



McBride Graduation Feature

P10-15



Rocky Mountain Goat

Your weekly source of news, views and entertainment

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Valemountain Days 2025

Kids of all ages took part in the street games organized by V-Crew youth network during the Valemountain Days street party Friday. For more photos from the weekend, see P2-3. /LAURA KEIL

UNBC researchers look to install weather stations in Robson Valley

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

University of Northern BC (UNBC) researchers visited Robson Valley communities last week to share updates on the Mountain Snow Hydrology Lab, a research initiative to study mountain landscapes, glaciers and climate change. The lab has been researching the Robson Valley for the past two years with funding from the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, a research network.

Led by Joseph Shea, an associate professor in the UNBC Department of Geography, the Robson Valley project aims to collect more data about how climate change is impacting communities and their surrounding

landscapes. This work ranges from tracking landslide potential near Swift Creek in Valemount, to discussing water scarcity with residents in McBride and Dunster.

Shea’s work has taken him across the world, from the Coast mountains in western B.C. to the Himalayas in Nepal. This summer, Shea and his team are travelling to several parts of the Robson Valley – including Robson Pass and the Dominion Creek watershed – to install weather stations. This will help them better measure snow over the next several years, Shea said.

But the group’s work doesn’t end with quantitative measures – Shea says community engagement is a crucial part of what they do.

“There’s a definite long-term population of people who have been here for decades, and they are seeing the

changes,” Shea said of the Robson Valley. “They’re aware of how their garden grows this year compared to the last few decades. They’re feeling the pressures from wildfires or changes in water resources... it’s a really important source of information that, as researchers, I think it’s valuable for us to tap into.”

Shea pointed to the work of Mackenzie Ostberg, who recently defended her master’s thesis on water scarcity in the McBride and Dunster area. Ostberg used old newspaper records and spoke to dozens of locals about how drought impacts the community for her research, Shea said. That firsthand experience comes in handy for researchers, he said.

“People here tend to be very

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Valemount Days 2025

Valemount Days 2025 managed to dodge most of the rain that was forecast during the weekend festivities of June 13-15. The annual community festival went off without a hitch and included a parade that was boosted by stock cars here for the races at the Rocky Mountain Speedway. The festival kicked off with a street party Friday with live music, followed by a parade and show n shine Saturday morning. The arena was chock full of kids activities including bouncy castles, arcade games, a photo booth and Chris the Clown. Outside, was a bingo tent, softball tourney, market, dunk tank, food trucks, petting zoo, logger sports, live music, concession and more. The festival is organized by the non-profit Valemount Community Sport Days Association and takes place on the 2nd weekend of June. /LAURA KEIL



Dirk seemed pleased with the decorations to his strider as he cruised around during the Friday night street party. /LAURA KEIL



Many cars that arrived for the Rocky Mountain Speedway races last weekend took part in the Valemount Days parade before lining up at the start line. /LAURA KEIL



Local realtor Sherri Malone and friend Deb Iorns greeted parade-goers from a real estate-themed float. /LAURA KEIL



Half/Asian and Amy the CODA performed several times over the weekend, including at the Friday night street party. /LAURA KEIL

VALEMOUNT
COMMUNITY FOREST

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday July 17th 2025

6pm-8pm

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 266
970 Main St. Valemount, BC

Refreshments provided

VALEMOUNT
COMMUNITY FOREST



The local "Table of Wisdom" brought their coffee mugs outside Boshays Saturday morning to watch the Valemount Days parade. Above L-R: Bill Russell, Chris Zimmerman, Stuart McKirdy, Don Isenbecker, and Eric Keatley. /LAURA KEIL



Marcela and Quincy endorsed the cotton candy during the Street Party Friday night. /LAURA KEIL



New this year, the petting zoo allowed kids to get to know some local goats, bunnies, lambs and ponies. /LAURA KEIL



Rozina Shaw created a sidewalk mural at the skate park over the weekend. / LAURA KEIL



Local teens got their own set of wheels during the festivities thanks to District Bicycle. /LAURA KEIL



Isla Jackman gets a solid hit during the softball tournament. /LAURA KEIL



Page Norton placed 2nd in the Ironman competition during logger sports.



Kids of all ages took part in the street games organized by V-Crew youth network during the street party Friday. /LAURA KEIL



New York City paramedics Lilly Siderowf and Henry Susser tried out the crosscut saw event during logger sports. Siderowf said it took longer than she thought to saw through the log. /LAURA KEIL

Valemount Council: pension plans, water metering, plasma donation

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

Valemount Council discussed employees’ pension plans, water metering and plasma donation in northern B.C. during its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 10th.

Mayor Owen Torgerson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. After adopting the minutes of the May 27th regular meeting as well as the May 27th public hearing, Council received two delegations.

Wildfire Plan

Wildfire Coordinator Amy Edgar outlined the Community Wildfire Resiliency plan the firm is creating for the Village. The plan outlines wildfire risks in Valemount, such as overgrown forest edges near homes and poor access for first responders, and lists action items to mitigate those risks. Edgar said the most important goal was to increase public education initiatives to raise awareness of wildfire risks, and added that the Village’s FireSmart coordinator and emergency support services coordinator have already been organizing such initiatives.

Having a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan also qualifies the Village for emergency preparedness grants which can cover the cost of wildfire risk reduction projects, Edgar said.

The plan will be completed by this November, according to Edgar’s presentation.

Tourism Valemount

Executive Director of Tourism Valemount Marcie Down provided an update on the organization’s operations and its plans for the summer. While Tourism Valemount took a hit from last summer’s highway closures, as it is funded by a provincial tax on short-term accommodations and many local hotels had few bookings during the closure, staff have managed to do more with less, Down said.

Tourism Valemount took over management of the visitor information centre in January, and held the fourth annual chinook salmon release event on June 8th. Additionally, the organization recently launched the Tourism Valemount app, which can be used to promote local events and even share information during emergencies, Down said.

“I always work on what I call a first response tourism plan,” she said. “We have to be ready to move people safely, quickly and effectively.”

This summer, the organization is going to develop an interpretive centre within the visitor information centre using grant funding, Down added. Tourism Valemount will be present at the Berg Lake Trail reopening party on June 28th and at the Alpenglow trail race July 4th and 5th.

Down also announced that vALEfest, a beer-tasting festival, will be returning this September. Tickets will be on sale soon and residents should be on the lookout for more details from Tourism Valemount, she said.

Municipal Pension Plan

Council voted to repeal the Village’s municipal pension policy. Under the policy, the only employees who were considered permanent were the Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Officer and Financial Officer. All other employees were defined as temporary, meaning they had to work for a full year to be put on a pension plan, as opposed to permanent employees who were put on the plan as soon as their probation period ended.

