

In-town pump track proposed

Rocky Mountain GOAT

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Province leases ATCO camp for possible wildfire evacuees See P9



The former pipeline accommodation camp used by Trans Mountain Expansion workers closed in May and was supposed to be dismantled this summer. Dorms remain at the request of the Province in case they are neeed to house wildfire evacuees. Read more on P9. /LAURA KEIL

Drought could cause "block" in water system come winter

By Andrea Arnold

David Franzman and Rob Radloff from Radloff and Associates presented to McBride Council on Tuesday August 22nd regarding impacts of drought on the Dominion Creek Community Drinking Water System.

Franzman said the creek is very low for this time of year and they are concerned that if it stays this low and freezes it will create a block for water entering the village system. They are also worried about the fire suppression water supply, as it all comes from the same place. At this point, it is estimated that the village

is drawing about half of the water that comes down the creek. The province can restrict water use in order to maintain aquatic life if needed, through the Water Sustainability Act. This step has not been taken yet, but village staff are concerned that it may happen.

On July 11, 2023 a notice was sent out to all village of McBride water users asking for water conservation. It asked that only homes with even numbers water on even days and odd numbered homes on odd days. Also, that watering does not happen during the heat of the day. Franzman pointed out that in the days following that release, water usage increased and has

stayed in the high range most days since. Franzman suggested that in addition

to amending the bylaw the Village look for an alternate backup water source, the Village of McBride Water Emergency Response Plan be edited to include procedures required in the event of low flows in Dominion Creek and to educate the public.

Following the presentation, Council

posting on Village Facebook, posting on Village website.

direct staff to communicate the Village of McBride Watering Restrictions as outlined in Water Bylaw No. 737, 2013. The multiple methods will help reach more of the residents.

Finally, Council also directed staff to schedule a Town Hall meeting on September 28, 2023 for the purposes of providing information to the community on the current drought situation. They will be inviting key stakeholders are to attend and provide an update from their respective organizations.

approved the creation of a bylaw amendment to the Village of McBride Water Emergency Response Plan to add procedures required in the event of low flows in Dominion Creek.

Council also voted to use postal mailout,





This huge elk was calmly having his dinner in the grass along the highway just outside Jasper on Wednesday evening. We were forced to come to a complete stop as people ran across the road to get closer to it for a photo op. As we slowly made our way through the traffic jam, Park Canada employees were telling tourists to please return to their vehicle.

Parks Canada recently sent out a notice reminding people that it is rutting season and elk are especially unpredictable at this time.

From late August to mid-October, Jasper National Park is noisy with the bugling calls of bull elk, which sound like a high-pitched roar followed by low coughs or grunts. During the rutting (mating) season, elk form groups called harems, with one dominant bull elk and many females. Bulls become extremely aggressive as they are protecting their harems from other males.

Parks Canada regulations require a distance of at least 30 meters away for viewing elk. Photograph the animal in its natural environment or use a telephoto lens rather than moving closer to the animal. Do not follow elk into the bush, nor try enticing them with food or by simulating animal calls. While it might be tempting, taking a selfie with wildlife is dangerous; never put people (especially children) at risk by posing them with wildlife. / ANDREA ARNOLD

How to avoid a negative elk encounter

- Stay 30 metres (three bus lengths) away from all elk.
- Travel in groups and keep everyone together; children should be within arm's reach. Carry pepper spray and consider a visual deterrent like a walking stick or umbrella.
- Dogs must be on leash and under control. Elk view dogs as potential predators and may charge or attack them. Consider leaving your dog at home.
- Never stand, walk, drive, or park your car between a male and the females.

Village of Valemount purchases electric Ford Lightning

By Laura Keil

The Village of Valemount is switching away from fossil fuels with the purchase of a fully-electric Ford Lightning pick-up truck.

The truck replaces a 1990s fleet vehicle and the Village says by securing grant funding for the Ford Lightning, a muchneeded replacement has been completed without burdening taxpayers. The village says the purchase will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and save money in the long-term. The \$97,046.40 purchase was made possible through grant funding from Columbia Basin Trust's Charge Up Program (\$66,530) and BC's Local Government Climate Action Program (\$30,516.40). The Village says the purchase marks a significant step in ongoing efforts to create a sustainable and eco-conscious operation. "The transition to an eventual alternative-fuel fleet enhances our environmental stewardship by significantly reducing our overall carbon footprint," says Mayor Owen Torgerson. "EVs produce zero tailpipe emissions while also promoting cleaner air quality. This proactive approach to environmental responsibility not only demonstrates our commitment to combating climate change, the financial benefits of adopting electric vehicles in a fleet are very compelling."

Torgerson says EVs offer substantial cost savings over the long term due to reduced maintenance and lower operating

expenses. "With fewer moving parts, EVs experience less wear and tear, leading to



decreased maintenance and downtime. Additionally, the significantly lower fueling costs of electricity compared to conventional fuels translate into substantial savings, particularly for our Public Works fleet that accrues high mileage."

In a release, the Village says this modernization not only enhances the efficiency and reliability of the Village's fleet but also emphasizes Valemount's role as a progressive leader in adopting the latest solutions.

This is the second electric vehicle purchased by the Village. Last year, the Village purchased an electric low-speed vehicle for use by public works in and around town. The two-seater tops out at 40km/h and is not rated for highway driving. That vehicle was also fully covered by grants.

Councillors Hugo Mulyk, Donnie MacLean, Pete Pearson and Mayor Owen Torgerson stand with the Ford Lightning. /SUBMITTED

Preschool closure upsets community members

By Andrea Arnold

McBride's Robson Valley Community Services location has announced that they will not be offering a preschool any longer.

This information was brought to the attention of the community through a post on Facebook. The person posting attached the letter she had received from RVCS as well as a letter she sent back to them in reply.

The letter from RVCS, dated August 6th, stated that due to the arrival of Little Munchkins Child Care services in McBride, RVCS decided that it made sense for them to focus time and resources in other areas.

"Our Supported Child Development Program will still be offering services in McBride, and will continue to support present and future clients to the best of our ability and resources," said the letter.

The person who posted to social media voiced her disappointment that the program that her son had benefited so much from last year, and intended to attend this year as well, was no longer being offered. She said it didn't just affect her but the whole community. She addressed the statement made by RVCS regarding Little Munchkins saying that although it is an incredible asset, it is not a preschool, is limited in space and has a higher fee.

"Highlighting that the Supported child Development Program will still be offered is great, as my family benefits from this program and resources, but it is not inclusion," she said. "Segregated learning options completely miss the mark and defeat the purpose. All kids can learn and learning is demonstrated in multiple ways. At home, in our community and with peers."

She recounted that over the past year of attending preschool, her child learned routine, structure and the environment of learning alongside peers that would prepare him for school, without the pressure of academics. She stated that she feels that the loss of the preschool program is a loss for all children, for this year and years to come.

She also directed three questions to RVCS. Are there any pilot programs or initiatives currently underway? Opportunities to partner with the new daycare? What other areas are you intending to focus on that benefit the needs of the children in this community? She also expressed gratitude for the preschool staff saying that their hearts were truly with the children and unaware of the new changes taking place.

The post generated outcry from a variety of residents. Those with preschool-aged children as well as other members of the community wanting to voice their disappointment and concern for the young generation of upcoming students. In response, RVCS issued their own statement acknowledging and addressing concerns, published on their Facebook page. "We can understand why this may feel like disappointing news to the community and families and appreciate the opportunity to talk more about it," they said. The letter stated that they do not have the funding, resources or qualified ECE staff to operate a preschool in McBride. "Many may not be aware that our senior child development consultant was running the preschool through a limited time program exemption we were able to negotiate in order to offer some

semblance of childcare to the community when there was a lack of childcare in McBride," they said.

The program was being run as a standalone program, without specific funding as a short term solution using staff from other RVCS programs.

"As there is now a licensed childcare centre in McBride (Little Munchkins) this negotiated exemption has expired and is no longer on the table to continue," they said.

They disclosed that they should have closed the preschool last year when Little Munchkins opened but wanted to ensure their program was sustainable before closing. As they have never been contractually obligated to provide childcare of any kind, RVCS has always endeavoured to ensure that there is Supported Child Development Consultation in McBride. This service helps provide support for children with support at any licensed childcare centre that exists now or in the future.

"The SCD program funds a part-time SCD Consultant and a part-time SCD Support Worker to offer support and assistance to any child that is navigating developmental delays and/or has specialized support needs in order to be included in programming if they are attending a licensed centre as per contract," they said.

