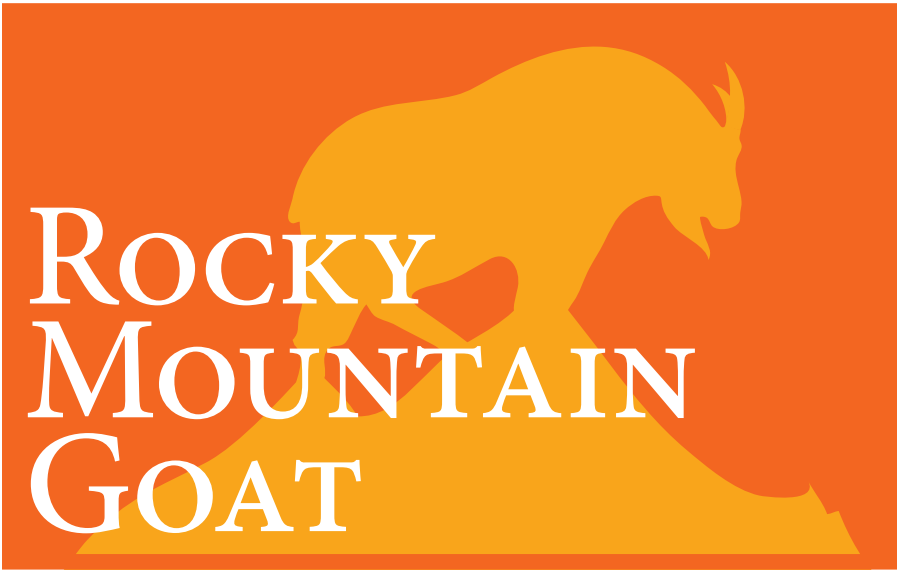




New owners at Home Hardware P10



Your weekly source of news, views and entertainment

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Salmon hatchery sets sights on more valley streams

By LAURA KEIL

In a small dark room at the Spruce City Wildlife Association building in Prince George, drawers full of marble-sized salmon eggs harvested from Valemount's Swift Creek are now beginning to hatch. The conservation organization has been harvesting eggs from the creek for several years and returning the resulting fish fry to the creek each spring. Last spring, they returned 25,000 fish to Swift Creek in Valemount. Spruce City expects about one per cent of fish to return to spawn at age five – that doesn't sound like a lot, but one per cent of 25,000 is 250 fish, which would be a huge improvement on existing numbers. 2023 was the second year they released salmon fry into the creek. Association member Dustin Snyder says the hatching takes place over several weeks. "When checking these eggs you can see the little alevins (young salmon) moving inside of the eggs," he told the Goat Nov. 20th. "Within the next two weeks they will likely all be hatched."

Spruce City places the fertilized eggs in special incubator trays in their Prince George facility, where the water temperature is gradually dropped to 3-4 degrees, which mimics the natural cooling of the stream over winter. Each tray has one female's worth of eggs in it. Plastic cooler curtains help retain the room temperature and hatchery volunteers wear headlamps to reduce the light when checking on the system. "When we are checking on them, we're very, very delicate and very sensitive. Using your gentle voice, that sort of



Thousands of eggs are slowly developing in the cold, dark waters of Spruce City Wildlife Association's hatchery in Prince George. The group has been stocking Swift Creek hopes to start on other streams in the Robson Valley. /SUBMITTED

thing." A monitoring screen - blacked out with a garbage bag - helps them keep an eye on things. "We're constantly regulating and monitoring the the oxygen in the water, the temperature of the water, that sort of thing, how much water is flowing through," Snyder says, noting that he can access this information on his phone. Inside of the egg, a little black sesame seed will be the first sign the eggs are nearing the hatching stage. "Eventually, the one little black sesame

seed turns into two black sesame seeds, and a little white line. And that little white line is the spine and the sesame seeds are the eyes." At first, the fish fry don't require any food, as they're able to live off their yolk sacks for several months. Snyder says in February or March, they will take them out of the incubation area and put them in a big trough where they can begin to feed and swim around. The fish are released sometime in late May or June. In 2021, the Association underwent a major renovation, with \$400,000 put

into state of the art chillers custom-built in California. They hired a part-time employee this year, but the hatchery is still mostly operated by volunteers. Enumeration Project Beyond the walls of the hatchery, the Spruce City Wildlife Association has set their sights on more streams in the region. To do so, however, requires baseline data about fish in those streams

CONT'D ON P2

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Salmon Cont'd from A1

- something that is currently lacking.

“It’s really hard sometimes to be able to protect habitat or, or put protections in place for certain streams when nobody can really say definitively where the spawning area is, and how many fish are actually returning,” Snyder said.

The Association has created their own method to count fish, using a motion-activated underwater camera, fencing the stream so all fish have to pass by it.

“Every fish that swims through, we get a little 10 second video over however long it takes them to pass through the box. We put a measuring stick in there and that sort of thing. This was kind of our pilot year. We were really excited for how successful it was, but we’ve got a lot of work to do.”

They are now installing mirrors inside the box to get a top and side view of each fish to help determine the sex.

“So not only will we get an accurate numeration of how many fish are actually returning back to that stream but ... they’ll be able to tell if there’s any impact on how many females and how many males are returning. So if we know that, you know, 50 fish came back and only two of them were females, we know that the return for that stream five years from now might be really poor, because we only have those two females.”

They are planning to expand those programs to get a better idea of which streams in the upper Fraser and Robson Valley need assistance.

“Because there’s such a lack of data right now, we can’t just pick a stream and say we want to put 10,000 or 30,000 back into the stream. Because we don’t know if that’s going to do more harm than good. You don’t want an overpopulation of hatchery fish either.”

While they wait for the data to roll in, they have tentatively picked a couple streams in the Robson Valley area but which ones are selected depends on approval by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Two are in the McBride and Valemount area.

Snyder says due to their migration route, Upper Fraser salmon are an important food source for the Southern Resident killer whales, which have been declining in numbers, partly due to a lack of food.

But it’s not just orcas that rely on these



salmon.

“We have grizzly bears, we have black bears, we have eagles ... we have a lot of animals that rely on those fish, and bringing nutrients that aren’t in the area. So those fish are in the ocean for three years of their life, and they’re bringing up like a whole bunch of stuff that isn’t found in the forest around.”

Aside from that food, there is also an economic argument, in terms of human fisheries.

“In the last few years, because of the decline of these populations, there’s been significant cuts to commercial fishing, resident fishing closures on the river and the whole works. And that impacts the, you know, that impacts not only the fishing companies, but that impacts the you know, the little mom and pop tackle shops that are selling tackle and that sort of thing.”

Climate change and other changes to water temperatures can severely impact these particular fish, however, since they must travel down streams during the height of summer.


“Some of the rivers around here can be 20 to 25 degrees. And that kind of water temperature is lethal to fish.”

RIGHT: the trays where the eggs and young fish are stored until the alevin mature into fry.


TOP RIGHT: the black dots are the fish eyes developing inside the translucent eggs. /SUBMITTED

TOP: Dustin Snyder. /RMG PHOTO





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.



Planning Your Landscape

The winter months are so great because it gives a gardener time to dream and scheme and draw. If you think it is time to make some changes in the space around your house or if you have just moved into a new house, here are a few guidelines to help in your dreaming.

The first thing to remember is that gardens and landscapes are a work in progress. If you don’t like it, you can always change it! Your aim should be to make the area so appealing that you are drawn to spend a lot of time out there.

Before you even begin thinking of adding anything, take a slow walk around and see what needs to be removed. Are there any trees that are too large for their area or threatening the house or invading the garden?

As difficult as it is to remove mature trees, species such as poplar and willow can take over. Do you really need those “invasive” plants in the perennial bed (e.g. goutweed or creeping Charlie) or could you keep them contained in a container in some corner of the property?

Are there any hazards around the property? Does poor drainage cause a “skating rink” in winter? Are there slippery pathways? Do shrubs or trees block you view as you drive out onto the street or road?

Walk out onto the street or road and look to see if the entry to the house is inviting and draws you in.

Have a good look at the lawns and see if you really need that much or would it be more useful as flower or vegetable beds. Check out all the flowerbeds to see if you like the shape and placement of them. Are perennials overgrown or need to be separated? Can you see any from the kitchen window or your favorite chair?

Once you have checked the things that need to be removed or changed, then it is time to sit down with a rough map of the property and begin to map it out. Draw in the largest trees first with the full sized canopy at maturity. (Remember, large trees shade everything under their canopy). Walk around the neighbourhood to see examples of trees that do well in this area. Don’t be afraid

to ask the neighbours if you are not sure. Remember, not all trees, shrubs and plants brought in by chain stores are hardy for this area. Ask local gardeners and growers.

After you have planned the trees and flower and vegetables beds, plan your decks and patio and gazebo keeping in mind that this is your “outdoor living space”. One of the most homey places I ever lived had a large deck on three sides of the house. I spent half the summer on these decks.

Remember to keep a good distance between poplar or willow trees and your gardens as the roots will invade and use all the nutrients.

It is so much easier to move trees, shrubs or flowerbeds on paper than in the garden. Don’t be afraid to try and try again until it feels right for you.

Once you have the plan on paper you don’t have to do it all at once, but at least you will know the direction you are taking. Remember it is your plan so you have the right to change it at any stage.

Original songs and a documentary



Three outstanding musicians were the stars of a local music performance in Valemount Friday Nov. 17th. The evening included a short documentary by Black Rhino Creative about singer Amy Braun's life as a singer who communicates both vocally and using sign language, which is her mother tongue. Braun grew up speaking sign language with her mother, who is deaf. The documentary explores the loss of her mother tongue when she left home, her effort to incorporate it into her music in Half/Asian with Amy the Coda and the effect that's had on her and others. The documentary was followed by a musical performance by Braun and bandmate Ian Griffiths, playing on an 80s synth. Also playing Friday was local musician and teacher Ben Coyle, who played original songs, some of which will be on an upcoming album, Coyle's first. /LAURA KEIL

CAREERS

Village drills second test water well

By Rachel Fraser

The Village of Valemount drilled a second test/production well on October 18th as part of a water study commissioned by the Village. According to Urban Systems, the consulting engineers overseeing the work, the well will undergo a pump test November 20th, with a water sample collection to follow. If successful, it would provide an additional source of potable water that could be tied into the existing system. Swift Creek is currently the primary source of drinking water for the community, but after the 2021 slide above

the Creek, reports provided by both Urban Systems and the Ministry of Forest Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development warned that future slide activity could increase sediment. The Village is conducting daily testing at the water treatment plant as recommended by the reports. Though 2021 highlighted the need for redundancies in the water system, “the history of exploring secondary water sources for the village is not a short one and dates back to 1998,” said Mayor Owen Torgerson. The initial test well, drilled in 2021, had issues around flow and filtration that required the drilling of a second.