Staff recommended repealing this policy and putting all employees on the pension plan following their probation period, to better help with staff retention.

Cemetery bylaw amendment

Council gave third reading to the Cemetery Bylaw, which has been updated to remove the section listing fees for cemetery use. Staff removed the section because all of the Village’s fees and charges are being consolidated into one Fees and Charges Bylaw.

Fees and Charges bylaw amendment

Council gave third reading to the Fees and Charges Bylaw, which now includes fees for using the cemetery and the columbarium – a place to store cremated remains – which is being built this fall. The fee for purchasing a niche in the columbarium is \$1000 for residents, and the fee for opening and closing the columbarium to store the remains is \$150. Staff benchmarked with other communities to decide on these fees, according to the staff report.

Water metering

Council received a letter from Valemount resident John Grogan, who wrote to share concerns about a universal water metering system. In May, the Village was approved for a grant which will fund meters to track water use in every home and business in Valemount. Grogan expressed concerns that the Village had not engaged with the public before deciding to implement a water metering system, and said the data collected by the meters could be leaked if the Village had a cybersecurity breach. He also said residents may be billed unfairly if their meter is inaccurate.

Grogan asked for the Village to pause rollout of the universal water metering system until public consultations are completed, asked for disclosure of how water use data will be protected and if there will be a way for concerned residents to opt out of metering.

Torgerson said Grogan raised good points in his letter. “Rest assured, we won’t be doing this quietly,” Torgerson said. “I will respond to that letter identifying potential next steps.”

Simpcw Working Group

The Valemount and Simpcw First Nation working group had a meeting on March 7th. The group will meet four times per year, as required in the Valemount-Simpcw First Nation Memorandum of Understanding.

The meeting minutes were included in Council’s reading list. Torgerson thanked councillors Pete Pearson and Hugo Mulyk, as well as Yanciw, for attending the meeting.

“It’s a great couple of meetings we’ve had so far, and

I think it’s going to be a very valuable collaboration moving forward,” Pearson said.

Plasma donation centre

During council’s May 8th meeting, Pearson made a resolution to write a letter to Canadian Blood Services in support of building a plasma donation centre in Prince George. Pearson’s resolution followed outreach from Our Blood Counts, a group of volunteers who are advocating for a plasma donation centre in northern B.C.

Canadian Blood Services vice presidents Elizabeth Stucker and Ron Vezina wrote to Pearson to say the organization has no plans to establish a plasma donation centre in Prince George. They said northern B.C. residents who would like to contribute can sign up for the national stem cell registry, register to donate tissues and organs, or make a financial donation to Canadian Blood Services.

“Although Canadian Blood Services does not operate blood or plasma donation centres in every community across Canada, we ensure that vital products are available to patients whenever and wherever they need them, including McBride and District Hospital and the University Hospital of Northern BC,” Stucker and Vezina wrote.

Pearson said he was disappointed to hear the organization is not considering a centre for northern B.C.

“The next representative of Canadian Blood Services that calls me asking for a donation will get an earful,” he joked. “I’m hoping we can keep up the good fight and encourage people to keep writing letters and making phone calls.”

For more information on Our Blood Counts, turn to our story on P8.

Public Comments

Resident Junior Osadchuk spoke about the cemetery and fees and charges bylaws council discussed earlier. He asked if a brief explanation of each bylaw could be added to the meeting agenda.

Torgerson said staff reports are available in the online version of council meeting agendas, but not in the paper copies kept in council chambers. Online council meeting agendas are available at valemount.ca, and are typically published the Friday before a meeting.

Osadchuk thanked Torgerson for his help.

In-Camera

Torgerson adjourned the open meeting of council at 7:52 p.m. Council entered a closed meeting for consideration of three items under Section 90 (1)(a)(c) and (g) of the Community Charter to discuss matters related to:

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality;
- (c) labour relations or other employee relations; and
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality.

UNBC weather stations...Cont'd from A1

resilient and independent – they want to get things done,” Shea added. “And that resourcefulness is important, but it’s also really important to have that social cohesion and social networks that small communities tend to have.”

Speaking with locals also made it easier for researchers to tailor their work for each community – for example, McBride residents may be more likely to focus on water use, while Valemount residents were concerned about geohazards like landslides near Swift Creek, according to Shea.

“It wouldn’t make sense to do a blanket approach and throw it down for the entire [valley], because there are big differences between the communities,” Shea said.

He added that his team usually gets a warm welcome from the places they visit. The group has enjoyed support from a number of locals, including Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson and Regional District representative Dannielle Alan, according to Shea. The Valemount and Dunster community forests have also voiced their support for the project, he said.

At the group’s presentation in Valemount, resident Rhondi Hurlbut, who has lived in the community for about 40 years, said she has seen snowpack dwindle during that

time.

“I’m interested in climate change, and I’ve seen big changes around here,” Hurlbut told The Goat. “I’m interested if [research projects] lead to some changes or can alleviate some of the outcomes of climate change.”

Alan Lerchs, who also attended the event in Valemount, said he attended out of an interest in earth science. He too has noticed lower snowpack over the 10 years he’s lived in the Robson Valley.

“The fact that people from the university are willing to drive out here and hang out for three hours is great,” Lerchs said.

Shea said the group’s research may not lead to solutions for climate change, but it can give some insight to how small mountain towns are being impacted.

“We’re not here to fix all the problems, it’s not something we can do. But it’s good for people to come and talk to us, and we can offer our insights, and we get insights from them as well,” he said. “It’s a two-way thing, which is really unique. And that’s why I think the research is so interesting to do.”

McBride Council: Aircraft restrictions, Rec Centre, UBCM meetings

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

McBride Council discussed BC Parks aircraft restrictions, reduced hours at the rec centre and advocating for local forest service roads during its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 10th. Mayor Gene Runtz called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

McBride Housing Society

McBride-area resident Jackie Edwards provided an update on the McBride and District Housing Society. She said the Society has chosen a plan for their Horseshoe Lake Road project which is three stories tall with 30 units. The building will have an elevator, and people with mobility issues will be given units on the main floor. The Society may have to amend its zoning application depending on if the building is taller than 50 metres, she added.

Additionally, the Society has contracted a firm to conduct geotechnical studies in the area to determine what kind of foundation they should use. The Society is preparing to apply for BC Housing's Community Housing Fund.

The Society has also created a memorandum of understanding with Robson Valley Community Services, who can help manage the building, Edwards said. She hopes this agreement will make their application to BC Housing more competitive, since the Society has previously been denied funding for not having staff with enough building management experience.

Runtz thanked Edwards for her presentation.

"We're fully in support of you, and you know that," he said.

