



Community Forest burn P7



Your weekly source of news, views and entertainment

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Fire dept may use Fraser, porta-tanks amid water shortage

By ANDREA ARNOLD

The McBride District Fire Department has been working hard to develop a “Plan B” for a water supply if a fire were to occur as the concern over available water levels continues within the Village of McBride.

“We have two options for alternative water sources available to us,” said Fire Chief Courtney Lipke. “It isn't ideal but it will provide us with water without draining the village supply.”

The Valemount Volunteer Fire Department has loaned McBride two porta-tanks. These, along with McBride’s existing tank, can hold 3900 gallons of water at the scene of a fire if needed.

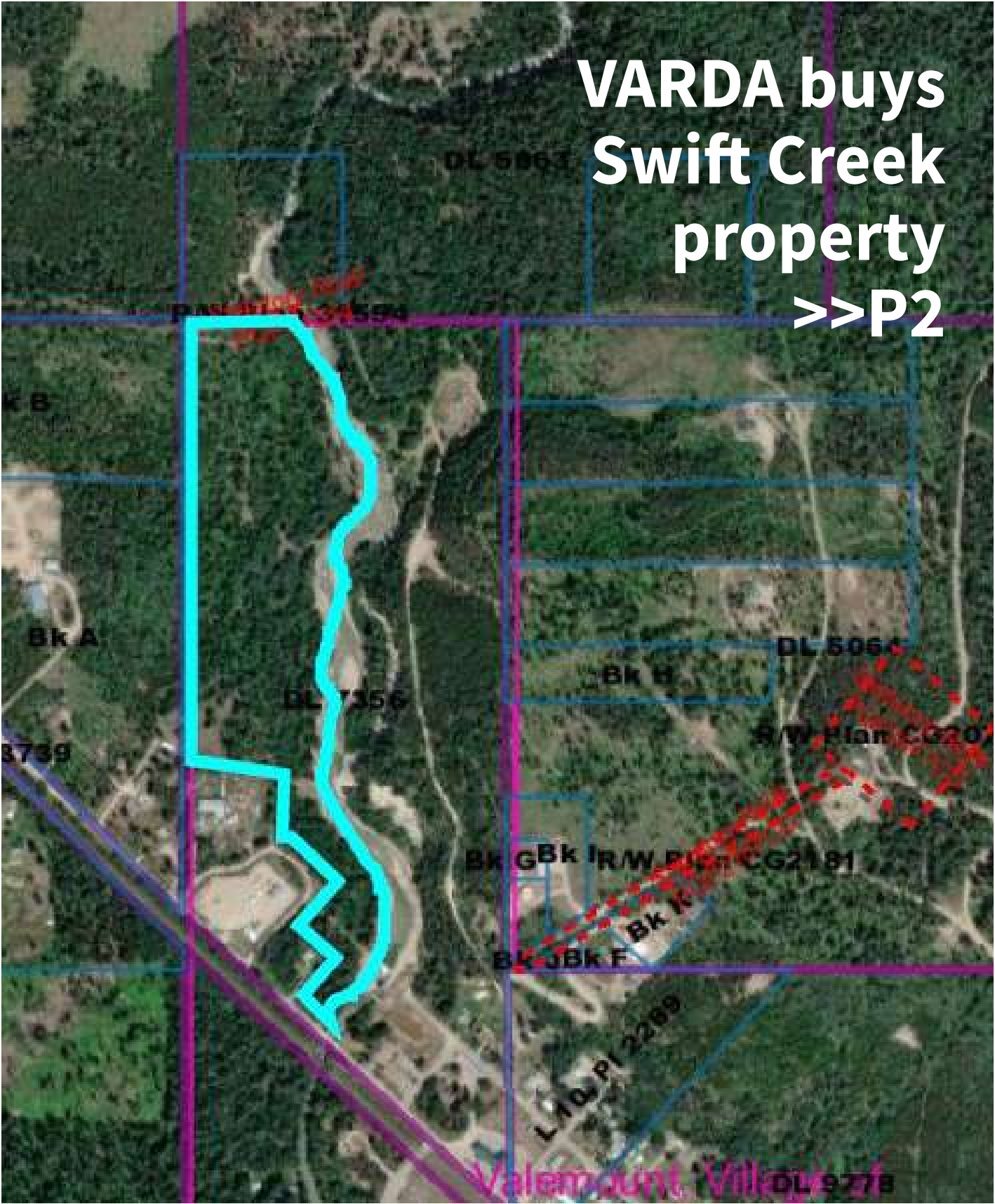
Lipke explained what will happen if the department is called into action for a fire. “All three trucks will respond to the scene full of water,” he said.

Each of the larger trucks have a max capacity of 1000 gallons, and the smaller rescue truck can haul 500.

“The water from the engine truck will start the initial attack as the water from the other two gets emptied into the porta-tanks. The truck will start by drawing from available hydrants but crews will be in close contact with the Village Public Works crew monitoring the village water supply. The other two trucks will go to one of the two water sources to re-fill and return. If Public Works tells us we have to stop using the village water because the water level has dipped to a predetermined level, then this re-fill process will continue as long as necessary.”

The department will either use water from

CONT'D ON P15



VARDA buys Swift Creek property >>P2

The Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association purchased a 30-acre property, located at 1340 Main Street, to ensure public access to multiple trails and the protection of the Village's watershed. /SUPPLIED

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The Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association purchased a 30-acre property, located at 1340 Main Street, to ensure public access to multiple trails and the protection of the Village's watershed. /SUPPLIED

VARDA buys Swift Creek property to preserve access

By SPENCER HALL

The Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) has purchased a Swift Creek property to ensure public access to multiple trails and the protection of the village's watershed.

Beloved among locals, Swift Creek trail is used for a variety of activities such as walking, hiking, running, and biking. It can be accessed from Main Street and is located close to the seniors complex.

Previous to VARDA's purchase, the 30-acre parcel of land — located at 1340 Main Street — had no established public access agreements, meaning if the parcel had sold to another buyer, the public could have lost access to Swift Creek trail and the adjacent trail network.

VARDA Executive Director Curtis Pawliuk said he recommended the association purchase the land to indefinitely preserve trail access for the public— a recommendation that was approved by the board as a whole

"The idea to purchase (the property) was for the protection of the public's access to Swift Mountain trails, to Swift Creek and Swift Creek watershed," Pawliuk told The Goat.

"I just got it in my head that I could pull the project off under VARDA and secure the land for the community, which then protects the access to the trail systems beyond the historic trail," Pawliuk said.

Purchase of the property was then made possible by a \$300,000 grant and a \$100,000 loan from Columbia Basin Trust.

Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO Johnny Strilaeff said the purchase not only safeguards vital access to VARDA's multi-use trail network, but also enhances recreational opportunities in the region.

"The Trust is proud to support VARDA with the purchase of this 30-acre property in Valemount," Strilaeff said, "Our commitment to projects like this reflects our dedication to fostering vibrant, sustainable communities in the Columbia Basin."

The land is also part of the Swift Creek watershed, located across the creek from a Village-owned property that houses the pumphouse and retention pond for the Village's drinking water.

Village CAO Anne Yanciw said she's delighted VARDA purchased the property, adding that secured public access to the trail will have a long term benefit to the community

"Local ownership will help to safeguard the watershed as well, to maintain water quality for our drinking water," Yanciw said.

Mayor Owen Torgerson said the Village is pleased with VARDA's "forward thinking in their purchase of this property to ensure future access for all, and for furthering recreation potential in the Valemount area."

Pawliuk said VARDA isn't currently planning to create any new trails on the property, but is hoping to conduct a feasibility study — once the association can afford the \$40,000 cost of the study — to improve the accessibility of the trail.

"The first goal would be to create some proper access to that property because right now, it's down a very steep bank and it's not accessible to everybody," Pawliuk said.

Going forward, he said VARDA is looking to host community events and receive donations to go toward the association's \$100,000 mortgage of the Swift Creek property.

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Friday, January 26 - Thursday, February 1

BC Hydo schedules mid-winter outage

By ANDREA ARNOLD

BC Hydro customers in the Crescent Spur and Dome Creek areas have been expressing concern regarding a notice they received from BC Hydro stating that they have a planned power outage that will impact service during four days near the end of January.

The notice said that the outage was planned from January 25-28th from 8:00am-4:00pm for “emergent work.”

Dome Creek resident Russ Purvis says many people in that area most likely don't have wood stoves to heat or cook. He says the outage will affect households with children and seniors at home and that most residents in that area rely on electricity to pump their water for themselves and livestock.

“We can't count on above freezing weather in January,” he said.

Mike Kellett, Manager, Northern Community Relations for BC Hydro says that the work is considered a top priority as one of the supporting poles has extensive rot and a large hollowed section.

“The work is to replace power poles and line that pose an imminent risk to safety and the reliability of the local electrical system,” said Kellett. “These planned outages affect 123 customers, who we have notified.”

BC Hydro said it is watching the temperatures and the forecast for the area is mild for the time of year and Kellett says they are moving as fast as they can to remove the threat.

