



Local man launches petition over lake dust P3



Your weekly source of news, views and entertainment

McBride mulls options after test wells fail P2

Man raises alarm re: seniors and wildfire P10

Film Festival comes to Valemount P14

Science Fair! P15

Thursday March 7, 2024
Volume 15 Issue 9
PM42164515

\$2.25 GST INCLUDED
(\$1.30 when you subscribe)

McBride irked by sudden Renshaw bridge closure

Ministry leaves community in the dark about future of popular snowmobiling area

By ANDREA ARNOLD

In the middle of an already slow snowmobiling tourism season for the community of McBride, access to the Renshaw, one of the area's most popular trails, was abruptly closed by the Province on Jan. 22, 2024 due to a structural issue with the middle pier support on the bridge at 2km. The Ministry of Forest and BC Recreation Site and Trails have no plans to make improvements to allow the route to reopen.

Following this closure, the Village of McBride has reported a 70 percent decrease in snowmobile activity across all three of the main trails in the McBride area.

The problem began in August 2023, when an inspection found the Renshaw trail bridge was on the verge of complete structural failure, said Dave McLeod, president of the McBride Big Country Snowmobile Association.

"Nobody was notified at that time and no signs or notices were posted. Fast forward to January 22, 2024 we get notified by BC Rec Sites and Trails that we need to cease grooming operations on the Renshaw trail due to bridge issues."

These issues are serious enough that the bridge was zero-rated by the Ministry of Forests meaning that no traffic over the bridge is allowed, barring not only vehicles and trail maintenance equipment, but also smaller motorized vehicles such as snowmobiles, or, in other months, all-terrain vehicles.

The British Columbia Snowmobile Federation posted on their website that the closure disrupts not only recreational activities but also poses a significant economic threat to McBride. With the primary snowmobile area now inaccessible, businesses reliant on snowmobiling tourism are anticipated to suffer, potentially resulting in job losses and decreased town revenue.

McLeod says the issue goes beyond the lack of access. "Our biggest concern is the lack of communication and timing of all this as the club invested a significant amount of money in

CONT'D ON P3



Harper, Ilya, Alayah and the rest of the Star group skaters opened the 51st annual Canoe Valley Skating carnival last weekend. The themed show was a creative celebration of the rodeo. See more photos P8. / LAURA KEIL



DON'T FORGET TO ADJUST
YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BY 1 HOUR
SUNDAY MARCH 10TH!



RE/MAX CORE REALTY

Call me to Chat!



Katharina McNaughton

cell: (250)-569-7401

office : (250)-645-5055

e: kat@robsonvalleyrealestate.com

Serving the Robson Valley

REDUCED!

\$150,000

1845 Rumph Pl
Valemount

.60 Acres

MLS #R2832744



WWW.ROBSONVALLEYREALESTATE.COM

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

McBride Mayor Eugene Runtz first disclosed that the test wells had failed at the Feb. 22 meeting of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George board of directors. Although a hydrologist had previously identified the drilling area as a

In a follow-up phone call Feb. 29, Runtz told The Goat that low snowpack and low flow in Dominion Creek continue to cause concern about the village's water supply. Water levels have been consistently low throughout the winter, he said, and the reservoir dropped by

In the meantime, residents will need to use as little water as possible, Runtz said. The Village asked residents to take measures to conserve water last July, and has continued to remind residents of the need to use water conservatively throughout the drought with the goal of

"The fact that we're on top of this with the government and we're putting in for the type of grants we need, that's really positive," he said. "The Province has been great when it comes to this water."

Simple Goodness.

CUT FROM
WESTERN CANADIAN
AAA CERTIFIED
ANGUS BEEF

aged minimum
21 days

SINCE 1978
CERTIFIED
ANGUS BEEF®
BRAND

WESTERN CANADIAN
Fresh AAA
Certified Angus
Beef® Top Sirloin
Roast or Steaks
family pack 22.02/kg

9.99 lb

Save 41%
off regular
price

Save 53%
off regular
price

Fresh
Whole Pork
Tenderloin
family pack 9.90/kg

4.49 lb

MEXICO
Fresh Asparagus
4.39/kg weather permitting

1.99 lb

MEXICO
Fresh Mini
Watermelons

5.99 ea

PHILADELPHIA
Cream Cheese
227 g - 250 g

3.99 ea

CLOVER LEAF
Chunk
Light Tuna
or flaked 170 g

3/\$3.99

LITTLE CREEK
Organic
Dressing
295 mL

5.99 ea

Local

BC Fresh
Boneless
Skinless
Chicken Breasts
family pack 14.31/kg

6.49 lb

Save 38%
off regular
price

Friday, March 8 - Thursday, March 14

Columbia Basin Trust is grateful to operate on the unceded traditional territories of the Ktunaxa, Lheidli T'enneh, Secwépemc, Sinixt and Syilx Nations.

Local launches petition against Hydro; Hydro denies claims

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

A petition against BC Hydro’s use of the Kinbasket Reservoir has cropped up throughout the Village of Valemount over concerns about silica dust following the Air Quality Advisory recently issued for the village.

The organizer of the petition, Stuart McKirdy, told The Goat he’s concerned about the health effects of silica dust. “It’s a serious lung issue. It puts permanent scars deep in your lungs,” he said. “How about the kids that are going to grow up in this for the next 20 years? Long term exposure, that’s serious.”

According to Healthlink BC, exposure to silica dust can cause silicosis, a lung disease that can cause breathing problems and damage the lungs. Silicosis does not have a cure, but it can be managed with medication, says Healthlink BC.

Exposure to silica dust is particularly a problem for those who work with glass, ceramics, or other jobs that involve crushing rock into fine dust, says the agency. Exposure to the dust can occur indoors or outdoors, and workers in the construction and manufacturing sectors are particularly at risk. However, wearing a mask or other protective equipment can help prevent silica dust from infiltrating the lungs, Healthlink BC says.

Health concerns about silica dust are why McKirdy has been distributing a petition against BC Hydro in various businesses throughout the Village. He believes that Hydro’s use of the Kinbasket Lake is contributing to air pollution in the area, as low water reservoirs expose more dust that can be blown into Valemount. He also said that he knew of one Robson Valley resident who worked with rock and died from silicosis.

He estimates that his petitions have received at least two dozen signatures. McKirdy said he does not yet know how he will use the petition, but he is hoping to find a lawyer to launch a class action lawsuit against BC Hydro.

However, analyses from B.C. Air Quality show that Valemount’s recent air quality advisories have not been the result of silica dust. Instead, the Village’s poor air quality comes from a high concentration of fine

particulate matter, often known as PM2.5.

PM2.5 is often a mix of smoke, soot, and particles in aerosol, and often comes from wood burning and vehicle emissions, according to Health Canada.

In an email sent to The Goat this week, BC Hydro cited two different analyses of air quality in the Kinbasket Reservoir which suggested that air quality issues in Valemount are far more likely to be the result of wood smoke rather than silica dust.

The first report, conducted by BC Hydro in 2011 and based on data collected by the Ministry of Environment over a 10-year period, found that PM2.5 levels tend to exceed provincial health guidelines during the winter. “This correlates with the use of wood-burning appliances for home heating,” a BC Hydro spokesperson wrote in an email to The Goat.

In 2013, the Ministry of Environment installed upgraded sampling equipment in the Kinbasket Reservoir drawdown zone with funding from BC Hydro. In 2016, the Ministry used data collected from this equipment to analyze particulate matter, wind speed, wind direction, and temperature. Again, the data showed that most instances of high PM concentration occur in colder months when reservoir sediment is covered with snow and therefore less mobile, BC Hydro said.

Additionally, most days with high particulate matter coincided with low temperatures and low wind speeds – conditions which make it less likely for dust to move into Valemount.

“Local sources of PM are therefore the most likely sources and are primarily smoke from wood burning appliances or open burning, as well as local vehicle traffic,” said BC Hydro. “Reducing the volume of wood smoke being produced in the community could have a significant positive impact on the air quality within the community during the colder months of the year.”

While sand from the Kinbasket Reservoir may impact Valemount’s air quality, these data indicate that it is a minor component of the total particulate matter concentration in the area, the email said.

More recently, a report by Hemmera Envirochem Incorporated commissioned by the Village of Valemount



A 2019 dust storm over Valemount. /RMG FILE PHOTO

In June 2021 analyzed “dust events” – that is, periods of at least an hour where there was an unusually high concentration of particulate matter in the air, while water levels in the Kinbasket Reservoir were low and strong wind was blowing from the drawdown zone.

Over the seven-year period analyzed by the report, just 14 dust events occurred. These events only lasted one or two hours, so they did not cause the daily average PM2.5 concentrations to exceed the BC Ambient Air Quality Criteria. Hemmera said that the Village could collect air quality samples during future dust events to quantify the potential health effects of silica dust, but said that dust events from the drawdown zone of the Kinbasket Reservoir will likely be infrequent.

According to Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson, the Village is working with the University of Northern British Columbia and Northern Health Authority to determine how best to proceed with these recommendations.

“With drought-like conditions and lower reservoir levels below average for longer periods, these dust storms will become more frequent,” said Torgerson. “We are working with our partners at UNBC and other communities impacted by the hydroelectric reservoir, like Williston, to see what they have come up with to mitigate concerns.”

Renshaw closure Cont'd from P1

September/October doing maintenance on the trail in preparation for the sledding season,” said McLeod. “We had heavy equipment crossing this bridge, there was God knows how many hunters and other outdoor recreational recreationalists using the trail as well as our groomer and sledders.”

In solidarity with the McBride Big Country Snowmobile Association, the Snowmobile Federation sent a letter to the Minister of Forests urging immediate action.

The letter also calls for the development of a comprehensive plan for maintaining Forest Service Roads and critical bridges essential for public recreation access across the province.

Mayor Gene Runtz brought the issue to the attention of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. He said the Village is working to arrange a meeting with the Ministry of Forests to discuss how the Province expects to resolve the bridge’s structural issues so the snowmobiling area can re-open.

The Village of McBride submitted a letter to Aaron Murray, Recreations Officer, Recreation Sites and Trails BC on Feb. 14th expressing their concerns around the closure.

On Feb. 26th, they received a letter back from Murray. The following recounts the concerns expressed by the Village of McBride followed by Murray’s responses.

Village: “We find it unacceptable that the Province has elected to effectively shut down snowmobiling in McBride for the balance of the season without notice nor formal communication,” said the letter from McBride. “Additionally, the Province has not communicated their plans to resolve the issue. Closure of the Renshaw area is having a severe, negative impact on the local economy.”

The letter says although there are two other groomed areas for riders, many people visit the community for Renshaw. They will then spend some time while in the community exploring Lucille or Belle as well.

The Village asked that all stakeholders receive a copy of the bridge inspection report as that had not been made available prior to this letter and asked why the bridge was not closed immediately if in fact it is a threat to public safety.

“If the bridge is truly unsafe, then hundreds of people and millions of dollars worth of equipment and vehicles were put at risk over the past few months.”

They asked if it could be open for only snowmobile traffic

as they are smaller and lighter than most of the other traffic that would use it.

Murray met with the Ministry of Forest Engineering staff on Jan. 22.

“During this meeting, it was brought to my attention that the first crossing along the Mckale road (G3-119), had some major issues and would need to either be rebuilt or replaced before any more traffic could pass along it. The detailed inspection report showed some serious safety issues.”

Murray said the time between the initial inspection and the meeting is the Ministry’s process for crossing (bridge) inspections when a third-party consultant does the field assessment.