Snowpack and hazards

University of Northern BC researcher Joseph Shea gave a presentation about his research on climate change in the Robson Valley. In the McBride area, Shea and his colleagues have been focusing on drought. He plans on installing a weather station in the Dominion Creek watershed by August, to track snowpack in the area throughout the next winter.

Shea also highlighted the research of Mackenzie Ostberg, who recently defended her master's thesis. Ostberg spoke to dozens of Dunster- and McBride-area residents about water access in the valley.

RCMP statistics

Corporal Kelly Barrie presented information on the McBride RCMP's crime statistics for the first quarter of 2025. She said there have not been significant changes in crime numbers since last year.

However, the detachment has reduced its traffic patrolling by 50 per cent, Barrie said.

"In our traffic violations and tickets, there's been a big decrease, which speaks to running with only 50 per cent of the detachment's strength for a while," Barrie said. "We're hoping to be fully staffed again come this fall."

After Barrie went over recent crime and traffic statistics, Runtz asked councillors if they had any questions for her.

Councillor Joe Kolida asked for

clarification on whether residents can smoke cannabis in public. Barrie said most municipalities have their own bylaws on the use of controlled substances in public places. She added that she is not aware of a bylaw on cannabis use in McBride, and has only encountered people smoking cannabis at big events in the village.

Councillor Tina Bennett asked if having additional traffic cameras would help the RCMP keep track of traffic violations despite being understaffed. Barrie said the cameras and dash cams do help, but the detachment will need to address its staffing issues regardless.

"When we have more people here, then it's easier to get out on the road and do more traffic enforcement," she said. "We also need to focus on calls for service [in town] and be involved in the community for other stuff as well."

Kolida asked if the RCMP would be able to patrol stop signs, as he notices lots of people do a slow roll instead of coming to a complete stop. Barrie said officers could watch stop signs around the community to make sure people come to a complete stop.

Bennett asked if crimes against property are typically done by residents or people outside the community. Barrie said most of the recent crimes have been from people passing through McBride, though last year there was a rash of vandalism from local teens.

Heli-ski business support

President of Crescent Spur Helicopter Holidays, Mark Aubrey, wrote to Council requesting they send a letter of support to the Ministry of Environment and Parks. The ministry is currently considering aircraft restrictions in parks including Bowron Lake, Ptarmigan Creek and West Twin – the three parks where Aubrey's company provides heli-skiing, heli-boarding and heli-hiking services.

According to Aubrey, the company had 12 full-time employees and contributed \$1.2M to the local economy last year. By his calculations, the aircraft restrictions could result in the loss of nearly \$2M to the local economy annually.

Aubrey added that he has consulted with wildlife biologists who say the aircraft restrictions would be of little benefit to the local caribou population.

Runtz said that during his time working in forestry, he often came across heli-skiers in high elevation areas that caribou frequented. The heli-skiers and caribou were able to coexist, he said.

"The caribou, because they were so used to these helicopters flying, 99.9 per cent of the time they didn't pay any attention," Runtz said. "These animals are not stupid. And [helicopter pilots] went out of their way not to come into the areas where [caribou] were at."

Kolida said he believes the caribou move lower into the valley during the winter when the heli-skiing business is operating. Runtz agreed and emphasized that in his experience, heli-skiers stay away from areas where caribou are found to avoid disturbing them.

"They've done that for years and years, and they're very strict about it," Runtz said. "I think we need to give them a pretty strong letter of support."

Runtz and Kolida both said the Village should continue supporting the heli-ski business after sending the letter. Council voted to write a letter of support.

Plasma donation centre

Prince George-based group Our Blood Counts is advocating for the building of a plasma donation centre in Prince George. Committee members Mark Karjaluto and Chantelle Messier wrote to McBride Council requesting that they write a letter to Canadian Blood Services expressing support for a donation centre in Prince George.

Council passed a resolution to provide a letter of support.

For more information on Our Blood Counts, read our story on P8.

Rec Centre hours

The Robson Valley Recreation Centre is operating with reduced hours through August. The centre used to be open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., but now will only be open Monday-Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and closed on statutory holidays. Additionally, the centre is open in the evenings Monday-Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Local physician Jessica Burian wrote an email about the reduced hours to the regional district's CAO, Chris Calder, and cc'd Runtz. The centre's gym is especially important during summer, when people need a cool place with clean air to exercise, Burian said. She also said a lack of amenities could cause residents to leave for larger municipalities.

"I believe that if the broader implications of reduced services – such as the potential loss of essential professionals and long-term impacts on community vitality – were more clearly communicated, many residents would be open to a modest increase in taxes," Burian wrote.

CAO Jeanette McDougall said she has spoken with Calder from the regional district. Calder suggested closing the centre for one month out of the year, which would give time for staff to take a vacation and for the regional district to do maintenance on the building. However, the regional district has not decided if it will do this, and Calder said he is open to alternatives, according to McDougall.

Councillor Tina Bennett suggested using key fobs which would allow access to the gym after hours. Kolida said recreation centre staff are often doing tasks away from the gym anyways, and a key fob system could replace the sign-in sheet for the gym since each key would have an identifying number that would track who entered the gym.

Frear said he was concerned that the key fob system would result in people staying in the gym overnight, but Kolida said the system may not allow 24/7 access, just let people use the gym later in the evening.

Runtz thanked Bennett for her suggestion.

Bennett asked how staff choose which letters and emails are put on the council's agenda under the "Reports for Information" section. She said a resident had recently sent an email to council about selling some items from their property on Main Street, but this email was not included in the agenda.

McDougall said she has been in touch with that resident discussing the permitted uses of their property. She said council cannot make a decision on the issue until staff have determined if selling items is permitted on the property.

Tax rates bylaw

Council gave first, second and third reading to an updated 2025 Tax Rates Bylaw. While Council had previously approved the 2025 Tax Rates Bylaw during its May 8th meeting, staff later realized that the bylaw had inaccurate tax rate calculations because the numbers had been drawn from the wrong spreadsheet. However, tax notices sent to residents had the correct numbers, according to the staff report.

"There was a clerical error made for the calculations that were included in the original tax rate bylaw," McDougall told councillors. "But the tax notices are accurate and I checked with legal and our procedure here to correct is perfectly fine."

Council will consider adopting the corrected bylaw during the June 24th regular meeting. According to the staff report, the errors will not impact the 2025-2029 Five Year Financial Plan, which also had to be adopted by May 15th.

UBCM meetings

McBride councillors and staff will attend the Union of BC Municipalities' (UBCM) Annual General Meeting in September. The meeting also allows municipal representatives to meet with officials from the provincial government – for example, last year McBride councillors met with the Ministry of Forests to discuss forest service roads, among other ministries.