“We appreciate there is never a good time for an outage - much less a series of outages in the winter - and we are doing the operation now as the risk is imminent,” he said.

Kellett also said that the state of the pole was such that it was at risk of failure resulting in a sudden and longer outage at a possibly colder and more inconvenient time.

According to Kellett the planned format of these outages provide people to prepare, and have been scheduled during the day in hopes to cause less of an inconvenience overall then the alternative, non-planned option.

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Valley Fire Departments each receive \$30,000 grant

By ANDREA ARNOLD

Both of the Robson Valley Volunteer Fire Departments, McBride and Valemount, will be receiving \$30,000 in grant funding to kick off the year.

The Regional District of Fraser Fort George's application for the money through the UBCM Grant Funding for Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments was successful again this year. This year they applied for \$390,000, \$30,000 for each of the volunteer fire departments within the district to fund identified needs for fire department equipment and turn out gear.

McBride District Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Courtney Lipke says they will be using the money to purchase some new firefighter protection turnout gear, a positive pressure venting fan and Halligan bars (a multi-purpose tool for prying, twisting, punching, or striking. It consists of a claw, a blade, and a tapered pick, which is especially

useful in quickly breaching many types of locked doors).

“This grant allows us to provide training above and beyond what we are usually able to provide our crew. It also provides us with the opportunity to purchase some equipment that will allow us to serve the community better.”

Chief Rick Lalonde of the Valemount department says they are in need of turnout gear and a positive pressure electric/battery venting fan as well. In addition, he is hoping to purchase a thermal imaging camera, some 2.5” nozzles, and a 50' length of 1.75” fire hose.

“We are super grateful for the opportunity to acquire this grant and replace some ageing equipment,” said Chief Lalonde. “As always, there are many items that aren't normally available through our annual budgeting process. Which creates deferrals, and sometimes no ability to purchase at all.”

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Record-breaking electricity demand during cold snap

SUBMITTED BY BC HYDRO

Extremely cold temperatures across B.C. drove peak hourly electricity demand – the hour customers use the most electricity – to a record high level on Friday night when it reached 11,300 megawatts.

Despite the record-breaking demand, B.C. did not require imports from the market and also had enough generating capacity to provide support to its neighbours in Alberta and the Pacific Northwest who were experiencing demand and system challenges. This includes about 200 megawatts exported to Alberta following an electrical grid alert from the Alberta Electrical Systems Operator.

“Extreme weather events like drought and cold snaps are putting people and communities at increased risk,” said Josie Osborne, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. “Thanks to the resiliency of our energy system and exceptional planning by BC Hydro, we are able to meet the needs of British Columbians while also delivering clean, reliable hydro-electricity to our neighbours in Alberta when they needed it most.”

Before the new record was set on Friday night, the previous record was 10,977 megawatts set in December 2022. Friday night's consumption was more than 30 per cent higher than the previous Friday night before the cold snap began, and Saturday night's peak hourly load remained high at nearly 11,000 megawatts.

“B.C. is fortunate to have an integrated, provincial hydroelectric system that allows BC Hydro to ramp up quickly when generation is needed and scale back when it is not,” said Chris O’Riley, President and CEO, BC Hydro. “Our teams carefully plan and prepare for cold weather events like this to ensure our generating facilities are running at full capacity so we can deliver clean electricity to our customers when they need it the most.”

Though the historic drought has impacted some of BC Hydro's largest reservoirs – the source of water for the clean power it generates – in the north and southeast of the province, its team has been planning in real-time for over a year to manage these conditions. As a hydroelectric-based utility, the variability of water conditions and its impact on its reservoir levels is something that BC Hydro deals with every year. BC Hydro has the tools to manage these conditions, including multi-year storage in its reservoirs, regional diversity in its generating facilities, contracts for power, and the ability to import and export power through the Western Interconnection – a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connects B.C. with other utilities in western North America.

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School District No. 57 welcomes all new students to their catchment schools for the upcoming school year.

On-line Kindergarten Registration

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

This process will begin at 9 am on Wednesday January 31st, 2024 at www.sd57.bc.ca

Children whose fifth birthday falls on or before December 31, 2024 are eligible to enter Kindergarten in September 2024.

Upon submission of the online registration, you will receive an e-mail confirmation along with a link to additional forms requiring completion. Bring completed forms, along with a copy of the Birth Certificate, BC Services Card, and proof of residency, to your in-catchment school by February 7th, 2024 in order to retain your spot.

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

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

Editorial



Spencer Hall
Editor & Owner
goatnewspaper@gmail.com

Beware of phone scams

While chatting with my grandmother, I learned my grandparents were nearly the victims of a phone scam last week. The type of attempted scam they experienced is typically called a “Grandparent Scam,” which usually entails receiving a phone call from someone claiming to be a loved one, such as a grandchild, claiming to be in trouble and in dire need of — you guessed it — money. In my grandparent’s case, the caller pretended to be my distraught father who’d supposedly been driving while intoxicated that day, hitting a (fake) child and breaking their (fake) femur. They were then told to call a new number where a phony lawyer told my grandmother my “Dad” needed \$5000 to be let out of custody. This is where my grandparents say they

began to grow suspicious. My grandfather didn’t believe the timeline of events could have unfolded as quickly as the callers claimed. My grandmother decided to call my Dad’s cell and was quite relieved to discover he was safe and at work. They then hung up on the caller and reported the incident to the RCMP. While I was thankful my grandparents’ encounter ended without a major financial loss, I wasn’t surprised they’d received a scam call. According to the RCMP, seniors in B.C. reported a loss of over \$322,000 from grandparent scams in 2022 and that likely only accounts for a small percentage of actual losses, with police estimating only five to ten per cent of these scams are reported.

The Justice Department of Canada estimates ten per cent of Canadian seniors each year are victims of consumer fraud, which includes grandparent scams. Should you find yourself at the receiving end of a grandparent scam, here are some tips to keep you safe:

- Remember courts won’t ask for cash to bail people out and require that person to be present in court
- Hang up and try to contact the family member directly to confirm their whereabouts before sending money
- Don’t provide the caller with any personal information
- Don’t send money through money wire services to people you don’t know personally

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RALPH LOVED ALL OF THE THINGS HIS NEW SMART WATCH COULD DO, BUT HE FOUND THAT READING E-BOOKS ON IT WAS A BIT TEDIOUS.

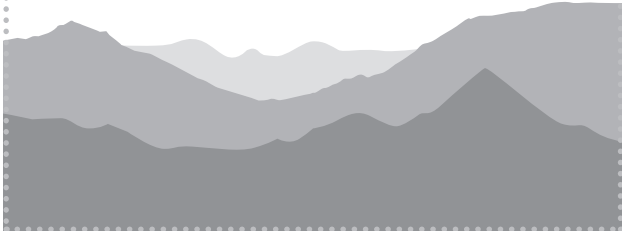
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Power outages in Jan reflect poor planning



Re: Planned power outages Jan. 25-28th 8am-4pm in Dome Creek area

If this planned outage is an emergency, then we can't count on above freezing weather in January. Dome Creek and Crescent Spur have ~ 150 BC Hydro customers. That could translate to 300+ people.

People who most likely don't have wood stoves to heat or cook

Some have children or are seniors at home

Most all rely on electricity to pump their water for themselves and livestock

Some have jobs for night shifts that require their block heaters to be on to allow their vehicles to start. Note: the Slim Creek Highway 16 maintenance yard has had a high proportion of Dome Creek residents as snow plow operators.

Of course waiting until warmer weather would be ideal for this planned outage. However, BC Hydro is a Crown Corporation with the resources and technology to maintain power for these communities during this planned outage if they put their minds to it.

I'm equally concerned that we have this sort of emergency now in the middle of winter! If we are being told the truth (BC Hydro has not been noted for that, locally) then the pole inspection recently performed by the BC Hydro brush clearing crew is what brought us to this emergency repair. This service only happens every 5-7 years to clear the brush away from the power lines. Perhaps the poles themselves need a more regular inspection?

Russ Purvis
Dome Creek, BC

No need to freeze in the dark and no need for natural gas



Alberta, nor any other part of Canada, need not freeze in the dark on a windless night for lack of heat from natural gas even if the temperature is -30°C. Ground and air-source heat pumps have been warming Canadian buildings without carbon emissions for decades. Beginning in the 1980s, engineering firms such as Mancini & Associates Ltd. (Toronto, ON) and Geotility (Kelowna, BC) have been designing and installing ground-source heating and cooling systems for homes, schools and commercial buildings. Their systems are less expensive and more reliable than heating with fossil fuels.

Ground-source systems use solar heat energy stored in the ground. The top two metres of the ground fluctuates with air temperature, but below two metres and down a few hundred more, ground temperature is constant, equal to the average air temperature. In Castlegar, BC, that's 10°C. Even better, while fossil fuel systems can never exceed 100% efficiency, ground-source systems typically are over 300% efficient because the systems extract more than three units of free,

useful, heat energy from the ground for every unit of electric energy purchased to operate the systems' components.