"We find it unacceptable that the Province has elected to effectively shut down snowmobiling in McBride for the balance of the season without notice or formal communication."

- Village of McBride, in a letter to the Ministry

“I extend my apologies for any inconvenience stemming from the delay in posting the closure notice,” said Murray.

The Village also brought up that the McBride club invested \$40,000 to improve the Renshaw road in preparation for this season. Had they been made aware of the bridge issues in a timely manner, they could have worked alongside the Province to make repairs prior to the sledding season.

They asked why it took so long to receive the report, and also, are there issues with other bridges that also need attention.

Murray’s letter stated that yes, the other bridges along the road all require repairs and are reaching the end of their life spans.

“The entirety of this road would need a complete overhaul to be a long-term viable route to the Renshaw Alpine,” he said. “Early cost estimates are over \$1 million for the replacement of the five crossings without factoring in the long-term maintenance requirements.”

Murray explained that Recreation Sites and Trails BC took over the responsibility of the Renshaw Alpine access trail in the early 2010s to allow continued snowmobile accessibility to the alpine. With no licensees or other stakeholders stepping forward to cover maintenance expenses, their commitment was only to provide use of structures for their lifespan providing 14 years of access to the backcountry.

“Recreation Sites and Trails BC does not have the expertise nor the resources available to undertake road and bridge maintenance and has relied on MOF expertise,” he said.

Murray did state in his letter that they are exploring other route options into the Renshaw Alpine. The most promising possibility would be via the Holmes River Valley.

“During a recent helicopter flight looking at access options, we observed a few snowmobilers using the Holmes River valley to access the Renshaw Alpine riding area,” he said. “This option remains in the scoping phase and will involve close collaboration between Rec Sites and Trails and McBride Community Snowmobile Association. The Ministry is hoping we can find a stable, durable, and cost-efficient alternative access route for the Renshaw Alpine area.”

In closing, the letter from McBride stated that in the three weeks following the closure, there had been no formal public communication from the Province, leaving businesses and McBride Snowmobile club stakeholders unable to effectively respond when asked about the closure.

In the final statements of his letter Murray replied that he would arrange a time to come to the Village of McBride offices with the reports to review with the council members.

McLeod will be meeting with Murray later this month to discuss the feasibility of the options for both short term (next season) and long term solutions.

It appears though that despite all efforts, the trail will stay closed for the remainder of the 2024 season.

“We were hoping for a short term temporary solution for this crossing so we could finish out the season but it appears that will not be happening,” said McLeod.

“Needless to say we are extremely disappointed.”

Opinion



Spencer Hall
Editor & Owner
goatnewspaper@gmail.com

Valemount needs a dog park, not Barkingham Palace

At its latest meeting, the Village of Valemount Council decided not to move forward with a dog park using the plan developed by Urban Systems, which ran to the tune of over \$375,000.

While I am a self-professed dog lover — my dog gets more room on the bed than I do most nights — it's my opinion that Council made the right decision in not moving forward with the Urban Systems design, which for the price quoted may as well have included a ruby-encrusted agility course and canine planetarium.

This isn't to say Valemount

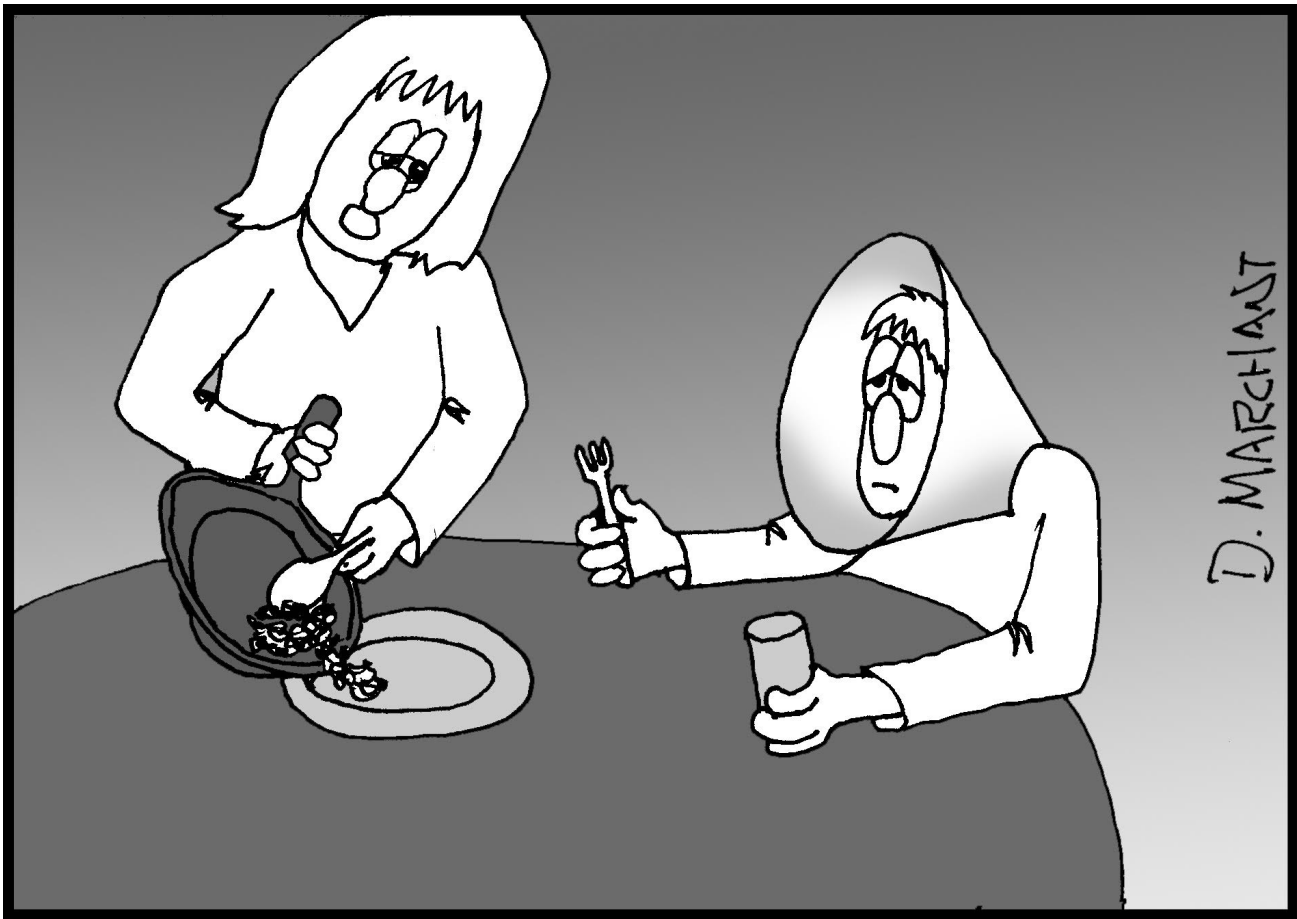
shouldn't have a dog park. Many owners prefer to take their pets to enclosed outdoor spaces and dog parks provide a great opportunity for dogs (and their owners) to socialize. According to the Association of Professional Dog Trainers, dog parks provide an enclosed space where high-energy dogs can burn off pent up energy. They also build community and camaraderie among dog owners. However, the Association also warns of the downsides of dog parks — increased chance of illness, injury, dogs learning bad behavior from other dogs, aggression, and anxiety. Dog

park designs these days often include elements to reduce dog confrontations, such as hills to stop dogs from racing towards each other and separate fenced areas for smaller dogs.

But, as Mayor and Council pointed out at the meeting, the preliminary design provided was way over the top. The community can likely make do with a simplified and hopefully more economical design, though the Village should keep in mind the dog park may need more than just fencing to ensure the safety of dogs and their owners.

About Letters to the Editor

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



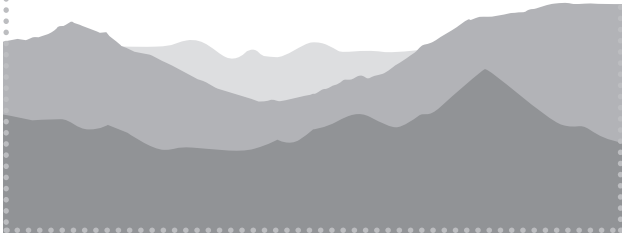
SUBSCRIBE TO THE GOAT



Save up to \$50 a year from the newsstand price!

- ☐ Mail-out to Robson Valley address \$76.65 (Seniors/low-income \$69.30) *GST included in prices
- ☐ Online subscription \$57.75/year
- ☐ Mail-out outside Robson Valley \$113.40/year (Seniors \$102.90/year)
- ☐ Add online subscription to paper subscription (\$15.75/year)

For questions call us at (250) 566-4606, e-mail us at billingrmg@gmail.com, or visit us at 1170 5th Ave
Mail with a cheque to: Rocky Mountain Goat Media Inc, Box 21, Valemount, BC, V0E 2Z0 or email billingrmg@gmail.com



REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS:
Pete Amyoony
David Marchant
Sandra James
Leon Lorenz
Rachel Fraser



Spencer Hall
Editor & Owner
goatnewspaper@gmail.com



Laura Keil
Sales & Design
ads@goatnewsmedia.com



Andrea Arnold
Associate Editor & Reporter
ajareporting29@gmail.com



Abigail Popple
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
abigailpopple@protonmail.com



Sharon Ireland
Admin & Office Manager
ads@goatnewsmedia.com



Deanna Mickelow
Feature Sales
dmickelow@gmail.com

UPCOMING EDITIONS >>>> MARCH 14TH, 28TH, APRIL 4TH

There will be NO EDITION March 21st to accommodate staff holidays and we will have reduced office hours that week.

You can still contact us at 250-566-4606 or ads@goatnewsmedia.com / goatnewspaper@gmail.com



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**

Carrots

While giving a new neighbour a tour of my root cellar the other day, I dug through a pail of carrots to get a few dozen to bring up to the house. This inspired me to write today's column!

Carrots are second only to potatoes on the list of favourite vegetables for North Americans. They have been around for over 5000 years but were used mostly for medicinal use until about 1000 years ago. They are quite easy to grow if you can get them past the germination stage and once you taste the crisp sweetness of home grown carrots compared to those on the store shelves in mid winter, you will certainly want to grow and store your own.

If you look through the typical seed catalogue, you may find it difficult to choose from the many different varieties available today. Basically, there are four main types:

Nantes – They are cylindrical like a hot dog with very little core and quite sweet. Their only drawback is they are not the best of keepers for winter storage.

Danvers – They are a thicker medium length carrot with a real taper toward the root. They are used for the commercial market and for processing.

Imperators – These are used for commercial sales. They are somewhat slower growing, are good for long storage and are usually larger than others. They are not quite as sweet.

Chantenays – They have tapered shape but with rounded bottoms. They are quite sweet. They grow quite quickly, have a good flavour and keep quite well.

Every gardener has her/his favourite carrot. Mine is one called “Berlicummer” from Holland.

Carrots need well-drained soil that has

been worked finely down to a depth of 12 inches (30cm.). If the tap- root (the future carrot) hits a rock or a hard lump of clay or a root, it will grow crooked and twisted. Raised beds may be the best if you have rough soil. Carrots also need about an inch (2.5cm) of water each week during the growing season.

If you have soil that tends to crust, you need to be careful and keep it constantly moist (to prevent crusting) until the seeds have germinated and come up. Carrot seed is not strong enough to push up through the slightest crust and will germinate and die under the surface. The seed should not be planted any more than ½ to ¾ inch (1-2 cm) deep.