In the absence of a licensed child care centre, RVCS refocused these two positions to provide a preschool program two mornings a week, creating an environment where they could work to support these children within a licensed centre. The closure of the preschool will allow these workers to return to focus on fulfilling their contractual obligation to provide their services on a part-time basis in a licensed childcare centre.

"We're looking forward to those staff being able to go back to focusing on their mandates and freed up to provide their services to families outside of, and without bias to their own preschool program, and more importantly without the added layer of having to also be preschool teachers and run a preschool on top of doing the jobs they were hired into and are funded to do," said RVCS. RVCS says the newly renovated space at the McBride RVCS location will continue to provide accessible, inclusive programming to all families, children and in collaboration with community partners.

The letter explained that McBride would like to move towards a similar arrangement that has been reached in Valemount, working together with the Valemount Children's Activity Society to provide affordable childcare for the



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Finding staff to provide childcare for all age groups is a problem Reis has faced since opening. Their current focus is on offering an infant toddler program but they are struggling to find staff for that demographic.

"I am hopeful we will get staff eventually

so we can provide this service as I already have enough people interested to fill those spots," she said.

Reis is working on finding grant money to help grow the program and is waiting on an agreement from the Village before she can submit her grant application.

Correction

In the July article on the big Douglas Firs in our area, the figures given should have been labelled diameter, not circumference (1.82 meters, close to seven feet) for both the Stanley tree and Gigi's Giant. The story has been corrected online.

Books of the week!

RAZORBLADE TEARS

Ike and Buddy Lee, two ex-cons with little else in common other than a criminal past and a love for their dead sons, band together in their desperate desire for revenge. In their quest to do better for their sons in death than they did in life, hardened men lke and Buddy Lee will confront their own prejudices about their sons and each other, as they rain down vengeance upon those who hurt their boys.



RISE OF THE

RISE OF THE NECROFAUNA

SCIENCE

FICTION

HE

What happens when you try to recreate a woolly mammoth—fascinating science, or conservation catastrophe? Jurassic Park meets The Sixth Extinction in Rise of the Necrofauna, a provocative look at de-extinction from acclaimed documentarist and science writer Britt Wray, PhD.



THE HATE YOU GIVE

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.



THE BOREAL HERBAL

HLIV The Boreal Herbal: Wild Food and Medicine Plants of the North is an indispensable de to identifying and using northern North American (and

community.

"In the meantime, until we are able to achieve that collaborative goal, there is sustainable funding on the table, and qualified ECE staff willing to work for the ECE wages laid out in our collective agreement, we will continue to focus on the things we are funded to do and have capacity to sustain," they said.

Although Little Munchkins Dayhome currently does not offer any preschool programming, founder Tabitha Reis is open to the possibility of expanding their services.

"It is something I am considering based on how upset the community is about the preschool closing," she said. "It's something I would look at offering once we have our own space as finding space and staff has been a continuing challenge."

and Asian) plants for food and medicine. Whether you're hiking in remote areas or gardening in your backyard, this easy-to-use handbook will help you recognize and use fifty-five common wild plants that have extraordinary healing properties.





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Editorial



By Laura Keil Publisher / Editor goatnewspaper@gmail.com

Valemount needs to do more about its graffiti/vandalism problem

By Laura Keil

Valemount seems to have a graffiti problem and the Village of Valemount needs a better approach to the issue.

Graffiti is something normally reserved for the outside walls of buildings But there are other places graffiti can appear - railcars, bridge piers, and skate parks to name a few and it doesn't necessarily have to be paint. In Valemount, vandals have put their sights on one particular area - the inclusivity crosswalk on Ash Street.

I've listened to a number of opinions on this matter and the most common is this: those supporting the crosswalk should have seen this coming ie) the crosswalk and associated vandalism only does more damage than good. But the more I think about it, the more I feel like that's saying we shouldn't have walls on buildings, or public art murals, or flags, in the event that someone decides to take out their rage on these things.

The biggest problem, in my view, is not that the crosswalk is being vandalised, but the fact that the crosswalk is being left like that for months - marred with black lines, despite the hard work of local volunteers and/or public works who have tried to wash it off. We need a better approach. It's well-documented that the longer you leave graffiti at a particular spot, the more likely that spot becomes a target for graffiti. The defacing of the crosswalk is essentially graffiti. People are tagging the rainbow with their personalized rubber streaks, hoping to make a statement, to many shaking heads.

Targeting another set of beliefs because you disagree is un-Canadian. Sadly, I believe those with the desire to lash out at others do so out of misguided fears which manifest as hatred. By leaving the marks visible for long periods of time we are empowering these individuals to continue these silly, damaging outbursts.

I understand commercial road paint isn't cheap, but there must be a cheaper interim solution, perhaps a road paint that can be applied for the short-term within a few days of the incident. It's only paint, after all, not rocket fuel.

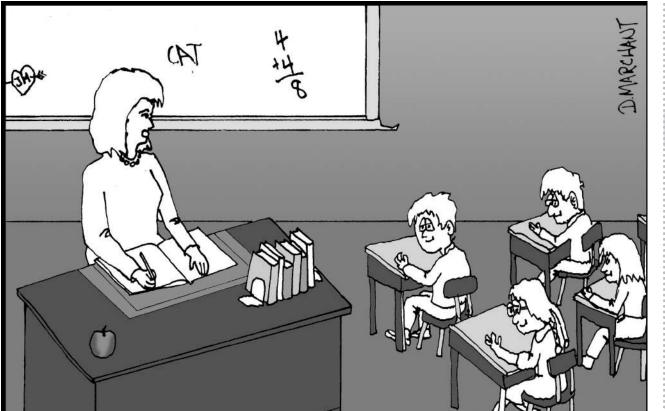
If the Village is intent on being an inclusive village with inclusive symbols I believe it's worth the time and money to up the ante.

Perhaps the new traffic committee can add this to their agenda.



About Letters to the Editor

The Goat welcomes all letters to the editor and values diverse opinions in our newspaper. Letters should address something that appeared in the newspaper or a current event. Recommended letter length is 400 words or less due to space constraints. Longer letters may be rejected or the author asked to reduce the length. The Goat formats letters and grammar according to Canadian Press style. No substantive changes are made without the author's approval. Letters are reviewed for clarity and libel, but are not fact checked and may contain errors or misleading statements. Letters must be submitted with a phone number for verification purposes and the location of the author, but only the name of the author and location will be published. We do not publish anonymous letters. Write to us! goatnewspaper@gmail.com. We ALWAYS confirm receipt of letters. If you have not received a reply from us, please call us at 250-566-4606 so we can make sure we received it. Our letters deadline is Sunday 5pm the week of publication. Letters received after our deadline may still be included if space is available, otherwise they will be bumped to the following week.







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Residents invited to regional Economic Development Forum

By Andrea Arnold

On Thurs. Sept. 14th, the Village of McBride, is presenting an all-day Economic Community Development Forum at the Dunster Schoolhouse and invites residents from the whole region to attend.

"The goal of the forum is to bring together Robson Valley businesses, not-for-profits, and residents with economic and community development agencies and professionals for a day of discussion, presentations, networking and opportunities for one-on-one meetings," said the Village of McBride Economic

Development Officer, Karen Dubé.

Dube says this is the first time a forum of this type has been held in the Robson Valley. Speakers will be travelling from Prince George to present to attendees as well as to be available for one-on-one conversations. Representatives from Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan), Northern Tourism Association, Community Futures Fraser Fort George, Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), Forestry Panel, BC's Regional Economic Operations (REO), and Agriculture Panel will be presenting in 45 min time slots following a welcome at 9:00am, with a 15 min

break between sessions and a one hour break at lunch.

"We encourage business owners, representatives from non-profits and interested residents from Dome Creek through to Valemount to attend for the whole day, the morning or the afternoon," said Dube.

The event is free, but due to limited space, registration is required. They are also offering lunch on site provided by the Dunster Fine Arts School Association for \$20 each.

More information and a link to register can be found at: tinyurl.com/bdd23u2a

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Global Thoughts BY GWYNNE DYER **China: A Message from Russia**

On Monday evening a Ukrainian drone was shot down over Istra, a very exclusive western suburb of Moscow. (Houses \$2 million and up.) "The debris fell on the street next to us," complained Margarita Simonyan, editor-in-chief of TV network Russia Today and a high-profile on-screen supporter of Vladimir Putin's war.

"Shame they missed," one bold Muscovite said when the journalists came out to do their vox pop interviews next morning. Others were more cautious in their choice of words, but they were remarkably cheerful about Simonyan's harrowing ordeal. Bits of metal were falling out of the sky, but at least they were falling on or near the right people.