Air-source heat pumps extract heat from outdoor air. They have lower capital costs than ground-source systems. Newer air-source heat pumps, rated for cold climates, must achieve a minimum of 180% efficiency at -15°C.

Heat can be efficiently extracted from rivers, lakes, oceans, and even abandoned mines filled with groundwater. The kilometres of water-filled abandoned mines underneath Rossland, BC contain sufficient energy to heat every home and commercial building in town.

None of this is new. While the first step in heating or cooling a building is always to minimize its energy demand; heat pumps, both ground and air-source, can deliver base load heating regardless of time of day or wind as they have in my home since 2008, Castlegar's city hall since 2007, and Selkirk College's Mir Centre and 10th Street student residence for over a decade.

Robert M. Macrae
Castlegar, BC

Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

Routine Rockets

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

Not all that long ago, attacking another country's territory was still seen as a big deal. It was, in legal terms, an 'act of war', liable to have unpleasant and potentially unlimited consequences including full-scale war.

We have changed all that now. Launching a few cruise or ballistic missiles at another country as an expression of displeasure has become as routine in the Middle East as penalty shots on goal are in sports. Here are the latest examples.

Last Tuesday the United States and the United Kingdom made their first air strikes on Yemen, to punish the Houthi regime for attacking ships heading up the Red Sea towards the Suez Canal. Quite separately, Turkey made multiple air strikes against northern Syria.

Also on Tuesday, Iran launched missiles into Pakistan's province of Balochistan (next to Iran's own province of the same

name). This was a new departure, since Iran had never struck Pakistani territory before.

On Wednesday Iran launched missiles into the Kurdistan province of northern Iraq, claiming (implausibly) that they were eliminating an Israeli spy site.

On Thursday Pakistan launched rockets and suicide drones against alleged terrorists in Iran's border province of Balochistan, but it was really retaliating for Tuesday's Iranian missile attacks on Pakistan's own territory. And Jordan attacked targets in southern Syria. Something to do with drug trafficking, I think.

On Friday the United States and the United Kingdom made a second round of air strikes on northern Yemen including the coast. Israel and Hezbollah (which is part of Lebanon's government) traded missile and drone strikes across the border, as they do every day.

On Saturday, Israeli missiles killed five senior officers of Iran's Revolutionary Guard in Damascus, where they were acting as advisers to the Syrian army.

Yes, it's the Middle East, which has always been readier to use violence than the rest of the world, but even there they didn't used to act like this. None of these countries are actually at war with each other, but they are all using air and missile strikes to kill people in neighbouring countries with complete impunity.

That's what is driving this steep rise in targeted cross-border missile strikes: the complete impunity. If there is any retaliation, it will be tit-for-tat at most, so if you want to 'send a message', what's to stop you? Nothing.

This is obviously not a good thing, but is it worth worrying about if you don't live in the Middle East? Not in the sense that it will inevitably spread to the rest of the world. The weapons have been

widely available for at least a decade already, but there's no sign that they are being used with impunity elsewhere.

However, they certainly raise the risk of miscalculation and escalation in the Middle East, which fills the same role of 'cockpit of the world' that the Balkans did before the outbreak of the First World War. When you're launching missiles at somebody or other every week or so, it gets to be routine. You tend to forget what a huge risk you are taking.

Attacking another country, even if it's just to kill a few generals or a few 'terrorists', is a momentous act with potentially huge consequences. Israel and Pakistan already have nuclear weapons, and thanks to Donald Trump Iran is only a few baby steps away.

Missiles are a really poor way of sending messages to your enemies. Traditional diplomacy is a lot better.

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BC Parks opens campground reservations

By SPENCER HALL

BC Parks is now accepting campground reservations through its online booking system for the May long weekend.

The Ministry of Environment said online reservation systems are typically put in place to manage the high demand for camping spaces and provides certainty for campers, especially those who have to travel a far distance to reach the park.

The Ministry added that local parks on the reservation system have been reservable for years and the demand for camping spaces in the Robson and Upper North Thompson Valleys continues to grow.

“Parks on the reservation system are exposed to a broader audience and as a result could lead to more visitors,” the Ministry said/

Campers in the Robson Valley are able to reserve campsites in the North Thompson River, Wells Gray, and Mount Robson Provincial Parks.

In North Thompson River Provincial Park, 37 of the park’s 53 frontcountry campsites are available to be reserved online. Reservations are required for camping once the Park gate opens on May 1st.

Online reservations at Wells Gray Provincial Park are available for the Mahood Lake, Clearwater Lake, and Falls Creek campgrounds, with reservations required for campers as of May 15th. BC Parks says out of the Park’s 162 frontcountry campsites, 102 are available to be reserved online.

Mount Robson Provincial Park offers frontcountry camping at its Robson River, Robson Meadows, and Lucerne campgrounds. Reservations will be required at Robson River as of May 3rd, but



The Emperor face of Mount Robson and a view of the Hargreaves Glacier. Reservations for the Robson River Campground are required as of May 3rd and reservations for Robson Meadows and Lucerne Campground are required as of May 17th. /BC PARKS

reservations aren’t required at Robson Meadows or Lucerne campgrounds until May 17th. 94 of the 182 frontcountry campsites at Mount Robson Park can be reserved online.

Backcountry camping will also be available at Kinney Lake campground on the Berg Lake Trail, with 14 tent pads available for online reservation. Reservations will be required

for campers as of May 31st.

To find out more specific park information and whether or not reservations are required, visit each park’s page on bcparks.ca.

To reserve a campsite, visit <https://camping.bcparks.ca>

www.valemount.ca

Utility Notice Information

Utility notices have been mailed out for 2024. If you do not receive your bill by mid-February, please call the Village Office.

Any unpaid utility billings as of December 31, 2023 were applied to taxes in arrears on January 1, 2024, and are subject to interest charges.

If 2024 utility bills are paid by March 10, 2024, an 8% discount will be applied.

Payment methods accepted:

Online & telephone banking, cash, debit, cheque, Third-Party Credit Card, or email transfer to dof@valemount.ca. Visit www.valemount.ca for information on all payment options.

Civic Connection

The mayor of a municipality is the person in charge and they have a lot of power, right? Not so fast. Almost all of a mayor’s authority is the same as any councillor’s – one vote. Which of the following actions can a mayor take on their own without the majority of Council voting to support it?

1. Approve a parade application

2. Shout at rioters

3. Bring a motion back for reconsideration

4. Have someone expelled from a meeting

5. Direct staff to prioritize airport snow removal

6. Declare a state of local emergency

7. Order dangerous looking trees cut down

8. Create a standing committee

9. Call in bylaw complaints

Answers can be found on the Village website.

From the desk of the CAO

2024 Columbia Basin Trust ReDi Grants

Adjudication Committee Meeting Schedule

➤ February 1 & 22, 2024

➤ March 8, 2024

➤ April 19, 2024

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

The Columbia Basin Trust ReDi Grants Adjudication Committee Meeting schedule for 2024 is posted at the entrance of the Municipal Office, and on the Village of Valemount website. Please note that meeting dates and times may change. Any approved changes will be posted on the front door of the Village Office and at www.valemount.ca.

ReDi Grants

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Visitor Information Centre - Consignment Artists

Consignment agreements for 2024 are due by January 31, 2024. Please stop by should you have any questions.

2024 Animal Licenses

As of January 1, 2024, all animal licences are due for renewal. When you license your pet with the Village, you receive a tag which identifies your pet and allows for a speedy return if they end up in our care. All dogs over the age of 3 months require an animal license.

The 2024 dog license fees are as follows:

➤ Unaltered dogs - \$20

➤ Altered dogs - \$15

Failure to licence dogs may result in fines in addition to the cost of licensing. Please license your dogs by January 31, 2024.

* Please ensure the Village Office has your PO Box and civic (street) address on file.


Cat licenses:

Cat licenses are available but not mandatory. We encourage every cat owner to license their cat so that if your cat is found, we can get it back home to you as quickly as possible. There is no fee to register and license your cat.

2024 Business Licenses

As of January 1, 2024 all business licenses are due for renewal. Please renew your business license as soon as possible.

Please note if you are a business with a commercial kitchen, you must prove that cleaning of the grease interceptor has taken place at least once within the past calendar year prior to issuance or renewal of a business license.

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Glowing embers flew silently up from a large burn pile on the community forests SE16 burn pile between Loseth Road and Swift Mountain on Thursday Jan 18th. RFP Alannah Duncan, who oversaw the burn, said the 14.7ha block was mostly out by the following morning but they monitor all burn piles until spring to check for hot spots. “If we find hot spots, we will dig them up (with machines) to ensure they're out.” She said the Community Forest follows strict guidelines set out in Forest Practise Regulations, such as ensuring the piles are not close to any standing timber, waiting until venting conditions are good, and getting government approval. In this case, they also waited until there was snow on the ground and they alerted the local Fire Base that they would be burning, because the site was so visible to the public. She said they have other piles to burn this winter down the West Canoe FSR. /LAURA KEIL

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Books of the week!