Be careful not to give carrot much nitrogen, as you will get all tops and very little root. A higher phosphorus (the second number) fertilizer is the best (e.g. 5-20-10).

For organic growers, use more bone meal.

Once the carrots are up and growing, thin them to 1 inch apart (2.5 cm). If they are too crowded, they will not grow well and tend to twist together. As they get larger, you can thin them again by removing every second one to eat or sell. If you keep the rows hilled over the “shoulders” of the carrots, they will not get green and this will protect them from a light frost in the fall.

Harvesting is best done as late in the season as possible as the sugar content gets higher when the weather cools off. Even a few light frosts tend to make the flavour sweeter. Carrots store best at very high humidity (100%) and just above freezing temperatures.

Bugs Bunny really knew what he was up to after all!

Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

The Utility of Neutrality

Neutrality used to be a European thing, but it is now in steep decline. If it were an animal, we'd have to declare it an endangered species.

With Sweden's admission into the NATO alliance this week, only three neutral countries remain in Europe: Switzerland, Austria and Ireland. But I do owe my current state of contentment largely to the former prevalence of that endangered species.

I started with my sudden need to spend a lot of time in Montreal. I had made a television series on war for the National Film Board of Canada – and fallen in love with the woman who directed three of the seven episodes (including the one that got the Oscar nomination).

That was my fifteen minutes of fame (the series was broadcast in 45 countries), but I needed to stay in Montreal because exiting her previous relationship was going to be a lengthy and difficult process. We therefore had to come up with a film project we could work on together in Canada.

It was the time of the last big crisis before the end of the Cold War. If it had turned into a hot war, most of the intercontinental ballistic missiles and bombers

would have been flying over Canada.

Enough of those nuclear missiles and bombers would be intercepted over Canada to destroy the country even if it weren't targeted directly, so membership in NATO wouldn't save it. And apart from nuclear weapons, nothing hostile could reach Canada at all.

We had no strong opinions about Canadian neutrality either way, but it would be an interesting topic for a film. We pitched it to the NFB, and got the go-ahead to make a movie about neutrality.

We went to Switzerland, which has been neutral since the Congress of Vienna in 1815. It turned out that the Swiss mountains are honeycombed with secret air force runways and military depots. All Swiss men are obliged to do military service, and all are issued with assault rifles which they must keep at home.

We went to Finland, neutral by a treaty imposed by Moscow a few years after the Russians attacked the country and annexed about one-tenth of its territory. Eighty percent of Finnish men must do military service and the exercises usually take place in the forests near the Russian border.

Sweden is much the same, but with more

state-of-the-art weapons. It builds its own combat aircraft and its 165 fast attack boats are the coolest thing on the Baltic Sea. After 210 years of neutrality, it joined the NATO alliance this week.

The one thing that became clear after that trip around neutral countries in Europe was that neutrality is expensive. In the end we called the film ‘Harder Than It Looks’, because neutrals have to do everything for themselves. Typically they spend more on defence than allied countries, not less.

The film had its moment in the sun, Canada did not go neutral, and we all lived happily ever after. But many years later, when I was passing through some Canadian airport, I was hailed by a man who said that he wanted to thank me for putting his children through private school.

He explained that the film had frightened Canada's Department of National Defence so much that they had given him a large long-term contract to provide Canadian schools with speakers defending the country's NATO membership. It's an ill wind that blows no one any good.



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



1st Place 2021, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2nd place 2022, 2016, 3rd place 2023 for Newspaper Excellence B.C. & Yukon <2000 circulation
1st place Best Feature Photo 2023
2nd place Online ad award 2022
3rd place Best Feature Photo 2022
2nd place Best Photo Essay 2021
3rd place Best Outdoor Recreation writing 2021
3rd place Best Ad Design 2021



1st Place 2019 Best Feature Story
3rd Place 2018 Best Historical Story
2nd Place 2018 Best Website
Newspaper Excellence & Best Front Page: Blue Ribbon 2016, 3rd Place 2015

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT is one of just a few locally-owned community newspapers in BC. Thank you for helping to make this publication a success!

The Rocky Mountain Goat serves a population base of approximately 5,000 residents from Valemount to McBride to Dome Creek and Blue River. It is 100% locally owned. RETURN UNDELIVERABLES TO: The RMG, Box 21, Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0

The Goat is a member of the National NewsMedia Council, an independent org established to deal with acceptable journalistic practices and ethical behaviour.

If you have concerns about editorial content, contact goatnewspaper@gmail.com/566-4606. If you are not satisfied with the response, you can file a complaint at mediacouncil.ca/1-844-877-1163.

The Rocky Mountain Goat is produced and distributed by Rocky Mountain Goat Media Inc. and is subject to copyright. Reproduction, or distribution of any content must get prior consent from Laura Keil.

CONTACT US

CALL 250-566-4606
EMAIL ads@goatnewsmedia.com
OR goatnewspaper@gmail.com

1170 5 AVE VALEMOUNT
MON 9:30am - 4:30pm
TUES CLOSED
WED 9:30am - 4:30pm
THURS 9:30am-4:30pm
FRI 9:30am - 4:30pm

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Nous reconnaissons l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.

Canada

Valemount Council – Fire evacuation procedure, entrance sign, and dog park

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Mayor Owen Torgerson called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Council adopted the minutes of the February 13th meeting.

Delegation

Valemount resident Dennis Nordli was the only delegation. He told The Goat he was there to start a conversation about the Village's fire evacuation procedures.

Nordli, who is himself a senior citizen, said that he is concerned that senior citizens in Valemount are unaware of the resources available to them in case of a fire.

"We just need to have a little bit better communication from the Council to the town," he said. "I'm not going to dwell on a big point, but this is what I would like from the Village: just a little bit more cooperation so that it's a public awareness program."

Multiple councillors, including Pete Pearson, Hollie Blanchette, and Hugo Mulyk, said they appreciated Nordli's comments.

"I think one thing that Dennis brings to light is the fact that we could be missing people, single people and senior citizens living alone [...] How do we pick up the pieces and account for those?" said Councillor Pete Pearson.

Councillor Hollie Blanchette said non-profits should take the opportunity to connect with senior citizens in Valemount and make sure they have someone they can contact in the event of an emergency. She thanked Nordli for his comments, as the Village has not had to manage an emergency in several years but needs to make sure it is prepared.

Torgerson said changes to the Village's emergency plans are forthcoming, given the Emergency and Disaster Management Act introduced in November. Council will work with the Village's emergency management planning committee to ensure the Village's emergency plans comply with the new provincial regulations, he said.

Councillor Hugo Mulyk said that he thinks many

residents share Nordli's concerns. He said he has had similar discussions within some of the committees he sits on.

CAO Anne Yanciw said that the Voyent Alert! system which the Village uses to send alerts to residents does not require a cell phone, and works with landline phones. She added that there is an intention to push for more residents to subscribe to the system.

Read more about Nordli's efforts to organize fire evacuation plans in this week's issue.

After moving to receive Nordli's comments, Council moved on to unfinished business.

Entrance Sign Proposals

Council entered a Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:09 to discuss replacing the village entrance sign.

The current entrance sign is rotting and has been in place for nearly 20 years, so Council is looking to replace it with a more durable sign.

Council reviewed four proposals from Image Sign, a company that specializes in the design and installation of signs and lighting. The costs of each design exceeded the \$200,000 budget earmarked for the project, ranging from \$224,554 to \$235,885, not counting tax.

Councillor Pete Pearson said that, previously, concerns had been noted about whether the archway designs would meet the minimum required height clearance.

Carson Jordon, a sales account representative at Image who video-called into the Council meeting, said that the measurements of the proposals aren't set in stone. The next step after Council chooses a design would be to confirm the minimum clearance height and adjust the height of the archway if necessary, he said.

Blanchette asked if the design proposals incorporated the existing stone bases for the sign's pillars. Jordon confirmed that the existing bases will be used regardless of the design.

Mulyk asked why part of the archway appeared to be cut off on design D, the fourth proposal. Jordon said that it was a design choice that would help with transportation and installation as it meant the arch could be constructed with three separate pieces.

Torgerson asked if councillors had a favourite design. Mulyk said he preferred design D because it had more room in the centre. Torgerson said that he also preferred design D, but liked the colour scheme of design A, especially its lighter wood colour. Pearson said he liked design D and would also prefer a lighter wood. Councillor Donnie Maclean said she preferred dark wood. Mulyk said that a lighter wood may look less dusty in the summer, as opposed to a dark wood on which sand would be easily visible.

The Committee of the Whole decided to recommend design D. It also recommended the use of long board plank western cedar, the wood used in design A. Finally, the committee approved staff to work within the five-year financial plan and incorporate the additional cost of the chosen sign during the budget process. Jordon added that the cost may change slightly depending on whether engineers adjust the design.

Torgerson adjourned the Committee of the Whole and called the regular council meeting to order. Council moved to adopt the committee's recommendation of design D with longboard plank western cedar.

Potential to Reverse Conflict of Interest

Previously, Torgerson has declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from discussions pertaining to VARDAs as he has a seat on VARDAs board. However, being a Council appointee to VARDAs board, Torgerson may be exempt from typical conflict of interest requirements.

A legal opinion sought by the Village said that because of his status as a Council appointee, Torgerson may be considered exempt from having to declare a conflict of interest when the Council discusses matters pertaining to VARDAs.

Councillor Pearson said that he has heard of another community including \$5,000 in its annual budget to get legal opinions on potential conflicts of interest.

"It doesn't happen often, but we all sit on a lot of boards and wear a lot of hats," he said.

As the legal opinion on conflict of interest was only being

CONT'D ON P7

2024 Columbia Basin Trust ReDi Grants Adjudication Committee Meeting Schedule

➤ March 7 and April 18, 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. Approved changes will be posted on the front door of the Village Office and at www.valemount.ca



Utility Discounts

An 8% discount will be applied to utility payments received by March 10, 2024.

Payment methods accepted:

Online & telephone banking, third party credit card payment, cash, debit, cheque, email transfer to dof@valemount.ca.

Visit www.valemount.ca/payments for information on all payment options.

Village of Valemount Accessibility Committee

The Village of Valemount is seeking volunteers with relevant experience to fill a vacancy on the Accessibility Committee. **The position available is for 1 member representing the Indigenous community.** The applicant will be invited to sit on the committee for a one- or two-year term.

The Accessibility Committee is a "Select Committee of Council" and its role is to make recommendations to Council regarding matters related to accessibility, including identifying and preventing barriers to individuals in or interacting with the Village and developing an accessibility plan.

If you are interested in being part of the committee, please submit a brief statement expressing your interest and relevant experience, as well as any pertinent background information. Any personal information collected will be used to assist in appointing individuals to this committee pursuant to the Local Government Act 218 (3), and will only be used for related purposes. Your personal information will not be released except in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Any questions about the collection of your personal information may be referred to the Information and Privacy Coordinator, Village of Valemount, 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, B.C. V0E 2Z0.

Please ensure your statement of interest is received by, or emailed to, the Village Office no later than 4:00 pm, on March 15, 2024 and is addressed to:

Krista Etty, Planner
Village of Valemount
planner@valemount.ca

Job Opportunity



Public Works Labourer – Reporting to the Public Works Superintendent, this position provides general labour, heavy equipment operation, water treatment plant and/or wastewater plant operations for the Village of Valemount. Visit www.valemount.ca for more information about this position.

