



Crescent Spur wildfire jumps river

P2



Your weekly source of news, views and entertainment

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# Nature's IMAX

Residents across Canada and beyond who were blessed with clear skies Friday May 10th were treated to a rare display of northern lights, thanks to a strong geomagnetic storm. Neon greens, deep reds, pinks, purples and blues paraded across the night sky for over an hour, starting around 11p.m. According to the National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), geomagnetic storms are a major disturbance of Earth's magnetosphere when energy transfers from the solar wind into the space environment surrounding Earth. The NOAA says the largest storms are associated with "solar coronal mass ejections" where a billion tons of plasma from the sun, and its accompanying magnetic field, arrives at Earth. During storms, currents and particles in the ionosphere create heat that can increase the density in the upper atmosphere, increasing drag on satellites in low-earth orbit. The heat can also modify ionospheric density which can interfere in the path of radio signals and create errors in the GPS devices; the storms can also create harmful geomagnetic-induced currents in the power grid and pipelines. For the average star-gazer however, they produced a brilliant show unrivalled by any IMAX theatre. /LAURA KEIL

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# Crews continue to battle fire in Crescent Spur

By SPENCER HALL

The BC Wildfire Service responded with air tankers after the discovery of a wildfire in the Crescent Spur area on the afternoon of Friday May 9, 2024. The blaze, still designated out of control as of Tuesday morning, is located about 40 km northwest of McBride. The fire began adjacent to Prospect Road near the railway tracks close to the Crescent Spur gravel pit, and was reported at about 3:22 p.m. Friday.

“Currently we are actioning the wildfire with air tankers dropping retardant, as well as initial attack crews on scene,” the PG Fire Centre Information Team told The Goat via email early Friday evening.

A few hours after the attack on the fire began, reports came through that it had jumped the Fraser River. At 10:00 p.m. Friday evening, an evacuation alert was issued for the area between Highway 16, the Morkill FSR, the Goat River and a non-landmarked boundary along the north/northeast side of the blaze.

Over the weekend, the fire was hit from the air and the ground as crews fought to bring it under control. The fire grew from its initial seven hectares on Friday to 220 hectares.

As of Tuesday morning the reported size of the blaze hadn't changed for over 48 hours.

“BCWS staff and heavy equipment are working on the Northwest and West flank of the wildfire, helicopters are assisting the ground staff where needed. Structure protection staff is on site and are working on setting up structure protection units where needed,” the fire incident page of the BCWS website said on Tuesday morning.

Just before noon Monday, the Regional District of Fraser Fort George said the evacuation alert remains in place for the area affecting 16 civic addresses and hundreds of acres of farmland and that they do not expect any changes within the next 24 hours.

As of Tuesday, there were two initial attack crews and two unit crews working to tame the fire. Five helicopters, four pieces of heavy equipment and structure protection personnel were also responding to the blaze.

The PG Fire Centre said it's too early to determine an exact cause of the fire, but the investigation continues.

For the most up to date information on this fire, go to therockymountaingoat.com or visit the BCWS website.



Several passes were made by two bombers as they spread retardant to help protect nearby residences. / JESSICA ARNOLD



Flames jumped from tree to tree as well as across the river. Both of these photos were taken from private property very close to the edge of the fire in Crescent Spur. /SUBMITTED



Smaller planes flew ahead of the bombers providing intel to ensure accuracy in the drops. / JESSICA ARNOLD



Two members of the BCWS initial attack team head into the smoky landscape. /ANDREA ARNOLD



# Warmer, drier summers expected for Kinbasket: report

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Climate change will bring drier summers and wetter, warmer winters to the Kinbasket reservoir, a recent report has found.

Authored by Greg Utzig, a conservation ecologist and technical advisor to the Upper Columbia Basin Environmental Collaborative, the Climate Change and the Columbia River Treaty report projects precipitation and temperature trends through the year 2100 based on research from U.S. scientists involved in the Columbia River Treaty negotiations.

According to Utzig, data show increasing temperatures in the Columbia Basin – however, the extent to which they rise is contingent on whether greenhouse gas emissions are curbed in the near future. More greenhouse gas emissions mean higher temperatures.

“The obvious trend is that temperatures are going up in all seasons. How much they continue to go up will depend on how many greenhouse gas emissions we make,” Utzig said. “Both (low- and high-emission scenarios) are bad, but one’s a lot worse than the other.”

The report also includes graphs of two extremes when discussing how climate change will impact precipitation levels. A “dry projection” represents the low end of projected precipitation levels, while a “wet projection” shows the higher end. In both cases, the Kinbasket reservoir will get more precipitation during the winter and spring than it historically has, but will receive significantly less water in the summer.

Rising year-round temperatures and drier summers are a nasty combination for a province already plagued by wildfire and drought, according to Utzig.

“There’s no question that the decreasing precipitation inputs in the summer, and increasing temperatures, are going to lead to more wildfires,” Utzig said. “Even though precipitation is increasing in the winter months, the amount that will come as snow will be less because it will be warmer ... Absolutely, the increasing

temperatures and lower snowpack will have an impact (on wildfires).”

## Impacts already here

B.C. has already seen these effects in recent years, Utzig added.

“2021 would be the best example. In June, we experienced the heat dome with unprecedented temperatures. It was a globally significant event,” he said. “And then less than six months later, we had the extreme atmospheric river event that came in and flooded out significant portions of the Coquihalla ... Those are two extreme events that were not completely caused by climate change, but climate change amplified the impacts significantly.”


Other examples of severe weather events intensified by climate change – last year’s wildfires, provincewide drought, severe landslides from increased precipitation – came to mind for Utzig. He believes that as disasters like these become more frequent due to climate change, governments will have to plan more carefully for emergency management of their reservoirs. Wet winters and dry summers will cause bodies of water to fluctuate unpredictably, and Utzig feels authorities will need to plan for emergencies more thoroughly than they have done previously.

“In the Kootenays in 2012, we had an unusually wet spring and an extremely wet June. They hadn’t left enough room

in the reservoirs to capture those floodwaters, and we ended up with flooding in Kootenay lake and some other areas around there,” Utzig said. “Climate change creates a lot of uncertainty, and a lot of extreme events are hard to plan for.”

Even if greenhouse gas emissions are reduced dramatically in the next few years, the Columbia Basin will still see consequences from higher temperatures and increased rainfall, according to Utzig – and he’s far from optimistic that this lesser-of-two-evils scenario will come to pass.

“If we want to resolve these issues, we need to stop burning oil. It’s only going to get worse,” he said. “The announcement of the opening of the [Trans Mountain] pipeline is scary. We’re going in the wrong direction.”



Northern Health is seeking a housing unit to rent with two or more bedrooms, ideally within walking distance of the Valemount Health Centre.

Full details can be found on Opportunities: BC Bid (gov.bc.ca), search under Opportunity ID 197108.


You do not need to create a BC Bid account to apply, simply review the information request document and submit your information via email.

Expressions of interest will be accepted until May 21, 2024.

Thank you to everyone for their interest in supporting Northern Health deliver health services to the community.

[www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca)

**Office Closure**



The Municipal Office and Visitor Information Centre will be **closed** on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, for Victoria Day. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

**Spring Clean-Up**

The Village organizes support to assist residents in cleaning up their properties in time to enjoy the summer. This year the Village of Valemount is offering curbside pick-up from May 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, on the Village right-of-way, of household and yard waste, as well as scrap metal. For more information or to book your curbside pick up, please call the Village at 250-566-4435 **before May 17<sup>th</sup> at noon.**

**Traffic Flow Change**

Village Council has approved a change in traffic flow at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street, as well as Dogwood Street and main rail crossing. The purpose is to reduce the risk of an oncoming train while vehicles are stopped on the rail tracks. This change will be implemented this spring. Please watch for a change in signage and proceed accordingly.