NON-FICTION

JUST MERCY A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION
A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time. Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system.

FICTION

WOMEN TALKING
For several years, girls and women in the remote Mennonite colony of Molotschna have reported assaults in the night by what some in the community claim are ghosts or demons. Others blame “wild female imagination”—until several of the men behind the attacks are discovered and apprehended. This novel contains a universe of revelatory thinking about gender, justice, freedom and power.

COOKBOOK

THE GERMAN BAKING BOOK
The German Baking Book is a celebration of German home baking from Jurgen Krauss, who won the hearts of viewers and three Star Baker honors from the judges of The Great British Baking Show. Make classic German pastries, from apple strudel and stollen to show stopping celebration desserts like Black Forest cake.

JUVENILE

WEIRD BUT TRUE CANADA
Get ready to be amazed and delighted by wacky facts, stats, tidbits, and trivia, eh? Did you know that the Royal Mint once created a coin weighing more than 90 kg and valued at over \$1 million dollars? Or that Canada was the first country to build a UFO landing pad? It's all weird--and it's all true...Canada style!

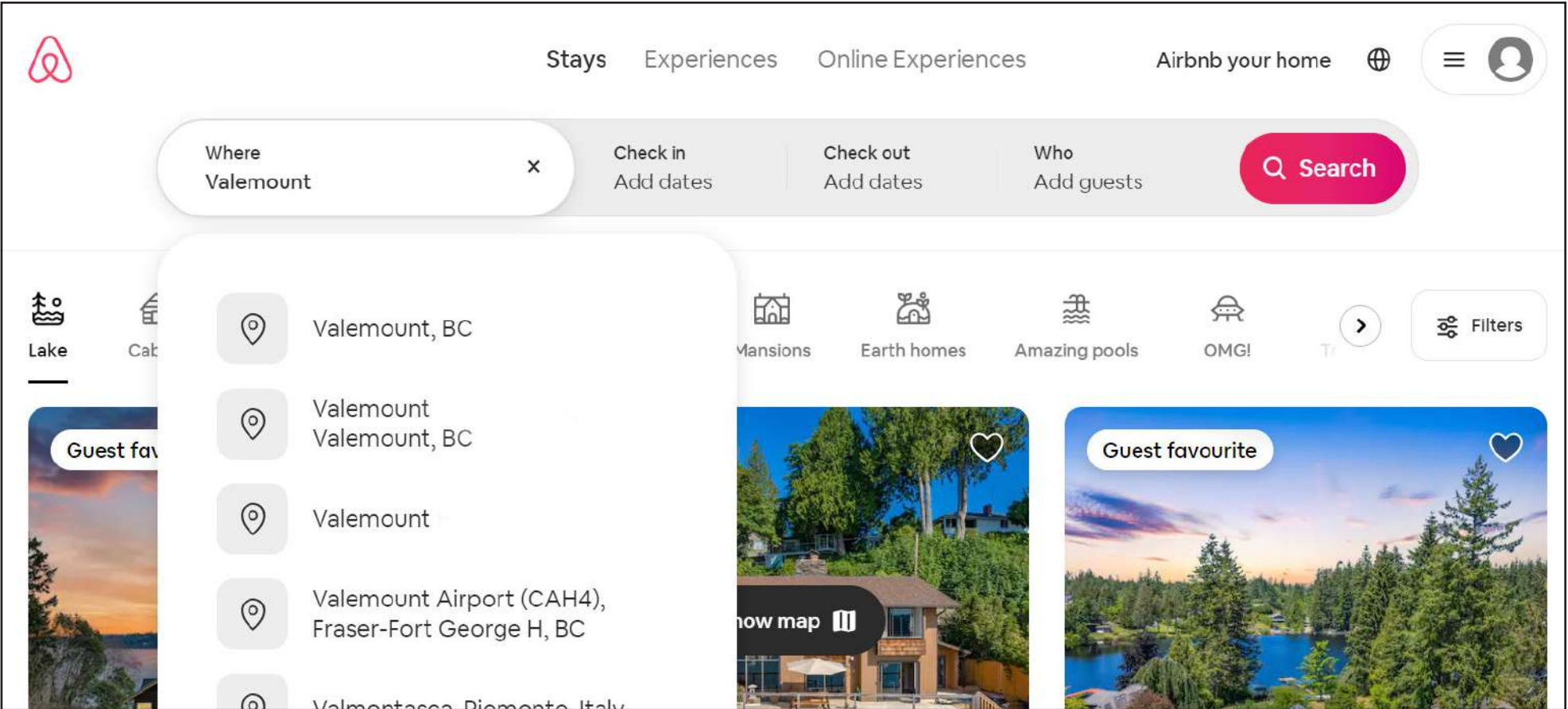
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Province cracks down on vacation rentals



By Rachel Fraser

The Valley will feel the effects of new provincial measures designed to rein in Short-Term Vacation Rentals (STVRs) in BC as they roll out over the coming months, even though Valemount, McBride and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George are all officially exempt. For instance, the Province will soon be requiring STVR platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO to display business license numbers on listings in jurisdictions that require them.

As part of its Homes for People action plan, announced in April 2023, the government introduced the Short-Term Rental Accommodations Act. The Act increases allowable fines that municipalities can levy for bylaw infractions and gives Regional Districts the authority to issue business licenses. It also limits allowable STVRs to the host's primary residence, plus one secondary suite or accessory dwelling unit.

The province has exempted regional districts from the new rules, along with designated resort communities such as Valemount, and municipalities with populations under 10,000, which covers McBride and Valemount as well, though they all have the option to opt in.

Neither municipality, nor the Regional District, has plans to opt in, but each said they are continuing to review the feasibility and potential benefits of the legislation for their

respective jurisdictions.

McBride does not currently have regulations governing STVRs in their zoning bylaw, which was adopted in 2010, well before the popularity of sites like Airbnb. Karen Dube, McBride's Economic Development Officer, said the Village intends to take advantage of funding announced by the Province in December, for municipalities to update their bylaws and Official Community Plans (OCPs).

Valemount adopted a new OCP and zoning bylaw in 2021, which introduced new rules for STVRs. Under Valemount's zoning bylaw, STVRs are divided into two categories. The Major category, which allows for an entire home to be rented out, is limited to R1 and R2 lots of 1500m2 or greater. A secondary suite or room is regulated under the Minor category and is permitted on properties where the remainder of the dwelling is a principal residence. Valemount issued 23 business licenses for STVRs in 2023, but Village CAO Anne Yanciw said that enforcement of unlicensed or non-compliant STVRs is difficult since the hosting sites don't include addresses or license numbers. She anticipates that the new regulations will tighten up this gap, and that unlicensed STVRs may have an issue getting licensed if they don't or can't meet building code requirements for a legal suite.

"Unlicensed STRs can have concerns over meeting building code requirements," Yanciw

said. "This is important as was tragically illustrated when I was working for the City of Calgary. An unlicensed basement suite caught fire and the owner had barred the windows. Four university students died trying to get out."

Yanciw pointed to provincial funding incentives to help create legal accessory units that could be used for long term rentals.

"The funding incentives are attractive – matching funding up to \$40,000. For homeowners currently operating an unlicensed STR through AirBnB, this is an opportunity to convert that to a long-term legal rental rather than remain illegal as the regulations around those tighten."

Local hosts who aren't currently compliant, or who haven't sought licensing thus far, were understandably reluctant to share their experiences. One Valemount host, who preferred not to be named, said they have been offering their listing for a minimum one-month stay only, since the bylaw changes made their STVR non-compliant, but said they have had a lot of requests for short-term stays. They feel that the changeable nature of Valemount's housing market isn't reflected in the Village's restrictions.

"It made sense when there was a temporary housing crisis caused by the pipeline to limit short-term (rentals) and allow for more long-term housing but now that the pipeline is gone the supply/demand fundamentals have changed."

They said during the construction of TMX many homes and landowners added suites, RVs, and other units to house workers, and they didn't disassemble them once pipeliners left.

"Now with that demand gone there is a lot of housing on the market and vacant suits and homes."

They went on to say that several factors have increased the financial load on landlords, leading to higher rents, which government housing incentives like homeowner grants, do little to address.