NOW HIRING

Mill Manager-Operator

Closes January 2nd, 2024

BRKH Custom Woodworks is seeking a person with experience in operating moulders and other wood milling machinery to manage and operate its facility in McBride, BC. Experience operating a moulder would be an asset. Work is permanent full-time, with a salary ranging from \$35 to \$40 per hour depending on experience. For more information, please visit www.dunstercommunityforest.ca



Employment Opportunity

Administrator

Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society (VSCHS)


Are you a compassionate individual who possesses a deep understanding of senior citizens' unique needs? The Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society is seeking an Administrator with a sincere desire to serve and a “can do” attitude. This job requires someone who excels at working independently with a high level of autonomy and is comfortable working with a Board, collaborating with a team and our housing provider partners to maintain occupancy, engage residents, and track rents. This position also oversees the caretaker, maintenance operations and seniors' programs in the building.

Qualifications:

- Effective planning, organizational and time management skills.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft 365, Sage and other standard office computer programs.
- Basic accounting skills.
- The ability to identify, and work within, all Acts and Regulations that apply to our Housing Society.
- Knowledge of board governance and experience preparing agendas and recording meeting minutes an asset.
- Grant writing experience an asset.

This is a part time, permanent position, Monday to Friday, approximately 20 hours a week. The administrator reports to the VSCHS Board of Directors. The successful applicant will be required to provide a clean driver's abstract and a Criminal Record check. Wage commensurate with experience, \$25 - \$30/hour.

Apply in confidence by email with your resume to finance@vschs.ca, Attention Board. Closing date for applications November 30th, 2023 ***NEW DATE!**



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

Property Use Agreement for the:

Canoe Valley Recreation Centre Concession


The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George intends to enter into a lease agreement for the use of a Regional District property for a 2-year term with:

Valemount Minor Hockey Association for those portions of the upper floor of the Canoe Valley Recreation Centre known as the Concession Area. The Canoe Valley Recreation Centre is located at 100 Elm Street, Valemount, BC.

In consideration of the entitlements given, the Regional District will receive a nominal sum of \$1.00 the specified term of the lease.

For more information please email:

Cindy Paton
Community Services Leader
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
communityservices@rdffg.bc.ca



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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Editorial



Andrea Arnold
Associate Editor / Reporter
ajareporting29@gmail.com

Change

Moving back to the community I grew up in has been a really great and strange experience. It feels like the community never really changes, but at the same time, everything has changed. It is a bit of a mind scrambling concept when I really think about it.

It seems really strange that people I went to school with, or a few years older, hold positions making decisions at the Village office, when once upon a time, those jobs were held by ‘old’ people. Businesses that have been cornerstones of the community for many years are experiencing changes in ownership or management. The Robson Valley Pet Hostel has closed its doors, McBride has recently gotten a new CAO, Robson Valley Home Hardware has new owners, and Advantage Insurance is transitioning its signage to Integris to name a few.

It isn’t just businesses that are experiencing change. The organizations that are run by

volunteers are also experiencing change. One of the big troublesome changes is that the membership in many of these groups is dwindling due to age, and burnout.

The generation before mine is getting tired. Tired of working, tired of volunteering, tired of keeping the community rolling.

It is time for not only my generation (as I am in the middle and I know there are capable individuals younger than I), to step into some of the roles that have been held by the same people for year after year after year. This is true across the valley.

Events such as Pioneer Days (McBride), Valemountain Days (Valemount), our local legions, Canada Day, slow-pitch tournaments, Family Day events, curling bonspiels, minor hockey, figure skating and Christmas celebrations have had some of the same organizers making them amazing for many years. If we as community members want to see these events continue at their same level of amazingness, we need

to step up, help and learn the ropes. If any of the key players in any of the events were to walk away, we would lose a wealth of valuable information, resulting in a less than spectacular outcome.

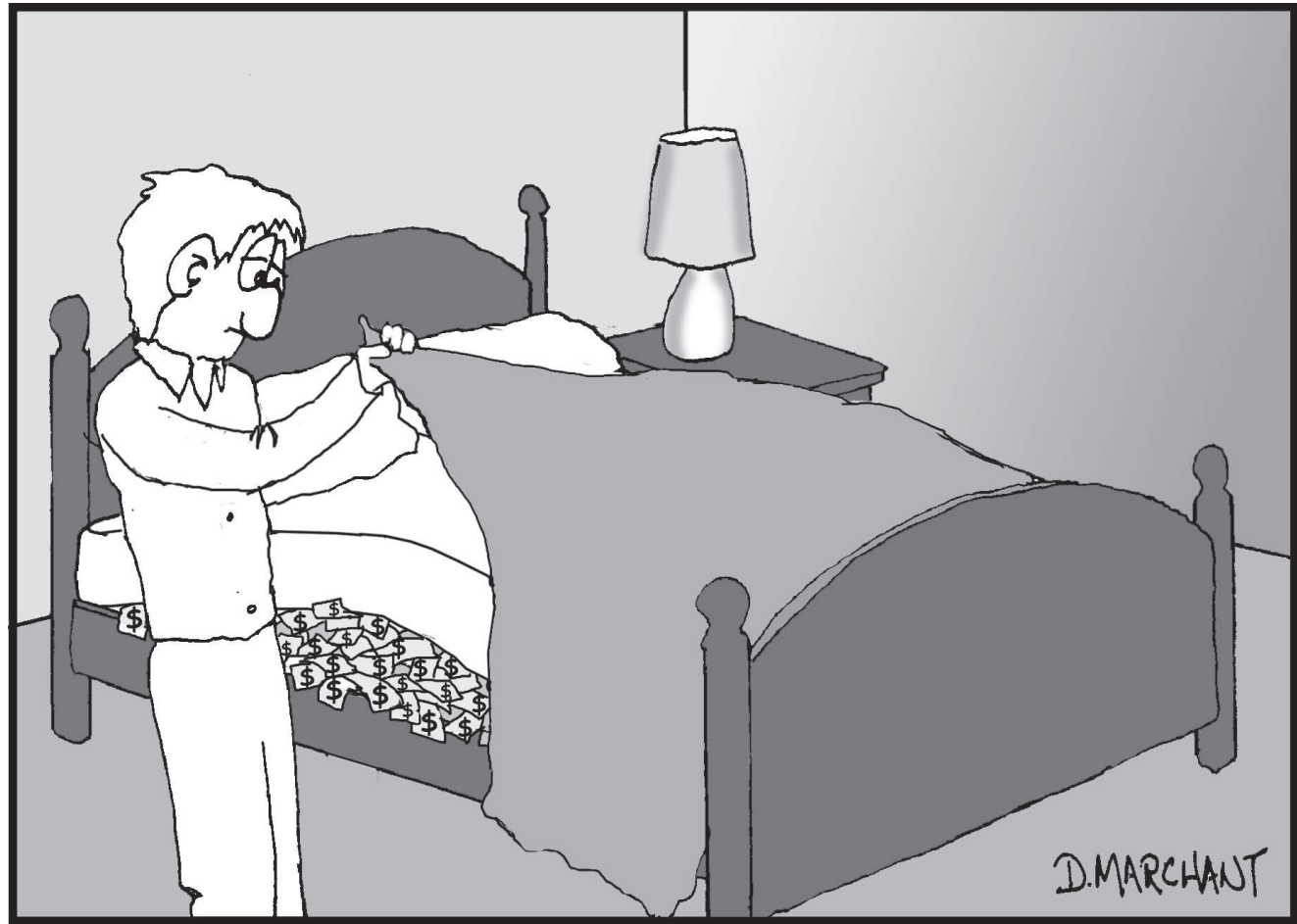
As the winter months are upon us, there are fewer opportunities for us to gather in social environments, and any newcomers to the community may be left feeling like a stranger until spring thaw and people start being out more. Getting involved through volunteering is a way to combat the feeling of winter isolation.

Let’s instigate a change in this regard by all looking for ways to get involved, taking some of the pressure off the existing priceless teams of volunteers. Volunteering for a common goal is a great ice breaker for new and old residents alike.

This action could result in meeting new people, making new friends and maybe even starting a new favorite community tradition.

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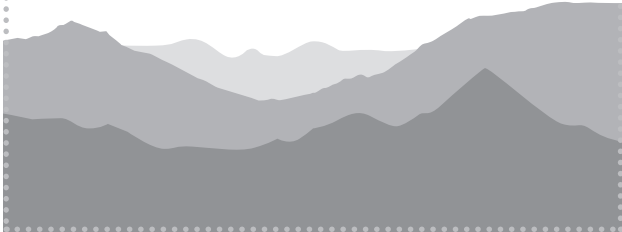
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About Letters to the Editor

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Remembrance Day gratitude

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #75 (McBride) would like to thank the community for the great support on wreath and poppy campaign and for the support at the parade and ceremony at the Cenotaph in Steve Kolida Park.

Special acknowledgement to MLA Shirley Bond, MP Bob Zimmer, Regional District, C.U.P.E., and McBride Fire Department and to others who purchased and laid wreaths. Proceeds from the poppy fund support veterans and their families.

Thanks to all those individuals who contributed to our Remembrance Day ceremony including Bob Balcean (school and mobile sound system), Dave Hruby (parade marshal), Keith Berg (horn playing) Cassidy Brawn (for singing), and Rev. Andriy Antypov (scripture reading and prayer). Special thanks to the three members from the 1 Service Battalion out of Edmonton for travelling all this way to participate in the ceremony.

Thanks to the Beanery 2, members Donna, and Andy for preparing the great roast beef luncheon for the Legion. Thanks to all the helpers and staff who assisted with the meal.