Business Façade Improvement Program

This program is funded by Northern Development Initiative Trust and provides grants to business owners, non-profit societies or home-based businesses for renovation, restoration and redesign of commercial façades that are located in the Village of Valemount Downtown (5th Avenue), Railtown (Main Street) and Highway Corridor (Hwy 5 South) area. Each building is eligible to apply for an annual grant for up to 50% of façade improvement costs to a maximum of \$5,000. For more information visit:

www.valemount.ca/services/grants-funding

Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program

Exchange your old wood stove for a newer model or a cleaner, more efficient option. For information on rebate eligibility, visit:

www.valemount.ca/services/grants-funding



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

www.valemount.ca

Valemount Council Cont'd from P6

presented for information, no motion was required.

Memorandum of Understanding

Since last May, Valemount, the District of Clearwater, the District of Barriere, and Simpcw First Nation have been developing a Regional Memorandum of Understanding. Each municipality has its own memorandum with Simpcw First Nation, but the memoranda share similar guidelines to establish ongoing collaborative relationships between municipalities and Simpcw.

Council moved to approve the Memorandum. Now that Valemount has signaled that it is ready to sign the Memorandum, the next step is to co-sign it in-person with Simpcw First Nation. Additionally, a ceremonial signing with dignitaries from throughout the province will be held in May.

“Exciting times, I’m looking forward to it,” said Torgerson. “It’s been a while since this has been raised initially, and we’re almost to that finish line.”

Read more about the Memorandum of Understanding in this week’s issue.

Dog Park

As Valemount lacks a dog park, residents have used the ball field at John Osadchuk Park as a temporary dog park in winter months while it was not being used for sports. Because dog owners did not properly clean up after their dogs, it became impossible to use the park for recreation, according to the staff report.

As such, staff have explored creating a dog park on the undeveloped area of John Osadchuk Park. The Village staff asked Urban Systems, a consulting firm that builds infrastructure and communal spaces for municipalities, to draw up a preliminary design and cost estimate.

Urban Systems gave a cost estimate of over \$375K, vastly exceeding the \$50K

budget set aside for the park. Due to the cost of development, staff recommended that the Village not move forward with the dog park, and Council agreed.

“I don’t think we need to start out with something so grand,” said Blanchette. She suggested that the Village build a simple park with just fencing and a gate, then have dog owners fundraise for more amenities, if they’d like. She also said that Trans Mountain Pipeline has already donated fencing, and while she does not know how high-quality it is, it would be worth using for a few months before finding a more permanent solution.

Councillor Pearson agreed that the park Urban Systems designed is too expensive. However, he added, he thinks there should be separate sections for large and small dogs, to protect the smaller ones from harm. He also said the dog park should be built with a larger buffer between the park and the baseball field – the current buffer is only five meters.

Mulyk said that the Urban Systems concept was too overblown. He added that once a simple park is built, Village residents and staff can explore opportunities to fundraise for park improvements.

Council moved to not move forward with the development of a dog park at this time.

Pump Track

After meeting with the Pump It Up Committee – an ad hoc committee of VARDA which is seeking to build an all-wheels pump track in Valemount – Village staff identified a three-acre block of land in John Osadchuk Park that could be used for the pump track. Staff recommended that the proposed pump track location be sent back to staff for further analysis of the cost of having the pump track as a village asset.

Pearson said two constituents had told him that VARDA just borrowed money

to buy another piece of property, and they were concerned that VARDA was asking for property from the Village on top of that. Other than those concerns, he supports the proposal, he said.

Torgerson said the pump track might not be supported in another location due to floodplains throughout the Village and other engineering concerns. He added that the location at John Osadchuk Park is central.

The second part of the request for decision asked that staff review the request for the Village to take on the pump track as an asset to assess budgetary implications.

Pearson said he would prefer for the pump track to remain the property of VARDA, rather than becoming a Village asset. He said the expense for the Village to maintain a paved surface like a pump track would be incredible, however, Torgerson said he believes staff will predict a minimal cost of maintenance. Torgerson said perhaps grass will have to be mowed, and a substrate will have to be applied to the asphalt in ten or 15 years, but it would ultimately be a minimal cost, he said.

Blanchette and Mulyk said they would like staff to provide more information on insurance. Mulyk also said he has

some experience in constructing pump tracks, and that they are designed to be as maintenance-friendly as possible.

“It is actually quite minimal once everything’s done. It’s just they’re very expensive to build,” he said.

Torgerson added that the substrate will do well in Valemount: standing water poses the biggest threat to the substrate, he said, but Valemount’s sandy environment means that this is unlikely to be an issue.

The motion carried with all in favour, so the request that the pump track be made a Village asset will be sent back to staff to further examine the budgetary implications of doing so.

Public Comments

Sean Kelly, committee chair of Pump It Up, took the opportunity to comment on Council’s concerns about the pump track. He said he has seen pump tracks installed in 2017 that look brand-new. He is excited to provide more information to Council, he said, and looks forward to answering more questions as the development of a pump track gets under way.

Torgerson adjourned the meeting at 7:50. There was no in-camera session for this meeting.

EMPLOYMENT



PART-TIME JOB OPENING

Tourism Valemount is currently looking for a temporary part time office assistant from April 1, 2024 to June 21, 2024.

Tourism Valemount is a non-profit community destination marketing organization that promotes and markets the community of Valemount, BC.

VISION STATEMENT - Valemount and Area will be a unique and sustainable tourism destination in the Canadian Rockies.

MISSION STATEMENT - To build a unique and sustainable destination by:

- Fostering strategic partnerships with the Simpcw FN, the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association, the North Thompson Valley, the Robson Valley Region, Destination BC, and potential local resorts
- Improving local amenities, facilities, and attractions and become BC’s all-season trail destination
- Increasing the contribution of the tourism sector to the local economy

What we are offering:

- Earn \$20/hour
- 20 hours per week for 12 weeks
- Flexibility of schedule

What we are looking for – Someone with a positive, and outgoing personality who makes a great first impression. Someone who has great work ethic and pays close attention to details. Someone who would like to apply their current skill set while learning and growing new skills in the tourism sector.

Day-to-day responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Greeting visitors, manage office calendars
- Create email newsletters, and update contact lists
- Create Digital media campaigns for the Discover Valemount’s Vibrancy project
- Set up and take down of displays, and booths at community events
- Work with local groups, stakeholders on a buy local campaign
- Attend the Valemount Farmer’s Market on alternating Thursdays – for the support local campaign
- Provide administrative support to the Executive Director
- Direct incoming calls and emails during office hours, including message taking and referring callers to other staff when necessary
- Respond to inquiries about events, and things to do in Valemount, BC.
- Coordinate the launch of the Discover Valemount campaign
- Monitor the Tourism Valemount website and social media campaigns.

What you bring:

- Reception and/or administration experience
- Previous experience in marketing is an asset
- Strong knowledge of office administration
- Proficient in Microsoft desktop applications, data entry and reporting
- Experience with Adobe Creative Suite or willingness to learn
- Ability to multi-task, prioritize and meet deadlines
- Strong interpersonal, communication and written skills
- Exceptional organization skills
- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Strong team player, with a positive mind set and can-do attitude
- Previous experience: Administration, reception, receptionist, office admin, construction, administrative assistant, clerk, data entry
- Experience with digital media marketing, and proficient with both Instagram, and Facebook ad campaigns.

Requirements:

- Strong verbal and written English communication skills
- A strong willingness to learn and grow

If you are a detail-oriented individual with excellent communication skills and the ability to handle various administrative tasks efficiently and would like to learn more about the tourism sector please send your resume and cover letter to Executive Director Marcie Down at marketing@visitvalemount.ca.







CREATE A LEGACY

WE RECRUIT AND TRAIN
FINANCIAL BROKERS

- Financial independence
- Flexibility
- Work from home
- Own a business

SERVICES

Life Insurance

Mortgages

Investments

Saving for children

GET IN TOUCH WITH DR. HUGGINS AND LISA

agents.wfgcanada.ca/Tapiwa-Gusha-27KFPC

Call/Whatsapp: 778 538 1982 / 250 566 5188

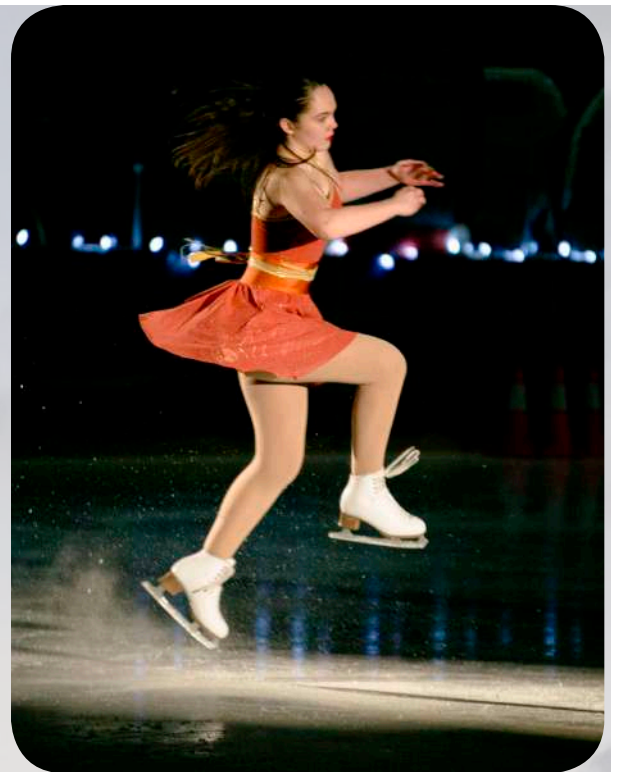
Serving Valemount & surrounding areas!



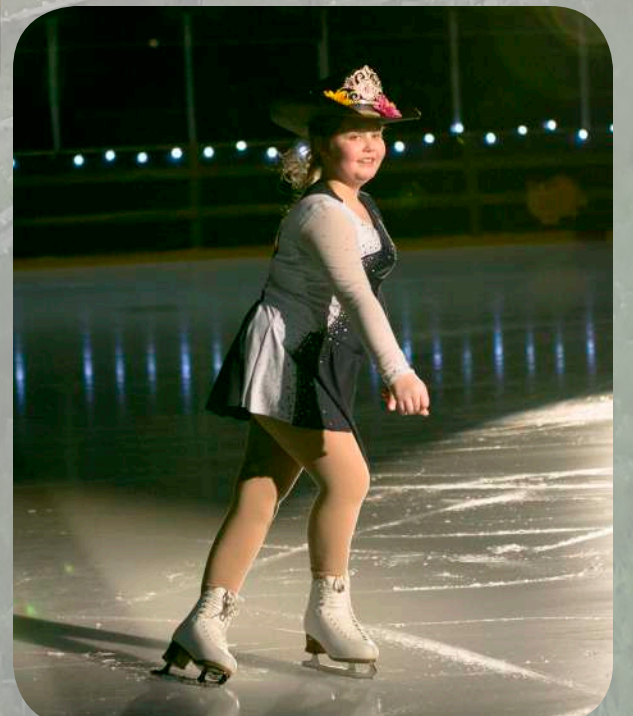
Canoe Valley Skating Club

presents

Rodeo



Valemount skaters wowed the audience with jumps, spins and the simply adorable at the Canoe Valley Skating Club's 51st annual skating carnival March 2nd, 2024. From top left clockwise: Sophia rides her "horse" into the arena; Elli leaps into an impressive jump; Brooklyn's routine is an expressive as it is impressive; Alayah showcases her cowgirl skills; Kaytie is all smiles during her routine; Ainslie glides along; Peyton enters the spotlight; Many tiny cows and sheep infiltrated the ice, leaving "turds" all over the surface; Rilah and Ivy show off their smooth and synchronized moves during their pairs routine. Centre: Brianna kicks up some dust on one leg.