McDougall asked councillors to send her suggestions for other meetings they'd like by June 18th, so that she can submit requests to the meeting organizers on time. Frear said he would like to meet with the Ministry of Tourism to discuss reopening forest service roads which provide access to several outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and hiking.

The Ministry of Forests has not made progress on re-opening the Dore River Forest Service Road, Frear said, but he hopes the Ministry of Tourism will be more helpful. Kolida and Runtz agreed, but added that they will continue to discuss the issue with the Ministry of Forests in the meantime.

Kolida said he'd also like to speak with the Ministry of Transportation about affordable gravel for the Village to use on its roads, and the Ministry of Health about getting more equipment for the hospital.

McDougall said she will draft a staff report based on councillor's suggestions, and council can review and approve the requested meetings during the June 24th regular meeting.

Kolida suggested getting in touch with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to see if they could have some joint meetings with provincial officials. Bennett agreed and said they could contact the District of Mackenzie as well, because she knows a councillor there who successfully convinced the Ministry of Forests not to decommission a local bridge.

Runtz said he will try to add an item about teaming up for UBCM meetings on the agenda for the next Regional District board meeting.

In-camera

Runtz adjourned the open session of council at 7:13 p.m.

Dunster Station Museum opens for the 2025 season



Dunster Station Museum celebrated its season opener Sunday, June 15th, with music, face painting, free demonstrations and registration for their upcoming season of workshops. Curator Pedro Garcia Conde Trelles examines a box of artifacts brought in by a community member (top left), while explaining his passion for the museum. “What are people trying to do in making a museum? [A] museum is not about collecting things. It’s about who you are, where you come from, your culture.”

Trelles is excited about a new project, a series of field trips, with which he aims to “bring down the walls to the museum.”

The project invites participants on visits to the homes of 5 of Dunster’s many exceptional residents, such as artist Lyuba Milne, who Trelles says exhibits internationally, or Deb Cochrane for her biodynamic agriculture. The visits require registration and will take place on certain Saturdays after the farmer’s market, from 2pm to 4pm. /PHOTOS BY RACHEL FRASER



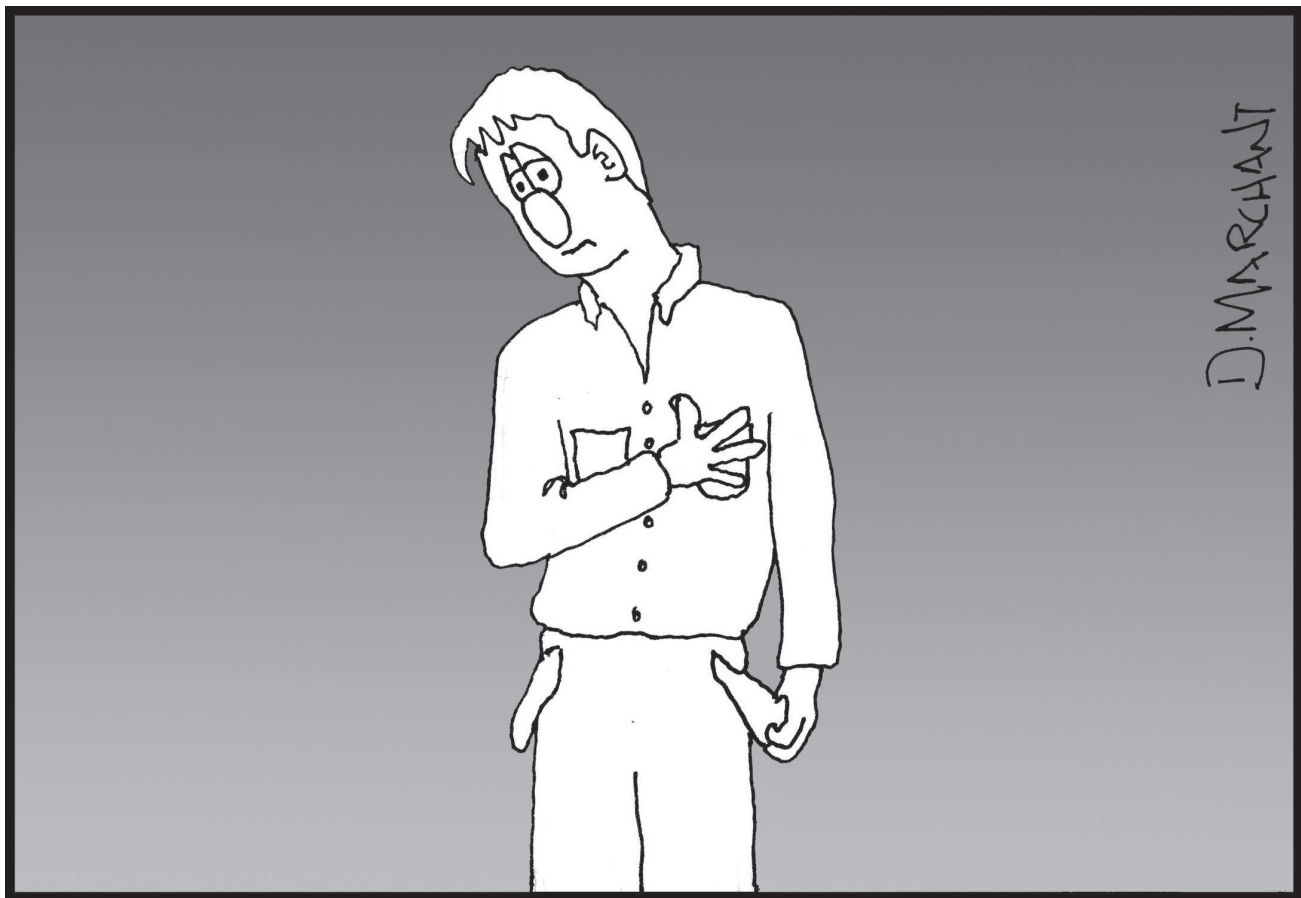
Valerie, 12, watches Heather Zahn apply a henna “tattoo” to Petra Herstik’s arm. /RACHEL FRASER



Trelles (R) directs participants in a hand drum demonstration. R-L: Petra Herstik, Nancy Taylor, Glenda Thompson, Coral Garcia Conde Trelles.



Dan Read shows how to break an attacker’s hold in a Hapkido demonstration. R-L: Petra Herstik, Dan Read, Pedro Garcia Conde Trelles, Glenda Thompson, Valerie – 12, Izario – 3, Zavion – 6, Skysia – 9 months, Yann Assemat.



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Canada has become a two-party nation..and it is sad.