Thanks to Integris Insurance (printing the pamphlets), the Little McBride Paper and the Goat Newspaper (advertising).

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #75 (McBride) looks forward to continuing our contribution to the community in a variety of ways.

Dennis Rejman,
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.

The Real Space Race

The upside of Elon Musk is that he is a genius who has done useful things for the human race. He mass-produced electric vehicles for the first time, and he may yet get the human race out into the Solar system for good.

Musk's downside is that he is a political idiot with the impulse control of a ten-year-old boy. So the big question is whether he gets the Starship/Super Heavy system up and running before his random political enthusiasms drive him into bankruptcy.

That's the real space race, between Musk A and Musk B.

Let's say it will take another five years to get fully functional Starships into serial production. That's how long Musk has to stay alive and solvent in order to carry the Starship project to a point where it can continue in the hands of others even if he goes broke.

His continued presence at the head of Space X is necessary because the

development project that has got him this far involves learning by doing. That involves lots of failures in the form of spectacular explosions and 'rapid unscheduled disassemblies' in the course of reaching the goal.

Compared to the traditional government-financed rockets built by NASA and its Russian and Chinese rivals, this approach works out faster and cheaper in the end. But there's a very high burn rate of cash until success is achieved, and that required either boundless cash or boundless investor confidence (same thing, really) in the developer.

Musk has managed to create and maintain that confidence and the cash keeps flowing, but it's still a high-risk way of working. One really bad crash that involved a large loss of human life (improbable but always possible) could bring him down. So could a bankruptcy elsewhere in his empire, most likely in Twitter. (Sorry, 'X')

Why should we even care? Because getting Starship/Super Heavy onto the market in multiple copies is important. It will revolutionise everything to do with space flight, because the cost of getting anything into orbit will drop from \$60,000 (NASA's Space Launch System) to \$10 a kilo (Musk's Starship).

If Musk is over-promising and the real cost is ten times higher than that, it would still be a thousandfold cut in the cost of lifting a kilo of anything to low-earth orbit.

Never mind Mars (Musk's dream). With this technology, you can build immense arrays of solar panels that harvest non-stop all-weather sunlight in space and beam it down to Earth for energy.

You can start mining minerals that are rare on Earth but may be plentiful on the Moon and various asteroids. You can build orbital factories that exploit zero gravity for various chemical and pharmaceutical processes.

You can do all sorts of things we hadn't even taken seriously before, because at \$10-\$100 per kilo to orbit it all becomes affordable, including refueling in orbit for more distant destinations.

What makes Musk so important for that?

We could have had all this technology by the mid-1980s, but the two countries then financing space flight, the US and the Soviet Union, lost interest after the US won the race to the Moon and détente de-escalated the Cold War.

Until and unless space flight becomes a widespread and commercially viable business, a shift in the political winds could stall it again. That is what makes Musk the indispensable man for the moment. Without him the momentum could easily be lost again.



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Valemount Council: Entryway sign, invasive mussels, five-year financial plan

By Spencer Hall. Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

Councillor Blanchette chaired the November 14th public hearing and council meeting, with Mayor Torgerson joining via Zoom. She began by calling the public hearing to order.

Public Hearing

The Village held the public hearing to allow residents to comment on temporary use permit 2306, which would allow an RV to remain parked and used as a residence at 1280 Juniper Street for another two years.

The new permit is a renewal of temporary use permit 2107, approved by council in December 2021. Valemount Land Planner Krista Etty told council the first permit allowed an RV to be used as a residence for two years, adding the Village didn't receive any complaints or concerns from neighboring properties at the time of application or during the two years the RV has been in place, though it did receive one written submission following the permit's initial approval in October. Nearby property owner Rhondi Hurlbut thanked the Village for the opportunity to have her thoughts considered

"I realize why the temporary use permit was in place when there was absolutely no available housing, but the reduction in population has opened some sales and rentals now and I would not like to see RVs as a permanent housing option, especially when some very hardworking people have accomplished supplying our neighborhood with some very well-designed beautiful housing options," Hurlbut wrote.

No other feedback was provided by the public, the applicant or from members of council.

The hearing was adjourned and the regular council meeting commenced at 7:05 p.m.

Image Signs & Lighting

The meeting kicked off with a presentation to council from Carson Jordan with Image Signs & Lighting — the company that could design the

Village's new entry sign.

Jordan told council he reviewed previous meetings and wanted to get feedback and clarify design concerns.

A large concern for council is traffic sightlines of the Highway 16 and 5th Avenue intersection, and a single post archway design previously provided to council would likely mitigate sightline concerns. Jordan agreed.

Read more in this week's issue on P8.

Invasive Mussels

Council discussed a letter from the Okanagan Basin Water Board requesting the Village's support in calling on senior governments to take immediate action to prevent or minimize impacts from invasive mussels spreading into B.C.

The board said that in September, the State of Idaho announced invasive quagga mussels were found in Snake River, which feeds into the Columbia River. The discovery was made in Twin Falls, located about 17 hours from Valemount and 11 hours from the B.C. border.

"If senior governments fail to act, local governments and First Nations in B.C. will bear the brunt of managing and paying for the costs of invasive mussel mitigation," the board said in its letter.

According to the board, the mollusks could cost the Province about \$129 million each year from infrastructure, maintenance of boats and marinas, lost profits and provincial revenue, losses in residential property value and property taxes.

"These costs do not include the devastating effects on fish – especially Pacific salmon, and aquatic ecosystems in general. Invasive mussels can create toxic algae blooms, litter beaches with razor-sharp shells, clog water intakes and boat motors, and corrode concrete and metal in the water," the board's letter reads.

Actions the province should take, according to the board, include a temporary prohibition of out of province watercraft entering B.C. until the level of infestation in the Columbia Basin can be determined

and introducing legislation that would require watercraft users to drain their boats of standing water before transporting them on public roads.

Pearson said it's only a matter of time before the mussels find their way into Robson Valley waterways and moved that council send a letter of support of the Okanagan Basin Water Board. The motion was seconded by MacLean and carried by council.

Accounts Payable

Council then reviewed a quarterly accounts payable report from Village Director of Finance Lori McNee. In her report, McNee said all expenses, totalling just over \$3.6 million from July to September 2023 remain within the Village budget. Council voted to receive the report for information.

Building Inspection Report

According to Village building inspector Dean Schneider, the Village issued two building permits and collected \$290 in September 2023. The permits were for alterations or repairs to a residential accessory building and an institutional building with an estimated construction value of \$17,000.

Schneider says in October 2023, the Village issued one building permit for an addition to a single family dwelling, which had an estimated \$10,000 in construction value.

Council received the report for information.

October Bylaw Enforcement

Valemount Bylaw Enforcement Officer Clayton Gee told council in his report that in October 2023 community engagement remained the most successful way of handling most bylaw interactions.

Gee said three complaints were received resulting in files being opened in October. These complaints included one open air burning violation, one dangerous dog attack resulting in injury and one complaint of a dog at large.

The bylaw enforcement officer said he worked with the BCSPCA and RCMP

CONT'D ON P7



CBT ReDi Grants Adjudication Members Needed

Join the CBT Resident Directed Grants (ReDi Grants) Adjudication Committee!

The Village of Valemount is seeking volunteers to fill vacancies on the Columbia Basin Trust Resident Directed Grants (ReDi Grants) Adjudication Committee. The role of the Adjudication Committee is to meet between February 2024 — April 2024 to review project submissions and to make recommendations to Council as to which not-for-profit community organizations should receive project funding.

It is a "Select" Committee of Council composed of up to six residents of Valemount or the Regional District, as well as one appointed Council Liaison. The Council Liaison is a voting member of the Committee. The Village of Valemount Grant Clerk coordinates the Adjudication Committee and is a non-voting member. **There are 5 positions available, with terms of 1 or 2 years.**

Committee applications are available on the village website at: www.valemount.ca or at the village office, 735 Cranberry Lake Road. Contact Lori McNee at 250.566.4435 or email dof@valemount.ca for further information.

The application deadline is Friday, Dec. 1, 2023 at 12:00 pm.

Amended Five-Year Financial Plan

All interested members of the public are invited to view the **Amended** Five- Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 887, 2023, posted to the Village website.

The public consultation period is from November 17 to December 1, 2023.

Comments are to be received by the Director of Finance at dof@valemount.ca prior to December 4, 2023 at 12:00pm.

All comments received will be provided to the Village Council for consideration in advance of the Final bylaw reading, which is expected to be on the agenda at the December 12, 2023 Council meeting.

Reminder to Residents

REMOVE ITEMS FROM VILLAGE EASEMENTS AND BOULEVARDS

The village utilizes the easements and boulevards within all residential areas for snow clearing operations throughout the winter. Storing vehicles of any kind (including RV's, boats, utility trailers etc.) or materials such as dirt, gravel, firewood, etc. on village easements and boulevards is in contravention of village bylaws. Violations may result in fines or vehicles being towed at the owner's expense, should they hinder snow removal efforts.

Valemount Visitor Centre - Fall and Winter Hours

Open Monday to Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.
Closed for lunch 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm.
Closed Statutory Holidays.

*** Receive 25% off everything, except consignment items, for the month of December! ***

Call Out for Clean Air Task Force Volunteers – Nov. 2023

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

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

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

To see a complete list of the committee's mandate and composition, please read the complete Terms of Reference, available on the village website at www.valemount.ca.

To apply for a position on the Clean Air Task Force, please forward a brief letter outlining your relevant interest and experience by email to corporate@valemount.ca, or by mail to Village of Valemount (Attn: Carleena Shepherd), PO Box 168, Valemount BC, V0E 2Z0.

The deadline for applications is Friday, January 5, 2024 at 4:00 pm.



The Centennial Self-Cleaning Washrooms will be closed until further notice, due to severe vandalism on Tuesday, November 7th, 2023. A file has been created with the RCMP and staff will be investigating the cost of a security camera to deter



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

MCBRIDE COUNCIL NOTES

McBride Council - Bank closure concerns, bylaws, and Elks Liquor licence

By Andrea Arnold

McBride Mayor Gene Runtz called the November 14, 2023 council meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Bank closure concerns

Brad Kope addressed council regarding the recent announcement by Scotiabank regarding the branch closure in McBride. He asked that council send a letter to the head office Scotiabank, asking them to reconsider the closure, and cc Shirley Bond and Bob Zimmer. Village Economic Development Officer Karen Dube had submitted a report to council outlining some of the issues that would face the community if no financial services are available to residents.