There is a message in this for China's allpowerful leader Xi Jinping, whose situation now partly resembles Putin's two years ago, when he was deciding to invade Ukraine. The message is: don't invade Taiwan.

Putin invaded Ukraine because he felt it was

his destiny to 'reunite all the Russias'. He wasn't even in trouble with the public at home: selling oil and gas to the world still brought them all a modest living, and their expectations were not very high.

Now he's stuck in a military stalemate in Ukraine, strict sanctions are beginning to unravel his economy, and a lot of young Russian men have been killed or wounded for nothing. Unsurprisingly, he is not greatly loved by the people.

Xi's situation is actually worse than Putin's was two years ago. Public expectations of rising prosperity are much higher in China than they have even been in Russia, and China's economy, although much richer than Russia's, is slowing down fast.

Jobs are vanishing: unemployment among 16 to 24-year olds soared past 21% before the government stopped publishing statistics on it. The economy has fallen into a deflationary

spiral, and the regime dares not re-inflate its way out of trouble because the debt burden is already far too high.

Xi's views on the 'reunification' of Taiwan with China closely parallel those of Putin on Ukraine, and he will undoubtedly be wondering if now is the time to invade. A quick victory might get people back on his side.

It should be easy, he might calculate, because the Americans wouldn't intervene. President Joe Biden won't want his re-election campaign interrupted by sanctions on Beijing that cripple US-Chinese trade and stall the US economy.

But look what actually happened to Putin. The United States and NATO didn't go to war to defend Ukraine, but they made sure it had enough arms and money to survive and they imposed severe sanctions on the Russian economy. China is far more vulnerable to sanctions, because its whole economy is geared to trade.

Gwynne Dyer is a Canadian-born independent journalist whose column is

published in more than 175 papers in 45 countries.

China's main customers are in the developed countries and they would also be hurt by these sanctions. Nevertheless, the sanctions would be imposed, because the reigning historical myth in the West, and to a lesser extent in East Asia, is that aggressions by major powers must be stopped early to thwart would-be world conquerors.

The myth is wrong. A Chinese invasion of Taiwan would really be a local land-grab for petty personal reasons, just like Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Neither would be an overture to world conquest. But the myth worked for Ukraine, and it would also work for Taiwan. Strict sanctions were imposed on Russia, and they would also be imposed on China.

Xi should learn from Putin's mistake. For him to make the same mistake would be far worse.



Pete Amyoony has lived, worked and gardened in the Dunster area for over 40 years. He tries to deal with the "down to earth nuts and bolts of organic gardening" in his columns.



Horsetail

Throughout the Robson Valley, many gardeners have a problem with a weed that has been around for over 150 million years. Although it prefers moist, acidic soil, it can be found in almost any area. I am referring to horsetail or mare's tail (Equisetum) of course.

The most common variety found around here is "common horsetail" or "field horsetail" (Equisetum arvense). This one grows from 6 inches to two feet (15-60 cm). It has two types of fronds – the sterile fronds that look like little evergreen trees with leaf-like branches coming from joints along the stem. The fronds that produce spores (not seeds) have no little branches but have a dark cone-like body at the tip known as the strobilus. These fertile branches come up early in the spring and are followed by the branched unfertile ones later on. Horsetail favors poorly drained soil but can be found on dry unfavourable sites like railway beds and highway ditches. Maybe its ability to adapt so well is the secret of its

long life on the earth.

Another variety belonging to the "Scouring Rush Group" of horsetails is Equisetum hyemale and can be found around Jackman Flats at Tete Jaune. It grows up to three feet (1m) and has a grey-green stem with no side branches. Throughout the ages, it was used as a scouring pad by the native peoples for polishing their canoes and by early settlers for scouring pots and pans.

Field horsetail is a pest for gardeners because it has creeping rhizomes (underground roots) that reach out in all directions from the mother plant and shoot up new plants all over the place. The greatest problem is that hoeing or tilling just breaks up these rootstalks and then a new plant grows from each little piece. If you have the patience to dig the rootstalks and pull up as many as you can, you will eventually bring it under control. It is also recommended to keep the fertile fronds cut off in the early spring to prevent formation of spores and thus a

new crop of plants. Cutting off the branched fronds during the summer will also eventually help to starve the roots. Some gardeners recommend adding lime to the soil in the area where the horsetails are growing. It seems that two or three years of adding lime will weaken the plants and make them much more easily controlled.

Although horsetail is not highly poisonous, it does contain a toxin that is harmful to young sheep and horses. It is best not to make it into hay. Some people however, eat the young shoots in early spring like asparagus and in many herbal books it is recommended to help reduce bleeding and heal wounds.

As much of a pest as the horsetail can be, we should be thankful for it every time we start up our car or truck. It seems millions of years of decaying horsetail contributed to the rich deposits of oil all over the world!



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Valemount Council - Public hearing, pump track proposal, and budget report

By Andrea Arnold

Mayor Owen Torgerson called the Valemount Council meeting to order.

Public Hearing

The public hearing was called to order in order to discuss the temporary use permit 23-05 (renewal of TUP 21-03) for a temporary residence in an RV. The site has had an RV in place since 2021. Although the unit has changed, the location and services provided have remained the same. No concerns have

been brought to the attention of staff in the time since 2021.

No letters were submitted to the village, and no comments were presented by members of the public, the proponent or by council during the meeting, so the public hearing was adjourned.

Mayor Torgerson began the regular meeting by extending thoughts and well wishes to those who are directly impacted by wildfires at this time.

Pump Track

Sean Kelly presented Project Pump it Up on behalf of VARDA. He said they are exploring the feasibility of having an all-wheels skills park and pump track within the village, to complement the existing infrastructure. He explained the community dynamic that grows and fosters more riders. See full story on page 14.

Food Security programs

Korie Marshall presented information about the Valemount Learning Society's food security programs. Farmers Market

She began by thanking the Council and staff for their

ongoing support of the farmers market. The Learning Society took over the Farmers Market in 2021. Marshall has worked as the manager for the summer of 2023. She commented that the Village has provided the space, electricity as well as allowed them to place a storage shed on the property. The market's "Make it, Bake it, Grow it," mantra allows another way for locals, visitors and other vendors to support locals. The nutrition coupon from BC Farmers Markets have been a huge hit with seniors and low-income families. They have 50 spots this year, mostly being sponsored by Columbia Basin Trust. In June they participated in an economic impact study on farmers markets in BC. It showed the estimated financial benefits of the Valemount Farmers Market, forecasting an annual economic benefit to the community of \$358,600. Visitors spend an average of \$35 per visit to the market and 43 percent of visitors identify as tourists or day trippers to Valemount. Some 61 percent say they attend the market regularly. Village Greens

Village Greens started with the purchase of a hydroponic growing system built inside a 40-foot container in 2021 with funding for NDIT. This system allows them to grow leafy greens year round. People can pick up their choice of leafy weekly greens on Tuesday at the garage at 1295 Gordon Rd (Juniper square apartments). They provide greens to several local restaurants, and through the farmers market. Surplus product is donated to Meals on Wheels, Farm Free Food Stand through RVCS and the school food programs. They provide fresh locally grown greens harvested weekly.

Marshall invited Council and staff the opportunity to come visit the growing container in the industrial park. Marshall says food security refers to having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable nutritious food. They feel that through the Village Greens and the Farmers Market they are providing rough access to fresh, local, nutritious food at an affordable price. Councillor Pearson commented on the Village Greens programs. He had taken delivery of a bag of greens from the program prior to the meeting. He has already visited the grow site, and was amazed at how much product can come out of a 40-foot container.

Councillor Mulyk was not at all surprised to see the numbers on Marshall's report. He said he has not spoken to anyone where this subject was not uppermost. He thinks everyone is thinking about food security and wanted to applaud the efforts of the Valemount Learning Society's Food Security Programs.

Pump track and skills park

Due to his involvement, Mayor Torgerson recused himself from the following motion. Council agreed to consider contributing Village staff time to explore possible locations for the proposed skills park and pump track project through a formal commitment and membership on the committee. Prior to the vote, Councillor Pete Pearson wanted clarification that the work asked of staff would not be too much to ask. CAO Eric Depenau assured them that it would not be, and that staff involvement was encouraged as it is a matter of public land use.

Building inspection report

Council received the Building Inspection report and permit values for June and July 2023. ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION VALUES – June Building Permits: \$ 13,000 Total: \$ 13,000. This total reflects an alteration/addition to a dwelling and a new deck. PERMIT FEES COLLECTED – June Building Permits: two issued totalling \$266

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DO YOU HAVE DELINQUENT TAXES?