**Civic Connection**

You may have wandered through the Village cemetery at some point and noticed graves there marked with just a name etched into a piece of metal without dates or headstones, and wondered what that meant. These spaces are from before the Village took over cemetery management. In 2014, the Village conducted a survey using ground penetrating radar, and discovered that those sites were occupied. Research was later conducted to find out who the occupants were, and names were put onto the small metal markers to commemorate those folks.

*From the desk of the CAO*

**Village of Valemount Job Opportunities**

- Museum Assistant
- Visitor Information Centre Counsellor

For more information about these positions, please visit: <https://valemount.ca/village-office/job-postings/>

**Changes at Regional District Transfer Station**



The Village has received notification of a change to the RDFFG recycling service provider beginning May 31<sup>st</sup>, leading to a temporary disruption in recycling services at the Valemount Transfer Station. The Village will continue to pick up solid waste on the current schedule, and will monitor the volumes entering the waste stream during this temporary disruption. Should the current

**Cont'd**

level of service not meet needs, we may consider alternatives to manage the extra volume. As always, people are asked to refrain from illegal dumping of any products. Like you, the Village is looking forward to enhanced recycling services when the new recycling contract is in place. If there are concerns from individual residents regarding recycling, they are asked to call Darren Wahl, Operations Manager at the RDFFG at 250-960-4400.

**CBT ReDi Adjudication Committee**  
Residents of Valemount and RDFFG

The Village of Valemount is looking for committed volunteers to fill vacancies on the CBT ReDi Adjudication Committee for the 2025 cycle of the program. This is your chance to be part of the process that will make recommendations to Council on which non-profit projects should be prioritized in our community. There are 4 upcoming vacancies on the Committee and the deadline for applications is 12:00 pm on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Visit [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca) for more information on how to apply.

# ✓ Last-Minute Checklist for Protecting Your Home and Property from Wildland Fire



## Evacuation tips

Monitor conditions and follow the advice of local authorities.

**If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately.**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Review your evacuation plan for your family and pets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit <a href="https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/">https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/</a> for helpful tips and evacuation plan templates.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have your emergency kit ready and stocked with cash, portable radio, prescription medications, eye glasses, change of clothes, pet food, flashlights and batteries, etc. Make sure your phone numbers, insurance information and other important documents for your emergency kit are current. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit <a href="https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/">https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/</a> for a more complete list of emergency supplies.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Before evacuating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turn off air conditioning.</li> <li>Turn off your home water, electricity and gas.</li> <li>Close all doors, garage doors and windows. If weather seal or doors have gaps, seal with duct tape.</li> </ul>



## Quickly address outside surroundings

Complete a scan around your home and property and take steps to remove combustibles.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove everything combustible within 10 m of your home, such as toys, patio furniture, cushions, decorative items, firewood, and potted plants that are on and under your deck and within 10 m of your home. Prioritize the first 1.5 m (5 ft) around your home and deck moving outwards from there. Move all combustible items into your shed, home, or garage.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove leaves, pine needles and other debris from your roof and gutters.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mow grass and weeds within 10 m of the house to 10 cm in length or less.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clear all dead plants, leaves, and weeds within 10 m of your home. Maintain a 1.5 m non-combustible surface around your home and deck by sweeping or raking down to mineral soil, rock, or concrete. Remove all bark mulch within 1.5 m of your home.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have a propane tank located on your property: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move propane tanks to more than 10 m away from structures.</li> <li>Remove weeds and other debris from the area around large stationary propane tanks so there is no combustible material near the tank.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have a combustible fence that attaches to your home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure the gate in an open position.</li> <li>Clear vegetation and debris along both sides of combustible fence lines.</li> </ul>



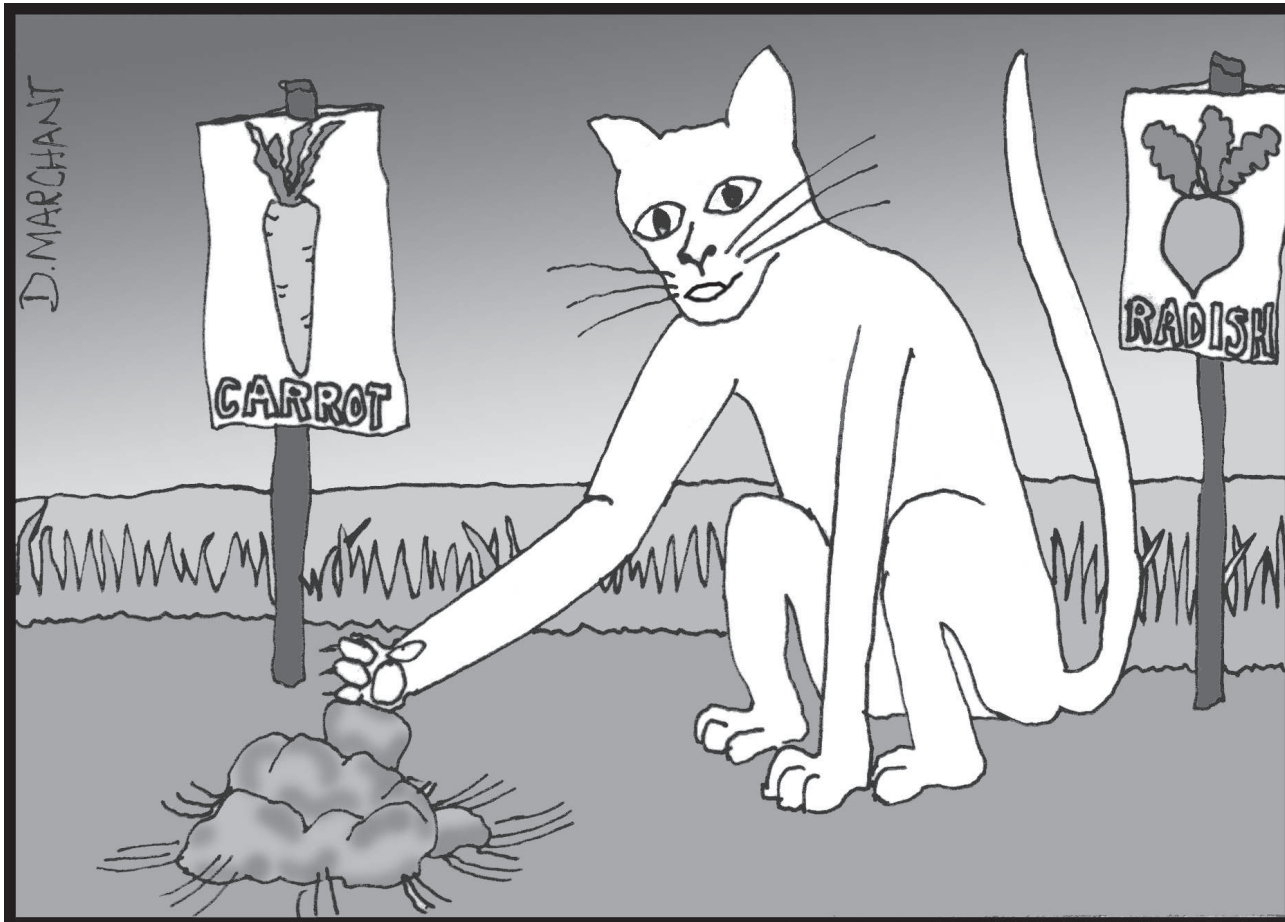
## Check around the house

Check vents on roof, foundation and exterior walls to prevent embers from entering your home.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Check your attic and foundation (crawl space) vents to see if they are screened and in good repair. Use duct or metal tape to temporarily cover damaged vents and those with 3 mm mesh screening.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you store cardboard boxes and other easily ignited materials near a vent in your attic or crawl space, move them as far away as possible from vent(s). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Another option is to place tape over vent(s) at these locations. <b>Be sure to remove tape when you return home.</b></li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover dryer vents and wall-mounted make-up air openings for furnaces with a plywood cover, metal tape or duct tape. <b>Be sure to remove plywood, metal tape or duct tape when you return home.</b>



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# Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

## The Mother of All Feedbacks?



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

“The average global temperature for each of the past eleven months has been the hottest the world has ever experienced in that month. Obviously something big is happening, but what?