The report also stated that Village administration had reached out to a PG based credit union to invite them to meet with village staff to discuss the opportunity to open a branch in McBride. EDO Dube confirmed that the meeting has been scheduled for Friday, Nov 17th.

Letter of Support

Council directed staff to write a letter of support to the Province for Community Futures Fraser Fort George’s application to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program for the Strengthening Community Resilience and Food Systems in Rural Fraser Fort George project to foster food and agriculture resilience within the region, including the Robson Valley.

Bylaw amendments

Council gave final reading and adoption to Business Licence Bylaw Amendment No. 820, 2023 and Sign Bylaw Amendment No. 819, 2023. Both of these amendments are needed to ensure regulations are met following the new cannabis retail bylaw.

Earlier meeting time

Council gave first, second and third reading to Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment No 823, 2023. This amendment would change the start time for regular council meetings from 7:00pm to 6:00pm. The purpose of this change is to allow more time for discussion during

Council meetings.

Approving officer

Council appointed Jeanette McDougall as the Village of McBride’s Approving Officer to take effect immediately.

Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway Association

Council confirmed the Village of McBride’s continued membership in the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway Association.

Tactical plan and budget

Council agreed to support the Village of McBride 2024 One Year Tactical Plan and Budget as endorsed by the McBride Tourism Committee, for submission to DestinationBC.

Signing authority

Council authorized the addition of councillor Tina Bennett as a signing officer on the Scotiabank signing authority package. Council also authorized the addition of CAO/CO Jeanette McDougall as a signing officer on all Village of McBride Scotiabank signing authority packages, Municipal Finance Authority banking investment purposes and corporate credit card.

Elks liquor licence

Mayor Runtz removed himself from chambers prior to the next item as he is a member of the Elks.

Council directed staff to gather public

input regarding the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks #247 application for transition for a liquor primary licence. This would allow more community members to be welcomed without the requirement to sign in at the front door. Council also asked staff to prepare a draft resolution for Council’s comments/ recommendations at the council meeting on December 12th.

Land survey proposal

Council approved moving forward with the proposal from McElhanney Associates Land Surveying Ltd. File # P001-3578, and authorize CAO McDougall to sign the proposal.

Christmas cards

Council directed Administration to prepare and send out digital Christmas Cards.

Christmas party

Council approved administrations request for \$1000 budget for a staff and council Christmas Party.

In-camera

Council proceeded to an in-camera meeting for consideration of matters of the Community charter related to Section 90 (1)(c) Labour relations or other employee relations. The regular meeting was recessed at 7:34pm to conduct the in-camera meeting.

Valemount Council Cont'd from P6

during the investigation into the dog attack.

“[The investigation] resulted in a Notice of Bylaw Violation being issued with terms for keeping a dangerous dog within the Village. The file is being monitored for compliance,” Gee said in his report.

Gee said that in October, bylaw received multiple calls from the public about bears in the area, resulting in Conservation Officers attending several times, including two full weekends, to monitor bear activity and take action if necessary.

Compliance on several files was achieved, resulting in the closure of four files. 22 files remained open at the end of October and were carried over into November.

Seven properties are being monitored for hazard mitigation caused by tall grass and weeds and unsightliness under the Good Neighbor Bylaw. Five parking infractions await action by violation recipients.

Council received the report for information.

Temporary Use Permit 2306

After the public hearing, Council approved Temporary Use Permit 2306 allowing an RV to remain parked at 1280 Juniper Street and used as a residence for another two years.

Pearson said while he doesn’t completely disagree with comments made by Rhondi Hurlbut, the temporary use permits are still a value to the community.

“This process also allows people building new homes to live in an RV while they’re building,” Pearson said.

Torgerson pointed out after the renewed two-year permit expires in December 2025, the applicant can’t reapply as it is a temporary permit.

Third Quarterly 2023 Budget Report

Council then received the third quarterly budget report for this year, which states all revenues and expenses are within the Village budget.

The Village budgeted for a grand total of \$20,751,790 in revenue for the third

quarter, but fell nearly three million dollars short of that at \$17,798,639. This appears to mainly be due to the Village not receiving \$1,673,094 worth of grants it previously budgeted for. The Goat reached out to the Village for clarification but didn’t receive a response by publication time.

However, of the \$20,751,789 budgeted for expenses, the Village has only spent \$15,193,890, with just over \$5.5 million left over.

Asset Retirement Obligations Policy No. 93, 2023

After review, council approved Asset Retirement Obligations Policy No 93, which will change the way the Village accounts for the retirement of long-term tangible assets. It will require the Village to account for and report on its asset retirement obligations. The aim of the policy is to allow those who work with financial reports to recognize information about municipal assets and what needs to be done in order to retire them.

Village of Valemount Five-Year Financial Plan

Council then gave first, second, and third readings to the Village’s Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 871, 2023, amendment Bylaw No. 887, 2023.

In her report to council, McNee said amendments to the 2023 five-year financial plan needed to be made because of increases and decreases in Village expenses and revenues.

Significant changes listed in McNee’s report included a \$540,000 increase in sewer sales and a \$350,000 increase in water sales, both of which will go to the Village’s reserves. The additional sales relate to Trans Mountain pipeline expansion activity in the area.

Torgerson stated his appreciation for McNee and her ability to offset Village expenses with grants and financial reserves.

No public comments were received and there was no in camera business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Books of the week!

FICTION

MEXICAN GOTHIC

An isolated mansion. A chillingly charismatic aristocrat. And a brave socialite drawn to expose their treacherous secrets. . . . From the author of Gods of Jade and Shadow comes “a terrifying twist on classic gothic horror” (Kirkus Reviews) set in glamorous 1950s Mexico.

NATURE

THE TIGER

A True Story of Vengeance and Survival
It's December 1997 and a man-eating tiger is on the prowl outside a remote village in Russia's Far East. To the horrified astonishment of a team of hunters, it emerges that the attacks are not random: the tiger is engaged in a vendetta.

KIDS GARDENING

FORAGING WITH KIDS

A fun, informative and practical introduction to safely foraging with kids, from the UK's bestselling foraging author.

In today's world of increasingly sedentary lifestyles and a growing detachment from the food that we eat, it has never been more important to encourage children to put down their screens, get outside and engage with the natural world around them.

NON-FICTION

THIS WILD SPIRIT

In 1912, Mary Vaux, a botanist, glaciologist, painter, and photographer, wrote about her mountain adventures: “A day on the trail, or a scramble over the glacier, or even with a quiet day in camp to get things in order for the morrow's conquests? Some how when once this wild spirit enters the blood...I can hardly wait to be off again.”

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MON 9:30am-4:30pm
TUES CLOSED
WED-FRI 9:30am-4:30pm
1170 5th Avenue
ACROSS FROM THE IGA DOWNTOWN

MCBRIDE HOURS:
MON 9am-2pm
TUES 11am-2pm
(limited selection of books)
411 Main Street - Unit 102
ACCESS FROM 4TH AVE

Village to explore “simplified” archway design for Valemount entry sign

By SPENCER HALL, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

After speaking with Image Sign and Lighting’s Carson Jordan at its latest meeting, Valemount Council has decided to explore a “simplified” archway design for the Village’s new entry sign.

In September, council asked Village staff to contact the company so it could adjust the archway design included in its submission package to improve pedestrian and traffic sightlines.

In a document reviewed by council in October, the company responded, saying the \$161,208 cost quoted in its initial proposal was for the “pylon” designs, not for the archway, adding a design similar to the Village’s current sign would likely exceed the project’s \$200,000 budget.

Council then requested a delegation from the company to obtain further information.

Pearson told Jordan a major concern for council is traffic sightlines of the Highway 16 and 5th Avenue intersection. The Village’s current entry sign has a

large base that blocks the view of traffic entering and exiting the intersection.

Pearson said an archway design with no base and one post on each side, similar to the Steveston Harbor sign that was previously provided to council as an example, would likely mitigate this issue. Jordan agreed.

“You’d be going from the existing sign [base] which is roughly 12 feet wide down to a single pole (on either side) which is 18 inches wide,” Jordan said.

While the first proposed archway design would go over budget, Jordan said the “simplified” archway design would remain within the Village’s \$200,000 limit, but the cost would be on the higher side.

“There would be lots of design work, engineering, and approvals needed, as well as full removal of the existing sign and most likely a longer installation period as well,” Jordan said.

Council directed Village staff to continue to work with Image Signs and Lighting on the design and price of a simplified archway design.



The Steveston Harbour sign is an example of a simplified archway sign provided to Valemount council by Image Sign and Lighting. /IMAGE SIGN & LIGHTING

"Ecological trainwreck:" Wild pigs spotted near Jasper National Park

By: SCOTT HAYES, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER JASPER FITZHUGH

An “ecological trainwreck” lurks in the woods: wild pigs. They could already be somewhere within the 11,000 square kilometres of Jasper National Park.

Last week, the Canadian Wild Pig Research Project published a map image on its social media page showing locations of wild pig sightings, along with the question: “What is the risk of wild pigs to the mountain parks in Alberta and British Columbia?”