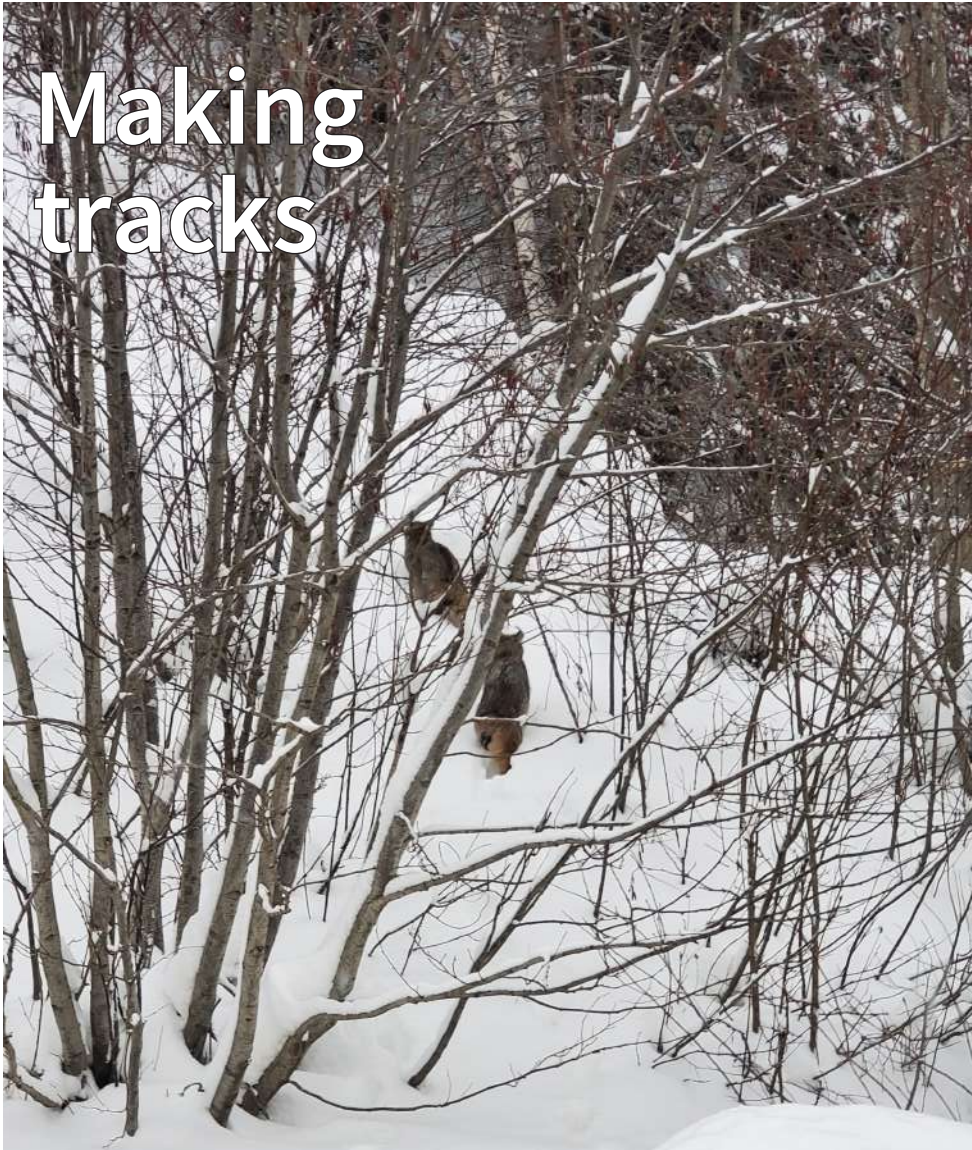
"Utilities, insurance, and taxes have outpaced most inflation metrics used by the government like CPI. Inflation and changes in the building code have increased the costs to maintain and build a rental property."

The Regional District currently zones STVRs identically to motels, in Commercial zones only. Renee McCloskey, Manager of External Relations, said the District is still reviewing how the new tools will affect hosts in their jurisdiction going forward.

Municipalities across the country have looked for ways to restrict this ballooning industry and its impact on a national housing crisis. The BC government's website states that the short-term rental market has increased 20 per cent since just last year, with an estimated 28,000 short-term rentals currently operating in the province.

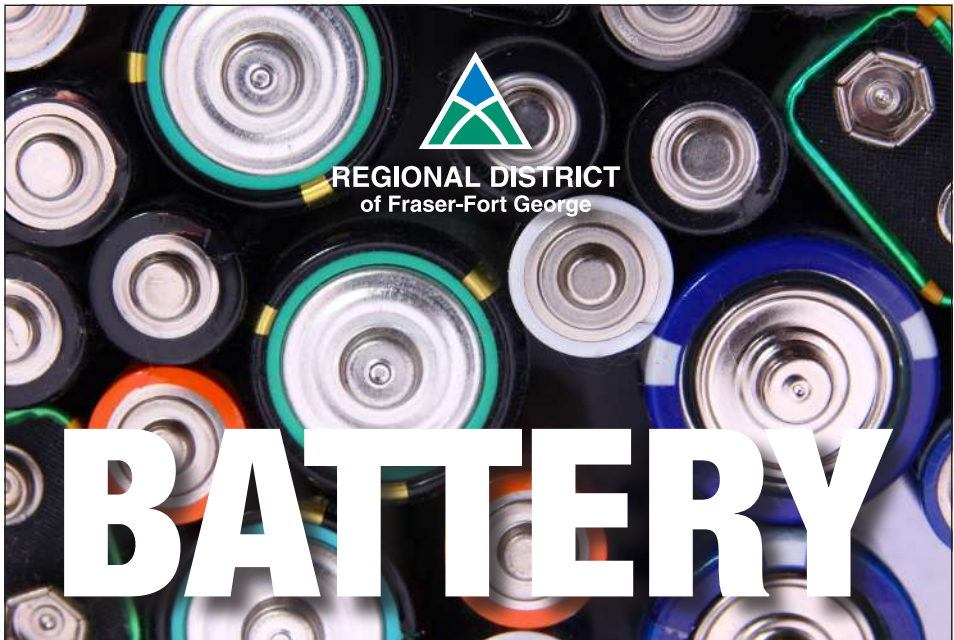
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Making tracks

These two lynx were spotted on the highway between Slim Creek and Purden on Jan 20th. Lynx normally travel solo except when there are small groups as babies stay with momma for about the first year, or during mating season, Jan-March. It was hard to tell which of the two situations were at play here as one of the cats looked smaller than the other initially, but usually with babies, there are more than one. They scooted off the road quickly and made their way up the snowy bank. Often mistaken for bobcats, these cats, upon close examination of the photo, have the long tufts of hair at the tips of their ears. A differentiating feature. /ANDREA ARNOLD



BATTERY RECYCLING

It's Important to Recycle Batteries

Correct disposal of batteries keeps everyone safe. Even if batteries seem to be ‘dead’, they can hold enough of a small charge to start a fire. This fire could start in your garbage can, the garbage truck or at the landfill.

Recycling batteries protects your community and the environment, ensuring that harmful materials don’t end up in the landfill. Materials that are reclaimed from recycled batteries can be used to make new batteries, watches, bicycles, golf clubs and small appliances.

Storing Used Batteries

Keep yourself and your property safe by properly storing used batteries until there are enough to drop off at a recycling location.

Put used batteries back in their original packaging if it’s still available. If not, tape over the positive (+) terminals with packing, duct or electrical tape – just avoid covering the battery’s label. Single batteries can also be individually bagged in clear zip-seal, produce or newspaper bags. Multiple cylindrical alkaline batteries can be wrapped together with all (+) terminals pointing in the same direction.

Other storage tips include:

- Don’t keep batteries in drawers or containers with other metal objects like coins, paper clips or screws.
- Don’t store bagged or taped batteries in metal containers – repurpose an old yogurt container, milk jug or plastic storage bin.
- Store your container of batteries in a cool, dry place. It can be at room temperature, but avoid direct sunlight or extreme heat.