Is it just a big El Niño, a heating of the surface waters of the eastern Pacific that happens every three to seven years. That would mean it’s cyclical and will go away again in due course.

Or is it confirmation of climate scientist Jim Hansen’s claim that the average global temperature is going to jump half a degree C. He says that new rules on pollution are cutting back hard on the sulphur dioxide emissions that used to reflect a lot of incoming sunlight back into space and therefore cool the planet.

Or have we triggered a big feedback in some natural system that we were not aware of? There’s about a dozen potential tipping points that we do know about – the collapse of the West Antarctic ice sheet, the melting of the permafrost, a switch from rainforest to savannah in the Amazon, etc. – but there may be a few that we don’t know about yet.

So which is it? It’s very unlikely to be El Niño, because this one was not particularly strong.

Besides, it peaked in December and has been fading away ever since, while global temperatures go on breaking records.

Jim Hansen’s proposed explanation is a contender, because the ‘brown clouds’ that used to hang over big Chinese cities and the ‘ship track’ clouds from the exhaust gases of 60,000 giant tankers and container ships did reflect enough sunlight to have a significant cooling effect. Cleaning up those emissions was bound to drive up the temperature.

Alas, the dates don’t match very well. The emissions from Chinese factories and ocean-going ships were reduced over a period of about fifteen years, whereas the ‘non-linear’ jump in average global temperature began just a year ago. Moreover, some scientists doubt that the amount of cooling that was lost is big enough to explain the scale of the heating.

This leaves us with the least desirable explanation: the sudden activation of an unknown feedback.

And remember how this stuff works. The heating that human beings have already caused carries us across a ‘tipping point’ we cannot see, and that unleashes a feedback: warming from non-human sources that we

cannot turn off.

The likeliest candidate for a new mystery feedback is the world’s oceans. Since we began burning fossil fuels in a big way two centuries ago, they have absorbed around a quarter of the carbon dioxide that humans emitted. More importantly, they have soaked up around 90% of the excess heat.

Now they may be giving some of it back. In the past thirteen months the average sea surface temperature worldwide has soared. According to the European Union’s Copernicus Climate Service, it is now at an all-time global high of 21.09°C.

There was not enough data about the behaviour of the deep ocean currents to put the ocean heat sink on most climate scientists’ list of potential feedbacks. However, many always feared there would be a limit how much heat the oceans could contain.

We may be about to find out where the limit is, and it could be the Mother of All Feedbacks. Or maybe it will turn out to be a false alarm this time. The fact that we don’t even know which yet illustrates the depth of our ignorance, and the scale of our peril.

## Thought Experiment: Buying the Palestinians Out?

BY GWYNNE DYER

Last week a despairing reader asked me if the solution to the ‘Middle East Problem’ might be to throw money at it: just buy the Palestinians out. Offer every Palestinian in the Israeli-occupied territories enough money to settle somewhere else, and the endless wars might finally end.

I dismissed the notion out of hand, asking “Where’s the money coming from?”, but I owe that reader an apology. I was dodging the question and he wanted a real answer. So here it is, for what it’s worth.

First things first. Could money alone ever bring peace to the region?

It would have to be a very large amount of money, because the Palestinian population of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is around five million people. Direct costs of relocation would be at least \$100,000 per person, given that the cost of housing would soar in other parts of the Arab world if five million people with cash entered the market at the same time.

Add another \$100,000 a head for living expenses, because a lot of these Palestinians would take a long time to find jobs in their new homes, or never find them. And

many of them would own property that they must be compensated for when they leave, so tack on an average of \$50,000 a person for that. That’s a cool quarter-million a head.

But why would Palestinians want to leave in the first place? Bombs and tanks are excluded from this transaction, so your only way of persuading the Palestinians to leave their homeland would be more money. A lot more.

How about another quarter-million dollars per capita, for a total of half a million each? If the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip accepted such an offer, then the grand total cost would be just \$2.5 trillion, the equivalent of three years’ worth of current US defence expenditure.

There would be additional costs, too. The two million Palestinians who are Israeli citizens would have to get the same offer. Some compensation would need to be paid to the six million Palestinian Arabs of the diaspora, mostly living in Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt. Say \$4 trillion total.

It’s not completely unthinkable financially. The real problem is consent. This deal would require the voluntary consent of all the Palestinians, or at least

the vast majority of them. While some people would certainly take the offer, a great many would refuse no matter how generous it was.

It’s never just about the money. It’s about tradition and neighbourhood and a sense of place. For many in this part of the world, it’s also about deep religious hatreds and big historical grievances. You can’t just buy your way out of all that.

So what are we left with? The very same thing that Binyamin Netanyahu and the various leaders of Hamas have spent the past thirty years trying to kill: the ‘two-state solution’. The wiser people on both sides have long understood that this is really the least bad solution – in fact, the only viable solution.

The past seven months, horrible as they have been, have vividly demonstrated the truth of that proposition. Despite the vast gulf between the high-tech Israeli forces and Hamas’s 28 (now severely depleted) underground battalions, neither side can inflict a decisive defeat on the other, so they might as well stop.

Be patient. The two-state solution may be back on the table sooner than you think.

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# Annual water restrictions in place for Valemount

Swift Creek running low, though Village lacks hard numbers

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Village of Valemount announced last week that stage one water use restrictions will be in effect as of June 1st. These restrictions are put in place by default every summer, but they are especially timely this year as Swift Creek – which provides drinking water for the village – is running low, according to Village CAO Anne Yanciw.

Under stage one restrictions, residents are prohibited from using a sprinkler or irrigation system to water their lawns outside the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. However, micro- and drip-irrigation systems – that is, systems that target the roots of a specific plant – and garden hoses with handheld automatic shut-off devices may be used at any time of day.

The CAO and Public Works Officer can decide to escalate water use restrictions to stage two, three, or four if they feel water levels are low enough to warrant it, according to the Village’s Water Supply and Regulations Bylaw. Under stage two, residents may only water their lawns every other day, while stage three limits lawn watering to two days a week and stage four prohibits lawn watering entirely.

Yanciw told The Goat the Village does not have a specific benchmark to

determine when these restrictions would be implemented.

The Village also lacks an official way to measure the amount of water in Swift Creek, she said.

“Right now, the easiest way to gauge the creek level is against our water intake building, which in normal years is underwater and you can’t see it at all. Right now it’s sticking out,” said Yanciw. “We don’t have a formal mechanism of tracking the creek level.”

Yanciw is concerned creek levels will not rise, given the Upper Fraser East snowpack level is at 59 per cent of normal.

Regions across the province are experiencing similar levels of drought, according to the B.C. Drought Portal. If the provincial government advises municipalities to restrict water use further, Valemount will follow that advice, said Yanciw. However, the Village will be careful to justify further restrictions based on local drought conditions, she added.

“If we implement a drought restriction without being able to explain to citizens why we’re doing it, it’s that much harder to gain compliance and takes more resources to enforce regulations,” Yanciw said. “[It] doesn’t set the community up for a good relationship with the Village in the event of needing to take those sorts of emergent actions in the future.”

## Notice of Public Consultation Meeting



Temporary Use Permit No. 286

Subject Property: 6580 Blackman Road

Purpose: to permit campground use with a maximum of 10 campsites for for a three year period.

Next Steps: there is a public consultation meeting on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Canoe Valley Recreation Centre, 100 Elm Street, Valemount BC

For more information visit [rdffg.ca/landuseapps](http://rdffg.ca/landuseapps)



## Notice of Public Consultation Meeting



Temporary Use Permit No. 287

Subject Property: Part of South West 1/4, District Lot 7372 and part of District Lot 7373, Cariboo District

Purpose: to permit preliminary resource processing for for a three year period.