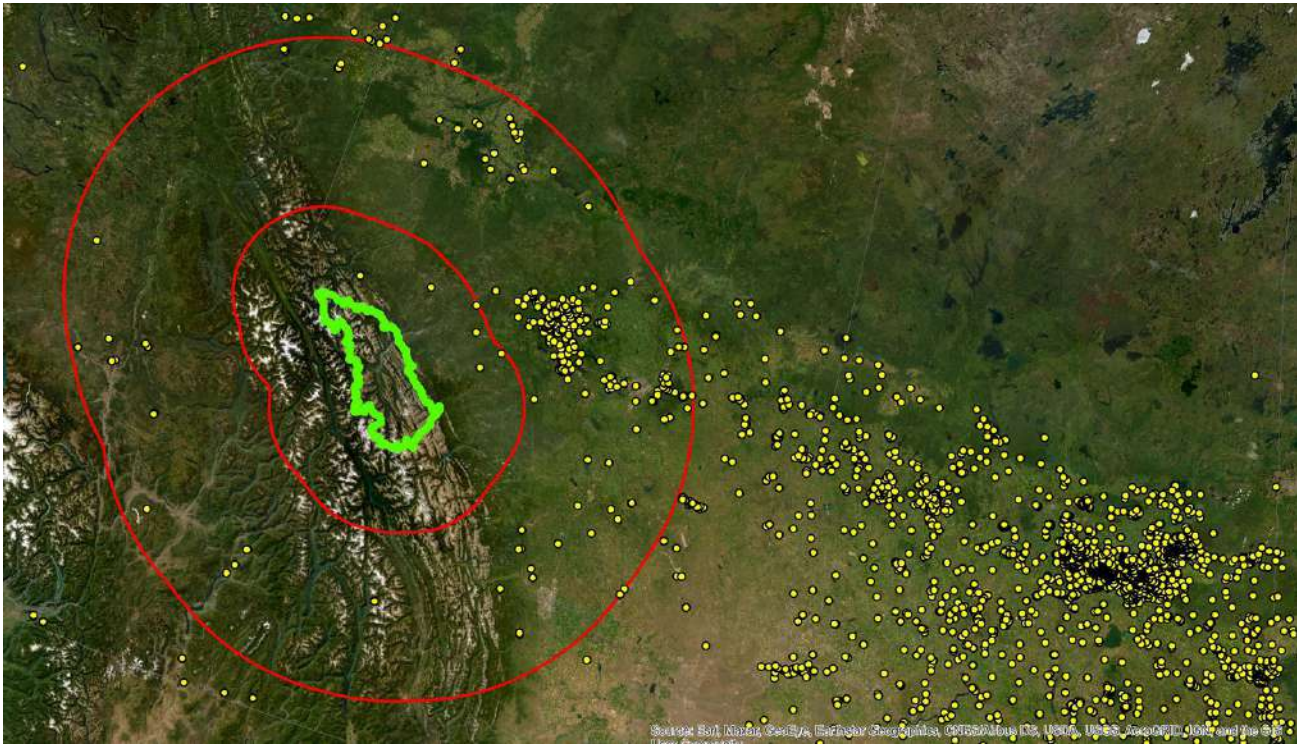
Project head and University of Saskatchewan Professor Ryan Brook said that proximity is “a massive red flag.” There is no shortage of these animals in the general area, and their numbers are expanding rapidly and out of control. The damage that follows in their wake will certainly increase as well.

He called them “the worst invasive large mammal on the planet.” After he went to Texas to help capture pigs in one area, he observed that there were no birds, no snakes and not even insects, only a lot of severely disturbed ground.

“The silence was deafening. Anything from about five feet high down was just gone. There was virtually no living material of any kind,” he said.

“The ground was just devastated because pigs don’t just graze; they’re rooters. They get their noses in the ground, and they rip up the ground to get roots and insect larva. They leave this terrible mess that looks like a rototiller went through it. They tear the land apart. It opens the land for invasive plant species to move in. It takes years and years to recover. They are an ecological nightmare. They are the worst invasive large mammal on the planet.”

They kill and eat ground nesting birds and their eggs,



A map supplied by the Canadian Wild Pig Research Project shows just how close the “worst invasive large mammal on the planet” is to Jasper National Park. The yellow dots represent wild pig sightings, the green line the borders of the park. /SUPPLIED IMAGE

small mammals, white-tailed deer and even elk calves and likely also calves of caribou and moose. They are extremely aggressive and will chase off many different animals. Their razor-sharp tusks help with that task.

They do not have sweat glands, so they wallow in the mud to cool off, which can contaminate the water with feces and urine with high levels of Salmonella, E. coli, and other harmful microorganisms.

“This is why wild pigs are referred to as an ‘ecological trainwreck,’” Brook said.

They have an “incredible” reproductive rate also, he added, with litters of six being born within four months, and they become sexually mature themselves eight months after that.

He recalled a truck accident that released 11 wild pigs into a provincial park within the last decade. After three years, there were more than 130 animals in that herd, called a sounder.

A whole sounder must be destroyed at the same time as survivors learn to avoid threats very quickly.

“The potential for it to go from nothing to being a major out-of-control problem is very, very real. It has happened and continues to happen every day in Canada.”

Brook said that he hasn’t yet heard of wild pig sightings in mountainous regions of Canada but that he won’t be surprised when it does happen.

“They continue to spread into new places, like potentially Jasper, very likely, but also to get very, very high numbers where the impacts become devastating.”

Megan Evans, executive director of the Alberta Invasive Species Council, said there is good work happening in Alberta with the province’s strategic and co-ordinated trapping program as part of a collaboration with Alberta Pork. They track occurrences of wild boar and set up remotely monitored traps to remove all those pigs.

“Based on the level of infestation and our management goal of eradication, that is really the best way to proceed as opposed to encouraging hunting as a control method, where if you pick off a couple members of the group, then you have actually taught and educated the remaining pigs to avoid being hunted and trapped in the future,” she said.

“That can actually make them more challenging to manage.”

The province does encourage people to report sightings using the online form on its website or by calling 310-3276 (FARM).

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A big, beautiful bear of a book

By: SCOTT HAYES, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER JASPER FITZHUGH

After years of publishing research papers on grizzly bears and their behaviours, Bruce McLellan has finally produced some reading material for those who don't read scientific journals.

"Grizzly Bear Science and the Art of a Wilderness Life: Forty Years of Research in the Flathead Valley" is his first non-fiction book.

"It's my first and last. I'm not going to do another 45-year study of anything else," he joked.

"I've written a lot of journal papers – lots and lots of those – but they're very different in many ways. One of the many ways is that hardly anybody ever reads them. One of the main reasons I decided to do this is because after writing thousands of pages for journals, I know that only the other scientists read that stuff. No one can really be bothered. It's almost not understandable by a lot of people."

It seems that Dr. McLellan is just like everyone else. When anyone sees a bear, they absolutely must tell everyone about it.

Well, few people could boast of having seen as many bears as he has. By his guess, he has seen approximately 700 grizzlies. He was the "capture guy" for southern British Columbia for a number of years, after all.

"I've handled a lot of bears in my life, and every one is different," he said. "Every circumstance is different depending on how they're captured."

True to form, the wildlife research ecologist kept journals of his encounters to ameliorate his prodigious memory of his work. Other parties helped him along to make sure that details were accurate. For posterity, he included the exact co-ordinates of places where events occurred as well.

"Grizzly Bear Science" is an immensely readable adventure into a world that perhaps few would be daring enough to step foot in.

From these sources, he compiled a well-rounded look at the impressive creatures. It is a deep dive with a moderate though still digestible amount of science to explain bear behaviour. The book serves

an important purpose as the issue of coexistence becomes more prevalent in mountain towns.

"This has been a summer of the grizzlies in town more than any that I remember, and I'm pretty sure more than there has been in a long time," McLellan said.

"Just yesterday, I helped the conservation officers process a grizzly bear in Whistler that was in the schoolyard. There's grizzly bears in my neighbour's yard."

In many ways, this book serves to dispel the myths and the mysteries surrounding grizzlies. There is something new to be learned in every chapter, if not every page.

For those who are most afraid of having an encounter, just make a lot of noise and you should be fine, he said.

"You don't want to surprise them. They are big, dangerous animals. If you surprise them in close range, you could get quite a reaction. I've never had had an issue because I make quite a bit of noise. I know where they're going to be, and I let them go on there and they'll take care of the situation. It's the surprise encounters that usually get people in trouble."

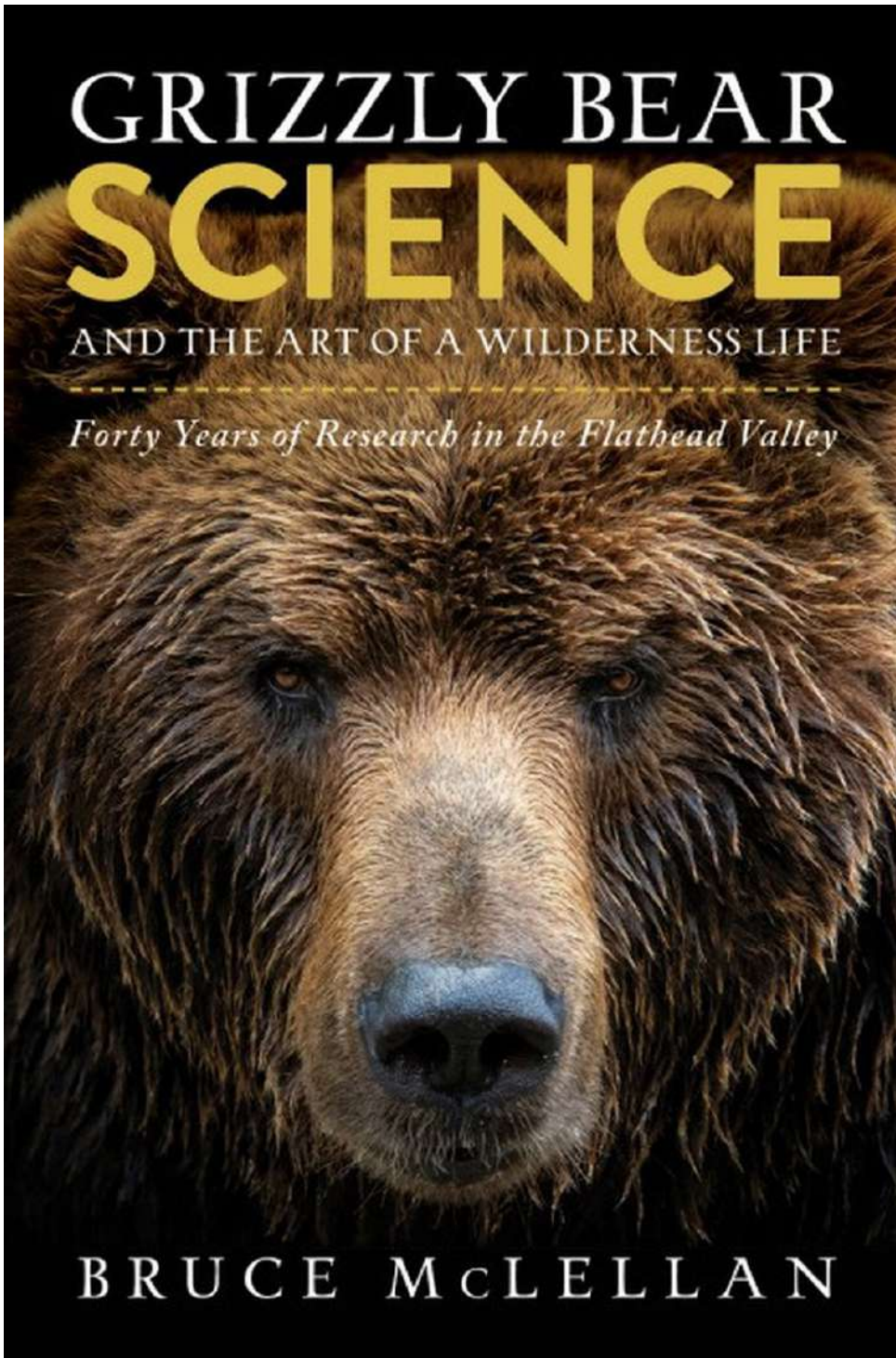
There are some cases that are almost unexplainable, with "almost" being the operative word. Those mostly involve hunters or others who have attractants with them.