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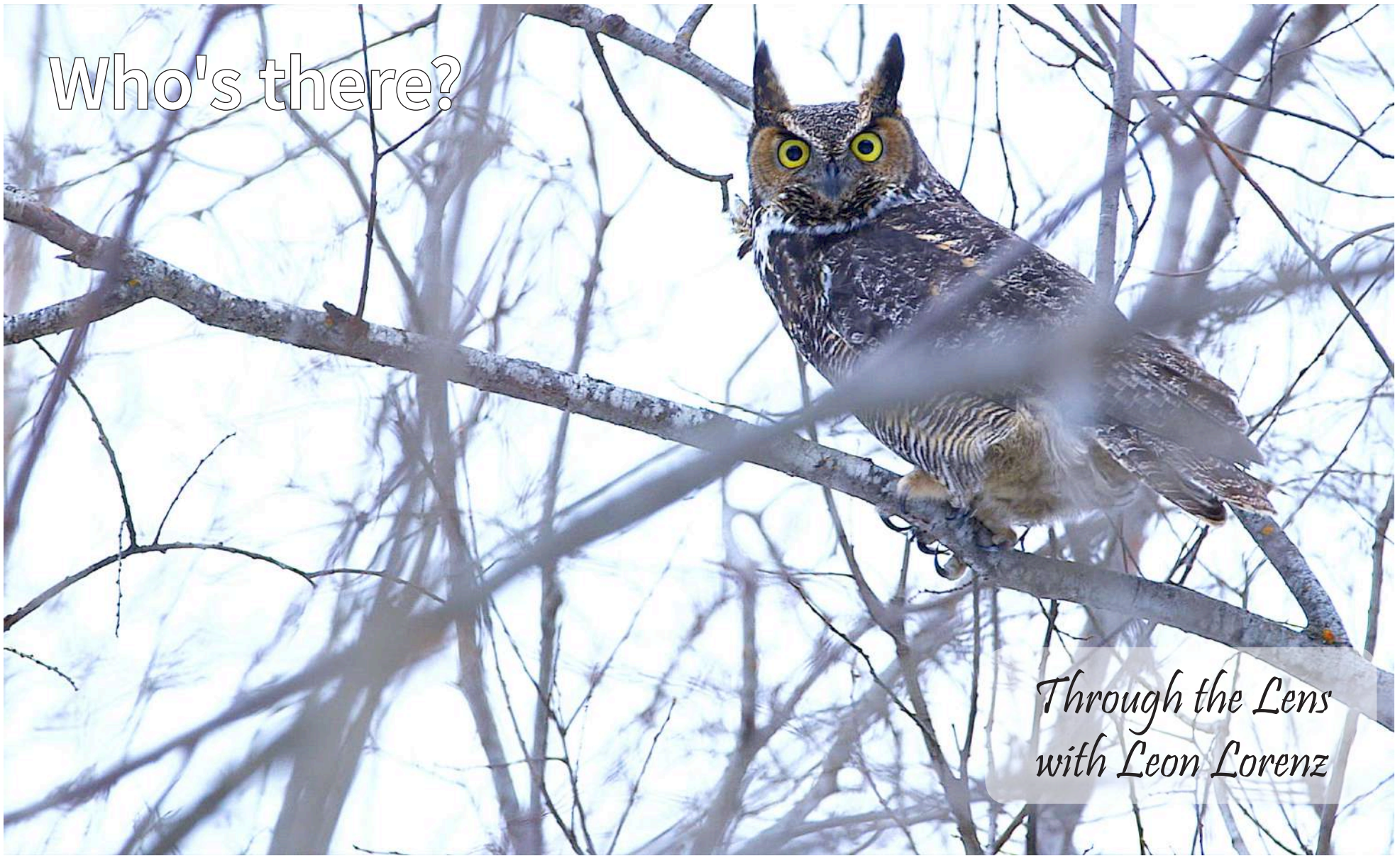
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It's been estimated that great horned owls are able to see objects with about 5 percent the light that humans require. /LEON LORENZ

Ada's Place


Long Term Affordable (LTA) Housing has vacancies

Unfurnished suites available for self-identifying women with or without children who have experienced intimate partner violence/abuse. Residents must be able to live independently and fall under the Housing Income Limits (HILS).



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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.

Gardening with Pete

Planting the Perennial Bed

In last week's column, I tried to cover the basics of starting a perennial bed or border along a path or driveway. We discussed the site for the bed, laying out the shape, digging out the sod and preparing the soil to get ready for the plants.

The next step is to choose the plants; keeping in mind the amount of sun the spot will get each day. A large shrub or rose can be used as a centerpiece or accent in the bed, but in general, it is much better not to plant “one of each”. It will make your bed look scattered and spotty. The best looking beds have a limited number of varieties and clusters or clumps of each variety. To keep the edges neat, be sure you don't use invasive or spreading plants such as goutweed or creeping Charlie! Personally, I like to leave about a foot (25-30cm) around the edge of perennial beds that can be dug deeply each spring and then filled with small annuals such as lobelia or dwarf marigolds for a bright but neat edging. By digging this area deeply each spring, you are sure to keep the lawn grass from invading the perennial bed.

A tidy and neat edge will define the bed and make it much more appealing. If you choose to use annuals, keep them short so they don't overpower the plants behind them. Dwarf Marigolds, Crystal Palace Lobelia, Alyssum, or other in the 8-12 inch (20-30cm) range are good choices. If, however you want to plant the edge of the bed with perennials, Lamb's Ears (Stachys), Lady's Mantle (Alchemilla), Coral Bells (Heuchera), Primula or Thrift (Armeria) would be a few suggestions. I have used Snow In Summer (Ceratium tomentosum) as an edging perennial and it does really well in our area. It has a tendency to spread rapidly but is quite easy to pull and keep under control.

At the middle of the border some good medium height plants – 2 to 3 feet (60-80cm) - would be Daylily, Rudbeckia, Sedum, Bleeding Heart, Leopard's Bane, Blue Cornflower, Columbine, Erigeron, Veronica and Poppy. When planting the middle of the bed or border, try to keep in mind what will be in front of and behind these plants. Think of the color, the height and spread of all these

“neighbours”.

At the back of the bed, or in the center of a circular bed, plant the tallest of the perennials. Another possibility is to plant a non-spreading and non-suckering shrub or bush as the centerpiece. Tall perennials such as Coneflower (Echinacea), Shasta Daisies, Delphinium, Lupin, Monarda or ornamental grasses will give some height to the bed.

I haven't mentioned perennials that are “shade lovers” as I plan to deal with them in another column.

In all of these plans, try to remember that any of these plants can be moved early in the spring or in early fall if they are spring bloomers. Therefore don't worry if you don't get it just the way you want it the first time. You can always change it around next year. If something is not up to scratch after you have tried it for a year or two, it can always be sent to the compost pile or given to the first visitor who admires it!

The greatest thing about gardens is that they are always “a work in progress”.

PUZZLES



CROSSWORD

Answers on P13

- Across
- 1 The ___ is the limit!

4 Typewriter key

7 Book's final word

10 1-1 score, e.g.

11 Grape plant

12 Batman and Robin, e.g.

13 Touch down time perhaps

14 Unspecified item

16 Risk

18 "Hold on!"

19 Luxurious

21 Sort carefully

24 Brimming

27 Goes with aah

28 Propulsion blade

29 Organize

32 Trickle

34 Young person

35 Snoop (around)

37 Making a knot in

41 Professor, e.g.

44 Golfer's goal

45 Affirmative vote

46 Madrid money

47 Number preceding liftoff

48 "Absolutely!"

49 Code letters
- 50 Work segment
- Down
- 1 Stride

2 Toy with a tail

3 Time period

4 Metal can

5 In no specific place

6 ___ carotene

7 Book format

8 Convent dweller

9 Hungarian

11 Comparison shopper's quest

15 Half of a matching set

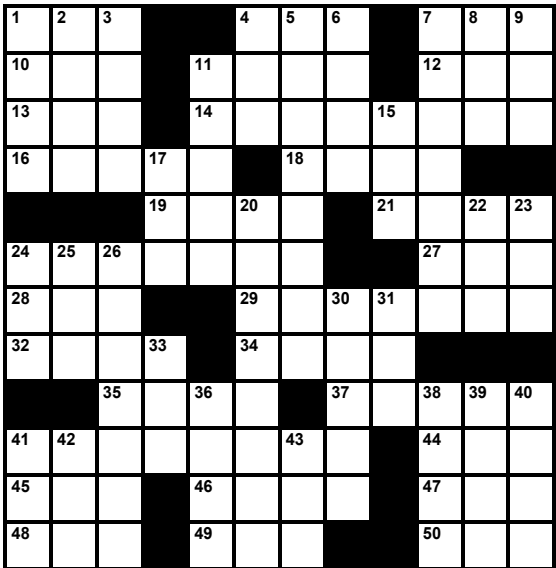
17 Green around the gills

20 Government controlled

22 More than mist

23 English article

24 Stick



- 25 Musical talent
- 26 Harry and William

30 Like a throwback

31 "___ questions?"

33 Kitchen container

36 Took to court

38 Tune player

39 Family nickname

40 Western author Zane

41 Nonclerical

42 CBS logo

43 Time in history

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

Answers on P13

SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY

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

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

The Toughie

by Myles Mellor

Answers on P13

- Across
1. Approximately, 2 words

5. Good works ad

8. Mamma Mia singers

12. "Project Runway" host Klum

14. Execute perfectly

15. Airport rental fleet

16. "If ___ be the food of love, play on": Shakespeare

17. Ireland

18. Greek vowels

19. Green vegetable

21. Like broccoli

22. Yours and mine

24. Winter month

25. Some votes

29. Elmo

31. Morning moisture

34. Candle holders?

36. Reply to "Shall we?"

37. Environmental watchdogs, for short

38. Mediterranean dish

42. Title character in Shakespeare

43. Big holders for coffee

44. Like Cheerios

45. Soak

46. "___ Weapon"

49. Fluid-filled sac

50. Guileful

51. Shout of approval

53. Vegetable protein sources

56. Salad ingredient

61. Tibetan monk
62. Prefix with pad

65. Desert highlight

66. It's fine (2 words)

67. Fashion magazine

68. Turn aside

69. Rhyming word in "Light My Fire"

70. Doze (off)

71. Broke the speed limit
- Down
1. Electrical resistance units

2. Sign on for another tour

3. ___, ___, senior!