The biggest disappointment of the recent Federal election did not lay in who did or did not win a minority government mandate, but rather who disappeared from Canada's electoral map. While it would be easy to tune out the rhetoric about staying for a pension at the expense of his party's future, it is impossible not to lay the decline of the NDP's federal relevance at the feet of Jagmeet Singh. I believe that, whilst Singh made the mistake of being far too much of a front-and-center personality leader, (trying to out-Trudeau Trudeau) his real misstep was far more tactical. There has always been a card played by Canada's federal Liberal Party. It goes something like this "a vote for the NDP is a vote for the Conservatives."

Whilst this can be true in very exact circumstances, so what? By embracing the role as Canada's permanently-junior leftist party, Singh took the NDP down a path that only led to doom. So how to get out of it?

To be concise, the NDP has to stop selling itself as a left-of-center party. Now this may seem incredulous, but both Jake Layton and Thomas Mulcair took the NDP to the cusp of forming government, and both were publicly adamant that the Liberal Party were not the natural allies of the NDP and the Conservatives were not the natural enemies. Both managed to flirt with the line of being both the leftist populist party promising college kids far-leftists progressivism whilst turning around and telling their blue-collar trade union members that they were

also the party of massive public infrastructure spending. What would it look like to get back there?

First, any new NDP leader must realize that they can either be the party of "free stuff for everyone", or the party of organized labour. They cannot be both. Why? Well to put it simply, trade and labour union membership is rapidly declining. Let's ask why? Why did people organize and join unions in the past? Simply put, better wages and family benefits packages...especially dental. So what happens when the NDP offers free dental for everyone, cheap college, increased pension payments, and a rapid increase in minimum wages? Basically the NDP kicks the legs out from under the very unionized workers that formed the party in the first place. Why bother with unions when all those benefits are a universal birth rite? And this reasoning is not theoretical. There is a paradox, the nations with the highest starting wages in the world tend to be places like Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland etc... None of these nations even have a legal minimum wage. What they do have are very efficient and well-organized trade and labour unions and reasonable restrictions on immigration to ensure wage deflation does not occur.

And this is the hard choice the NDP must make now. Will the NDP return to being primarily a labour union federal party? A party that believes in seniority, paying dues and earning your benefits and wage? Or will they continue to try and out-liberal the Liberal Party

by offering free benefits, high minimum wages, easy citizenship, and free education for the entire world at the expense of the blue-collar Canadian tax-payer worker?

Basically, will the NDP try to expand union membership by expanding the public sector at the expense of the trade union tax payer, or will they go back to trying to expand union membership in the labour and trade unions via massive infrastructure project spending and approval? Whoever decides to take the wheel will have to make the decision fast. Despite his election promises of a great moderation pivot, Prime Minister Carney has literally just bumped Trudeau's cabinet of leftists radicals to another term. And the only reason why Pierre Poilievre is still leader of the Conservative Party is because he managed to stage an outright coup of Canada's organized union vote.

What is shaping up in Canada post-NDP is more like the US where there are only two real parties, and "the rust belt", or in Canada the "trade and labour unions", hold the balance of power in every single election. It will no longer be unionized versus non unionized, rather industrial unions versus public sector unions, or tax generators versus tax benefactors. And our political discourse will continue to become just as polarized and toxic as it is in the US.

Cheers
Joseph Nusse

Global Thoughts

Netanyahu's Wars

BY GWYNNE DYER



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

Israel's war with Iran is definitely the war that Prime Minister Binyamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu has wanted all along, but he may have bitten off more than he can chew.

In the past three months Israel has bombed Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and now Iran. It has an open-ended war involving tens of thousands of Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip, and a lower-intensity counter-insurgency war in the occupied West Bank that also soaks up lots of Israeli troops. And now it is also at war with Iran, a country of 90 million people.

This is less of a burden on the 7.5 million Jewish Israelis than it would seem, since geography decrees that the wars with Iran and Yemen do not require ground troops. (Neither country has a land border with Israel.) However, the air wars will hurt Israel's population and damage its infrastructure, and its reservist soldiers are already exhausted by twenty months of war.

Netanyahu has declared that Iran is on the brink of getting nuclear weapons half a dozen times in the past twenty years, always in the hope that he could get the US military to do the heavy lifting in a war to 'disarm' it. And each time, after the US president of the day

declined to do so, the Iranian 'threat' magically receded – only to be revived for the next president.

Bibi made some headway with Trump in his first term, convincing the latter that he should pull out of the treaty putting strict controls on Tehran's nuclear activities that Barack Obama had signed with Iran in 2015. But it turned out that Trump wasn't up for an actual war with Iran; he was just on a mission to destroy all the achievements of his predecessor.

Initially Netanyahu thought that he was making more headway with Trump 2.0, but The Donald's promises are as empty as his threats; by May he was negotiating with Iran for a thinly disguised return to the treaty he had cancelled in 2018.

At this point Netanyahu took the decision he had probably always promised himself never to make: he gave the order to attack Iran without a guarantee of full American support.

True to form, Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that "The U.S. had nothing to do with the attack on Iran tonight." That may not be strictly true, in the sense that he certainly must have known Netanyahu's plans, but it's accurate in the sense that he did not approve

of them. Indeed, Bibi was deliberately preempting a possible revival of the 2018 treaty.

The reality is that Netanyahu has broken his lifelong rule and attacked Iran without Washington's full support because he cannot bear to miss this opportunity to attack his enemies when they are all far weaker than ever before. He cannot actually lose this war he has begun with Iran, but he may find it almost impossible to end in a satisfactory manner.

There are three problems for which he has no apparent solution. One is that he lacks the specialised bombs that would enable him to destroy the Iranian centrifuges, labs and enriched uranium that are buried deep inside mountainsides. Trump would have to give them to him.

The second is that Trump is extremely petty and vindictive when defied or 'disrespected'. If he decides that he no longer wants to deal with Netanyahu, he holds such power over the country's fate that a different prime minister would be found to replace him.

Finally, Iran has a 'nuclear option' that has nothing whatever to do with nuclear weapons. It can cut the world's oil supply by 20% and cause a global recession simply by closing the Strait of Hormuz. And a recession is what Donald Trump fears above all else.



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Advocacy for plasma donation in northern B.C. continues

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

Prince George-based advocacy group Our Blood Counts is continuing its mission to get a plasma donation centre in northern B.C.

Canadian Blood Services – the charity that collects blood, plasma and organ and tissue donations throughout the country – shut down its Prince George donor centre in 2015, leaving northern B.C. residents with no way to donate blood at a nearby centre.

“We’re trying... to point out to Canadian Blood Services that we want to work with you, we want to help you. While many of us are doing what they ask – to sign up for organ and tissue donation on their website – we’re saying that we can do more.”