A book as approachable and as timely as this begs the question: why not write another that would help further the public's understanding of the grizzly bear? He originally said that this would be his first and last, but his actions seem to be preparing him for the possibility. He did admit to having started compiling a tiny database on his experiences.

"There were some pretty interesting things that happened that I didn't include and then I had forgotten about them. Some of them were pretty intense: running into grizzly bears quite close up and having things happen. Quite a few of those. I have started doing that a little bit just in case," he said.

"I left out thousands of stories that are probably just as entertaining."

"Grizzly Bear Science" was released on Nov. 7 and will be available soon at the Goat Bookstore in Valemount.



Comin' for ya



Git Ready McBride and Valemount! We're comin' for ya! Wishbone Theatre shows begin this weekend (see dates and times at right). From left to right: Ian Griffiths, Amy Braun, Bob Thompson, Abi Ward, Kerry McNaughton, Miwa Hiroe, Sharon Stearns, Ben Coyle, Rayann Flynn, Monica Zieper. /SUBMITTED

WISHBONE THEATRE PRESENTS
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SHOWDOWN
A Western Musical

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Limited seating. Book your tickets early and be prepared to enjoy a fabulous night of food, drink, and entertainment!

Dress Western - Prizes for Best Costumes!

McBride Community Centre
Friday November 24 & Saturday November 25
Buffet Dinner by Julian Randall 6 pm
Show 7:30 pm

Valemount Best Western Plus
Friday December 1 & Saturday December 2
Buffet Dinner by Summit Grill 6 pm
Show 7:30 pm

New owners for Robson Valley Home Hardware



Kevin and Justina Trach and their daughter Paige have been involved in the Robson Valley for seven years. They have several years of experience owning and operating businesses in small communities and are looking forward to continuing their experiences through the acquisition of the Robson Valley Home Hardware “We would like to thank those who have supported the Robson Valley Home Hardware in the past, and continue to support in the present and the future,” said Justina. “We are looking forward to ensuring the people of the Robson Valley are looked after.” The couple are looking forward to building relationships with the people who come through the doors of the store, and want to extend a warm welcome to anyone who wants to stop and say hello. The couple bought the business from Tony and Rico Vizza who ran Home Hardware for many years. /ANDREA ARNOLD

In Loving Memory of
Robert (Bob) Goodell



Bob passed away in the Prince George Hospital on the evening of November 4 with his lifelong buddy/friend Dale at his bedside. He was 74 years old.

Bob was born in McBride, B.C. He lived, worked, and enjoyed life to its fullest. All the while calling the Robson Valley his home. Bob was a devoted son, brother, husband, uncle and friend.

Bob was predeceased by his father Oliver Goodell, his mother Flora Goodell (Campbell), the love of his life Leslee Ballard, and his oldest brother Ron Goodell.

He leaves behind to mourn his passing, his brother Norman Goodell, nephews Oliver (Orlanda) Goodell, Joseph (Alyssa) Goodell, and Ross Ballard, sister in-law Malinda (Ron) Goodell, as well as numerous friends. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by those who knew him.

A Memorial Service followed by a luncheon will be held on Saturday November 25, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the Tete Jaune Community Hall.

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REGULAR HOURS



MON-SAT: 9 AM - 5:30 PM

**RVCS 2023
Annual General Meeting**


Open to the public

Tuesday, November 28th, 2:00 - 3:30pm

Virtually via Zoom



- Election of New Directors
- Agency Updates
- AGM Report
- Key Achievements



Email board.president@rvcsbc.org to receive the Zoom meeting link and to request assistance to attend virtually. RVCS can offer technical support from each office location (99 Gorse St, Valemount / 942 3rd Ave, McBride).



The McBride Mustangs girls volleyball team completed at the Single A Zone competition in Chetwynd BC. They placed 10th at this season-ending tournament and are looking to move up in the ranking through hard work and dedication next season. /SUBMITTED

PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

Answers on P13

- Across
- 1 June honoree
- 4 Cut into pieces
- 8 Handle clumsily
- 11 Prohibition ____
- 12 Commuter line
- 13 Hardwood floor choice
- 14 Inebriated
- 15 Gathering dust
- 16 Outer space
- 17 Many thoughts
- 19 TV host ____
- Linkletter
- 21 Short skirt
- 24 Pitching successes
- 27 Consultant
- 30 Certain surgeon's "patient"
- 31 A full washer
- 32 Carefree
- 34 Eye or camera part
- 35 "Trick" joint
- 36 The "I" of T.G.I.F.
- 38 ____-American
- 42 Lass
- 44 Way, way off
- 47 Campaigned
- 48 Too wit too woo bird
- 49 Duds
- 50 "Yadda, yadda, yadda"
- 51 Pekoe
- 52 Military group
- 53 Early
- Down
- 1 Sandwich joint
- 2 Desert-like
- 3 Watch feature, perhaps
- 4 Emergency
- 5 Featured
- 6 Saudi export
- 7 "Guilty" or "not guilty"
- 8 Cow habitat
- 9 Pump
- 10 "____ me?"
- 18 Encompassed by
- 20 Real bad smelling
- 22 It helps you keep your head up
- 23 Work over the shirts
- 25 Bedtime for some
- 26 Establish
- 27 Exclusively

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10
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48				49					50		
51				52					53		

- 28 Forest denizen
- 29 "____ Sky": Tom Cruise movie
- 33 Close
- 37 Prose epic
- 39 Waxed
- 40 Into the night
- 41 As soon as
- 42 Purchased
- 43 Wonder
- 45 Remotely situated
- 46 Escort's offering

HOROSCOPES

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Welcome to Sagittarius Season

The sun gallops into the realm of Sagittarius, a centaur born from a cloud, aiming his arrow at the opposition. Greek mythology paints the half-man, half-horse beings as barbarians unable to control their primal instincts. This solar journey reminds us that the animal fight for dominance is a more complex thing to sort out in humans. Since the winner in one area may be the loser in many other areas, a holistic strategy is best, if indeed the fight is even warranted at all.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're sensitive to environments and will wisely assess the scene before you contribute anything to it. In the early stages of getting to know people and their situations, there's nothing to be gained from standing out. You'll watch and learn the opportunities and dangers to be navigated.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There have been times in your life when you felt strangely incomplete, as though you were somehow more whole with another person around. Not anymore. Though you need people, as every human does, this week, you often feel content, fully realized and self-directed. In other words, you're doing you in a big way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Make sure to involve yourself in something exciting and inspiring, otherwise ennui will come knocking like a magazine seller, disregarding all the signs in the neighborhood in hopes of catching you in an unguarded moment. When it arrives, don't entertain it at your front stoop. Avoid even going to the door.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're all too familiar with unbalanced relationships featuring one person doing the lion's share of the work. You also know what it's like to be the only one making sacrifices and compromises. Because of this, your radar will steer you away from repeats of this dynamic and toward those who are equals in generosity and talent.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). As a respected thought leader, you'll be encouraged to weigh in on the work of others. Instead of doing so in the manner of a teacher giving a grade, you'll be more of a scientist or an explorer, asking questions and aiming to understand what makes a thing work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As delightful as variety may be, you realize that it's also costly to flit from one interest to another, so you'll you get seriously focused. You put your attention on the things and people who are likely to pay you back with a sense of accomplishment, duty or belonging. To meet your own standards for success will be profoundly rewarding.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You know who's hard to teach? A person who thinks they already know. This

includes a wide array of skill levels, from the expert to the naive to the delusional or the generally unaware. You have treasures to impart, so seek those who are ready, willing and open to absorbing what you have to give.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's a habit you'd like to lose, but you haven't been able to simply quit. Instead, think in terms of substituting. Add something new to your life that will be more compelling than the undesirable thing. Relatedly, as you strengthen and grow your best qualities, less desirable ones disappear.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've seen and embraced the reality around you, and this week, it's time for some fantasizing. The unrealistic ideas will shake things up. Nothing limits you like a limited viewpoint. At the end of the week, you'll get a chance to entertain. Blend your understanding of the audience's desires with your unique take.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're still getting to know and love the real you. Since it's a journey you'll never get to the end of (because there are endless layers to explore), you don't have to judge yourself as to how far along you are on the path to self-actualization. You're in the perfect place to proudly and humbly share yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You will make progress this week, though it won't always feel that way. The conversation doesn't have to go (SET ITAL) perfectly (END ITAL) to go (SET ITAL) well. (END ITAL) The important thing is that people are communicating, and this makes many things possible. The more you can understand about where others are coming from, the better future connections will be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To wish you were somewhere else, even for a second, would only diminish your power. Keep trying to dig into the present moment. This will open your brightest future. When your mind wants to race ahead in hopes of controlling the outcome, remind yourself -- the outcome doesn't want to be controlled. It wants to be a mystery.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: It's a year of focused purpose. Personal life and business blossom as you apply your talent for asking the questions to gain clarity. You have an extra sense for getting to what's germane to the solution. Because of this, and your extraordinary kindness, you'll be an asset to your team. You'll often be placed in a top position because your ways benefit many. More highlights: perfect vacation weather, full funding for an event, and the happy resolution of a long legal or logistical scenario.