4. Father of Balder

5. ___ govt poker

6. Round Table title

7. Porter

8. Caustic

9. Soak leather

10. Slope to the sea, to Sean

11. Org.

13. UN aircraft group

14. India's first P.M.

20. Chalice

21. Bugs

23. Ostentatious

24. Greek salad ingredient

25. Bank holdings, abbr.

26. Country bumpkin

27. Straining to survive

28. Not sweet

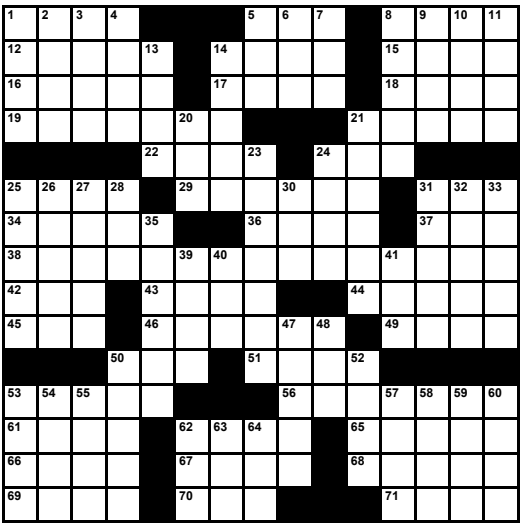
30. Animation

31. God

32. Sporting blades

33. "Rome ___ built in a day"

35. Halloween decorations



39. Victim

40. Med. specialty

41. Center X or O

47. Hard-to-reach nest

48. A member of a Buddhist people

50. Moccasin, for one

52. Managed care grps.

53. Radar screen image

54. Like pie?

55. Marc Antony's love

57. Cries of delight

58. Bats


59. Emergency CB channel

60. Abbreviated business sign
62. It might have a clutch

63. Rock group from the 70s, abbr.

64. Legal scholar's deg.

HOROSCOPES



BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

In the Week of a Leo Full Moon

From detective work to psychology, theater to commerce, understanding the motivations of humans is crucial to the outcome and trickier than it seems. Figuring out our own motives can be even trickier and requiring of the same tools, like objectivity, honesty and compassionate nonjudgment. It will come up often this week. Every behavior has a payoff. To change a behavior, understand the payoff.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Unusual tasks and roles are part of this week's offering. You may benefit immensely from doing things you're not great at, but make it easy on yourself by limiting the time and depth of your obligation. All in all, the best opportunities of the week will be a little strange. It's fun to say yes when the ask is small in scope.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Affections are not always returned in kind. It's pretty common for someone to love much more, less or differently. Since appreciating someone who likes you back in a similar way and amount can be a rare thing in life, it's something to celebrate. This week, you'll revel in reciprocity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Even though someone's success doesn't technically pose a threat to your own, you can still feel some kind of way about it. Though it's futile to compete when you're not in a competition, it's also unwise (SET ITAL) not (END ITAL) to compete when you are. Much comes down to this: What's the game, if there is one?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The path to improvement often begins with doing one right thing that happens to be just a little harder than the usual route. One good move will lead to many other specific and correct actions, and soon, many things are better at once. Positive change is underway this week.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Silence doesn't lie or get its facts wrong. Silence wastes neither breath nor words. People read into silence more than they get out of it. There will be opportunities to let silence show you its power this week. "The talkative parrot is shut up in a cage. Other birds, without speech, fly freely about."--Saskya Pandita

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Uncertainty and awkwardness are part of the growing up that can happen at any age. Being out of your element is a little scary, but it's also exciting because you know this is how you become who you want to be. You sense yourself getting stronger, smarter and better for moving forward with a brave heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Things change. People grow. Most

things can be fixed, so have faith. There's nothing to gain from letting despair get even one toe into your world. Regardless of how long something has been broken, every moment holds the potential for renewal. Embrace the opportunity for rebirth.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This week, you'll have the comforting overall sense that whatever you're doing, it's working for you. You're somehow able to hold on to hope without clinging to expectation. The things you want don't always happen, but your life is better because you aimed for them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You feel deep gratitude for the specific ways someone contributes to your life, but you don't always think it's the right time to express your feelings, nor are you sure of the best way to do so. This week features opportunities that arise naturally and feel easy and creative. You'll have just the right words to share your appreciation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When events create pressure and anxiety, it's often because you're thinking you need to get results in a short period of time. Extend the time period. Pretend that you, like the gods, have all the time in the world and something happens. Anxiety drops away, and you end up working without all that stress.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Strange things happen, and it's not always a good idea to call attention to them in real time. Sometimes, the most graceful move is just to shrug your shoulders and move on. Realization and solutions may come later, and they may not. If you're the one meant to solve a problem, eventually, you will.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your sophisticated mind can make room for conflicting ideas, and you'll operate with grace in incredibly complex circumstances. The important thing is not to judge yourself as you go. Nothing is effectively assessed by itself. The larger context not only matters; sometimes, it's everything.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: Does it fortify you to know that you elevate the group just by being your best self? You won't seek power, but it will be bestowed on you by those who need you to step up and lead. You'll develop as a teacher, too, and help others discover their gifts. More highlights: Relationships become deeply bonded, affectionate and will create a lasting sense of emotional security. You'll get in on the ground level of a venture. A formal event will be exciting to plan, and the execution legendary.



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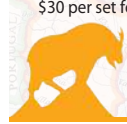
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1	S	K	Y	2	T	A	B	3	E	N	D			
10	T	I	E	11	V	I	N	E	12	D	U	O		
13	E	T	A	14	A	N	Y	T	H	I	N	G		
15	P	E	R	16	I	L	17	W	A	I	T			
18	L	U	S	19	H	20	S	I	21	F	T			
24	R	E	P	25	L	E	T	26	O	O	H			
28	O	A	R	29	A	R	30	A	N	G	E			
32	D	R	I	33	T	E	E	N	34	Y	I	N	G	
35	N	O	S	36	E	37	T	Y	38	I	N	G		
41	L	E	C	42	T	U	R	E	43	R	44	P	A	R
45	A	Y	E	46	E	U	R	O	47	O	N	E		
48	Y	E	S	49	D	N	A	50	D	A	Y			

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	O	R	S	O	2	P	S	A	3	A	B	10	A			
11	H	E	I	D	12	I	N	A	I	L	13	C	A	R	S	
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49	I	S	O	K	50	E	L	L	E	51	S	H	U	N	T	
52	P	Y	R	E	53	N	O	D	54	S	P	E	E	D		

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ROBSON VALLEY

Community Events

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

VALEMOUNT

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 info call 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

January 29 Making talking sticks and story time in collaboration with RVCS Indigenous Literacy program

February—5 BC Association of Pregnancy Outreach Program resources for parents and crafts

February—12 Valentine’s day craft

February—19 Stat Holiday no FPDl

February—26 Pink shirt day awareness and activities

Jan 19-21 Bonspiel at the Valemount Curling Club. Contact Cheri Denhke for more info.

WED Jan 24th Join us for **Medicine Wheel Teachings** Join our Indigenous Literacy team as we share an afternoon of art, learning, culture and connection at the RVCS office in Valemount (99 Gorse St).Refreshments and supplies will be provided. Everyone is welcome! Registration is required please contact the office. This program is brought to you by the RVCS Indigenous Literacy & Seniors Program, made possible with funding from CALP.

WED Jan 24th 3-4pm. **Kids Wierd But True! Trivia** 3-4pm Ages 6-12 Register at the Valemount Public Library.

SAT Jan 27th **Celebrate Family Literacy Day Mario's Power Up Party!** 1-3pm all ages welcome. Games, activities, refreshments. Register at the Valemount Public Library.

SUN Jan 28 Canoe Valley & McBride Figure Skaing Clubs present their annual Jamboree. Come watch the kids skate in this fun all day competition setting.

WED Feb 1 **Kids Book Club** starts Ages 9-13 Register at the Valemount Public Library.

Fri. Feb 9th Movie night fundraiser for Project Pump it Up (pump track development) at Valemount Secondary. The film is suitable for youth and adults and is about the transformative power of bikes in several people's lives. More details TBA.

THURS Feb 15 Tickets go on sale for the BCHBC Rendezvous 24 May 24-26. A weekend of riding and events held at the Valemount Rodeo Grounds.

SAT Feb 17th 2024 **Winterfest** 5-9pm plans so far include outdoor DJ & live music, food vendors, ice/snow sculptures, signature beverages, winter bowling, smores, maple syrup taffy, and warming stations! More activities are yet to be confirmed.

Ongoing Valemount Events

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.

WED’s January 24/31, Feb 7/14/21 and 28 2024 from 3-4pm. RVCS offers **The Circle**; a group for girls ages 9-12 years. Hosted by the Child & Youth Mental Health and PEACE Program, girls will be part of a group that brings them together through art, conversation and activities, to explore topics such as our values, stressors, affirmations, wellness, and connection. RVCS office in Valemount (99 Gorse St). A small snack will be provided. Registration is required please call 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

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

WEDs **Crash Course World Mythology** 7:00pm Jan 17th-April 24th. Watch videos followed by discussion. Register at

the Valemount Public Library.

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 the CARE-A-VAN 778-915-8550 for a ride in the accessibility bus.