Next Steps: there is a public consultation meeting on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the Canoe Valley Recreation Centre, 100 Elm Street, Valemount BC

For more information visit [rdffg.ca/landuseapps](http://rdffg.ca/landuseapps)



## Pickleball fun

A group made up of volunteers and staff have painted court lines for pickleball on the concrete floor in the Canoe Valley Recreation Centre in Valemount. The courts are available for play wherever the facility is open for a \$2 fee. There are paddles and balls available for use. Clean, non-marking shoes are required. There is organized play on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. and Sundays at noon until the ice is put back in in the fall. /ANDREA ARNOLD

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# Dunster residents working toward improved fire preparedness

By ANDREA ARNOLD

Some 13 members of the Dunster community have recently completed a basic wildfire training course.

The course, organized by the Dunster Community Forest through the BC Wildfire Service and Fraser Basin Council's "Cooperative Community Wildfire Response" program and funded by the Fraser Basin Council, gave residents the chance to participate, learning skills that will enable them to help with BC Wildfire crews with initial attack in the case of a fire.

The in-person training covered S-100: Basic fire suppression training for contract crews, and S-185: Development of basic knowledge of fire entrapment avoidance and safe work procedures. Participants also had two online components, ICS-100 was used to familiarize participants with the incident command structure that the BC Wildfire Services follows with all partner agencies and the FireSmart Wildfire Risk Reduction course introduced key concepts and risk reduction strategies.

Ken Kubota with Celtic Reforestation out of Prince George taught the two-day course at the Dunster Schoolhouse. He said that he has been inundated with requests to teach community based courses around the province.

"I used to do these courses for industry," he said. "Now about three quarters of the requests come for community events. There was a lot of blowback following last year's fires when community members were not allowed to help on the lines. I am thrilled to

see the Ministry working to change that by facilitating training."

Kubota says he can understand the concern of allowing untrained civilians into a fire situation.

"Civilians showing up without training can be a hindrance and concern on a scene," he said. "It means that the trained crews not only have the job of fire suppression, but also they have to make sure the people are safe as well."

He has been involved in a variety of bush related jobs over the course of 30 years and he has never seen fire seasons like the last five, and he doesn't expect it to let up.

Kubota has seen communities across the province gathering resources, organizing training and getting plans in place in case of fire.

He used the community around Francois Lake as a good example of what can be accomplished. The Chinook Emergency Services group has been able to set up a solid wildfire offence complete with training and equipment, with the help of funding from local industry. Kubota says that last year the group was able to suppress 20 fires before BC Wildfire crews responded to the area.

"However, you don't need big funding to make a difference," he said. "A little bit of equipment and a little bit of training can make a huge difference."

With the training provided through the course, residents learn skills that allow them to be deployed for property protection and spot fire control. Kubota says that by equipping locals for these tasks, Ministry teams and resources can respond to bigger situations.

In the community training sessions, Kubota helps groups make a simple plan as to what they should do next, how to organize and keep safe.

"This training has created an informal fire brigade in Dunster," said David McDonald following the sessions.

Another participant, Seth McDonald added it has allowed them to be more prepared.

"We can't depend on the province. If there is a big fire near Prince George and Dunster at the same time, if resources are short, who is going to get help first?"

Unofficial spokesperson for the group of trainees, Marion Cousineau said that she found the training motivating and that it got the ball rolling for emergency preparedness.

The group has a plan to form an official committee. This group will make a list of equipment that locals have on hand like water tanks, pumps, generators, trailers and large machinery.

"We need to have a clear plan for communication, staging grounds for equipment that is not close to forested areas, and what equipment we still need," said Cousineau.

Once they have an idea of what purchases are needed, they hope to find funding through the Regional District of Fraser Fort George.

Kubota was happy to see the residents jump into action so quickly. As he was packing up to leave, some of the participants were out checking out nearby outbuildings to see what, if any, old equipment was still usable.

"My hope is that when Ministry teams arrive, the locals can provide helpful information, resources and help."

# FireSmart Education a new focus for former Fire Chief

By ANDREA ARNOLD

On May 7, 2024, Dave Hruby put on a new hat for the summer, Fire and Public Safety Educator through the Regional District of Fraser Fort George.

Formerly Fire Chief for the McBride District Fire Department, Hruby hung up his chief hat in November 2023, and is looking forward to this new role.

"The RD is thrilled to have Dave Hruby join our team," said Kenna Jonkman, General Manager of Community and Development Services. "A Fire & Public Safety Educator develops and delivers fire prevention and emergency preparedness outreach programs."

Jonkman said that the goal of Hruby's new role is to provide information through FireSmart presentations and programs and to foster commitment to individual, family and community preparedness actions.

"Dave brings a wealth of knowledge to the role," she said.

Hruby has only been retired from his long-standing role as fire chief for less than half a year. When this position became available he jumped at the opportunity to take on a meaningful role to help educate the communities across the Robson Valley in FireSmart practices. Although he has been involved in fire fighting for most of his life Hruby admits that when it came time to do the training, and assess his own property, he was surprised that there were several areas that needed addressing.

"It was a humbling experience," he said. "I had thought our home and property was mostly Fire Smarted, so when I found deficiencies while doing the assessment, I was shocked."

Hruby says he will not be doing FireSmart assessments, but he is available, through the Regional District, to visit properties and provide home owners tips or awareness on ways to improve their home's resiliency to a wildfire.

He plans to set up tables and displays at any

community events he can, including but not limited to Farmers Markets, and hopes to get into the schools to talk to students.

"I am thrilled to see the McBride District Fire Department's wildfire sprinkler system initiative is in full swing," he said. "It is more important than ever for people to think proactively about the safety of their homes."

Hruby remembers seeing first hand some of the devastation left behind by the McLure/Barriere Fire of 2003.

"Last May, when I saw the flames take off up the mountain towards McBride, my heart did more than just a little pitter patter," he said. "It was scary. I didn't want to see McBride experience the same fate that I saw in 2003."

This summer the role of FireSmart Educator and the whole program is being treated as a trial. It remains to be seen if the position will continue past October 2024.

Hruby can provide FireSmart presentations at the community level by request. In order to book Hruby to make a presentation, or to have him come have a look around your property please contact the Regional District at (250) 960-4400 to make arrangements.



Newly appointed FireSmart educator for the Robson Valley, David Hruby. /ANDREA ARNOLD

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# Lazy dinner

We watched this bear lazily army crawl around the ditch for quite some time. He paid us no attention as he ate his way along the edge of the highway, without getting to his feet. To the point I was concerned he may have had an issue. He put my mind at ease however when he got up and walked to another area along the bank where he proceeded to flop down and slide his way from one juicy morsel to another. /ANDREA ARNOLD

## BC COS issues reminder to secure bear attractants

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The BC Conservation Officer Service says it has not received any official reports of grizzly bear sightings from Valemount residents this year, but residents should be diligent about securing attractants to prevent food-conditioning the bear.

Following grizzly bear sightings near Loeth road in early May, The Goat reached out to the COS to ask whether the bear poses a risk to Valemount residents.

According to COS, multiple Valemount-area grizzly bear sightings were reported last fall. These reports did not indicate food-conditioning or aggressive behavior, however.

“Grizzly bears should be reported to the RAPP Line (1-877-952-7277) if sightings are in an urban area, if the bear is accessing non-natural food sources, or conflict has occurred with the bear,” the statement says.

Once a report has been made, COS begins monitoring the situation,

according to the statement. This can include conducting attractant patrols, issuing dangerous wildlife protection orders, and issuing fines to people who fail to secure attractants. Including details like size and colour in a report helps officers identify bears involved in human-animal conflicts.

“Community members must take measures to ensure all attractants such as garbage, bird feeders, barbecues, fruit trees, pet food, and any other scented item that could attract a bear are secured and made inaccessible to bears,” the statement reads. “With proper attractant management the community can prevent an escalation of human-wildlife conflict.”