Property Tax Sale

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

Annual Tax Sale

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

Delinquent taxes are any taxes remaining unpaid on December 31, two years after the year the tax was imposed. For example, taxes imposed in 2021 and still unpaid become delinquent on January 1, 2023.

The tax sale is held on **Monday, September 25, 2023**, in the council chambers at the municipal hall of each



BE BEAR AWARE

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

- Keep garbage, recyclables, compost and other attractants secure – indoors is best!
- Keep containers that store garbage and recycling clean and odour free.
 - Please **do not** place garbage containers out before the morning

COMMUNITY WOOD SMOKE REDUCTION PROGRAM

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

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

Old Wood Stove - New Wood Stove replacement \$1300

Wood Stove – Pellet replacement \$2750

Wood Stove - Electric Heat Pump replacement \$3000

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

Visit: <u>www.valemount.ca/services/grants-funding</u> for more information.



VALEMOUNT COUNCIL NOTES

municipality in B.C.

VALEMOUNT MUSEUM NEWS

The Valemount Museum is open daily until September 30th from 10:00am to 4:30pm.

Visit the museum to enjoy Erin Stagg's *Otipemisewak The People Who Own Themselves* Exhibition until September 22, 2023.

VALEMOUNT VISITOR INFOMATION CENTRE

The Visitor Information Centre is open Mondays to Fridays from 8:30am to 4:30pm (subject to change without notice).

of your scheduled collection day.

•

•

- Manage fruit trees so that fruit is picked often and do not let windfall accumulate.
- Remove bird feeders and store pet food inside.

STAGE 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS

June 1st to September 30th

Watering is permitted between the hours of 7:00am to 10:00am and 7:00pm to 10:00pm on any day of the week.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Village of Valemount is seeking a Public Works Labourer/Operator. Full details are found on the village website at <u>www.valemount.ca</u>.



BUSINESS FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Can your business façade use some improvements?

If you have a business that is located in the Village of Valemount on 5th Avenue, Main Street, Commercial Drive, or Highway 5 South, you may be eligible to receive a grant for 50% of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$5,000, for improvements to the exterior façade of the building.

Applications and program guidelines are available on the Village of Valemount website at: <u>www.valemount.ca/services/grants-funding</u>, the Village Office – 735 Cranberry Lake Road, or call Taggart Wilson, Grant Clerk – 250-566-4435.



735 Cranberry Lake Road 250-566-4435 PO Box 168

Council Cont'd from P6

Total: \$266 ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION VALUES – July Building Permits: \$412,000 Total: \$412,000 This total reflects 1 new modular "container home" and a new deck. PERMIT FEES COLLECTED – July Building Permits: two issued totalling \$308 Total: \$308

Bylaw enforcement

Council received bylaw enforcement summary report for July 2023. The report showed 23 new complaints resulting in files were received by the bylaw officer. Compliance on several previously opened files has been reached resulting in 17 files being closed. The new files were the following violations: three animal bylaw violations, 15 good neighbour violations, one noise control complaint, one open air burning event, one solid waste collection violation, one traffic regulations contravention and one wood burning appliance regulation violation.

Budget report

Council received the 2023 January-June Quarterly Budget Report. The report showed that all revenues and expenses are within the current budget with no issues of concern. There were a few minor discrepancies listed. The revenue showed an increase due to increased water and sewer sales (from the Trans Mountain Expansion project), airport fuel sales and expenses (wildfires), permits (mostly the seniors housing development) and business licenses and bylaw fines (there's a new fulltime bylaw officer). Expenses showed some increase as well due to a software company changeover, building inspector professional development (a portion to be paid by RDFFG) and an error in the original budget line for sewer collection.

Grant request

Mayor Torgerson recused himself as a member of the Marina Association prior to the motion. Council approved a grant in the amount of \$250 to the Valemount Marina Association to contribute to prizes, food and trophy sponsorship for their 42nd annual fishing derby.

Tax exemption

Council approved several property-owning non-profit organizations a tax exemption for the 2023 tax year. Mayor Torgerson made a motion to consider the five organizations as a block.

Councillor McLean made a motion to grant 25 percent, the same as last year. The motion was carried, granting the following organizations each a 25 per cent tax exemption for the 2023 tax year: Royal Canadian Legion Branch #266, Valemount Affordable Rentals Society, Valemount Curling Club, Valemount Learning Society and the Valemount Lions Club.

Permits

Council approved the increase of the maximum height of an accessory building to 7.01m (23ft) for development variance permit 20-01 for 1145 Canoe View Place.

Council approved development variance permit 23-02 for 1100 14th to decrease the minimum width of a principal building from 4.75m to 4.27m and to increase the maximum age of a mobile home from 20 years to 28 years. A letter was received by the village prior to the meeting in favor of this change.

Council approved Temporary Use Permit 20-05 to permit one RV to be used as a residence at 1945 Cranberry Place for a period of three years. This request is a renewal of TUP-21-03

Bylaws

Council adopted as presented the Procedure Bylaw No. 834,2020 amendment bylaw No 878, 2023 proposing

changes to the regulations regarding electronic meeting attendance. This amendment will remove restrictions allowing attendance to in-camera sessions where a quorum may not have otherwise been achieved.

Council gave Officer Designation and Delegation of Authority Bylaw No 882, 2023 first and second reading. This bylaw is intended to result in faster decision making and improved responsiveness of administration, more effective use of time and resources and flexibility in meeting scheduling, including fewer special meetings. Council also moved to schedule a Committee of the whole meeting before the third reading of the bylaw, if they feel further discussion or clarification is required.

Public Comment

Rashmi Naryan commented that she thinks it is great to see the growth of the Farmers Market, and she believes that is because there is a paid individual overseeing it. She was involved in starting the market when she first moved to the area in the early 2000, and there were not enough vendors. The market allows more of a highlight on buying local products. She also spoke about Sean Kelly's presentation. She said she thinks it's a great project because it is more accessible, more affordable, and in town. As the track could result in more direct interaction between users and ages than the bike trails, she sees it as a great community builder. Lastly, she commented on the Aug 3 special meeting item regarding the housing accelerated fund grant. She sees it as an opportunity to visit what the community's priorities are, review the housing assessment from last year, and look in the direction to fill in the gaps in community housing. Mayor Torgerson confirmed that the submission for the grant was completed before the deadline.

There were no in camera items to address so the meeting was adjourned.

Thank you to Valemount TV for providing the recording of the meeting.

McBride Council - Public hearing, water level concerns and Interim CAO sworn in

By Andrea Arnold

Mayor Gene Runtz called the McBride Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm on August 22, 2023. Also attending in chambers were Councillors Peitro Caputo, Glen Frear, Joe Kolida, four village staff, two representatives from Radloff and Associates and eight members of the public.

Public hearing

The regular meeting was recessed at 7:01 pm to conduct the Public Hearing for the Proposed Zoning amendment Bylaw No. 818, 2023.

If the bylaw is passed, The Village of McBride Zoning Bylaw No. 703, 2021 will be amended to include IH-1 zone under section 5.1. The use of land buildings and structures is restricted to residential-institutional housing

and includes the following accessory uses are permitted, assembly hall, commercial kitchen, home craft, home occupation, professional services, recreational facilities, retail, service commercial, and accessory dwellings for the short-term housing of medical residency staff and students

Planning Consultant Makayla Berger from McElhanney presented to Council. Berger said that the new zone aligns with the community's needs for housing by opening up more construction options and usable land and that it also falls within the desire for McBride to be "Age Friendly."

Franzman suggested that in addition to amending the bylaw the Village look for an alternate backup water source, the Village of McBride Water Emergency Response Plan be edited to include procedures required in the event of low flows in Dominion Creek and to educate the public.

Council directed staff to undertake the required amendment to the Village of McBride Water Emergency Response Plan to add procedures required in the event of low flows in Dominion Creek.

Council direct staff to communicate the Village of McBride Watering Restrictions as outlined in Water Bylaw No. 737, 2013, including communication through the following methods: postal mailout, posting on Village Facebook, posting on Village website. Council also directed staff to schedule a Town Hall meeting on September 28, 2023 for the purposes of providing information to the community on the current drought situation.

Further, Council asked that key stakeholders are invited to attend and provide an update from their respective organizations. See full story on page 3.

CAO sworn in

Interim Corporate Officer Sandy Salt administered the Oath of Office to Leslie Groulx for the Interim Chief Administrative Officer position for the Village of McBride.

Website update

MCBRIDE COUNCIL NOTES

Interim Corporate Officer Sandy Salt read a letter from CN regarding the proposed zone. They expressed appreciation that their concerns were being considered. They said that they have concerns of developments for sensitive use being within close proximity to the railway. Specifically, they addressed five areas. They requested that a noise consultant be brought in to ensure noise levels are not too much. They wanted to monitor vibration conditions. They asked that their right of way be considered as they may use that space in future years. They stated that they will not be responsible for any complaints that come from people within the development if it goes ahead and lastly they asked that storm runoff not affect the railway in any way.