WEDs & SATs **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.

TUES and FRIs at 7 PM **Curling and Drop-In Curling** Valemount Curling Club 98 Elm St. Clean shoes required.

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

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:

January 29 Tumble time

February—5 Valentine Craft

February—12 Swimming in Valemount (Registration required)

February—19 Stat Holiday no FPDl

February—26 Swimming in Valemount (registration required)

WED Jan 24th Join us for **Drop-In Tech Café** our staff provide FREE assistance and 1:1 support with your devices and basic tech questions. At the McBride office (942 3rd Ave) starting at 1pm-3pm. Brought to you by

McBride Ault Literacy Program. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org.

FRI Jan 26th **Movie Night at the high school** hosted by the Girls Volleyball team. Space Jam-A New Legacy. Concession available will snacks and supper type items. Doors open at 5:00. Movie will start at 5:30 with an intermission part way through. Thank you for your support.

MON Jan 29th Seniors are invited to come and pick up a paint brush and let Jessica Arnold lead you through **Paint Afternoon** at the McBride office (942 3rd Ave) for an afternoon of painting! This runs from 1-3 pm. Supplies and refreshments provided. This program is brought to you by the RVCS McBride Seniors Program. For more information and to register call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org.

FEB 2 & 3 McBride Sr Boys Basketball Team hosts the Annual **Jediah Rich Classic Tournament**. Watch for game times on posters, social media and here in coming weeks.

Ongoing McBride Events

MON's January 22/29, Feb 5/12/26 and March 4, 2024 from 3-4pm, RVCS offers **The Circle**; a group for girls ages 9-12 years. Hosted by the Child & Youth Mental Health and PEACE Program, girls will be part of a group that brings them together through art, conversation and activities, to explore topics such as our values, stressors, affirmations, wellness, and connection. RVCS office in McBride (942 3rd Ave). A small snack will be provided. Registration is required. Please call 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

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.

TUESs **Tuesday Night Jam** 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

WED's **Free Drop-in Pickleball** 7:30-9pm @ the McBride Hightschool. Everyone welcome (grade 8 and older) Bring clean gym shoes. Equipment and basic instruction provided. No experience, or high level of fitness required. Come have fun.

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.

FRIs& SATs **McBride Curling Club Drop-In** @7pm. (In January). \$5.00 fee. Bring clean shoes.

HAVE AN EVENT?
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Water for fire Cont'd from P1

the Fraser, which involves cutting a hole in the ice with a chainsaw, or another source on privately owned land.

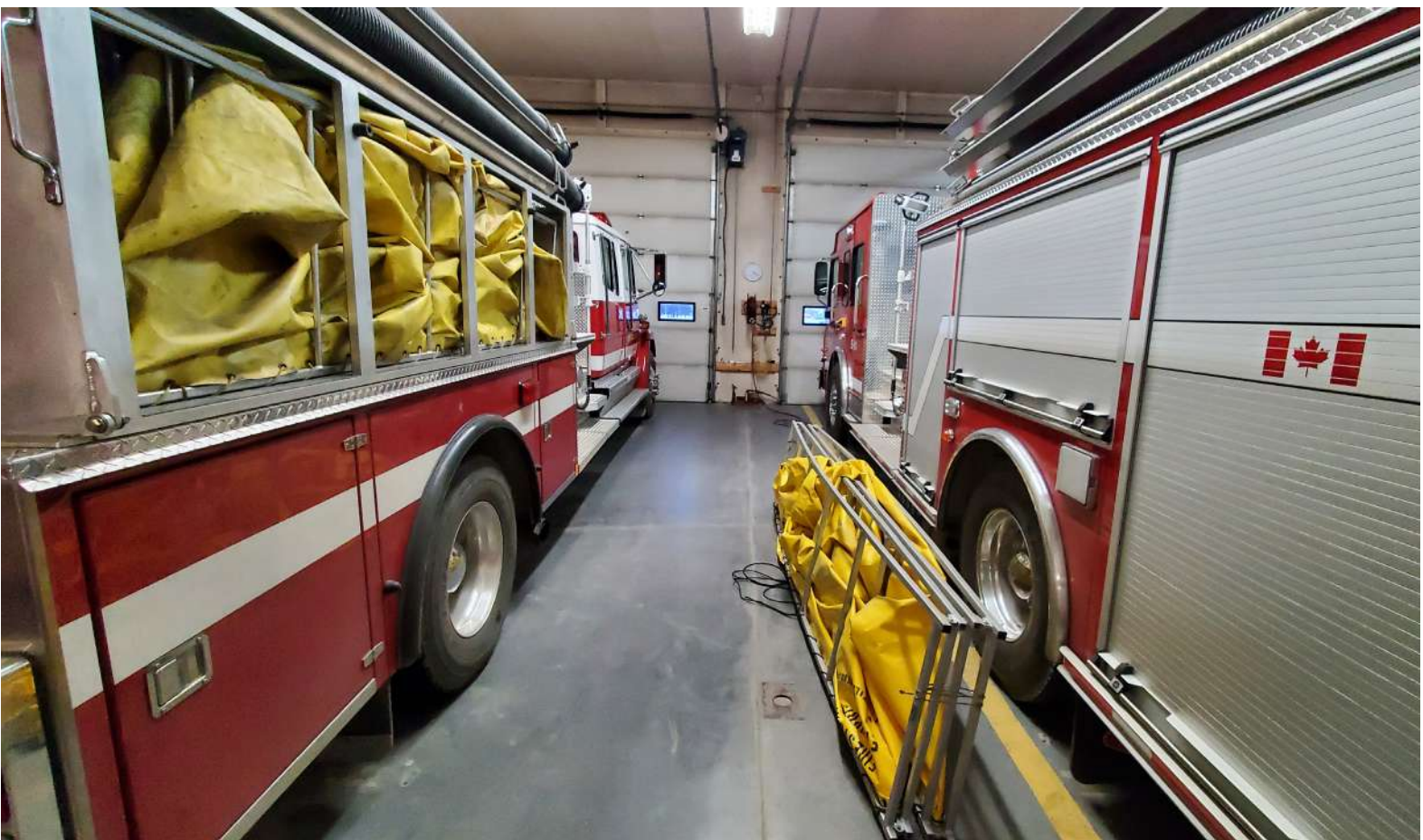
Although this is an ok solution to the water conservation issue Chief Lipke says it is not without its problems.

“Firstly, time. It will take time for the trucks to make each trip between the water source and the scene of a fire,” he said. “Exactly how long would depend on location, weather and road conditions.”

The second issue could occur with the equipment. Chief Lipke explained that process of retrieving water from an open water source is called drafting. During the drafting process, especially during frigid temperatures, there is a lot of opportunity for equipment such as pumps, hoses, or valves, to freeze.

“We hope that this process does not have to be put into play,” said Lipke. “We hope there is no fire that puts us in this position, but also, as of Friday Jan 19th, the Village told me that currently we should have adequate water available to us should the need arise, but that is subject to change with weather and temperature.”

“One of the ways the community can help is by keeping an eye on chimneys,



These two yellow porta-tanks, the one on the floor of the fire hall, and the one on the side of the fire truck, will hold up to 2000 gallons of water. These pieces of equipment will help the MVFD if the need arises to shuttle water from alternate water sources to the scene of a fire. /ANDREA ARNOLD

with frequent checks throughout the winter, not just once a year. Warm spells when fires are dampened down tend to soot up chimneys. Then, when cold

weather arrives, the chimney is in prime condition for a chimney fire when the stove is first burned hot.” The department is in continued

communication with the Village and adjustments will be made to this plan as needed. Lipke wants to remind the community that if they find

themselves in a fiery situation, to please call 911 before trying to, if safe, fight the fire. If it is not safe, to exit safely and let the department do their job.



7-year-old Locklan experiments with giant bubble shapes along the Saskatoon river valley during a recent trip. /LAURA KEIL

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\$385,000



Look no further. This family home features open concept living, 2.5 baths, and views from every window. With a fenced yard and outside basement entry, the kids and dogs can play all day, while mom and dad kick back on the deck and enjoy the sunset.

1280 Main Street

VALEMOUNT

\$135,000

RE/MAX
COMMERCIAL



Sitting on the corner of a primary intersection, this highly visible lot is a great location to build your commercial venture. Whether looking to create a bricks and mortar build to lease or wanting to make your own mark, this site is an integral part of the secondary business core of town.

1360 4th Avenue

VALEMOUNT

\$120,000



Get one step closer to your build! With a workshop and power in place, you are all set to begin construction on your dream home in the mountains. At just over 10,000 sf, you'll have all the elbow room you need.

1480 7th Avenue

VALEMOUNT

PRICE DROP!

\$345,000



Situated on one of the larger lots in town, this one-level home is well maintained and spacious. Featuring a large entry, 2 sitting rooms and 3 bedrooms, you'll have a corner for everyone. The private yard holds court to a covered deck and detached garage.

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1036 14TH AVE



\$85,000

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

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 Albreda 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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