## Nourish your body, fuel your life

BY AMY PAWLIUK, REGISTERED NUTRITIONAL THERAPIST

If someone tells you not to do something, what do you want to do? The thing you're not supposed to do. This is why focusing on what you shouldn't eat is miserable. Feeling restricted sucks.

So how do we work around this and still improve our health? We focus on what you can add instead of what you should avoid.

Focusing on adding goodness to our diet instead of worrying about what we shouldn't have is so much easier on our mental health, self esteem and sets you up to be far more successful in the long run!

Every time you have a snack or a meal try to include something that grew, a fruit or vegetable. Simple, but very effective.

Why does this one little trick have such a big impact? A body can have its caloric needs met and exceeded very easily by eating junk food. It's nutritional needs however, vitamins, minerals, fiber, protein, healthy fats, adequate hydration, are very often left lacking if you don't intentionally support them.

When nutritional needs are not met a body will continue to send hunger cues trying to get what it is missing. This results in people who do not meet their nutritional needs over eating calories and gaining weight while STILL feeling hungry!

Eating plants serve many purposes in our bodies.

They are very nutritionally dense, they have a very high ratio of antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals compared to how many calories they have.

They provide fiber, both soluble and insoluble (your body needs both kinds) which feeds all the good bacteria in your guts, improves overall digestive health and even helps with blood sugar management, toxin removal and

hormone balance.

They help you to feel full and stay satiated longer, resulting in fewer calories consumed and better weight management.

They have a high water content helping you to stay hydrated.

Some examples of adding a plant to your meal could be as simple as serving cut up veggie sticks with that grilled cheese, or some berries with your breakfast. It does not need to be complicated.

To be very clear, juice or dried fruit/fruit leathers do not count here. The process of making it into juice has removed all the fiber and left you with all the sugars. Both dried fruit products and juices give the illusion of a healthy choice, but you will be eating the sugar of MANY pieces of fruit all at once and the load of that sugar is going to outweigh the benefits you are getting from it.

Adding more plants to your diet truly a win win situation. Your body gets the nutrients it needs to function well and help you feel good AND your brain gets to see success and feel good without feeling restricted. Small wins build on each other!

It won't take long before it is second nature. You might be surprised at how great you can feel with this one little change!

For delicious recipes that include fruits and veggies visit my website [www.wildwellnessholisticnutrition.com](http://www.wildwellnessholisticnutrition.com) under the healthy eats section.

As always, if there is a subject you would like me to cover please let me know, I would love to hear from you!

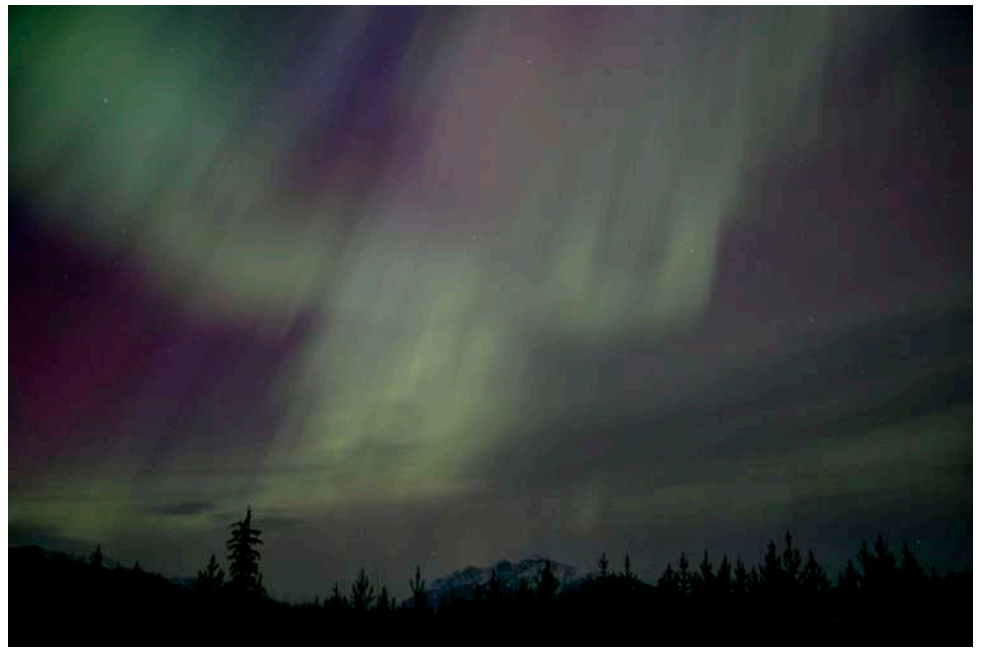
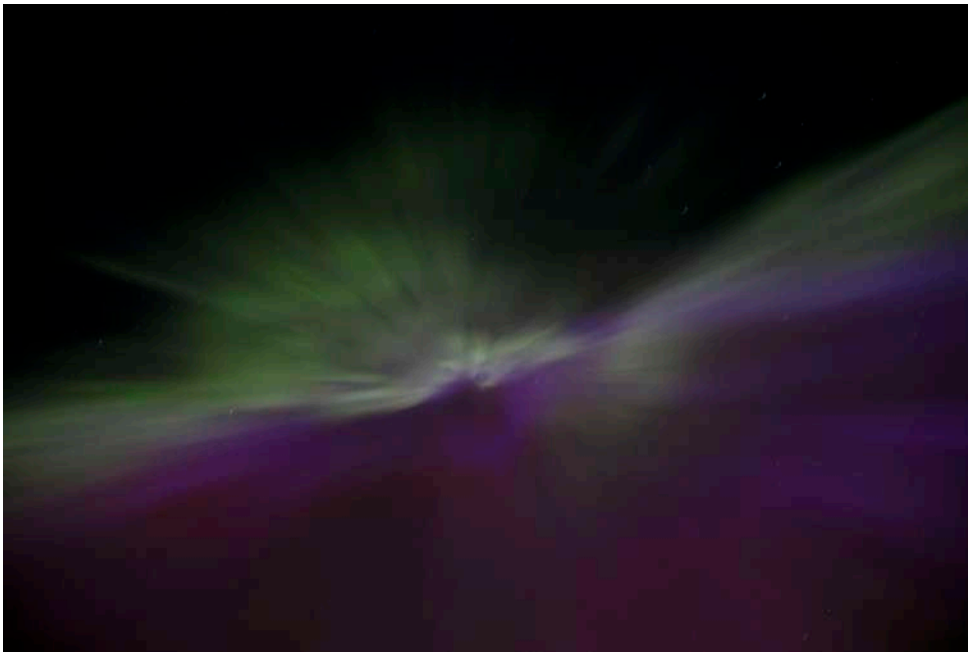
### Valemount Marina Association Annual General Meeting

May 22nd 7pm upstairs at the  
Valemount Curling Rink.

Everyone  
Welcome!







The brilliant aurora borealis display Friday March 10th washed the sky in deep pastel hues, with undulating shapes that called to mind massive angels beating their wings, celestial spotlights and portals to another world. /LAURA KEIL



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The McBride Mustangs girls volleyball team hosted a small fun tournament against a team of emergency responders and a team of mostly Mustang volleyball alumni. All who participated commented that it was a fun event. The alumni took first, the current Mustangs second, narrowly beating the emergency responders in a tiebreaker to make it to the finals.

Left: Coral leaps to defend the net as Renee tries to get the ball past her.

Right: Alumni team captain Hailey hammers the ball over the tall defensive line of the emergency responders. / PHOTOS BY JESSICA ARNOLD

## Bragging rights on the line



## “We think it’s dire” Advocates call for better mussel prevention in B.C.

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Province announced \$150,000 for its Invasive Mussel Defence Program after Quagga mussels – an invasive species that has decimated eastern waterways in recent years – were found in the Snake River, a large tributary to the Columbia River, last fall. The money for the Program is being contributed by the Columbia Basin Trust, BC Wildlife Federation, and Pacific Salmon Foundation. BC Hydro has also committed \$900,000 a year for the next five years.