McBride resident Al Bernie spoke saying he was in support of the new bylaw. He wants to see the proposed Legacy (seniors housing) project get going and that it will be a great asset to the village. He believes roadblocks were put in the way during previous terms and would like to see this council allow it to proceed, and that this new bylaw is a way for that to happen.

No further comments were brought forward. The public hearing was closed and the regular meeting resumed.

Water conservation importance

David Franzman and Rob Radloff from Radloff and Associates presented to Council regarding impacts of drought on the Dominion Creek Community Drinking Water System.

Administration asked that Council support the selection of Kimbo Design Inc. as the successful consultant to conduct the Optimize visitmcbride.ca Website Project. The project will allow visitors to the site to receive more up-to-date and accurate information. Council directs staff to enter into a contract with Kimbo Design Inc. in the amount of \$36,500 (exclusive of taxes), with \$18,500 from NDIT grant and \$10,000 from 2023 Municipal Regional District (MRDT) budget, Council approves \$8,250 from Municipal and Regional District Tax reserves towards this project.

Support letter

Councilor Kolida made a motion to write a letter to the City of Quesnel in support of their Highway 97 north-south interconnector project.

In camera

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

The public portion of the meeting was recessed at 7:58pm.

Village of Valemount top staffer accepts new post in PG

By Laura Keil

The Village of Valemount's top staffer Eric Depenau is leaving the Village to join the City of Prince George as Manager of Intergovernmental Relations.

Depenau has been the Village's Chief Administrative and Corporate Officer since July 2022. He will remain Valemount CAO until October 22nd. Mayor Owen Torgerson said during his tenure with the Village, Depenau made significant contributions to the organization.

"His dedication, expertise, and collaborative spirit have been

instrumental in achieving several milestones identified in Council's priorities," Torgerson said. "Eric has been an extremely valued member of Team Valemount, and while we will miss his leadership and cadence, we wish him and his family all the very best in their future endeavours."

During his time as CAO, Depenau split his time between Valemount and Prince George where his wife and daughter are based.

Depenau thanked Council and staff for the opportunity to serve the Village of Valemount.

"I believe Valemount is well positioned to steward a prosperous

ING T LAWN CHAID Saturday, September 16th **ROBSON VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF BC**

FUND RAISER

11TH ANNUAL POKER RIDE

Where: McIntosh Equine Recreation Site

3km up McIntosh Logging Road off highway 16 - 12 km west of McBride, BC

Campground highway signs indicating turnoff

Proceeds toward trails in the Robson Valley

Registration 10 am

Riders ride out 11am. Last rider out at noon; Length of ride approximately 3 hours (14km) Food service starts at 3pm

Poker Hands:

- Participating riders and Ghost Riders: \$25.00 (includes dinner after the ride)
- Additional hands: \$10.00 each

Dinner Only: \$10 each

- THE RULES OF THE RIDE: All riders, including youth, must be current members of Horse Council BC or equivalent (AEF)
 - No stallions
 - No dogs
 - All children under 19 must wear a helmet, have a youth waiver signed by parent/legal guardian, and be accompanied by their parent, legal guardian, or named alternate identified on BCHBC Named alternate form signed by parent/guardian (PRIOR TO ATTENDING). Contact below to obtain alternate form)

For more information please contact:

future for residents and to showcase itself as a resort municipality to be envied. Valemount has something very special and I am better for having spent this time in the community. Thank you for welcoming me so openly."

Prior to his post in Valemount, Depenau worked as the regional executive assistant in Conservative MP Todd Doherty's office in Prince George. This was his first post as CAO. The Village says the search for a new CAO will be undertaken using both in-house resources and the support of Brentwood Advisory Group.



Eric Depenau. /RMG FILE PHOTO

Pipeline camp leased for wildfire evacuees



The ATCO camp south of Valemount. /LAURA KEIL

By Laura Keil

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The ATCO pipeline worker accommodation camp south of Valemount is remaining on site until at least September 30th for a very different reason than it was first intended. A spokesperson for the Ministry of **Emergency Management and Climate** Readiness says the Ministry routinely does advanced planning for potential evacuations and works with communities and other organizations to identify potential accommodation for evacuees. The Ministry told the Goat that the

Province has a contract with ATCO to

As of Aug. 31st, the BC Wildfire Service reported there were 139 evacuation orders and alerts in place across the province in what has been the worst wildfire year on record in terms of area burned. Some 27,912 properties were under alert and 5,022 under order. Since April 1st, wildfires have burned about 1.91 million hectares of land in B.C.

"Unseasonably hot and dry conditions persist in the northern regions of the province, which has contributed to an increase in fire behaviour for parts of the Northwest and Prince George Fire Centres," the Wildfire Service said. As of Aug 31st, there were still 422 active wildfires burning across the province. More than 3,500 personnel directly engaged in wildfire response efforts in B.C. This figure consists of BC Wildfire staff, contract personnel, and out-ofprovince personnel from Mexico, South Africa, Australia, Ontario and the Canadian Armed Forces. Southern regions of the province have received varied amounts of precipitation over the last week, most notably in the southeast. Temperatures in the south will rebound temporarily, but will return to seasonal, entering a fall pattern for the foreseeable forecast. Meanwhile, above seasonal hot and dry conditions persist in the northern regions of the province.

bdawnhickerty@gmail.com or garhammera@gmail.com

Ada's Place



Long Term Affordable (LTA) Housing is now officially accepting applications for review and triaging.

The eligibility criteria is: those who identify as women with or without children who have experienced intimate partner violence/abuse and is otherwise open to community to apply. These units are largely hands off, clients need to be able to live independently and must provide their own furnishings These tenants must fall under the Housing Income Limits (HILS)



Applicants will be triaged based on immediate risk, vulnerability, and need. We are aiming to start moving tenants in on a staggered basis starting Oct 1, 2023

LTA Housing Program application can be picked up at 99 Gorse St. Valemount, requested by emailing housing@rvcsbc.org, or found on our website.

Applications can be sent to: housing@rvcsbc.org, faxed to (250) 566-0011. or dropped off at 99 Gorse St. Valemount

use the accommodation in Valemount, if required, for up to approximately 600 people. So far, the lodging has not been needed. The Ministry says this contract is in place until Sept. 30 and will be reviewed throughout the month of September and extended if required. The Province also set up temporary evacuee accommodations for 300 people in partnership with Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc, located on their land in Kamloops.

"We continue to work with other ministries and NGO (non-governmental organization) partners to ensure communities have access to other supports that are required at reception centres, including mental health supports, harm reduction supports, pet care and access to culturally safe services," the Ministry said.

Byelection briefs

The Goat invited McBride's by-election candidates to submit a write-up. A meet and greet with candidates is planned Tues. Sept. 12th 6pm-8pm at the library.

Tina Bennett

I would like to introduce my self, my name requirements which is Tina Bennett I have been residing in McBride for approximately 1.5 years now. I have obtained full-time employment and have been actively looking in the McBride area for a house suitable for me, but for now I still retain a house/ mailing address in Mackenzie.

I have successfully raised four children independently and have gained valuable experience in multitasking, problem solving and time management. I am grateful for all the educational and physical activities that were available for my children and believe that every child should have the same opportunities.

I also have a variety of work related experience, but the one that resonates most with my heart is in the health care industry. I obtained a college degree as a Health Care Assistant, and Occupational /Physiotherapy Assistant.

I believe McBride hospital is essential to our community and needs to remain in McBride. Advocating for improved essential services is also critical for our hospital and community to grow and flourish, I feel that I am capable of taking on this task.

The development of "Robson Valley Legacy " is an excellent step forward in assisting with health care needs and housing

Kat Vickery

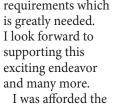
I am very glad for the opportunity to run again for councillor in the Village of McBride.

Although I grew up in Surrey, I lived and worked in Lytton for 17 years and loved living in a small, rural community. When my husband, Fred, and I decided to move, we looked at many places in BC, but when we came to McBride, we instantly fell in love with it and knew this would be a wonderful place to live out our 'golden' years.

I am delighted to be working part-time this year at McBride Centennial Elementary School. I have over 30 years of experience in education and community service.