Valemount prepares to sign historic agreement with Simpcw First Nation

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Valemount Council agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Simpcw First Nation at the most recent Village Council meeting.

The memorandum has been in the works since May 2023, Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson told The Goat. The District of Barriere and the District of Clearwater are also developing memoranda with Simpcw First Nation. While each memorandum is distinct from the others to account for the different maps and areas of jurisdiction within each municipality, they all share the goal of strengthening the relationship between Simpcw First Nation and local governments.

The MOUs are historic for the province of B.C., Torgerson said.

“It’s reconciliation in action,” he said. “While an MOU may not have all the legal and financial teeth that state legislation would have, it really holds each local government and First Nations governments accountable for what they say they will do.”

The Memorandum of Understanding between Simpcw First Nation and the Village of Valemount provides guidelines for how often the two governments should meet with one another, among other things. Each government will appoint two elected officials to represent them in a working group, along with two technical representatives – likely their respective CAOs – to ensure the soundness of any legal or financial decisions the group makes.

The group will meet at least quarterly, though it may meet more often if necessary, according to the text of the Memorandum. Additionally, the Simpcw and Valemount Councils will meet together twice a year.

“It’ll come down to capacity as well,” said Torgerson. “The capacity of each organization to even meet quarterly can be a stretch. But in today’s world of virtual meetings, I think it’s absolutely doable.”

At these meetings, Simpcw and Valemount representatives will discuss ways to strengthen the governments’ working relationship, plus collaborate on how to address key issues that the two localities share, according to the Memorandum.

Torgerson hopes that these efforts will further solidify the relationship between Valemount and Simpcw First Nation.

“Our relationship was amicable, now it’s excellent. And we can even transcend beyond that,” he said.

He hopes these memoranda set an example for other B.C. municipalities looking to bolster their collaboration with First Nations. He said he’s glad it will set guidelines for future relationships between Simpcw First Nation and Valemount Councils.

The governments signing these memoranda have had a strong collaborative relationship over the past several years, said Torgerson. Each year, one of the governments hosts a Community to Community Forum, in which the councils from Simpcw First Nation and each municipality meet to discuss their shared problems and potential solutions. The idea of a memorandum of understanding between Simpcw First Nation and neighboring municipalities was first pitched at last year’s forum, Torgerson said.

Staff turnover in all three municipalities caused delays in the development of the memoranda, according to the brief presented to Valemount Council last Tuesday. Additionally, the thorough collaboration involved in creating the memorandum generated a lot of back-and-forth as Simpcw First Nation and Valemount Council worked together to fine-tune the agreement, Torgerson told The Goat.

Torgerson said he is elated that Valemount Council is ready to sign the agreement.

“I feel lightened. This is one of the things I really wanted to get done in the last year and a bit. We’re just so close to that finish line,” he said.

The District of Clearwater is hosting this year’s Community to Community Forum on March 6th. The communities may not all sign their respective memoranda at the forum, but in approving the Simpcw-Valemount Memorandum, the Valemount Council has signaled that it is ready to move forward when Simpcw are, according to the motion approved by Council.

After the Memoranda are signed, the municipalities and Simpcw First Nation are planning to have a ceremonial signing with dignitaries from throughout B.C., Torgerson said.

“This isn’t a partisan celebration,” he said. “This is a unique document to be celebrated by all.”

The Goat reached out to Simpcw First Nation Chief George Lampreau for comment, but was unable to arrange an interview.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The campaign theme for IWD 2024 is Inspire Inclusion. When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world.

DID YOU KNOW THAT RVCS OFFERS THE FOLLOWING ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS:

- Sexualized Assault Response Program
- PEACE Program: Children & Youth Exposed to Violence
- Police-Based Victim Services
- Stopping the Violence Counselling
- Stopping the Violence Outreach
- Safe Home, Information, & Support
- Second Stage Housing

To inquire about any of our programs and services, please contact:
1-844-324-2004 or info@rvcsbc.org

March 8th 2024

ALL GENDERS

PROGRAMS FOR SELF-IDENTIFIED WOMEN

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
ROBSON VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES

#InspireInclusion

Newspapers by the Numbers

Each week, more than **28 million** newspapers are distributed across Canada.¹

- Daily newspapers account for **15 million** copies distributed weekly (the majority are paid).
- Community newspapers account for more than **13 million** copies weekly (the majority are free).

TOTAL NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION (WEEKLY)

Province/Territory	Titles	Paid Circulation	Controlled Circulation	Total Circulation
NT	5	5,841	3,801	9,642
YT	3	5,579	5,865	12,444
BC	119	865,069	2,139,526	3,004,595
AB	97	879,847	929,478	1,809,325
SK	59	192,638	313,690	506,328
MB	40	516,322	849,122	1,365,444
ON	297	4,193,010	5,674,627	9,867,637
QC	246	2,835,055	7,135,140	9,970,195
NU	3	2,407	7,505	9,912
QC	246	2,835,055	7,135,140	9,970,195
NL	10	81,569	115,788	197,357
PE	6	71,962	7,682	79,644
NS	26	401,812	463,386	865,198
NB	34	356,550	160,457	517,007

● Titles ● Paid Circulation ● Controlled Circulation ● Total Circulation

Young adults are strong newspaper readers accessing news in different ways²:

83% of Gen Y/Millennials (age 28-43) read a newspaper weekly (print/digital)

83%

84% of Gen Z (age 20-27) read a newspaper weekly on any platform and 30% read on ALL FOUR platforms

84%

36% of Gen Y/Millennials engage with news podcasts

35% of Gen Z adults engage with newspaper e-editions

Four out of five Canadians (81%) read newspaper content weekly on any platform.²

22% of Canadians are reading on all FOUR platforms measured: print, website, tablet, phone.²

Almost all readers access news digitally (96%). More than half of all readers (58%) are reading the printed product, including e-papers.

Canadians trust newspaper content²:

Six out of ten Canadians trust editorial content in newspapers (print/digital). Half of Canadians trust the printed advertisements in newspapers.

Net advertising revenue for daily/community newspapers combined in 2022 was \$950 million.³

For more information, go to newsmediacanada.ca

Source:
1 – News Media Canada database, June 30, 2023
2 – Newspapers 24/7: 2024; Totum Research for News Media Canada, November 2023
3 – Net Advertising Volumes Report 2022

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

AGMS/NON-PROFITS

Make some cash for your organization!



The Valemount Sport Days committee is search of organizations or groups that can run the beer gardens, concession and supervise the bouncy castles area during Valemountain Days, June 7-9th 2024. These are revenue-making opportunities. For more info, please contact lauraishere@gmail.com.

Interested in joining the board or volunteering? Attend our upcoming Annual General Meeting April 11th, 2024 6:30p.m. at the Goat newspaper office.

Man raises alarm re: wildfire evacuation of seniors

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Village of Valemount needs a public awareness campaign about wildfire evacuation resources for senior citizens, says 67-year-old resident Dennis Nordli.

“There’s quite a few seniors [with] illnesses and stuff, and they should be aware of what services could be provided,” Nordli told The Goat. He said that he has not heard any discussion of the Village’s wildfire evacuation plans for its senior citizens.

He raised these concerns at the most recent Village Council meeting, where he asked Council what their plans are for taking care of senior citizens during wildfire evacuations. He suggested starting a public awareness campaign that would inform seniors of who to call during a natural disaster.

“Basically, what I would like the Council to do is say, ‘if you meet the criteria of being an older person, these are the numbers to get a hold of,’” he told Council. “And I know that’s a lot of work, but I’m a concerned citizen, and I would really appreciate it [...] I will help whenever I can possibly help.”

Nordli said he thought councillors were receptive to his concerns, and he feels better now that he has brought the issue up in public. He wasn’t expecting a comprehensive solution presented to him on the spot. Instead, he wanted to prompt Council to start thinking seriously about the Village’s wildfire readiness.

“The Village has to make a step, one step, and say, ‘Yeah, it was brought to our concern that our lack of communication needs to be addressed,’” he said. “That’s all it takes right now.”

Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson told The Goat he was thankful to Nordli for raising the issue.

“I’m happy there are members of the community really looking at what it could look like when we have lower moisture levels, higher temperatures [...] and more potential for community evacuations,” he said.

B.C.-wide issue

The issues that Nordli highlights are not unique to Valemount.

B.C. Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie told The Goat there are disparities across the board in the resources available to rural seniors as opposed to urban ones, and natural disaster readiness is no exception.

“Rural seniors are more likely to live in a single family house, so they’re more likely to have a bit more geographic isolation, even within their rural community. And they’re less likely to be living with someone else,” Mackenzie said.

These independent risk factors – alongside rural B.C.’s susceptibility to forest fires and flooding – mean that the

province’s rural seniors are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, she added.

And while younger people may be able to easily pack up an overnight bag and head to an evacuation centre, senior citizens face more challenges, she said.

“What about the senior who doesn’t have the mobility [to leave quickly], who has an oxygen tank, who has blister packs full of medication? Who isn’t able to drive, who isn’t able to sleep on a cot in a gymnasium? We don’t have a good plan to recognize the people whose evacuation we have to actually coordinate,” she said.

Falling through the cracks?

Long-Term Care services have plans to evacuate seniors in their facilities, said Mackenzie, but coordinating evacuation plans for seniors who live alone, as most rural seniors do, is more of a challenge – especially given that it’s unclear whether that responsibility falls on the Province, municipal governments, or regional districts, she said.

A lack of municipal planning for natural disasters was highlighted by the heat dome deaths of 2021, she added. Indeed, the Extreme Heat Death Review Panel Report released by the BC Coroners Service found that many municipalities did not have their own Heat Alert and Response System place, but such plans would likely prevent deaths in the event of extreme heat, wildfires, and floods. Valemount does not have a community-specific system for extreme heat, though it does use the Voyent Alert! system, a communications service that issues emergency alerts through cell phones, email, and landline phones, according to Mayor Owen Torgerson.

“We have had these discussions with the [provincial] government,” Mackenzie said of the Office of the Senior Advocate’s efforts to prepare for the upcoming wildfire season. “I think it is a work in progress, but arguably the

progress has been taking a little bit longer than we would have hoped.”

A statement sent to The Goat by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness said that the Province is working with local communities to improve their emergency response plans in light of last year’s fire season. In particular, the rollout of the new Emergency and Disaster Management Act – brought into force in November 2023 – will require municipalities and regional districts to include consideration of people disproportionately impacted by emergencies, including seniors, said the Ministry.

For his part, Nordli will keep working with the Village of Valemount to raise public awareness of the issue, he told The Goat. He’s hoping to expand his efforts to include McBride and Clearwater, and has a meeting with representatives of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George scheduled for the 13th.

“I think we’ve got at least two months’ worth of leeway here,” Nordli said of preparing for this year’s wildfires. “But if we get the ball rolling, get a few people outside to make people a little bit more aware [...] that’s a big step.”