- Mark Karjaluo, Our Blood Counts

With most of B.C.’s blood and plasma donation centres clustered in the lower mainland, except for one plasma donation centre in Kelowna, Our Blood Counts decided to start a petition for a plasma donation centre in Prince George last year. To date, the petition has amassed over 1600 signatures, according to committee member Mark Karjaluo.

Recently, the group began reaching out to municipal governments in the region – including Valemount and McBride. During a May 8th meeting, Valemount Councillor Pete Pearson moved to write a letter of support for Our Blood Counts. McBride Council received a letter from Our Blood Counts for information during its June 10th meeting.

This strategy helps build support from throughout the region, rather than just Prince George, Karjaluo says. People from outlying communities often travel to the city

for healthcare, school or other services, so they should be included in the population Canadian Blood Services considers when discussing where to build donation centres.

“What we’re trying to illustrate is that there are any number of communities in the northern interior that act in a very close relationship with Prince George,” Karjaluo said. “We’re trying to point out that this isn’t just a Prince George thing, it’s a regional thing.”

Reaching out to municipalities has proven fruitful for the organization – according to Karjaluo, their petition got about 100 more signatures after Quesnel City Council discussed a letter from Our Blood Counts. The petition gains a little more traction every time local officials discuss the need for a plasma donor centre, he said.

On top of that, the North Central Local Government Association – an advocacy group for elected officials in northern B.C. – endorsed supporting Our Blood Counts during their annual convention last month.

So far, Canadian Blood Services has not changed its position that Prince George does not have a large enough population to support a plasma donor centre. In a letter to Valemount Council, vice presidents of Canadian Blood Services Elizabeth Stucker and Ron Vezina said the charity does not have plans to establish a donor centre in Prince George.

“We review our national collections plans on an annual basis,” Stucker and Vezina wrote. “Our review considers a number of factors including labour and transportation costs, the distance and access to the nearest production site, and the need to operate an efficient blood system.”

They added that they are confident that the current collections system meets the demand for blood and plasma donations.

There are many ways to support Canadian Blood Services aside from donating plasma, Stucker and Vezina said. They pointed to financial donations or registering to become an organ or tissue donor as a way to support the charity from anywhere in Canada.

Karjaluo agrees that people can and should support Canadian Blood Services however they can, but says Our Blood Counts will continue to advocate for a plasma donor centre in Prince George. In the meantime, he encourages people to donate blood or plasma when they visit cities this summer, and to mention the lack of a northern B.C. donation centre while they’re donating.

“We’re trying... to point out to Canadian Blood Services that we want to work with you, we want to help you,” Karjaluo added. “While many of us are doing what they ask – to sign up for organ and tissue donation on their website – we’re saying that we can do more.”

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Bylaw Enforcement Officer (Part-time, Permanent): 3 days/week, with stat holidays off, additional requirements on occasion. There will be some flexibility in determining the specific workdays. \$30-34/hour.

Bylaw competition closes at 4pm, Sunday, June 22. For complete job description and more information, visit [valemount.ca](#) > Village Office > Job Postings.

Outdoor Water Use Restrictions: Stage 1 in Effect Stage 1 Water Restrictions are in effect until Sept. 30, unless drought conditions or other factors (e.g. fire suppression) necessitate further restrictions. Find Water Regulation Bylaw 822 at [valemount.ca](#) > Village Office > Bylaws > Bylaws & Policies Directory.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT As per Section 98 of the Community Charter, a council must prepare an Annual Report and present it at a public meeting by June 30 annually. At the public meeting, Council must accept public submissions and questions. The Annual Report is available for public inspection at [valemount.ca](#), and at the Village Office. It will be presented at the Regular Council Meeting, 7pm, June 24, Valemount Council Chambers.

Voyent Alert! The Village uses Voyent Alert! to notify residents and businesses during emergency events like fire or flood.

Mobile devices: Install the Voyent Alert! app from Apple or Google Play app stores.

Email, text, voice call: register online at [register.voyent-alert.com](#).

Wildfire season is upon us, registration is free; make sure you are registered today.

Museum Open for Summer Open daily from 10am to 5pm (last admission is 4:30pm). Visit us at 1090-B Main Street. Admission is by donation!

2025 Property Taxes Tax Notices for 2025 have been mailed out. If you have not received your notice, contact the village office.

Remember to apply for the Home Owner Grant **every year**: go to a Service BC Centre, call 1-888-355-2700, or apply online at [www.gov.bc.ca](#). When you apply you will need:

- Your Social Insurance Number,
- Valemount’s Jurisdiction code: 584, and
- Your Roll Number (top left corner of your tax notice). Roll numbers are entered as 8 digits with a decimal between the first 5 and last 3 digits. You might need to add 0s at the beginning, e.g.: 00123.456.

Unpaid property taxes become taxes in arrears after December 31 of the year they were imposed; interest then starts to accrue. One year later, taxes and accrued interest that are still unpaid become delinquent. A property with delinquent taxes is subject to tax sale if those taxes are unpaid by the statutory tax sale date (last Monday of each September).

If your property taxes are currently delinquent and you are at risk of facing a tax sale, please contact the Village Office at 250-566-4435 to discuss options.

Canada Post Strike: Plan Ahead

- Postal service and financial institution practices affect when funds are delivered to the Village and may result in a penalty
- Non-receipt of tax notice does NOT excuse property owner from payment
- Post marks are NOT considered date of payment
- Property taxes not paid by due date receive a 10% penalty
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- Penalty is mandated by Provincial legislation: councils do not have discretion to waive or reduce
- Accepted forms of payment that do not rely on the mail: in-person (cash, cheque, debit), bill payment, credit card (via [valemount.ca](#)), and e-transfer to [dof@valemount.ca](#)

Village Office Hours The Village Office is open Monday to Friday, except statutory holidays. Hours: 8:45am to 12:30pm & 1:30pm to 4:15pm.

FireSmart Fuel Management Project: 13th Ave The Municipality is collaborating with BC Wildfire Service to complete a phased fuel management project on Village property along 13th Ave.

Primary work will involve thinning and spacing younger conifer trees, pruning branches up to 3 meters from the ground, and removing dead trees and woody debris. Fuel management projects play a crucial role in wildfire risk reduction by removing combustible materials, which makes wildfire less likely to start in the first place, and fires that do occur significantly easier for response crews to manage.


As Valemount is in a High Smoke Sensitivity Zone, woody debris will be chipped and transported off-site for disposal. We will be hosting a community event at the worksite—see below!

FireSmart Events

June to October: find us at the Thursday **Farmer’s Markets**, sharing FireSmart information and giving away promotional materials. The local FireSmart Coordinator will be on hand to introduce the **Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan**, chat about its process and goals, and invite residents to provide local knowledge, concerns, and feedback. Come by and learn about what you can do to make your home and community resilient to wildfire.