As a member of the village council, I will advocate for transparency and public input in the decisions it makes. Even though the village council's responsibilities are first to its residents, I feel that it should take into consideration the population's needs outside its jurisdiction. People from Dome Creek and Dunster, even from Tete Jaune and Valemount, make use of the services in our village and are very important to its economy. Growth and cooperation all along Highway 16 will certainly benefit McBride. Undoubtedly, there are many issues

that make living in a small, rural village



opportunity last Christmas season to participate in the "Adopt a senior" and had a heart



warming experience

delivering gifts and visiting with seven of our seniors. I believe these programs are essential and will continue to participate.

Since residing in McBride, I have become aware of areas that require some more attention, namely new housing developments, infrastructure, accessibility and the promotion of McBride to support existing businesses and to also attractnew business opportunities to the area. I will endeavor to do my best to listen to ideas and concerns that are brought forth and to find a viable solution where possible.

This beautiful Valley and the people of McBride have so much to offer! I would like to thank you for your consideration in supporting me for town councillor.



Corporation was brilliant and I support any way in which it can be reenergized to fulfill its original mandate. I will encourage growth in the forestry sector, as well as in agriculture and tourism. I will also support the things needed to retain workers and encourage the youth to return home after gaining necessary skills and education. Workers need housing, education for their children, health care, day care, recreation, the internet and many other amenities. A pet project of mine is to obtain a small, wheelchair accessible bus like the one Valemount has. It could be used for and by so many groups in this village to increase access to additional places and services.

Forest



Online and in person



September 14, 2023 at 4 p.m PT / 5 p.m MT

Join Columbia Basin Trust online or in person at the Legion Hall in Kaslo for our Annual General Meeting to celebrate the work of people and communities in the Basin over the past year.

ourtrust.org/agm

6 f in

Columbia **COLUMBIA** OUT TRUST. Basin COLUMBIA

Columbia Basin Trust gratefully operates on the unceded traditional territories of the Ktunaxa, Lheidli T'enneh, Secwépemc, Sinixt and Syilx Nations.

Information Notice



Zoning Bylaw No. 2892, Amendment Bylaw No.3318

Subject Property: 16305 Highway 5 N

Purpose: to rezone a portion of the property from Industrial 2 (M2) to Small Holding (SH) to facilitate subdivision of the property or other uses permitted by the SH zone

Next Steps: the Regional District Board will consider first reading of Bylaw No. 3318 on Thursday September 14, 2023 at 1:30 pm at 155 George Street, Prince George BC

For more information visit bit.ly/RDFFGCurrentApplications







VALEMOUNT

Thank you!

The VCF and the Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who and joined us at the Community Barbeque including our local Governance, Provincial Politicians and Regional District Fraser Fort George representatives and many others.

A special thank you to Creekside Outreach Society for the delicious food, Public Works for their help setting up and the Valemount Volunteer Fire Department for the use of their BBQ.

Join Our Team

Winter Road Maintenance Operators

- Seasonal full-time and part-time
- Overtime opportunities
- Set Shifts
- On-site Training

Requirements

- Valid Class 3 license w/air or higher
- Safety conscious
- Verifiable snowplow experience an asset
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions

To apply, please visit our careers page at emilanderson.ca/careers



Pump track and all-wheels skills park proposed



The Pump Track and Skills park in Golden BC used to be made out of dirt but was converted to an asphalt track in 2021. /PHOTO COURTESY WWW.ROCKIESFAMILYADVENTURES.COM

Find out if your home is FireSmart

and get a FREE wildfire sprinkler kit

Do you know your wildfire risk?

Complete a FireSmart BC Home Assessment Score Card and submit it to the McBride District Volunteer Fire Department to get a FREE wildfire sprinkler kit to protect your home. The assessment identifies simple and inexpensive changes to make your home and property more resilient to wildfire.



By Andrea Arnold

Members of the Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) have created a small committee to work towards bringing a pump track and all-wheels skills park to Valemount.

On Tuesday August 22, Sean Kelly presented Project Pump it up on behalf of VARDA to Council. He said they are exploring the feasibility of having such a facility within the village, to complement the existing infrastructure. The park would allow for not only bikes, but would include wheelchairs, scooters, skateboards and other wheeled modes of transportation, ridden by all ages. He said that by creating an area where riders can work on skills in a safe environment before hitting the trails, some accidents and injuries may be avoided. He personally has experienced the feeling of community that comes out of these parks. "I've experienced these facilities all across the country, from Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and BC, and they are amazing facilities," said Kelly. He said there are already 30 parks in BC that vary in size, complexity and base material. "Skills parks and pump tracks are one of the fastest growing municipal pieces of infrastructure that are being built in North America right now," said Kelly.

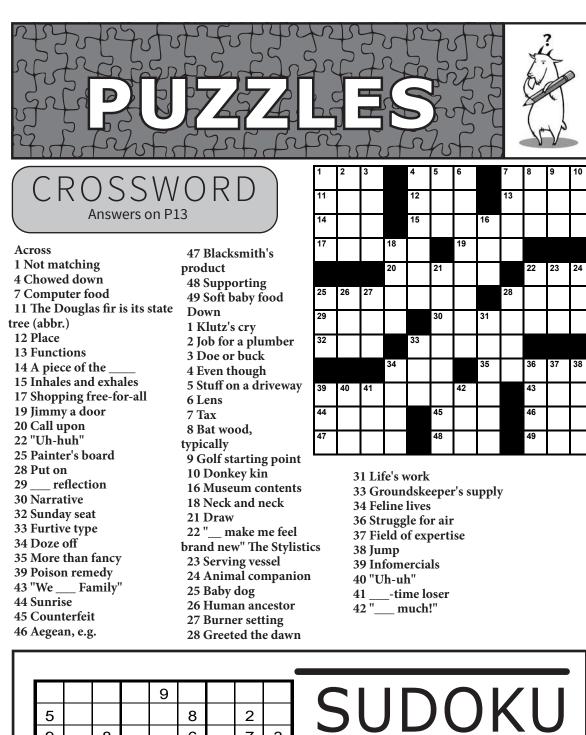
"Second to pickleball courts." Kelly said the material for a park in Valemount would be decided following a location being determined and community members would have the opportunity to provide input on the final design. He showed examples of other parks and explained that the materials used are low-maintenance materials.

Kelly presented on behalf of an Ad hoc special project committee of VARDA consisting of seven members, with existing terms of reference. They have already completed one fundraiser and done a survey. They are hoping to determine initial feasibility by the end of 2023 and will be exploring what grants they can apply for to help fund the project.

Kelly closed his presentation by asking for support and some input from staff regarding possible locations. He then asked for questions. Councillor Pete Pearson said he thought the project looks interesting and thanked Kelly for explaining the all-wheeled aspect. Councillor Mulyk said he feels like the park is a good fit, a natural progression. He sees it as something that could be really good for locals. Working to encourage the younger residents more involved in the sport. Kelly interjected that these types of parks do not require expensive bikes, allowing more riders to participate.

Visit **FireSmartBC.ca** for a Home Assessment Score Card* or get a copy at the fire hall

* Find the Home Assessment Score Card under the Home Tools tab.



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Answers on P13								

Answers on P13

Down

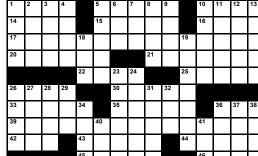
HOW TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

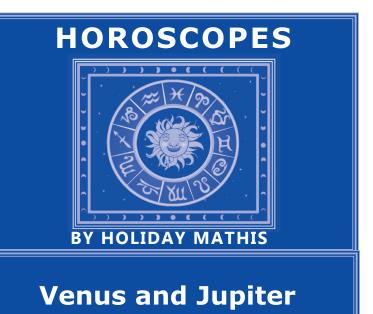
Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember. You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.