Because the effects of mussel infestations are broad, long-lasting, and expensive to mitigate, prevention is crucial, sources told *The Goat*.

“At a local level, it can be quite devastating from both an environmental and economic perspective,” said Johnny Strilaeff, President and CEO of the Columbia Basin Trust. “[Quagga mussels] like to attach themselves to physical structures, so you can imagine a community’s water system becoming fouled with these tiny little mussels [...] and all the effort and cost that would be required to remove them so the water system can continue to operate.”

Jesse Zeman, Executive Director of the BC Wildlife Federation, shares Strilaeff’s concerns about a lack of preventative measures.

“We saw the Government of Canada withdraw their funding (for invasive mussel prevention), which is, quite frankly, unbelievable,” Zeman said. “So we really stepped up in supporting this because there are no take-backs with this issue. We think it’s dire, and we’re really concerned that funding for this issue is giving nothing to prevention.”

According to Zeman, mussel infestations pose deadly threats to an ecosystem – and make for unpleasant experiences for humans, too.

“We can expect beaches to be covered in mussels, so the idea of walking down a beach in bare feet is now gone,” Zeman said. “And when they die, jurisdictions have ended up with botulism outbreaks where animals that scavenge dead mussels also died.”

Jason Hwang, Chief Program Officer and Vice President, Salmon of the Pacific Salmon Foundation, also spoke to how invasive mussels harm animals in an ecosystem.

“These species come in right near the bottom of the food web and filter out microorganisms, and everything above them in the food web is impacted,” said Hwang. “You’ll have fewer fish – you don’t have fish for your local people to catch, you’ll have fewer fish for tourists to catch, and you’ll have a cascade of other effects in the ecosystem.”

While their populations grow quickly, mussels have difficulty moving upstream, according to Hwang – they’re most likely to spread into B.C. by attaching to watercraft. “We have the opportunity to prevent [mussels] from getting here,” Hwang said. “They’re unlikely to get here without humans bringing them, so let’s make sure humans don’t bring them here.”

Zeman and Strilaeff agreed on the importance of prevention, too.

“Once you have them in a large water body, you’ll never get rid of them,” Zeman said. “Your best investment is in ensuring you don’t get them in your water.”

Currently, B.C. has six mandatory watercraft inspection stations stationed along its borders with the U.S. and Alberta, and two roving inspection crews, the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship told *The Goat* in an email. All six watercraft inspection stations are expected to be operational by late May, according to the Ministry’s statement.

However, advocates say the government could be doing more than funneling money to inspection stations

“Watercraft inspection stations are not year-round – they’re seasonal, and they’re also not 24/7. And we’ve found in some communities, Valemount being a recent example,

it’s been incredibly difficult to recruit new individuals into those jobs,” Strilaeff said. “It’s not just having the funding, it’s also translating that funding into training, recruitment and actual ongoing employment.”

The Columbia Basin Trust is advocating for more comprehensive mussel prevention from the Province, and more funding from the federal government, according to Strilaeff, but he worries authorities will not be receptive.

“I wish I could say I am optimistic,” he said. “I am pleased there is conversation happening – that should be seen as a positive. I really need to see that conversation turn into tangible, collaborative action.”

### Not strict enough

Zeman said current watercraft regulations are not strict enough to protect B.C. waterways from mussels.

“From our perspective, we have two choices: one is to not allow boats to enter the province, period. The other is to ensure that every single boat that comes in is inspected and quarantined for a period of time,” Zeman said. “We need legislation that ensures that no one brings mussels into B.C. and that every single boat, watercraft, stand-up paddle board, everything gets decontaminated and is not put into our water without a waiting period.”

Like Strilaeff, Zeman is worried that provincial and federal government responses will not be adequate.

“Given the gravity of the situation, we’re not optimistic,” he said “We’ve been disappointed.”

In an email statement to *The Goat*, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans said federal funding to respond to aquatic invasive species has increased. In 2018, the Department committed to allocate \$500,000 in funding over the course of four years to research and prevent the spread of invasive mussels. In 2022, the Department committed to contribute \$3.6M over five years to its Pacific Region to hire and train Fishery Officers to enforce invasive species regulations. This February, the Department partnered with the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation to distribute up to \$540,000 to support the work of B.C.’s Invasive Mussels Defence Program. How these funds are used will be up to the Province of B.C., the Department said.

The responsibility of mussel prevention is shared by the Province and the federal government, the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship told *The Goat*.

“In 2022, B.C. was successful in securing a one-year financial contribution from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to support the IMDP (Invasive Mussel Defence Program), but the Department has not renewed funding for subsequent years,” said the Ministry’s statement. “The Province continues to raise this issue with the DFO to resume federal support for this vital program.”

Additionally, the Ministry confirmed that “pull-the-plug” and “drain and dry” legislation – which would make boats less hospitable to mussels by requiring owners to unplug and dry them prior to moving them on B.C. roads – is under consideration as the Wildlife Act is currently under review.

In any case, advocates agree that mussel prevention will take work across multiple levels of government.

“It can be easy to get into a finger-pointing situation,” Hwang said. “What we should be doing is recognizing that multiple entities have a role here, and we should be asking them to come together and collectively take responsibility to prevent this problem from happening.”



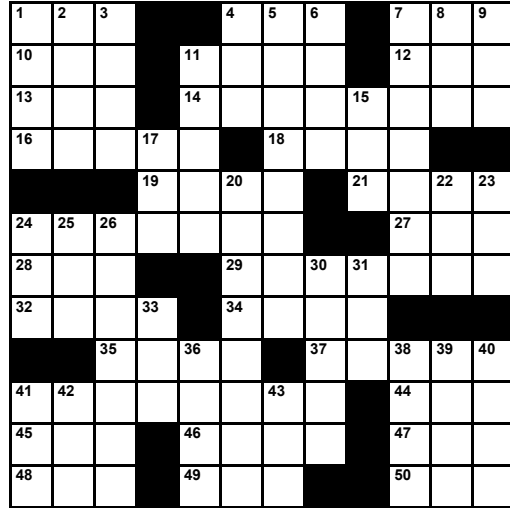
# PUZZLES



## CROSSWORD

Answers on P13

- Across**
- Dylan or Marley, first name
  - Do sums
  - Relaxing getaway
  - Notable period
  - Ruckus
  - Lamprey, e.g.
  - Light brown
  - Be reluctant
  - Pool growth
  - Copies
  - Sounded
  - Benefits
  - Absolute ruler
  - Lady deer
  - La Brea goo
  - Regard
  - Resting on
  - Eye droplet
  - Sweater eater
  - Bloodstream fluid
  - Bible figures
  - Smeltery input
  - Maze animal
  - Tract
  - Manual boat mover
  - Have a debt to
  - Place to stay the night
- Down**
- Stain
  - \_\_\_ carotene
  - Verbal
  - Gun sound
  - Picniced
  - Clash over
  - Plumber's challenge
  - Down by the beach
  - Honeybunch
  - Abbey beer
  - Shave
  - Chamomile drink
  - "The best things in life \_\_\_ free"
  - \_\_\_ lights
  - Elmer Fudd, to Bugs Bunny
  - Hardened
  - Touchdown stat
  - "Welcome" site
  - Hype
  - Mexican restaurant freebie
  - Act the snoop
  - Soda
  - Asian cuisine
  - Atmosphere



- Request
- Roll call call
- Country club figure
- Unvarnished
- Card below a jack

