



This large commercial property is ripe for development. With broad tourism/highway commercial zoning in place, the options are many. At approximately 1.8 acres just off the main highway, the location provides both good visibility and access.

1340 Main Street

VALEMOUNT



This truly unique property presents all kinds of opportunities. Within municipal boundaries and extensive frontage along Swift Creek, you'll have 30 acres for your rural dream on one hand and easy access to amenities on the other.

1233 3rd Avenue

VALEMOUNT



Located 2 blocks off the main business core, this lot boasts the extra square footage found on this side of town. With 360 degree views of the 3 mountain ranges surrounding the community, you'll be reminded daily of the mountain lifestyle you have chosen.

DIFFERENT



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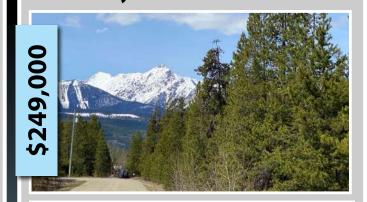
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14140 Blackman Road **VALEMOUNT**

\$269,000

Hot Off the Press! This fantastic small acreage packs a lot of punch! 4.22 acres which has two zonings, C1 commercial and R1 residential. Imagine all the possibilities for this zoning. Existing power shed, a well, mountain views all around and easy access off of Hwy 5 in Tete Jaune BC. Just a short drive into Valemount. This one won't last long!

Lot 1 Sawyer Rd VALEMOUNT



5.37 Acres! This nice little chunk of land has huge potential. Located only a 5 minute drive from town and a short drive to Kinbasket Lake. Zoned M2 Industrial but perfectly fine to build the home of your dreams. Live and run your business on the same property. Corner lot, great views and desirable location.

1212 2nd Ave VALEMOUNT

lammy

250-566-1025

Tammy VandeNobelen

tammyvan@royallepage.ca



will be wowed s modern living en concept, huge island, ots go cupboards and amazing pantry. 4 bedrooms (3 up — 1 down), just under 2500 sq ft on 2 floors. Enjoy the BBQ year round on the covered deck! Large lot with fenced backyard, good sized garage and just a short walk to the downtown! Best bang for your Buck!

Lot 3 Finch VALEMOUNT