June 25, Community FireSmart Family Outdoor Event: Join us at the VOV Fuel Management Project worksite on 13th Ave for a family friendly event including prizes. Come learn about wildfire risk reduction within our community, activities currently underway, and what you can do to reduce the risk of wildfire to your property. Time and more details TBA—check [valemount.ca](#) and Facebook for updates!

Contact Valemount’s FireSmart Coordinator, Michel Woodman, at [fsc@valemount.ca](#), and visit [valemount.ca](#) > Services > Emergency Management > Wildfire Preparedness & FireSmart for updates and resources.



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Photo challenge gives a “peak” into the past

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Climbers who plan on snapping scenic photos of their trips in Jasper, Banff and Yoho this summer may be able to contribute to more than just their Instagram grids. The Mountain Legacy Project – an archival research group at the University of Victoria – and the athletic association Alpine Club of Canada are asking recreational climbers to recreate any of nine decades-old photos of glaciers organizers have selected for their 2025 Repeat Photography Challenge.

Participants can use their GPS to find the exact spot where the photos were taken, and take a photo with their phone camera using the instructions at <https://tinyurl.com/5ymre68f> – no fancy equipment required. The idea is to give an accessible way for climbers and mountaineers to participate in citizen science, and to give researchers valuable points of reference on how mountain landscapes have changed, said Sonia Voicescu, a Ph.D. candidate and Mountain Legacy Project researcher.

“There’s still a lot of places we haven’t been to because they’re really hard to access – we don’t have the climbing expertise that some other people might have,” Voicescu said. “For people that are travelling to those places anyway... it would help us because we would get the repeat photographs, and hopefully it would be a valuable experience for people to do that and experience the [landscape] changes.”

She added that the project was the idea of Mary Sanseverino, a senior researcher at the Mountain Legacy Project and active member of the Alpine Club of Canada. Sanseverino was not available for an interview by press time.

Landscape changes happen at a literal glacial pace, but comparing current and past photos can give clues about how decades of gradual changes affect mountain ecosystems, says Voicescu.

“Normally when you think of a photograph, you think of this static piece that’s not moving, that’s immobile,” Voicescu said. “But when you do the repeat [photo] and then you put them side by side, you immediately have this impression of movement and change.”

Landscape changes don’t boil down to one explanation, according to Voicescu. The Mountain Legacy Project has students researching a variety of topics like floods, forestry practices, climate change and mining, among others, all of which can change mountain landscapes. Drawing on an extensive archive of photos – to date, the project has over 100,000 – can give clues about what the biggest factors are in each area and help inform policy changes, Voicescu said.

“If you’re somebody from Parks Canada, and you’re thinking about how we plan for the fire season in the next 20 or 30 years, you can use the information from these images and the analysis the group does to guide you,” she said.

The Mountain Legacy Project has previously held similar repeat photo challenges, but they were in more accessible locations, according to Voicescu. She hopes the new locations will appeal to climbers looking for a challenge.

“It’s nice that we’ll be able to tap into that resource and hopefully have this meaningful two-way project where everybody benefits from it,” Voicescu added.

Citizen Science

To help promote the challenge, the Mountain Legacy Project partnered with the Alpine Club, who is sharing information about how to participate with its members. The club will feature winning photos at its annual Summit Shaker party this October in Canmore, said Director of Marketing and Communications Keith Haberl.



One of the nine locations for the repeat photography challenge is Sunwapta Peak in Jasper – post-wildfire trail conditions permitting. In 1919, land surveyors A.O. Wheeler and Alan Campbell took the photo as part of the Interprovincial Boundary Survey for Alberta and B.C. /COURTESY MOUNTAIN LEGACY PROJECT

“At that event, we’ll be taking some of the winning images and blowing them up, posterboarding them side-by-side for people to see at the party,” he said. “We have some cool [Alpine Club] prizes, including tickets to the party itself.”

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2025 to be the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation, Haberl added – making this a fitting summer for the club to help contribute to glacier research.

“This is a citizen science mission to the Alpine Club,” Haberl said. “A lot of the stuff we do isn’t business, it isn’t something that we make money off of – we just do it because we believe in mountain science, mountain culture, or mountain safety initiatives. This is one part of our commitment to raising awareness during the UN Year of Glaciers’ Preservation.”

The Mountain Legacy Project and the Alpine Club of Canada frequently work together since part of the club’s mission is to preserve and protect mountain ecosystems, Haberl added.

While people climb mountains for a variety of reasons, from adrenaline rushes to bragging rights, Haberl said he hopes club members and other recreational climbers will take the opportunity to participate in research that can help preserve mountain ecosystems.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity to give back,” Haberl said of the challenge. “Somebody who can say, ‘That little bit that I did made my day in the mountains more valuable to me... that’s who we’re talking to.’”

Voicescu agreed that the challenge is meant to give climbers a meaningful way to contribute to important research.

“Raising awareness of what’s happening in mountain ecosystems and with glaciers is a really important key point,” she said. “We’ll be able to have a record of those changes, and that could serve for another research project. Another student in a year or two will have something to work with. It’s really a win-win.”

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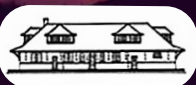
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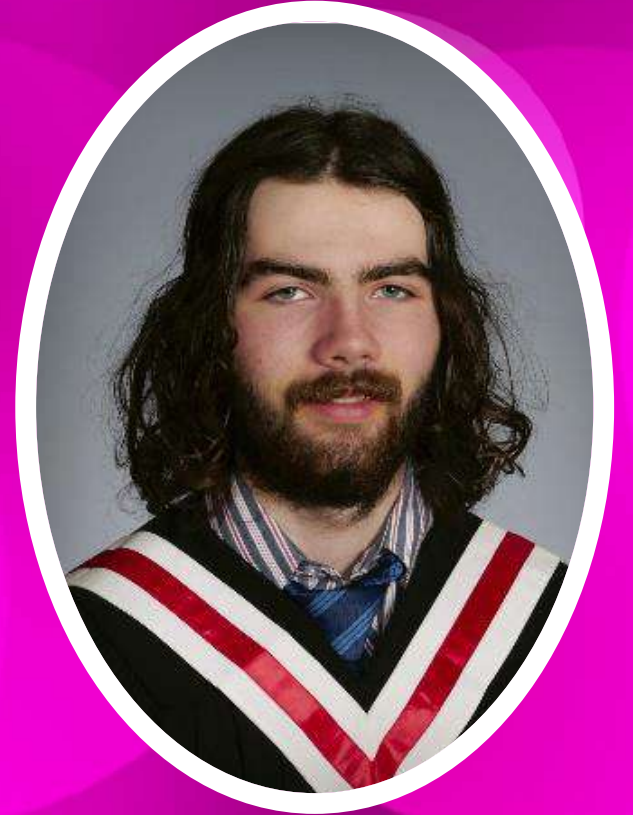


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Colour fun run



Camden and Aziz navigate through a cloud of colour. Aziz was the first person to finish the 10km course.