# HOROSCOPES

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

## A Motherly Message from the Cancer Moon

Scenes have a trajectory. When you first cross into new territory, things feel uncomfortable. Then you find your role, learn your moves, stretch into your power and are rewarded in the next phase, which is comfortable indeed. Finally, the repetition becomes so dull it's uncomfortable again. Since the most memorable parts will be the beginning and end, embrace discomfort. It's the key to having many experiences in one lifetime.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Maybe you could say why you like someone, though it would just be your brain making up reasons for what was decided by the whole of you -- body, mind and soul -- with hardly a shred of logic. This week, it's not very important why you like someone, because the relationship really depends on how you like them.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You get a sense about people, what they need, how they'd like to be acknowledged, and you deliver it, gingerly at first, just in case you're wrong. This deft but careful approach will earn you the esteem of others. Special relationships are forming inside the magic of your attention.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Emotions ebb and flow predictably, letting you know that the action and your role in it is familiar. It's an opportunity to conserve energy, but it's dangerous to be comfortable for too long. Don't wait to become bored. Start getting ready for the next opportunity -- not the one you think is coming, but the one you dreamt of when you were small.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You'll be asked questions that stir a feeling in you. Is it warm and inviting, or is it akin to what might arise in a professional interview, implying judgment? In the latter case, unless you're actually in a job interview, it behooves you to be vague, mysterious or evasive. No one is entitled to know you.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). If you think of this weight you're carrying as a burden or an obligation, it feels heavy indeed. But if you think of it as a decision, the poundage will shift. Lots of things in life are heavy and absolutely should be, the way a house should be heavy so it doesn't blow away in a storm.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It would seem that your heart is among the more precious things you could put on the line, and yet you're drawn to do it anyway. Why take the risk? Because you know the truth -- your heart looks like glass, but it's palladium microalloy glass, which is among the toughest stuff on the planet.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're tempted and you're tempting. If you can balance between the actions involved in either state, you just might make as much as you

spend regardless of the currency. This way you can experience all sides of delight, of giving and taking, and be more or less even for it at the end of the week.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes you make a game out of the fact that everyone wants something different. Many want something similar, and even then, each person has their own favorite shade and flavor. First, the fun is in guessing, and next in providing. Lastly, the fun is in being known as someone who listens and cares.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's a week of interior surprises. It's as though you've been hiding things from yourself just to feel the delight of finding what you didn't know you'd lost. You'll hear the words that make your heart sing, though you never would have guessed you needed them. You'll be acknowledged in a way that plucks just the right note.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Being hyperaware of the concerns and thoughts of others makes group work trickier for you, but also more interesting. You take more responsibility than the others do for the way things turn out, and you'll be rewarded for this with the trust people instill in you and the requisite bonding.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The social energy is strong. And since you love a mystery, you surely won't mind knowing that someone wants to know you better and yet lacks the temerity to approach. Can you guess who it is? To find out, extend kindness to all encountered, and you'll soon sense the one whose ardor surpasses their reserved facade.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Thoughts about relationships, and one in particular, will run through your mind with mighty constancy this week, accompanied by feelings that can be inconstant indeed, perhaps owing to the uncertainty of the tie. There's emotional range here, but nothing beyond what you can manage. The ride promises some excitement.

**THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:** If you're trending toward a quieter version of yourself this year, it's because you're often strategizing. It's said the smarter we get, the less we speak. When you're taking care of business, you'll be electrifying when it matters, acting with precision, expressing yourself with sharp clarity. As for your softer side, you're warmer than ever, giving affection and playfulness to your dear ones. New friends lead you to discover useful and enjoyable habits, hobbies and lifestyle enhancements.

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

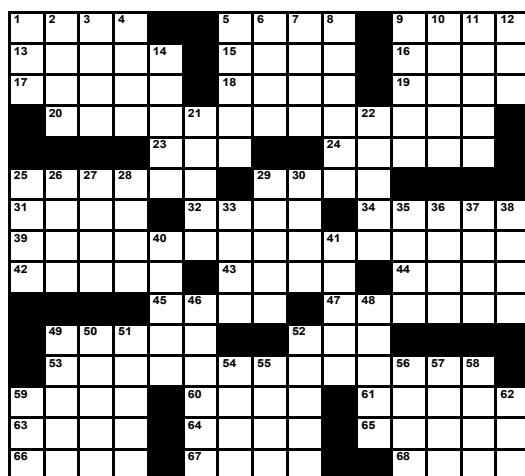
Answers on P13

# SUDOKU

### HOW TO PLAY

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

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



- Grape residue
- Actress Watson of the "Harry Potter" movies
- Card game start
- "Major \_\_\_" (1995 Damon Wayans film)
- Actress Shearer
- Makes fit for a new purpose
- Beginning
- Sweep
- Monkey
- Stuck, after "in"
- Gas used in tubes
- Bring in
- Short-billed rail
- Russian river
- Rate \_\_\_ (be perfect)
- Chinese money
- Evidence collectors
- Old hand

# The Toughie

Answers on P13

- Across**
- Heroine of Tennessee Williams's "Summer and Smoke"
  - German philosopher
  - To be, at the Louvre
  - Grumbles
  - Braggarts have big ones
  - Jones of jazz
  - Dracula, for one
  - Expose
  - Like Death Valley
  - Feign disinterest
  - High ball
  - Adorable
  - Compensate for
  - Having no cost, in Cologne
  - Landed (on)
  - Popular fashion magazine
  - Mentioned
  - Dungeons and Dragons, for example
  - 1965 march site
  - Chinese prefix
  - Big name in household humor
  - It's a long story
  - Mischievous one
  - Uninteresting
  - Programming language
  - Practise for Macbeth
  - "It's Impossible" singer
  - Rancho hand
  - Upset
  - R&B offshoot
  - Potato of the tropics
- Down**
- Onetime Jeep mfr.
  - Roller coaster feature
  - Large hammer
  - Dancer Pavlova
  - Meat on a stick
  - Thickener
  - N, on a French map
  - Fearsome fly
  - French story
  - The \_\_\_ Degrees (Motown group)
  - Country singer, Bonnie
  - Reds great Roush
  - Sauveness
  - The Ritz, for one
  - Beholden to
  - Sculls
  - Ice sheet
  - Plug
  - Hinder
  - Actor Errol
  - Chiefs' coach
  - Refuge
  - A long time

- "Keep \_\_\_ to the ground"
- Hungarian patriot Nagy
- Reach across
- Word on monuments



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1	B	O	B	4	A	D	D	7	S	P	A			
10	E	R	A	11	S	T	I	R	12	E	E	L		
13	T	A	N	14	H	E	S	I	15	T	A	T	E	
16	A	L	G	17	R	A	N	G	18	A	P	E	S	
24	E	M	P	25	P	E	R	O	R	27	D	O	E	
28	T	A	R	29	R	E	S	30	P	E	C	T		
32	A	T	O	33	T	E	A	R	34	T	E	A	R	
35	M	O	T	36	H	37	L	Y	38	M	P	H		
41	P	R	O	42	P	H	E	T	43	S	44	O	R	E
45	R	A	T	46	A	R	E	A	47	O	A	R	E	
48	O	W	E	49	I	N	N	50	D	Y	E			

### SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

### TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	A	L	M	A	4	K	A	N	T	8	E	T	11	R	E		
13	M	O	A	N	S	16	E	G	O	S	19	T	H	A	D		
17	C	O	U	N	T	20	B	A	R	E	23	A	R	I	D		
25	P	L	A	Y	28	H	A	R	D	31	T	O	G	E	T		
33	L	O	B	36	S	W	E	E	T	39	F	R	E	I			
41	O	F	F	S	E	T	44	F	R	E	I	47	N	A	M	E	D
49	A	L	I	T	52	L	L	E	55	N	A	M	E	D			
57	R	O	L	E	60	P	L	A	Y	63	I	N	G	G	A	M	E
65	S	E	L	M	A	68	I	N	D	O	71	E	R	M	A		
73	Y	A	R	N	76	A	S	C	A	L	79	A	S	C	A	L	
81	B	L	A	N	D	84	X	M	L	87	A	P	L	A	Y		
91	R	E	H	E	A	94	S	E	A	97	L	A	Y				
101	C	O	M	O	104	P	E	O	N	107	H	E	T	U	P		
111	S	O	U	L	114	A	R	O	117	A	N	E	A	R			
121	I	M	R	E	124	S	P	A	N	127	A	N	N	O			