The Toughie by Myles Mellor Answers on P13

- 1. Place for a date 2. Fencing weapon 3. Understand something printed 4. Pakistani language 5. Trite
- 6. H.S. subject
- 7. Et _ _ (and the
- following)
- 8. Surface gunk
- 9. Big furniture retailer 10. Kind of paint



Thursday September 7th 2023 11



In a planetary do-si-do, Venus goes direct, and a few hours later, Jupiter goes retrograde. In the changeup, profound insights sail in on waves of pondering and solidify in practical maneuvers. These bright understandings of human nature, love and what it means to exist are but brief moments of clarity that fractalize in the next second as new dimensions to our curious hearts blossom open.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Suspense is in the air as you plan your next move. No one knows what your play is going to be, and though you may have worked it out carefully, even you are buzzing with anticipation. This is most of the fun right here, the rush of adrenaline and your heart beating with the dangerous possibilities... like winning!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll collaborate so well this week that you'll hardly notice where your own knowledge ends and the knowledge of others begins. In a group of strong talents, this shouldn't be a problem. It will be better not to worry too much about individual credit and instead pretend the group is one mind working toward a single agreed-upon goal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Compromise doesn't have to mean one person's happiness is diminished. You'll place the needs of others on par with or above your own this week. Though it causes you to juggle your priorities, you'll be happier for it. Your graciousness tips off a chain of events and you'll be welcome in new places.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Who is easier to forgive, yourself or others? Who is easier to work for, compromise for, impress or disappoint? Who is easier to love? Your attitude and circumstances improve in equal measure to your treatment of yourself. To discuss or journal on the topic will bring a breakthrough for you at this insightful time.

balancing act that you perform like a cat -- with improbable moves and a sort of grace that surprises everyone, even yourself, with its ability to stick the landing. You don't have to know how you're going to manage; it's less of an intellectual process than you might imagine. You just have to trust that you will.

illuminated, and everything else recedes to the shadows. It's good for getting what you desire, but bad for seeing all. On your way to getting what you want, it is lucky to employ the eyes of objective parties for the sake of perspective.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your feelings are a tidal ebb, pulling away from the shore of a relationship, giving the space to the scene while you gather yourself in some deep center. All is oxygenated by the way life moves. You are healthy and vibrant this week as you give up some of your resistance to the natural back and forth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is no single person in charge of holding all the pieces of this grand puzzle together. You'll be reminded how you need your teammates even when you don't agree with one another -- and this week, disagreement expressed in a respectful, organized and mediated way is (SET ITAL) especially (END ITAL) healthy for the group.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your emotional intelligence is a service to those around you. You sense things like sadness without drawing too much attention to the state. You help others feel better without making them feel vulnerable or embarrassed about what they're going through. Through empathy you create meaningful connections. Your presence brings solace.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). As you adapt to the ever-changing circumstances, it is natural that there will be trying moments -- even failing moments. Negative feelings will melt away this week as you give yourself compassion when you find out what doesn't work. It's the action or strategy that didn't work, not you, so there's no need to personalize every part of the process.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Loved ones will involve you in what could be thought of as a stressful situation, or LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Life is a you could see the scene as a chance to prioritize differently, handle challenges and learn through the process. Your connection to others inspires, organizes and builds you. As you solve problems, virtues like tolerance and compassion emerge.

30. Work time period 33. Bighorn, for one 35. Classical column 36. Toronto media inits. 39. Enforcement power 42. Suffix with respond 43. Big bill 44. Bakery need _ of 40s and 50s 45. June Hollywood 46. Soap ingredients 47. Kenva inhabitant **51. Invitation letters** 54. Uzbekistan border lake 57. Like some penguin feet 62. What a lawyer might collect 65. Possess, archaic _buena **66**. 67. Tombstone name 68. Creme-filled cookie 69. "What ____!' 70. Songbird

Across

1. Lima's locale

5. Choristers

10. Grasslands

14. Rich Little, e.g.

16. U.S. soprano Gluck

20. One of the Gorgons

17. Attorney no-no?

22. Alack's partner

25. Uncredited actor

do tor now

15. "Smart" guy

21. Distinguish

11. T.S. or Spitzer 12. French love 13. Christmas giver cabaret, old 18. "Life _ chum' 19. Tentative 23. "The Naked Sun" author 24. Playing marble 26. St Thomas, e.g. 27. Fund-raising suffix 28. Season of fasting 29. of lamb 31. Reaches a conclusion 32. In shape 34. Board game 36. Pot material 37. Headquarters 38. 100-lb. units 40. Letters after "messenger" or "transfer" 41. Wriggly fish 47. Manly, man 48. Clamorous 49. Health, in Le Havre



50. In spite of the fact, shortly 52. Not shy 53. Be nosy 55. One-named Irish Grammy winner 56. Got mellower 58. Some 59. Within reach 60. "An Officer and a Gentleman" star 61. Cable staple 63. Before poetically 64. Warriors' grp.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People who are a good fit for you may not have the same opinion as you, but you'll share values. You'll hear a person's preferences and interests early in a relationship, but values take longer to reveal themselves, especially the important ones like honesty, integrity and graciousness. Take your time and you'll get the fit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Desire is like a cosmic lighting director. Possible routes to the wanted thing become

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: Your power grows this trip around the sun, and some will even think of you as an entity because you symbolize something larger than an individual. Though others consider you selfactualized, you've yet to scratch the surface of what it means to be you. You'll explore new meanings by learning skills, forging relationships and operating in new territories. More highlights: Your eye for collecting pays off. Something you own is worth way more than you think. You will have easy friendship, amazing chemistry and fulfilling work.



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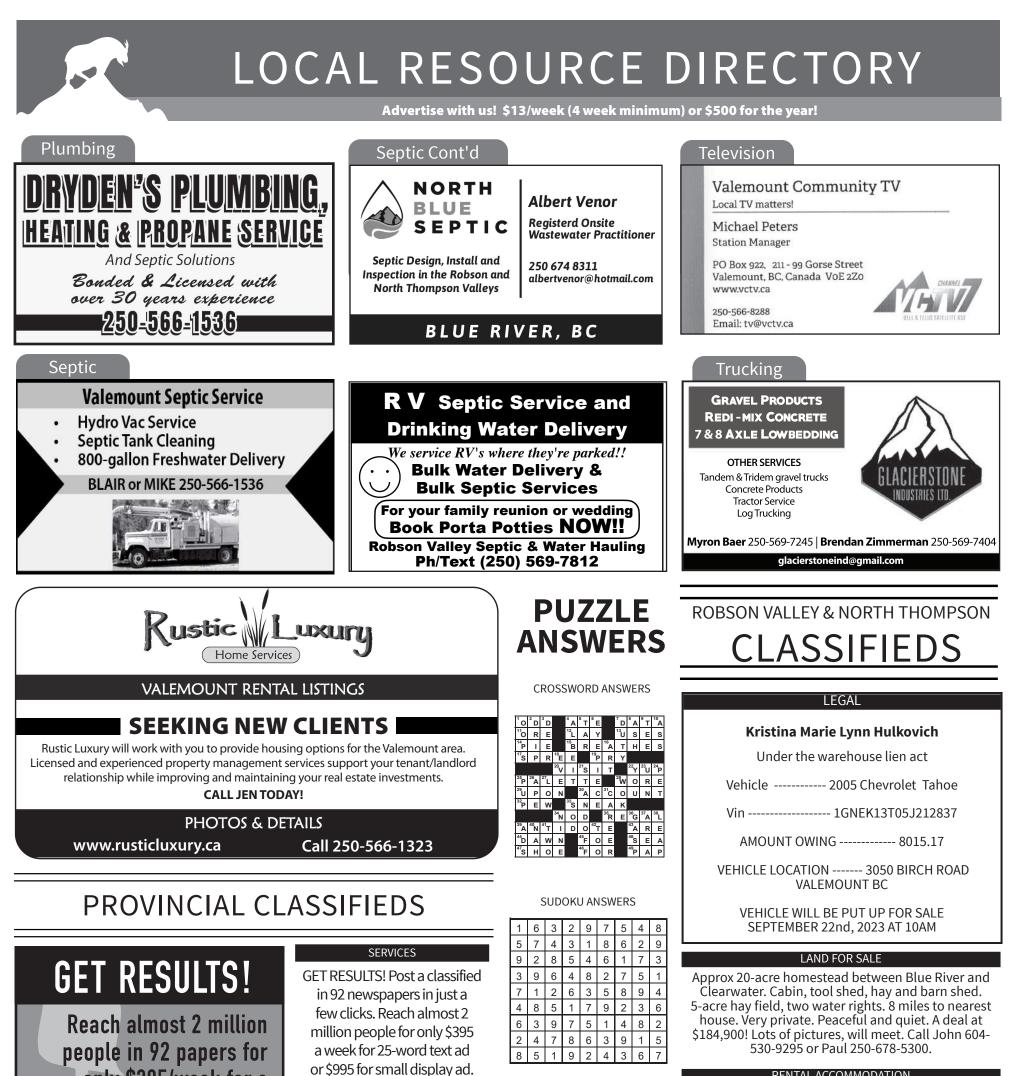


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ROBSON Community Events

VALEMOUNT

SAT-SUN SEPT 16 at 10am to SEPT 17 AT 1pm Fall Fest mountain biking event at the Valemount Bike Park. Shuttles included in ticket price. See VARDA for more info.

SAT SEPT 30th Karaoke at Scooters restaurant 8pm.