Valemount Elder Collaborative

Invites all seniors to a

Free Seniors Luncheon

Thursday, Mar. 14th, 2024

Valemount Community Hall

101 Gorse Street

12 - 3pm

Luncheon

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Doors open

12 noon

Activity to win a prize

Conversation:

Aging in Valemount

1:30-2pm

Survey on Health Priorities

2:15 - 2:45pm

The Valemount Elder Collaborative is a multistakeholder committee that collaborates to promote proactive care to prolong the ability to stay at home. The Collaborative organizes events like the Seniors' Fair, Vision and Hearing Clinics, luncheons, and workshops for Dementia Education or other topics, with grant funding.

BC ASSOCIATION OF Community Response Networks

Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect ...Together.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

ROBSON VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES

EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES

TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY, ONE PROPERTY AT A TIME!



Sherri MALONE

CALL ME!

1-250-566-1022

Realtor at

ROYAL LEPAGE

ASPIRE REALTY

ROYAL LEPAGE

Aspire Realty

Independently Owned and Operated

EMAIL: sherrimalone@royallepage.ca

WEB: propertiesinvalemount.com

OFFICE: 1275 5th Ave, Valemount BC V0E 2Z0



The late blast of winter caused traffic woes across the valley. Highway crews and recovery crews have been kept busy clearing roads and removing the aftermath of several accidents. This one near Tete Jaune was being cleaned up the morning of Feb 29th. /ANDREA ARNOLD

PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

Answers on P13

- Across
- 1 Listening device

4 Informed about

8 Car, affectionately

11 Fall behind

12 Not any

13 Home bank shape

14 Part of r.p.m.

15 Growing gnashers

17 Detect

19 They have a queen but no king

20 Monopoly piece

22 Lord's Prayer pronoun

24 Aussie hopper

27 ___ to the bone....

30 Belongs to something

31 Tongue

33 Pilot

34 Dither

35 Stag

38 Regimen

40 Didn't malfunction

43 Gob

46 They are Blue in Vegas

47 Stocking stuffer

48 Portion of corn

49 ...and in the ____

50 Sprinted

51 Cloud locale
- Down

1 Beginning

2 Reverence

3 Human beings

4 Until

5 Rhymers

6 "Take ___"

7 After deductions

8 "Wheel of Fortune" choice

9 Subtle suggestion

10 Holiday findings

16 Cow chow

18 Square ____, round hole

20 Perform Christies

21 Cap, for example

22 A lot

23 Squealer

25 Tennis score word

26 Comedian Romano

27 Fights

28 Sweet 16, for one

29 Pasture moisture

32 Treat shabbily

33 FYI part

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12					13		
14				15					16		
		17	18						19		
20	21					22	23				
24				25	26				27	28	29
30				31					32		
			33						34		
35	36	37				38	39				
40				41	42				43	44	45
46				47					48		
49				50					51		

- 35 A portion
- 36 Big tournament
- 37 Give for a while
- 38 Sweet
- 39 Wait in neutral
- 41 Whoopi's "Sister ___"
- 42 Besides
- 44 Hardwood variety
- 45 Put to the test

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

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. Water sludge particle

5. Symbol of sovereignty

8. Special perception

11. Date producer

12. Short-billed rail

14. Bit of a rascal

17. James who wrote "A Death in the Family"

18. Salon worker

20. 49s and Raiders star and NFL great

22. One of TV's Sopranos

23. Fork option

24. Ordinal ending

26. "Pretty ____" movie starring Richard Gere

29. Giant and NFL great, first name

34. ____ rule (usually)

35. Finance magazine

36. Tuna type

37. Common contraction

38. Audio

39. Go archeological

40. Mediterranean or Baltic, e.g.

41. Dentist's advice

42. ____-de-France

43. Patriot and NFL great

45. Board head

47. Ability to hit a target

48. Exhaust

50. Announce

53. Acclimated

59. 49ers star and NFL great

61. Steeler and NFL great
62. Tracking method

63. "Ghostbusters" character Dr. ____ Spengler

64. Middle earth creatures

65. Crime lab clue

66. Miner's load

67. Kind of rock

Down

1. On ____ with: equal to

2. Como or Garda

3. Pinnacle opposite

4. Supreme Egyptian god

5. Milo or Tessie

6. "James and the Giant Peach" author Dahl

7. Vigor

8. French 101 verb

9. Grass cutting implement

10. ____ Alto

13. Paul's singing partner

15. In the movie, they are in black

16. Force open

19. Fretted

21. Charged bit

25. "Don't give up!"

26. Mid-section

27. It means "bone"

28. Chairwoman's address

29. Poor

30. Landers and others

31. "Perfect 10" gymnast Comaneci

32. Type of hot pepper

33. Mountaineer's challenge in Switzerland

35. Temper

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11					12				13		14
17					18				19		
20					21				22		
			23						24	25	
26	27	28					29	30			31
34						35				36	
37						38				39	
40					41					42	
43					44					45	46
				47				48	49		
50	51	52			53	54	55			56	57
59					60					61	
62						63				64	
					65					67	

38. ____ the brakes
41. End of the week, briefly
44. Robin's boss
45. PC component
46. Find out about
48. Pavarotti, notably
49. Cockamamie
50. Sleepers, for short
51. Tic-tac-toe win
52. Dispatch
54. MapQuest request, abbr.
55. Othello's ensign
56. Novice
57. Book after Proverbs, abbr.
58. Pigeonhole's place
60. "Are you a man ____ mouse?"

HOROSCOPES

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Ramp Up to the New Moon

Belief is the code that programs the mind. If you don't know what to believe, you're in a good place. Don't rush to resolution. Once a thing is believed, the mind moves to the next steps. It organizes itself to perceive the world in a way that supports the belief. Before you decide to believe something, think about how likely it is to make your world better. In this week leading up to the Pisces new moon, if you only decide on one thing to believe, let it be this: "I can."

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The good thing about connecting with people from your past is that they knew you before these trials and victories shaped you. They will help you to meet yourself as you were and understand what's essential to you. They also show you how you've developed. You'll take stock this week, knowing there's much more to come.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Those who assess interactions at face value are at a disadvantage. You're wiser. You realize that what's asked of you is more implied than stated. It requires awareness to understand. Also, there will be some guessing involved. You're ahead in this game because, unlike others, you realize there's something to figure out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've a certain idiosyncratic charm. Those who get you really get you right away and want to be your good friend. Those who don't may never -- so you needn't to put too much energy or time in that direction. This week, you'll connect with many people and quickly turn them into friends and fans.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In the past, you were discouraged from a pursuit that didn't suit others. Now you can and should go for it. Desire is both an engine and the engineer, motivating you to get what you want while simultaneously creating the mechanisms necessary for attainment. By wanting what you want badly enough, you are creating it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Ideas come together in your mind this week and get brighter with each connection you make. Talk about the vision to anyone who will listen because this is how you'll hone it. When your words hit the air, they illuminate new pathways, regardless of the reaction you get. Also, you'll scout potential team members.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Keep the love flowing. Love takes you further than other motivations, and it requires less energy, too. Get on your own side and stay there. When you look back, be kind. Your former self didn't have your current standards. Love them anyway and appreciate the courage and effort it took to transform.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What if you are now needlessly concerned?

It's happened before! The things you were so worried about didn't happen, and you really could have spent those hours enjoying yourself and the outcome would have been the same. Bank on the current dynamic as a repeat. Have fun and let everything resolve itself. It most certainly will!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Like the innocent and fanciful imaginings of a child, your ideas about what to expect from an experience may be initially quite far-flung. This is normal and wonderful. Unbiased expectations are essentially a creative exercise. Once you learn what to expect, you'll aim differently. Don't forget these purely inspired ideas, though; they'll be useful later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll benefit from a new perspective, preferably the sort of bird's-eye view you can get from an airplane ride. There's no perspective shift quite so enlightening as the one that comes from travel and from experiencing the daily lives of people in different places. If you can't travel physically, do it through research.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Of all the things that constitute a private life, there is none more private than your thoughts and fantasies. These belong solely to you, and you are not obligated to share with anyone. If you do decide to bring someone in, you are granting a privilege, not a right. To own your privacy is to own your power.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This week, there are many appointments worth keeping; disappointment isn't one of them. You can avoid it entirely by lowering your expectations, dropping them entirely or setting them accurately through awareness and research. How well do you know a person? What patterns have you observed?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your projects and relationships are getting something very special and unique from you this week. The attention you dedicate will be delivered with great care and specificity. Those who do not regard your work with the sensitivity and awareness befitting it may not understand you well enough to benefit your team.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: You'll set your sights on a lofty aim, and your wings will grow strong enough to lift you into the vision. You'll embark on a series of trainings. Your instinct will lead you to the people and arrangements that most suit your creative sensibility. More highlights: A physical challenge keeps you in shape and introduces you to fun people, too. You'll benefit many by selling a useful, informative and time-saving tool. The events you organize will bring about warmth and family connectedness.



LOCAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Advertise with us! \$13/week (4 week minimum) or \$500 for the year!

Accounting



CAMPBELL & SCHREURS
Chartered Professional Accountants Inc.

ACCOUNTING • TAX • ADVISORY

Call or email to book an appointment
t: 1-800-846-9190
e: ca@campbellco.ca

KAMLOOPS • BARRIERE • VALEMOUNT



Chartered Professional Accountants Inc.

Accounting, Taxation and Consulting Services for Corporate and Not for Profit Organizations

P. 250.564.2660 F. 250.563.3281 TF. 877.278.9977
696 Brunswick St., Prince George, BC, V2L 2C1 www.dmca.bc.ca

Automotive



Travis' Automobile Service

SNOWMOBILE REPAIR
INSPECTION FACILITY
LICENSED AUTOMOTIVE & HEAVY DUTY MECHANICS
SPECIALIZING IN DIESEL
ENGINE REPAIR, 4x4 REPAIR,
AND MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS
WELDING, LATHE WORK &
TIRE SALES

250-566-8403
Travis Wied 945 Hwy 5 N Valemount

Computers




**COMPUTER
SERVICING & REPAIR**

Servers, Networks, PC Repair, Upgrades,
Virus Removal & Remote Access

Tel: (1) 250 566 8221 Cell: (1) 250 566 1990
<http://www.mica-electronics.com>

No Obligation Estimates, Affordable Rates & Reliable Service
Serving The Robson Valley Since 2005


Construction



**Whisper Creek Cabin
Rentals and Builders**

SHAWN & DIANE FOWLER
BC Licensed Builders

250 566 8483
shfowler@telus.net
www.whispercreekcabinrental.com
1170 Canoeview Pl, Valemount



PRODUCTS	SERVICES	FOR HIRE
All gravel products	Road building and subdividing	Manlifts, zoom boom, trackhoes, rubber tire hoe, skidsteer, dump trucks



Call: **250-566-8483**

Drywall



**ROBSON VALLEY
DRYWALL
SERVICES**

call or text 7782017114
 @robsonvalleydrywallservices

Electrician



SWIFT CURRENT SERVICES LTD

 RESIDENTIAL  COMMERCIAL  INDUSTRIAL

FSR A - Electrical Contractor
info@swiftcurrentservices.ca
250.566.5290

Forestry



Want to know what is going on?