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

SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY

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

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

Answers on P13

The Toughie

by Myles Mellor

Answers on P13

- Across
1. Prado handbag, e.g.
5. Excited with anticipation
9. Scotch measure
13. Pueblo dweller
14. Festival
15. Barrel part
16. Baseball's Blue Moon
17. City south of Moscow
18. Safe house, for example
19. Spying
21. One under cover
22. Journey stage
23. Lead line
24. Symbol of authority
28. Antique Ford
32. Skunk cabbage, e.g.
33. Scriptural preposition
34. Piece
37. They can be denied officially
42. Coin of Peru
43. Catch, like a criminal
44. Marine menace
45. Surrealist Max
47. Lumps for the horse
48. Critic's count
52. Base of electrical current
54. Ciphers
55. Spy's seduction work
61. Sophisticated
62. China lead-in
63. Swearing-in words
64. On the up and up
65. Potpourri
66. Feline chances
67. Liquid remnant
68. Cats
69. "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" backdrop
- Down
1. It'll leave a footprint
2. Bricklaying equipmnet
3. Per
4. "La Bohème" heroine
5. Nickname for the Red Sox's Adrian Gonzalez
6. Car storage locale
7. Short-order cook on "2 Broke Girls"
8. Kind of force
9. Place for showmanship
10. "I ____ dream": M. L. King Jr.
11. Pizzeria fixtures
12. Date
15. Type of onion
20. Flamenco shout
24. Barbara, to friends
25. "Last train" singer, Guthrie
26. Twofold
27. Type of truck
29. Man to man challenges, in olden times
30. Elder
31. Arrival time
34. Five-time Wimbledon champ
35. Atahualpa, e.g.
36. Nicholas II, for one
38. Israeli parliament
39. It fits in a lock
40. Sharp thing
41. Slip in a pot
46. Two-seater

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19				20						21			
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24	25	26	27		28	29	30	31					
32					33					34	35	36	
37				38	39	40				41			
42				43						44			
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48	49	50	51				52	53					
54					55	56				57	58	59	60
61					62					63			
64					65					66			
67					68					69			

47. Stratego piece
48. Burn
49. Essential for a radio system
50. Saw
51. Adjust, as sails
53. Cat noises
55. H.S. subject, for short
56. "I'm ____ your tricks!"
57. A load
58. Shower
59. Fig. on a periodic table, abbr.
60. Relief word



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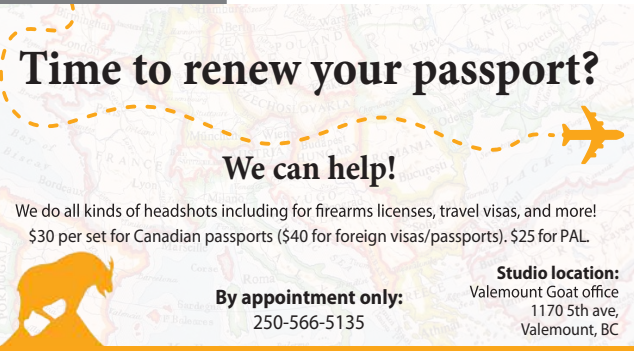
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13	E	R	A	15	R	A	I	L	17	A	S	H
14	L	I	T	16	I	D	L	E	18	S	K	Y
17	I	D	E	19	A	S	21	A	23	R	T	
22	M	I	N	24	I	O	26	U	28	T	S	
27	A	D	V	29	I	S	E	R	31	T	R	E
31	L	O	A	33	C	O	N	T	35	E	N	T
34	L	E	N	36	S	K	N	E	38	E		
39	I	T	S	41	A	N	43	G	45	L	O	
42	G	A	L	44	A	F	A	R	46	R	A	N
48	O	W	L	50	G	A	R	B	52	E	T	C
51	T	E	A	53	A	R	M	Y	55	W	E	E

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	S	H	A	M	6	A	G	O	G	10	S	H	O	T
11	H	O	P	I	14	G	A	L	A	16	S	T	A	V
17	O	D	O	M	19	O	R	E	L	21	H	A	V	E
22	E	S	P	I	24	N	A	G	E	26	A	G	E	N
27	L	E	G	29	L	E	G	31	L	E	A	S	H	
32	B	A	D	G	34	E	D	S	E	36	E	L		
37	A	R	U	M	39	U	N	T	O	41	B	I	T	
42	B	L	A	C	45	K	O	P	E	47	I	O	N	S
48	S	O	L	50	N	A	I	L	52	O	R	C	A	
53	E	R	N	S	55	T			57	S	U	G	A	R
58	T	R	S	60	A	M	P		62					
63	C	O	D	E	65	H	O	N	E	67	T	R	A	P
68	A	W	A	R	E	70	I	N	D	O	72	O	A	T
73	L	E	G	I	T	75	S	T	E	W	77	N	I	N
78	D	R	E	G	80	T	O	M	S	82	S	N	O	W

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VALEMOUNT

THURS Nov 23rd Open House at the Valemount ambulance station. Meet existing staff and find out about an exciting career in the ambulance service. 11:30am-3pm.

MON Nov 27th Everyone is invited to Join us in wearing Purple to help kick off **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**. Together, let's end violence against women and girls! Gender-Based Violence includes any act pf violence or abuse that can result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering because of female gender. Contact the RVCS office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

WED Nov 29th Seniors are invited to Join us for an afternoon of collaboration, creativity and hope, crafting quilt squares in our **Stitching in Solidarity** event from 1-3pm at the Valemount RVCS office (99 Gorse St). All supplies are provided and alternatives to sewing available. The quilt squares will be put together by our Anti-Violence team with squares created by folks across the Robson Valley who are standing up in solidarity against gender based violence. This project is brought to you by the Anti-Violence Program & Seniors Programs. No registration required, refreshments provided. Contact the RVCS office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

THUR Nov 30th Everyone is invited to attend our **Signs of Abuse** Information session at the Valemount office (99 Gorse St) from 10:30am-11:30am. No registration required, refreshments provided. contact the office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org this information session is brought to you by the Anti-Violence Program. Contact the office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

FRI & SAT Dec 1st and 2nd **Showdown a Western Musical** by Wishbone Theatre. Dinner theatre & cash bar at the Valemount Best Western Plus. Buffet dinner by Summit Grill at 6pm, show at 7:30. Dress western! prizes for best costumes. Advance tickets only. All tickets \$55.

FRI Dec 1 **Late-night shopping** in Valemount! Participating businesses open 5-8pm (some to 9pm). Santa photos at the Rocky Mountain Goat from 5:15pm-7:15pm. Lots of specials and a gift basket draw.

MON Dec 4th Everyone is invited to the RVCS **Financial Abuse Workshop** at the Valemount office (99 Gorse St) from 9:30am-10:30am. No registration required, refreshments provided. This project is brought to you by the Anti-Violence Program in collaboration with CIBC in Valemount. Contact the office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

TUE Dec 5th Everyone is invited to drop in to the RVCS **Cedar Plank Words of Empowerment Workshop** from 11:00am-3:00pm. Join us for an afternoon of creativity, learning and fun, making cedar wall plaques with words of empowerment. We will be painting and /or using wood burners for this project. No registration required, refreshments provided. Contact the office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

WED Dec 6th Everyone is invited to come and remember the 14 young women were murdered in a horrific act of gender-based violence, these 14 young women were engineering students at L'Ecole Polytechnique Montréal. We will be holding a **candle light vigil** at the Valemount offices (99 Gorse St and 1451 5th Ave) starting at 3:45pm. Contact the RVCS office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

THURS Dec 7th Kentucky Yuletide dinner and show at the Valemount Legion. Tickets \$45 (dinner and show). Performers are Kentucky Eileen featuring Bex.

SAT Dec 9th Christmas craft fair at the Legion from 10am-3pm. Contact Jeanne for your table. 250-566-1796

THURS Dec. 16th The Polar Express movie and crafts at the Valemount Public Library. 1-3pm. Come in your PJs. Hot chocolate will be served. Bring gifts you need to wrap. All ages welcome. Pre-registration required.

Ongoing Valemount 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). For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org. November 6 to 27 No Drop-ins.

TUES, WEDs, THURS **StrongStartBC** at Valemount Elementary School 11:30-2:30 starting Oct. 3rd. Free drop-in program for children 0-5 years accompanied by their caregivers. Enjoy play-based early learning incl. songs, stories, art and more. Stop by the school for more info.

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

THURs ages 8 to 12 years are invited to join our **Worry Dragons program** happening at the Valemount Library (1090A Main Street) from 3:00-4:00pm starting Oct 26 to

December 7. Come along with Child and Youth Mental Health Staff to tame your Worry Dragons. This program is designed to help children with anxiety learn new skills to cope with their worries. Parents will need to attend the first and last sessions and registration is required contact RVCS at 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

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.

WEDs & SATs **Yoga** at the Hall (classes cancelled until Nov. 25th) Yoga classes for every body. Hatha yoga Wednesdays 6:30-8pm. Yin Yoga Saturdays 9-10:30am. Breathwork, strengthening and relaxation. \$15 drop-in or 10-class pass \$120. Please bring mat, props. Call/text 250-566-1740.

THUR's Senior women are invited to register for the RVCS **Reflections, Repair, Revival** 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: 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

SATs 10am-11:15am **Creative writing group**. Join us for writing and friendly conversation at the Rocky Mountain goat office. Everyone welcome. Contact Laura for more info at lauraishere@gmail.com / 250-566-5135.

SUNs 1-3 pm **Crafty Stitchers meet** downstairs at the Valemount Public Library, all welcome! Call 250-566-4367.

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 info 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 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more info or to sign up.

MON through FRIs the **Free Food Farm Stand and Pantry** are available for anyone who would like free, fresh produce. We accept donations of unprocessed fruits and veggies. 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. Call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org.

MCBRIDE

FRI & SAT Nov 24th and 25th **Showdown a Western Musical** by Wishbone Theatre. Dinner theatre & cash bar at the Community Centre. Buffet dinner by Julian Randall at 6pm, show at 7:30. Dress western! prizes for best costumes. Advance tickets only. All tickets \$55.