Ongoing Valemount Events

MONs **Family Place Drop-In** is on Mondays from 9amnoon 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). For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc. org. Sept. events listed below:

September —11 Activity day at Centennial park

September — 18 Get together at Roots of Life Child Care Centre (1451 5th Ave)

September —25 Indigenous stories, colouring and resources in honour of Truth and Reconciliation day September 30 (1451 5th ave)

WEDs **Oldtimers band and music night** at the Golden Years Lodge 7pm. All welcome! Bring an instrument, listen or dance.

THURS Free **Drop-In/Coffee House** at the Golden Years Lodge the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month from 10 am until 2 pm. It's open to everyone regardless of your age. If you currently have any 'mobility issues' call Derek 250-613-6905 for a ride in the accessibility bus.

THUR's Senior women are invited to register **Reflections**, **Repair**, **Revival** for a guided counselling group for female seniors to speak safely around experiences of violence and trauma, in the company of others with shared experiences June 29th & July 6th from 3-4pm. Registration is required contact the office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

Most SATs 10am-11:15am **Creative writing group**. Join us for writing and friendly conversation. Everyone welcome. Contact Laura to confirm dates and times at lauraishere@ gmail.com.

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

SATs 10am-1pm the Valemount United Anglican Church have a **thrift store**, on 7th and Cedar!

SATs 3pm **Cribbage tournament** followed by dinner at the legion and kitchen party music 6-8pm. Bring your acoustic instrument and take part in some laid-back sing-a-longs.

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

MON through FRIs the **Valemount Seed Library** is available in our lobby during business hours at RVCS Valemount (99 Gorse St). Office hours: Monday to Wednesday 8am-4pm, Thursday 10am-6pm and Friday 8am-4pm Come take free seeds to grow in your garden this summer. By saving seeds, we can maintain genetic diversity, adapt to changing environmental conditions, and save money by not having to purchase new seeds every year. Made possible with funding from CBT For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc. org.

MON through FRI Contact the Valemount RVCS Office to book your **Community Garden Plot.** Cost \$25/year, Volunteer 8hr/year, tools provided. Contact us at 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more information or to sign up. 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. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org.

MCBRIDE

SEPT 6th **Potluck at Beaver River Campground** All adults and seniors are invited to enjoy a lovely afternoon with friends in the great outdoors! Bring an appetizer to share. No registration required. Meet at RVCS office in McBride (942 3rd Ave) arrange carpooling and drive from there. This program is funded by CALP and brought to you by McBride Adult Literacy Program. Contact the office for more info 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

TUES SEPT 12th McBride & District Chamber of Commerce and McBride & District Library are co-hosting a meet and greet for the community and candidates for Council, Kat Vickery and Tina Bennett, on Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 from 6pm to 8pm at the Library location on Main Street.

SEPT 20th All adults and seniors is invited to **Drop-In Coffee House** from 1-3pm at RVCS office in McBride (942 3rd Ave) Come socialize, meet new people and enjoy a warm drink and snacks. No Registration required. Funded by CALP, brought to you by McBride Adult Literacy Program. Contact the office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

Ongoing McBride 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.

MONs Family Place Drop-In is on Mondays from 9amnoon at RVCS (942 3rd Ave). Join for connection with other families, parenting resources and fun for you and your 0-6 year old children. No registration required. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc. org. Upcoming themes:

- September 11 National Play-Doh Day
- September 18 Train Safety Awareness Week
- September 25 Truth and Reconciliation Awareness day in honour of National day for Truth and Reconciliation September 30

TUES nights **the Jam** plays music on the porch of the Train Station from 6:30-8:30. It's an open jam - musicians, singers, and onlookers all welcome. If the weather is bad, we play at the McBride Legion Hall. For more information, call David at (250) 569-2569.

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

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 & 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 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

donation or pay what you can. Call 250-230-8035 for info.

TETE JAUNE

Tete Jaune Community Club meetings the first Tuesday of the month. Contact Garry Wallace for more info.

DUNSTER

SAT SEPT 9. **2nd Annual Tour de Read Road** Family Bicycle Rally. 4km, 10km or 20km options. Free. Starts at the Dunster Hall 8am. Ice Cream, Fresh Drinks and Door Prizes Dunster Farmers Market to follow with Local Burgers! T-Shirt pre-ordering: dunsterfass@gmail.com

Sun. Sept. 10th Three Valleys Community Development Cooperative is having the second **apple pressing bee** of the season on, at Dunster Community Hall from 2pm to 4pm. You must register with Pete Amyoony if you would like to bring apples for pressing. Call at 250-968-4334 or e-mail peteam@telus.net. There are a limited number of spaces at each pressing so call early for details and to reserve a space. We have double tubs for washing the apples so you can bring ground falls.

Ongoing Dunster Events

SAT **The Dunster Farmers' Market** Saturdays until September 30th. 11am to 1pm No charge for vendors - everyone welcome! Our famous "Buy-Local Burgers" will be back again! Tell all your friends and bring them along! For more information call Pete at 250-968-4334



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Valemount RCMP release suspected vehicle in hit and run

By Laura Keil

On Wednesday, July 5, 2023, Valemount RCMP responded to a fatal crash that claimed the life of 46-year-old Merritt Claire Newman, a City Councillor from Merritt.

The crash occurred sometime between 11:45pm and midnight on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 just west of the B.C.-Alberta border.

Shortly after midnight Valemount RCMP responded to an automated cell phone crash notification on Hwy 16 near Lucerne Lake. When police arrived, they found a Nissan Frontier running, unlocked and a dog inside. There were no other vehicles in the area when police arrived.

A closer examination of the scene showed a woman in the ditch down an embankment near the vehicle. Sadly, she was



A sample image of the suspect vehicle /RCMP



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deceased.

Evidence located at the scene suggests the woman may have been struck by a vehicle while outside her car. Police located a headlight assembly that has been identified as belonging to a 2016 to 2018 Jeep Cherokee and grey in colour.

At midnight, a 2016-2018 Jeep Cherokee believed to be involved in this collision was observed driving east along Hwy 16 at the Parks Canada gate, west of Jasper, Alberta. Unfortunately, the license plate number is not visible and there is no front plate on the vehicle. Once the vehicle passed through the Parks Canada gate, it is unknown if the vehicle travelled south toward Banff or east toward Edmonton. Police checked video surveillance at gas stations in both Jasper and Hinton, Alberta, but the suspect vehicle was not seen on video.

It is believed that the suspect vehicle will have front end damage, possibly including a missing driver's side headlight and damage to the front grill from the impact.

If you have any information about this vehicle, who may have been driving it on July 4 and July 5, 2023, or where it may be, you are asked to call the Valemount RCMP at (250) 566-4466 or Crime Stoppers at 1(800) 222-8477.



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF MCBRIDE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

NOTICE OF ELECTION BY VOTING

An election by voting is to be held to elect one (1) Councillor, and that the following persons are candidates for each office:

COUNCILLOR - One (1) to be elected

Surname	Usual Names	Residential Address
BENNETT	Tina	3 Manson Crescent, Mackenzie, B.C.
VICKERY	Kat	944 4 th Avenue, McBride, B.C.

VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS

GENERAL VOTING DAY will be:

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2023, between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm at Council Chambers, 100 Robson Centre 855 SW Frontage Road, McBride, BC

ADVANCE VOTING will be held as follows:

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2023, between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm at Council Chambers, 100 Robson Centre 855 SW Frontage Road, McBride, BC

<u>A SPECIAL VOTING OPPORTUNITY</u> will be held for qualified electors who are patients or staff of the McBride & District Hospital, or residents of the Beaverview Lodge in McBride at the time of voting, as follows:

Friday, SEPTMEBER 29TH, 2023

McBride & District Hospital 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

> Beaverview Lodge 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

ELECTOR REGISTRATION

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

RESIDENT ELECTORS:

- To register as a resident elector you must:
- be 18 years of age or older on general voting day Saturday, September 30th, 2023;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- be a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before the day of registration;
- be a resident of the Village of McBride on the day of registration; and
- not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or assent voting and not otherwise disqualified by law.

NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTORS:

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

- be 18 years of age or older on general voting day Saturday, September 30th, 2023;
- be a Canadian citizen;

www.mannz.ca





EMAIL: sherrimalone@royallepage.ca WEB: propertiesinvalemount.com OFFICE: 1275 5th Ave, Valemount BC VOE 220

- be a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before the day of registration;
- be a registered owner of real property in the Village of McBride for at least 30 days immediately before the day of registration;
- not be entitled to register as a resident elector; and
- not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or assent voting and not otherwise disqualified by law.

In addition, for non-resident property electors:

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

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

Sherri Flynn Chief Election Officer





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Tammy Vande Mobelen 250-566-1025 tammyvan@royallepage.ca





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