VALEMOUNT
COMMUNITY
FOREST

VISIT THE WEBSITE!
www.valemountcommunityforest.ca

Fuel



Our Energy Serving You

Propane Delivery
Residential/Commercial/Industrial
Sales/Service/Installation

1-877-873-7467



Delivering Fuel East to McBride & Valemount

Four Rivers Co-operative

Commercial, Farm & Personal

Visit our Gas Bar in Prince George
6749 Westgate Avenue - Tel: 250.964.2697

Valemount Cardlock: 1500 - 9th Avenue Valemount BC TF: 866.309.2667	McBride Cardlock: 2130 Zeidler Road McBride BC TF: 866.309.2667	Prince George: Tel: 250.564.3488 TF: 866.309.2667 Fax: 250.564.3433
--	--	--



**CANGAS
PROPANE**

YOUR LOCAL
PROPANE PROVIDER

Sales • Service • Installation
1-833-852-8811

Lawyer



KUHN LLP
LEGAL COUNSEL

LORNE K. WELWOOD

BUSINESS LAW • PERSONAL PLANNING
WILLS & ESTATES • REAL ESTATE
E: lwelwood@kuhnco.net • P: **604.864.8877** • C: **604.613.6521**
MCBRIDE * ABBOTSFORD
Call or email for consultation

New Valemount location!
1290 6th Ave
(H&R Block building – access from Dogwood)



MSRLAW.CA 250-566-3950

Millwork



BRKH Custom Woodworks Ltd.
Quality Millwork. 894 1st Ave, McBride

Douglas Fir
Cedar
Spruce
Birch
Pine

V-Joint, Flooring, Decking,
Moulding, Shiplap &
Channel Siding
Custom Woodwork

admin@brkh.ca 250-569-3175 www.brkh.ca

HAVE A BUSINESS?

WE CAN ADVERTISE IT WITH A
BUSINESS CARD SIZE AD!
ads@goatnewsmedia.com
250-566-4606

Optometrist

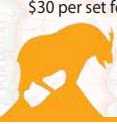


**DR. MONIKA BRAUN
DR. JENNIFER LANGFIELD
OPTOMETRISTS**

HINTON OPTOMETRY CLINIC:
158 Athabasca Avenue, Hinton

For appointments call 780-865-3915 or 1-800-323-9891
Monday/Friday 8 AM-4 PM, Wednesday/Thursday 9 AM-5 PM, Tuesdays 9 AM-6 PM.
Closed for Lunch Mon & Fri 12-1, Tues-Thurs 1-2.

Photography



Time to renew your passport?

We can help!

We do all kinds of headshots including for firearms licenses, travel visas, and more!
\$30 per set for Canadian passports (\$40 for foreign visas/passports). \$25 for PAL.

By appointment only:
250-566-5135

Studio location:
Valemount Goat office
1170 5th ave,
Valemount, BC



LOCAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Advertise with us! \$13/week (4 week minimum) or \$500 for the year!

Security



Clear Security
Securing what matters

**ALARMS-DIGITAL VIDEO
24 HOUR MONITORING**

Mike Dryden 250-566-1536 **Nathan Carne** 250-819-4752

- Fire, smoke, flood detection
- Video surveillance systems
- Local installation technician
- Serving McBride, Dunster, Valemount & Mt. Robson

Septic


Valemount Septic Service

- Hydro Vac Service
- Septic Tank Cleaning
- 800-gallon Freshwater Delivery

BLAIR or MIKE 250-566-1536

Television

Valemount Community TV
Local TV matters!
Michael Peters
Station Manager
PO Box 922, 211 - 99 Gorse Street
Valemount, BC, Canada VoE 2Z0
www.vctv.ca
250-566-8288
Email: tv@vctv.ca



Septic Cont'd



NORTH BLUE SEPTIC
Albert Venor
Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner
250 674 8311
albertvenor@hotmail.com

Septic Design, Install and Inspection in the Robson and North Thompson Valleys

BLUE RIVER, BC



"The Friendly Little Truck!!"
We rent nice Porta Potties too!! :)

Robson Valley Septic
Dome Creek, McBride, Valemount, Blue River - 569-7812

Trucking

**GRAVEL PRODUCTS
REDI-MIX CONCRETE
7 & 8 AXLE LOWBEDDING**

OTHER SERVICES
Tandem & Tridem gravel trucks
Concrete Products
Tractor Service
Log Trucking



Myron Baer 250-569-7245 | **Brendan Zimmerman** 250-569-7404
glacierstoneind@gmail.com



VALEMOUNT RENTAL LISTINGS
Great housing options available now!
Furnished & Unfurnished
Apartments & Detached Homes
CALL JEN TODAY!
PHOTOS & DETAILS
www.rusticluxury.ca **Call 250-566-1323**

PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	T	A	P	4	U	P	O	N	7	8	S	H	E
13	O	W	E	15	N	O	N	E	17	P	I	G	
14	P	E	R	16	T	E	E	T	18	H	I	N	G
			17	P	O	T			19	A	N	T	S
20	S	H	O	E	22	T	H	Y					
24	K	A	N	G	26	A	R	O	27	B	A	D	
30	I	T	S	31	L	A	N	G	32	U	A	G	E
				33	F	L	Y		34	S	T	E	W
35	S	O	L	37	O				38	D	I	E	T
40	O	P	E	R	41	A	T	E	D	43	L	O	T
46	M	E	N	47	C	O	A	L		48	E	A	R
49	E	N	D	50	T	O	R	E		51	S	K	Y

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	A	L	G	4	A	6	O	R	7	B	8	S	10	P
11	P	A	L	M	12	S	O	R	13	A	14	S	C	A
17	A	G	E	18	H	A	I	R	19	S	T	20	Y	L
21	R	O	N	22	E	L	O	T	23	T	24	O	N	Y
25	W	O	M	26	R	O	A	D	27	E	28	T	H	
29	A	S	A	30	M	O	N	E	31	Y	32	A	H	I
33	I	T	D	34	S	O	U	N	D	35	D	I	G	
36	S	E	A	37	F	L	O	S	38	L	39	L	E	
40	T	O	M	41	B	R	A	D	42	Y	43	C	H	A
44	A	I	M	45	T	I	R	E	46		47			
48	P	O	S	49	T	O	R	I	50	E	51	N	T	A
52	J	O	E	53	N	T	A	N	54	A	55	R	I	C
56	S	O	N	57	A	R	E	G	58	O	59	N	O	R
60	D	N	A	61	O	R	E	62	F	O	63	L	K	

ROBSON VALLEY & NORTH THOMPSON CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Stamps for Sale. 15 First Day Covers of "American Revolution" \$5 each. With attractive stamp album \$25. Call Mike 250-566-9996

LAND FOR SALE

Approx 20-acre homestead between Blue River and Clearwater. Cabin, tool shed, hay and barn shed. 5-acre hay field, two water rights. 8 miles to nearest house. Very private. Peaceful and quiet. A deal at \$184,900! Lots of pictures, will meet. Call John 604-530-9295 or Paul 250-678-5300.

PROVINCIAL CLASSIFIEDS

GET RESULTS!
Reach almost 2 million people in 92 papers for only \$395/week for a 25-word text ad, or \$995/week for a formatted display ad
bccommunitynews.com/advertise
1-866-669-9222
Book by province or whole country and save over 85%!

SERVICES

GET RESULTS! Post a classified in 92 newspapers in just a few clicks. Reach almost 2 million people for only \$395 a week for 25-word text ad or \$995 for small display ad. Choose your province or all across Canada. Best value. Save over 85% compared to booking individually. www.bccommunitynews.com/advertise or 1-866-669-9222.

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED SASQUATCH SKULL - Also purchasing SILVER & GOLD coins, bars, jewelry, scrap, nuggets, sterling, 999+ BULLION, maple leafs, bulk silver, pre-1969 coins. Coin collector BUYING ENTIRE COIN COLLECTIONS, old \$ & Royal Canadian Mint coins. TODD 250-864-3521.

GOAT CLASSIFIEDS

AS LITTLE AS \$8/WEEK!

ads@goatnewsmedia.com
250-566-4606

Classifieds In print and online, too!	under 20 words	\$8/week
	under 40 words	\$12/week
	Classified with photo (<40 words)	\$30/week
	Box classified with border (<40 words)	\$25/week
	'Guaranteed to Sell'	\$40/2months (<40 words)

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) unless location otherwise stated. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org.

- Mar 11 –Cancelled for staff training
- Mar 18 –St. Patrick's Day crafts
- Mar 25 –Centennial Park playdate and hot chocolate

FRI March 8 **Vancouver Intl Mountain Film Festival** 7:30-10pm at the Valemount Secondary School community theatre. Tickets \$20 at Infinity or at valemountarts.org

SAT March 9 **Pet First Aid Certification Course**. See barkfirstaid.ca to register.

MON March 11 @ 4:00pm **Valemount Public Library Annual General Meeting** Downstairs at the Library. Board positions available. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

TUES March 12 **Valemount Gymnastics Association AGM** 6:30 pm at the Valemount Library. Anyone interested in the future of a gymnastics program in Valemount is encouraged to attend. Enthusiastic, committed parents are needed to form a new board.

WED Mar 13th **Valemount Minor Hockey awards night** at the arena 6pm. All teams scrimmage, awards and presentations, cake and refreshments. All welcome!

THUR MAR 14 **Free Seniors Luncheon 12pm - 3pm** at the Valemount Community Hall 101 Gorse St; Free lunch, activities, conversation about aging in place and survey about health priorities. Organized by Elder Collaborative and partnered with RVCS & Emergency Support Services. Funded by BCCRN. No registration required.

SAT March 16 **St. Patrick's Day Dance** at the Valemount Curling Club. 19+, tickets \$20 pre-sold, doors open at 9pm.

THURS Apr 11th **Valemount Sport Days Association Annual General Meeting** 6:30p.m. at the Goat newspaper office. Everyone welcome! Help us plan this year's Valemountain Days June 7-9th, 2024!

Ongoing Valemount Events

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

TUES & FRI Drop-in soccer at Valemount Secondary. Age 12+. \$5 and waiver must be signed.

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.

WED & SAT **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.

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

SAT 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.

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

SAT 10am-1pm the Valemount United Anglican Church has a **thrift store** at 7th and Cedar!

SUN **Pancake breakfast at the Valemount Legion** Sundays 8 to 10:30 am. By donation!.

MON through FRI the **Valemount Seed Library** is available in our lobby during business hours at RVCS Valemount (99 Gorse St). Office hours: Monday 10am-6pm and Tuesday to Thursday 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 FRI 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. unless otherwise stated. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org. Upcoming themes:

- Mar 11 – Swimming in Valemount at Best Western (registration required)
- Mar 18 – Plan flowers to take home & first day of Spring
- Mar 25 – Decorate Easter eggs and April Fool's Day craft

WED Mar 6 BINGO & 50/50 R.C. Legion Hall 805 4th Ave Doors open at 6 pm. Games Starts at 6:30 Sharp. Cash Prizes & Door Prize. Everyone welcome. Must be 19 & up.

SAT Mar 9 The **McBride Figure Skating Club Presents Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Nevada** Doors open 5:30, Show starts 6:30 Admission by donation. Concession, 50/50 draw, gift table and fun.

WED's Starting February 7th to March 13th Join us for a Six Session **Healthy Cooking Program Food Sense** that is Free of cost. Cook simple & delicious meals, Share tips in the kitchen, Learn how to read nutrition labels. Held at the McBride Secondary School in the Foods Room (1300 2nd Ave) from 4:30-7:30pm. Children 13 and up are welcome with adult accompaniment. Registration is required please contact the office register 250-569-2266 or email events@rvcsbc.org . This program is brought to you by the RVCS Adult Literacy and Family Support Program.

WED Mar 20 Join us for **Pottery Class** with Lyuba Milne 1-3:30pm at RVCS 942 3rd Ave where Lyuba will teach us clay molding techniques. Spots are limited and registration is required for this no-cost workshop. Contact 250-569-2266 or events@rvcsbc.org to book your spot.