MON Nov 27th Everyone is invited to Join RVCS in wearing Purple to help kick off 16 **Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**. Together, let's end violence against women and girls! Gender-Based Violence includes any act of violence or abuse that can result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering because of female gender.

WED Nov 29th Seniors are invited to join RVCS for an afternoon of collaboration, creativity and hope, crafting quilt squares in our **Stitching in Solidarity** event from 1-3pm at the McBride office (942 3rd Ave). All supplies are provided and alternatives to sewing available. The quilt squares will be put together by our Anti-Violence team with squares created by folks across the Robson Valley who are standing up in solidarity against gender based violence. No registration required, refreshments provided. Contact 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

FRI Dec 1st Everyone is invited to our **Financial Abuse Workshop** at the McBride RVCS office (942 3rd Ave) from 10:30-11:30am. No registration required, refreshments provided. Contact the office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org this project is brought to you by the Anti-Violence Program.

SUN Dec 3 McBride **Winter Craft Fair** 12-4 @ Robson Valley Community Centre. Hosted by McBride Secondary School PAC, the girls volleyball team and the boys basketball team. Concession available.

WED Dec 6th **Ladies Christmas Tea** at the McBride

Evangelical Free Church. Ladies of all ages welcome. Doors open at 5:45pm, food served at 6:00pm. Christmas carols, appetizer buffet, a short program and visiting.

WED Dec 6th Everyone is invited to come and remember the 14 young women were murdered in a horrific act of gender-based violence, these 14 young women were engineering students at L'Ecole Polytechnique Montréal. We will be holding a candle light vigil at the McBride office (942-3rd Ave) starting at 3:45pm. Contact the RVCS office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

WED Dec 6th **Seniors' Christmas Lunch** Hosted by the McBride & District OAPO12 Noon Elks' Hall in McBride FREE with Admission Tickets available at Beanery 2 Bistro and Welcome Home. Please get your tickets before Dec. 1, 2023 Allowing caterers to plan accurately

THUR Dec 7th Everyone is invited to attend our **Signs of Abuse Information** session at the McBride RVCS office (942 3rd Ave) from 11:00am-12:00pm. No registration required, refreshments provided. Contact the RVCS office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org this information session is brought to you by the Anti-Violence Program.

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 9am-noon 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:** Nov. 27 Tumble time at RVCS

WED's Youth ages 10-13 are invited to join the **Youth Book Club** Starting Nov 22nd until Dec 20th Wednesdays 3-4pm at the McBride Library (521 Main St) . Brought to you by Community Adult Literacy Program and in collaboration with the McBride & District Public Library. Registration required. contact RVCS at 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more information.

TUESs **Tuesday Night Jam** has moved inside and is now playing in the CN Station Lobby, 6:15-8:30. It is an open jam; musicians, singers, and onlookers welcome. For more information call David at (250) 569-2569.

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

TUE's Come and join us in McBride for **ASL Sign Language** 12pm-1pm at RVCS office in McBride (942 3rd Ave). Drop in for beginners to advanced. Learning a second language improves cognitive and literacy skills for all ages. Plus it is lots of fun! Brought to you by McBride Family Literacy Program

TUEs ages 8 to 12 years are invited to join the **Worry Dragons program** happening at the RVCS office in McBride (942 3rd Ave) from 3:00-4:00pm starting Oct 24 to December 5. Come along with Child and Youth Mental Health Staff to tame your Worry Dragons. This program is designed to help children with anxiety learn new skills to cope with their worries. Parents will need to attend the first and last sessions and registration is required contact RVCS at 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more information.

WED's Free Parent Workshop **How to Talk so Kids Will Listen** starting Oct 25th from 7-8pm at the McBride Centennial Elementary School limited spaces Registration is required contact RVCS at 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more information.

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

DUNSTER

SAT Dec 2 **Dunster Christmas Market** 2-5pm at the Dunster Schoolhouse. Chili and chai, bake sale, vendor tables and more!



Through the Lens
with Leon Lorenz

Snowshoe hares depend heavily on camouflage to help keep them from being spotted easily by the many predators that hunt them, however when they turn from the summer brown to winter white and there still is no snow it makes them much more vulnerable to predation. I witnessed a very rare seen this fall when I was on a filming trip in the still snowless Muskwa-Kechika area. A large wolverine ran across the trail in front of me with a freshly caught white snowshoe hare in its mouth. In its fright and haste it dropped the hare and quickly disappeared into the forest. I ambushed there with my camera ready for quite a while, however the wolverine never did come back for its meal. /LEON LORENZ

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- Non EPA/CSA Certified Stove to pellet replacement **\$2,000**. To electric heat pump **\$3,500**.
- EPA/CSA Certified stove (more than 5 years old) to pellet replacement **\$2,000**. To electric heat pump **\$3,500**.
- Non EPA/CSA Stove to Certified Wood Replacement: **\$1,500**
- Non EPA/CSA Stove to Certified Wood Replacement (secondary heat source): **\$1,000**

Please visit our website at valemount.ca/services/grants-funding for full program details or contact the grant clerk to determine eligibility.

Books of the week!

FICTION

MEXICAN GOTHIC

An isolated mansion. A chillingly charismatic aristocrat. And a brave socialite drawn to expose their treacherous secrets. . . . From the author of Gods of Jade and Shadow comes "a terrifying twist on classic gothic horror" (Kirkus Reviews) set in glamorous 1950s Mexico.

NATURE

THE TIGER

A True Story of Vengeance and Survival
It's December 1997 and a man-eating tiger is on the prowl outside a remote village in Russia's Far East. To the horrified astonishment of a team of hunters, it emerges that the attacks are not random: the tiger is engaged in a vendetta.

KIDS GARDENING

FORAGING WITH KIDS

A fun, informative and practical introduction to safely foraging with kids, from the UK's bestselling foraging author.

In today's world of increasingly sedentary lifestyles and a growing detachment from the food that we eat, it has never been more important to encourage children to put down their screens, get outside and engage with the natural world around them.

NON-FICTION

THIS WILD SPIRIT

In 1912, Mary Vaux, a botanist, glaciologist, painter, and photographer, wrote about her mountain adventures: "A day on the trail, or a scramble over the glacier, or even with a quiet day in camp to get things in order for the morrow's conquests? Some how when once this wild spirit enters the blood...I can hardly wait to be off again."

NEW TITLES EVERY MONTH!

The RMG
Bookstore

VALEMOUNT HOURS:
MON 9:30am-4:30pm
TUES CLOSED
WED-FRI 9:30am-4:30pm
1170 5th Avenue
ACROSS FROM THE IGA DOWNTOWN

MCBRIDE HOURS:
MON 9am-2pm
TUES 11am-2pm
(limited selection of books)
411 Main Street - Unit 102
ACCESS FROM 4TH AVE



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WEB: propertiesinvalemount.com
OFFICE: 1275 5th Ave, Valemount BC V0E 2Z0

1036 14TH AVE



\$85,000

NEW LISTING!

Lowest priced vacant lot in town! Recently cleared with the municipal sewer and water lines already located at the centre of the lot this parcel of land is ready for your building plans. Location is great with being only a 5 minute walk to the trail of Cranberry Marsh for hiking, biking, skiing and skating adventures! With 360 degree mountain views this is the property you've been waiting for!

1089 14TH AVE



\$239,000

NEW LISTING!

Home sweet home! Inside and out this property is ready for you to move in! Many upgrades over the years and with the new siding and metal roof on it now has excellent curb appeal. Large shop in the backyard, fully fenced yard for kids/animals, raised garden boxes for your green thumb and gorgeous mountain views for all. This is a great package of a property with something for everyone and all at a very attractive price point!

1176 JUNIPER ST



\$419,800

This is the complete package on a spacious third of an acre town lot! Detached garage, greenhouse, a beautiful home and a gorgeous, mature landscaped yard that can all be yours! Perfect location on a quiet street backing onto a private and very peaceful treed area with mountain views all around. This home has been loved and it shows! Gorgeous hardwood floors throughout, the pantry is a must have, wood stove for an efficient heat source, many sun decks and patios for you to enjoy outdoor living and to top it all off your very own Saloon with a built-in fridge! Not many properties check off all the boxes, but this one does! Seller is motivated!

19345 S 5 HWY



\$1,500,000

Rare glacier view riverfront resort opportunity in the heart of the Rocky Mountains! This beautiful traditional built log lodge, 2 private residences and 40 mature campsites sit on 39 pristine acres that back onto the glacier fed Camp Creek. The combination of unobstructed views of Albretha Glacier and Camp Creek meandering throughout the property create the ultimate summer and winter outdoor setting. Location is unbeatable with 1 km of Hwy 5 S frontage. Outdoor enthusiasts travel from all over the world to explore Valemount's unspoiled backcountry and experience world class snowmobiling, mountain biking and white water rafting. The options are truly endless with this unique property, it's time to put your dreams into fruition! Sellers are motivated. See also MLS#C8053928

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**Shelly
Battensby**
REALTOR



**DIFFERENT
BETTER**

FIXER UPPER

1244 4th Avenue

VALEMOUNT

\$375,000



Sitting on two lots, this 3 bedroom home has a family-friendly floorplan and an epic sized back yard. Close to shopping and parks, this home is in a great neighbourhood and is the perfect spot to kick off your vision. Your sweat equity + your dreams = amazing new home.

1275 4th Avenue

VALEMOUNT

\$295,000



This one-level bungalow has large open spaces perfect for family gatherings and an exceptionally large lot that is both private and fenced. Priced to move, this property is perfect for the handyman looking to make their mark.

OR

MOVE IN READY

1070 4th Avenue

VALEMOUNT

\$300,000



Compact and efficient, this 3 bedroom home features centered, open-concept living and a large front yard. Ideal for the busy couple or as a recreation property, this home offers up low-maintenance living with high-level comfort.

1123 8th Avenue

VALEMOUNT

NEW LISTING!



Check off your list, as this 4 bedroom, 2 bath bungalow has had a ton of updates and needs nothing more than you. Bring your boxes, your gear, your home-ownership dreams! Whether your first home or a step-up, you won't be disappointed.

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