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ROBSON  
VALLEY

# Community Events

Send us your event to [ads@goatnewsmedia.com](mailto: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

FRI's **Family Place Drop-In** is moving to FRIDAYS from 9am-noon with Cat. 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. Registration not required. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

May 17 – Sing along at Centennial Park

May 24 – Bouncy castle and tumble time

May 31 – Scavenger hunt at Centennial Park

THURS MAY 16 join the RVCS Indigenous Literacy Team for a walk around the community handing out moose hide pins and sharing in the knowledge of the Moose Hide Campaign: take action to end violence against women and children. We meet at the Valemount Elementary School for 10am and will finish around 11:30am at Centennial Park for a drumming ceremony with our local youth. For more information please contact 250-566-9107 or email [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

SAT MAY 18th Celebration of Tourism 6pm-9pm at the Best Western Plus Valemount Inn & Suites. Presentations by local representatives and dignitaries. Networking opportunities, door prize, and music! Complimentary refreshments and appetizers. Cash bar (beer and wine). Please RSVP by May 14th: [visitvalemount@gmail.com](mailto:visitvalemount@gmail.com)

SUN MAY 19th Swift Creek Chinook Salmon Send Off 12pm-2pm at George Hicks Regional Park. Activities for the family, BBQ, and vendors.

### Ongoing Valemount Events

MON through FRIs 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. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

MON through FRIs the Free Food Farm Stand and Pantry are available for anyone who would like some free, fresh produce. We accept donations of unprocessed fruits and veggies also. The stand is accessible in the front lobby at RVCS Valemount (99 Gorse St) and is available to everyone- just help yourself! Emergency top-up food is accessible to our clients and anyone who walks through the door. This initiative is supported by one-time grant funding through United Way BC. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto: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](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org) for more info or to sign up.

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.

THURS from MAY 23-JUNE 13 12:30-2pm join RVCS and

families for Sprouting Memories with our Families. We meet at the Valemount Community Garden (behind the secondary school on 201 Ash St) for social interactions and sensory exploration while planting a garden and watching it grow. This program is free, and is for ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Registration is preferred: 1-844-324-2004 or [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org) for more info or to sign up.

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## 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](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org). Upcoming themes:

May 20 – Stat Holiday: no FPDI today

May 27 – Bouncy castle fun at the RVCS play yard

WED MAY 15 seniors are invited to join us for an afternoon of collaborating to make a collage to show the passage of time in one's life. This creation will be on display over Pioneer Days at the Valley Museum in McBride. 1-4pm at 942 3rd Avenue (RVCS). No registration required for this free activity.

THURS MAY 16 join the RVCS Indigenous Literacy Team for a walk around the community handing out moose hide pins and sharing in the knowledge of the Moose Hide Campaign: take action to end violence against women and children. We meet at the McBride Centennial Elementary School for 1pm and will finish around 2:30pm at Steve Kolida Park for a drumming ceremony with our local youth. For more information please contact 250-569-2266 or email [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

WED MAY 29 - It's that time of year again! From 10:30am-12pm come join RVCS for Donkey, Donuts & Grandparents at the backyard of RVCS (942 3rd Ave). This special time is designed for elders and the animals to connect and mutually benefit from each other's company. Adults only. Brought to you by the Adult Literacy and Better at Home Seniors programs. There may be an appearance from a bunny and goats also.

More info: 1-844-324-2004 / [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

FRI June 14 **McBride 2&5km Color Fun Run/Walk/Wheel** @ 1pm at the Elementary School. 8 week training begins April 22 Contact Jodie Lukow for more information 250-230-8035.

### 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](mailto: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.

THURS – every first Thursday of each month join members for another Men's Shed McBride meeting at 942 3rd Ave at 3pm. Men's Shed aims to improve members' physical and mental health through a safe and friendly environment where men can work on meaningful projects, at their own pace and in the company of other men. We welcome a diverse and inclusive community! Email [mcbriedemenshed@gmail.com](mailto:mcbriedemenshed@gmail.com) for more info.

## BLUE RIVER

May 1st-31st It's **"May Madness"** in Blue River -- residents will be holding yard sales throughout the month! Items for sale will include furniture, antiques, and some vehicles. Call Norma at 250 673-8230 for more information

## DUNSTER

SAT May 18 11:00-1:00 p.m. **May Dunster Farmers Market** @ Dunster Community Hall. Vendors and Buskers welcome no charge. Concession available. For more information call Loretta 250-968-4453 or Pete 250-968-4334.

SAT June 29 Annual ice cream social @ Dunster Community Hall.

SAT from JULY 6-SEPT 28 Saturday Farmers' Markets @ Dunster Community Hall.

## HAVE AN EVENT?

Let us know!

CALL: 250-566-4606

EMAIL: [ads@goatnewsmedia.com](mailto:ads@goatnewsmedia.com)

Fraser Headwaters Alliance

**Annual General Meeting**

*Saturday May 25th*

*Dunster School, 1 p.m.*

Michelle Connolley, Director of Conservation North, speaks on "The Importance of Primary Forest."

AGM to follow. All are welcome!





# Kids got Talent

The McBride public schools joined forces for a spectacular 14 act Talent Show on Friday afternoon. Students from both schools as well as staff participated in the show. The auditorium at the high school was packed full with support for the performers. /PHOTOS BY ANDREA ARNOLD



Daniel strummed and sang while Jonah provided a strong beat for the song "Let it be." The audience joined in on the chorus.



Georgia, Josie and Tiana had the audience clapping along as they danced to Texas Hold 'Em.



An unidentified group of staff members performed a medley of songs with visually recognizable dance moves.



Eli performed a riveting piano solo.

# Thrifty fashion



The United Anglican Thrift Store in McBride held their annual spring tea and fashion show on Friday.

Four generations of the Lucius family participated again this year. Lined up youngest to mature left to right: Shelby, Elizabeth Trask, Rosemary Hruby and Rose Lucius.



Shirley Lirette shows off her beach ready attire, complete with sun hat, basket of goodies and wine glass. /ANDREA ARNOLD



Pretty in pink, Codi stops to spin and show of the fun potential of her dress. /ANDREA ARNOLD



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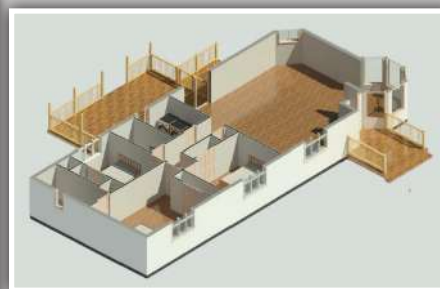
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**Books of the Week**

INDIGENOUS WISDOM  
NON-FICTION

**BRAIDING SWEETGRASS**

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer asks questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces indigenous teachings that consider plants and animals to be our oldest teachers. Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take "us on a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise" (Elizabeth Gilbert).



NON-FICTION

**THE SECRET NETWORK OF NATURE**

Master storyteller and international sensation Peter Wohlleben takes readers on a thought-provoking exploration of the vast natural systems that make life on Earth possible. In this tour of an almost unfathomable world, Wohlleben describes the fascinating interplay between animals and plants. He answers questions about how they interact and what happens when their finely tuned systems get out of sync.



GUIDE

**HOW TO FORAGE MUSHROOMS WITHOUT DYING**

With the surging interest in foraging for mushrooms, those new to the art need a reliable guide to distinguishing the safe fungi from the toxic. But for beginner foragers who just want to answer the question "Can I eat it?" Frank Hyman's expert advice and easy-to-follow guidelines assist readers in identifying which mushrooms they can safely eat and which ones they should definitely avoid.



CHILDREN

**Baby Bear**

What does Baby Bear eat when he's hungry? Follow along with this cute baby animal as it experiences its world, from playtime to bedtime. This simple, comforting story features a permanently attached plush finger puppet and peek-a-boo holes in every page, giving parents and children a fun, interactive way to play and read together. A favourite of our staff and part of an adorable series.



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