WED Mar 20 The McBride Old Age Pensioners Organization will be holding a **second workshop on Advance Care Planning** from 1pm to 3pm at the common room of Beaverview Lodge in McBride. Topics include advance planning for your health care, representation agreements.

wills, Power of Attorney and other issues that are best dealt with early. A great workshop for all Seniors! For more information call Pete Amyoony 250-968-4334 or e-mail peteam@telus.net.

TUES Mar 26 **Soup and Bun** is happening11:30am-1:30pm at RVCS (942 3rd Ave, McBride). Come in out of the cold to enjoy a warm bowl of soup (by donation) with friends. This month's delicious soup is made by Bev McLennan- thank you! Contact 250-569-2266 / events@rvcsbc.org for more info.

Ongoing McBride Events

MONs **ASL Club** meet weekly at the EFree church McBride. 12:30pm - 1:30pm. Beginners welcome! Contact Lonnie Lorenz if you have questions 250.569.7657

MON through THURS, McBride RVCS (942 3rd Ave) 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.

TUES **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.

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

WED **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.

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

MON & WED 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

WED Mar 6 **Dunster Fine Arts School Society Annual General Meeting** Monthly Director's Meeting to follow at the Dunster Schoolhouse 5:30 to 7:30 pm Everyone welcome. Agenda items can be sent to Nancy at nancy@dunsternancy.ca

SAT Mar 9 10am-3pm The **Annual Seedy Saturday** presented by the Open Gate Community Garden in McBride @ the Dunster School.Vendors will be selling seeds, plants, garden decoration and all sorts of prepared products made from our local agricultural bounty and informative presentations throughout the day. Bring seeds to participate in the big seed swap table. If you or someone you know would be interested in being a vendor or presenter please reach out by email to pggardens@hotmail.com

Ongoing Dunster Events

WEDSs 11am-2pm **Dunster Coffee House** Come for coffee, tea, muffins and/or a bowl of soup at the Dunster Schoolhouse. All ages welcome! If you are looking for a quieter coffee date, there will be tables set up in the classroom for this.

SAT Dunster Community Association **Saturday Pot Luck Lunches** March 2nd, 16th & 30th at the Dunster Community Hall 11:30 to 1:00 Lunch served at 12:00 noon sharp Coffee, tea and juice provided. Donations gratefully accepted. Contact: Pete Amyoony 250-968-4358

Upcoming film festival trains lens on mountain stories

By LAURA KEIL

The Goat sat down with Valemount Arts and Cultural Society member Ruby Hogg to learn more about their upcoming show, the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival tour, playing at the Valemount Secondary School community theatre Fri. March 8th 7:30-10pm with a concession break midway through. Tickets are \$20 and are available through Infinity Office and Health or at the door for \$25.

Why did the Valemount Arts and Cultural Society choose to put on this show?

Historically, the Banff Mountain Film Festival (world tour) has done quite well,

so we saw there was room for another film festival. We've spaced them six months apart more or less. The 2024 films just came out two weeks ago so we're at the very beginning (of the Vancouver festival tour).

Do you know the topics or themes of some of the films? Are they all short or are some longer?

They all range between about seven minutes and 45 minutes. It's a wide variety. They cover lots of different topics. Obviously mountains are a recurring theme, but there's also lots of sport and a large rise in environmental projects: topics like global warming and changes in the environment. And people seem to be putting out more movies that have more

sense of community or something that the viewer can connect to.

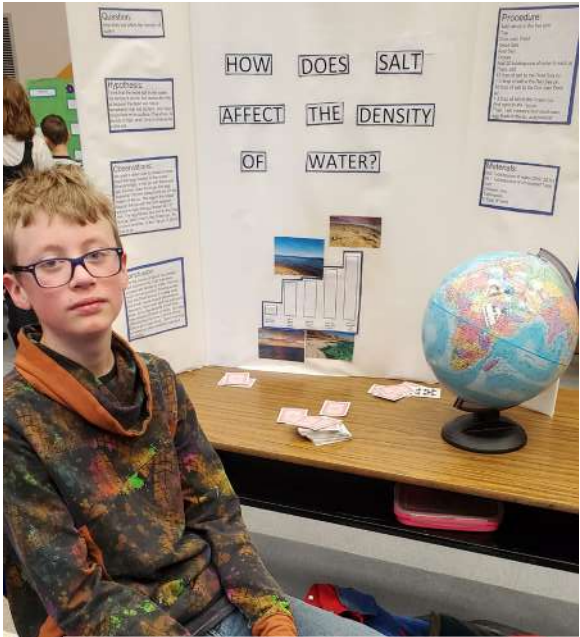
Are most of the films Canadian or are they from any filmmaker?

It's a huge variety of filmmakers. I can highlight two that we're going to be showing: one is a surfing film. Because we're not really in a surfing area, so it's something completely different. And another is a biking film that's travelling across South America, so it's a totally new environment again that many people may not have seen. That's one thing that's really cool about the mountain film festivals is they show areas that people may not have been able to visit.

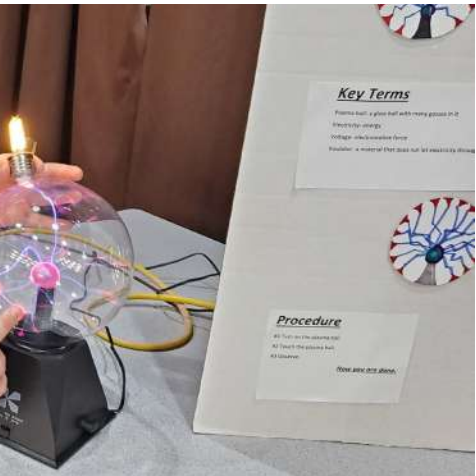
Any other reasons why you think people should attend the show?

For me personally, I always get pretty pumped up after watching these films. They're all very inspiring. Quite often they're people living far outside their comfort zones and it just reminds me to get up and try new things. There are some really powerful films out there. They're not all about living outside your comfort zone, of course — there are some about connection, some Indigenous awareness films. There are some really amazing stories that might get us a little more pumped up for summer.

This interview has been condensed for brevity.



The Grade 6 and 7 class from the McBride Centennial Elementary School presented their science fair projects to classmates, other students as well as members of the public. Some of the students learned how the salinity of water affects its density (Wyatt, left), how plants and animals react to sounds in their environments (Mykayla, below right), Eli explored the world of homemade bottle rockets using hairspray and a spark (Bottom right), how electricity is drawn through static (Delylah, bottom left) and how to create an electric motor by using a battery (Cohen, top right). /ANDREA ARNOLD



MCBRIDE COUNCIL NOTES

Council: Community market, special event, bylaw amendment

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

McBride Mayor Gene Runtz called the Feb 27th Council meeting to order following their in-camera portion.

Community Market

Council approved the use of the Steve Kolida Park Pavilion for the McBride Community Market on Fridays for 11 weeks starting June 21st and ending on Aug

30, 2024 contingent on receipt of a Certificate of Insurance.

Special event attendance

Council directed administration to respond to the Back Country Horsemen of BC Rendezvous weekend event in the Robson Valley May 23th-26th, 2024, to provide a short opening remark on Friday May 24th at 10:15am. Council also voted to have the mayor provide a written message for the welcome bags.

Bylaw amendment

Council gave the Emergency Program Amendment Bylaw 824, 2024 first, second and third readings. These changes to the bylaw will bring it up to date to reference the new Emergency and Disaster Management Act as well as the recently formed Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.



Questions about
your career?
WorkBC can help.

WorkBC helps connect
people living with
disabilities with supports to
succeed in the workplace
and their career.

Visit [WorkBC.ca/FindAnswers](https://www.workbc.ca/FindAnswers) or
your nearest WorkBC centre.



This program is funded by the Government of Canada
and the Province of British Columbia.

Visit my website to see all of my featured listings: www.valemountmcbredilistings.com. A great resource for your property search in the valley.

Shelly Battensby

REALTOR



DIFFERENT

BETTER

BUY

OR

BUILD


1123 8th Avenue

VALEMOUNT

419,000

NEW PRICE!

MOTIVATED SELLER!




If you are looking for cute, comfort, and quick possession, this one is for you. Four bedrooms, 2 modern baths, and updated heating, roofing, and windows, this home just needs you, the keys and your moving van.

1480 7th Avenue

VALEMOUNT

\$345,000




Sitting on over 10,000 sq ft, this one-level home offers you a ton of room inside and a private oasis outside. With 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, large entry, and two sitting/living rooms, this home is perfect for the growing family. The landscaped yard and detached garage round out this offering, making it a steal of a deal.

1360 4th Avenue

VALEMOUNT

PRICE DROP!

\$97,500




Centrally located and with power service in place, this 10,080 s.f. lot is cleared and ready to go. The small workshop on site gets you one step closer to your home build. Steps from parks and shopping, this one is a great place to make your life.

LOT 1 13th Avenue


VALEMOUNT

NEW LISTING!


\$285,000



This sweet 3.2 acre parcel sits on the edge of town in its own corner of paradise. It's ready for you to get building, with a drilled well and PERC report in place. Close to amenities, recreation and trails, your mountain dream just became available.



2022
100%
CLUB AWARD



RE/MAX

CORE REALTY

CELL: 250-566-1086


OFFICE: 250-645-5055


SOLD

FOR SALE

SHERRI MALONE

REALTOR AT ROYAL LEPAGE ASPIRE REALTY





ROYAL LEPAGE

Aspire Realty

Independently Owned and Operated

TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY, ONE PROPERTY AT A TIME!

Call me!

TEL: 1-250-566-1022

EMAIL: sherrimalone@royallepage.ca


WEB: propertiesinvalemount.com

OFFICE: 1275 5th Ave, Valemount BC V0E 2Z0

7 955 13TH AVE

\$129,500

NEW LISTING!




Here is the most charming, well maintained, beautifully updated and affordable home you've been looking for! Some of the recent upgrades in the past 2 years: new floors throughout the home, new roof and new appliances. Outside you have great curb appeal with the property being fully fenced, a storage shed, paving stones for your outdoor entertainment area and mountain views for days. The best things are the Sellers are motivated, the home is vacant so move in time can be weeks away!

15663 OLD TETE JAUNE

\$679,000

NEW LISTING!



Investment opportunity! This property is zoned Controlled Recreation Commercial 1 allowing for tourist accommodations, campground and many other lucrative options. Currently on the property is a beautiful log carriage home split into 2 - 1 bdrm, 1 bathroom units above a spacious 1200sqft, impressive garage and an unfinished studio cabin awaiting your finishing touches and puts you steps ahead for your next income helper! This 5 acre property is located in the heart of Tete Jaune Cache just 15 minutes north of Valemount BC and only 1 hour west of Jasper AB. Stunning, unobstructed Mica Mountain views give you and your guests the ultimate BC Mountain backdrop! These CRC1 zoned properties are few and far between!

11974 ESSEN RD

\$539,000


NEW LISTING!



Zoned for tourist accommodation! This property already has a gorgeous log home on it but with C2 zoning your options are plentiful: campground, convenience store, tourist accommodations, recreation facility, restaurant just to list a few! This 3.35acre property is on a mountain side but has a few plateau areas offering additional building sites if required. The solid wrap around deck on the log home is your outdoor sanctuary for peaceful enjoyment or for entertaining as it features stunning mountain views. Conveniently located right off Hwy 16, 10 minutes north of Valemount, an hour west of Jasper and only a 5 minute walk to the Fraser River. Act quick as there are very few properties zoned C2 in the Robson Valley!

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!