Elle was so excited as she made her way through the colour stations, creating a more colourful shirt with each blast of powder.



Eva adds a blast of green to her colour covered t-shirt

The second annual Colour Fun Run was held in McBride on Friday June 13th. Once again, the streets were filled with participants completing either a 1km, 5km or 10km course while being sprayed by coloured powder at several businesses along the way. The wet weather did not appear to dampen spirits as runners of all ages took to the streets. / JESSICA ARNOLD



Kayden enjoyed his first colour run experience.



Mother and daughter duo Morgan and Meadow were all smiles as they dodged rain drops and coloured powder.



Sawyer manned the colour station outside Integris Insurance.

Remembering Ray Flavelle

SUBMITTED BY THE VALEMOUNT ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY

The Valemount Entertainment Society (VES) and Valemount Community TV (VCTV) are saddened to learn of the recent passing of Ray Flavelle, a former president of VES and one of the society’s founding members.

Ray began his involvement in bringing television to the community with the original Valemount TV Committee, an ad hoc group formed when television was first brought into Valemount via satellite in 1978. He was elected as the inaugural President of VES when it was incorporated as a society in December 1987 and oversaw the creation of



Former VES President Ray Flavelle tells the story of one January day in the 1970s, where a quick change in weather created some serious problems.
/EVAN MATTHEWS

VCTV in 1989. Ray served on the VES Board of Directors until 2000. He returned to VES in 2017 to help celebrate the society’s 30th anniversary and to share stories of his involvement with the origin of television in Valemount.

The Valemount Entertainment Society extends its sincerest condolences to the Flavelle family.

Christine Torgerson, President
Valemount Entertainment Society



Former president Ray Flavelle cuts the cake. “Big pieces for everyone?”
/EVAN MATTHEWS

VCTV and the Valemount Entertainment Society celebrate milestone birthdays

BY EVAN MATTHEWS

Editor’s note: *This story first appeared in The Goat in 2017. We are running it once more this issue in memory of Ray Flavelle, former Valemount Entertainment Society president and one of the society’s founding members.*

From cable TV piracy to long trips up Canoe Mountain in extreme weather, the Valemount Entertainment Society (VES) and Community Television Station (VCTV) have pretty much seen it all.

On Thursday, Apr. 27th, 2017 roughly 25 people gathered in the Community Service Building’s classroom to celebrate the 25th and 30th birthdays, respectively, of VCTV and VES.

Past and present presidents, station managers, bookkeepers, board members and community members gathered around to share stories from the past, vision for the future and thanks.

Gary Forman, who advocated for Valemount television prior to the forming of VES, told the story of community members spending \$35,000 on a satellite dish to rebroadcast programming from afar.

In the 1960s, CBC was the only channel available in Valemount.

But in 1978, four or five people ” including Gary Forman and Ed Landry ” went around the community and raised the \$35,000 to pay for the satellite, and Valemount had its very own local rebroadcast for the first time.

“We were so TV starved up here, it was ridiculous,” says Forman, noting that using the satellite for rebroadcast was actually “pirating the signal.”

“Taking the signal wasn’t the problem, but the CRTC didn’t want anyone to rebroadcast without a license, which wasn’t going to happen.

“So we decided, ‘lets just do it anyway,’” he says, adding Valemount was only the second community in B.C. to get such a satellite, but many other communities including Logan Lake, Clinton and a couple others quickly followed suit.

At the time, people told Forman he could go to jail for ignoring the CRTC.

“You know what, the whole Village is involved,” Forman said at the time. “They’ll have to put us all in jail.”

After being hounded by the CRTC for the better part of a decade, locals formed VES in 1987 and Valemount went legitimate.

Over the years, VES and VCTV have faced more than just legal challenges, as extreme weather often caused technical issues, too.

Former VES President Ray Flavelle says the original broadcast antennas were way up on Canoe Mountain and maintaining them would create challenges, describing one “interesting” January day.

“It was a very nice day when we left, but it soon turned out to be not so nice,” says Flavelle, recalling he went up with a colleague on a Bombardier machine.

After making it to the antennas and knocking off all of the ice, preventing any type of effective transmission.

They turned around to come back down, he says, but the snowmobile’s rubber track came off. “We spent three and a half hours up on the mountain in the blowing snow trying to get this track back on,” Flavelle said. “We ended up having to cut down a tree to pry the track back on the sled.”

Current VCTV Station Manager Gord Peters also thanked everyone for coming out, and said a few words on behalf of the current operation.

“It’s fun to know you’re standing on the shoulders of pioneers or pirates,” says Peters, jokingly.

“It just shows you what a group of committed people can do when they’re told there are no options. They say, ‘Okay, we’ll just do it ourselves and we’ll make it work,’” he says.

Community television stations are rare at this point, and VCTV is one of only seven remaining in English-speaking Canada. The station rebroadcasts eight channels, plus radio stations, and is run by VES, which is a tax-funded organization.

The regional district provides funding to VES via a tax assessment of \$29.11 per \$100,000 of assessed property value annually (\$2.43 monthly), which helps to fund and operate VCTV, too.

After watching VCTV’s 2016 Year in Review, Flavelle stood with VES board member Laura Keil to cut the cake.

“Big pieces for everyone, right?” he asked, laughing.

VES’ past presidents include Ray Flavelle, Tom Fish, Cindy Mitchell, Pat Bennett, Dan Kenkel and Darryl Polyk.

Founding members of VES include Karen Anderson, Melvin Ballard, Nick Balon, Chuck Barnes, Ralph Bauer, Bob Beeson, Willis Blackman, Don Burkhardt, Robert Chouinard, Ray Flavelle, Glen A. Cullium, Steve Froescul, Dave Gee, Evelyn Hart, Stanley Hovde, Paul Johnson, Randy Kerik, Alfred Larochelle, Ralph Lebars, David Maclean, Jack Neale, R. Nancekivell, Jim Petrie, Ron Recchi, Gerald Ross, Gordon Still and Arnold Wied.

Secondary school students show off at “Valemount-a-palooza”

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

Dozens of Valemount parents, teachers and residents packed into the halls of Valemount Secondary School last Wednesday to attend the school’s first-ever Valemount-a-palooza. The event brought together secondary school students to show off projects they were proud of, from paintings to poster boards with end-of-year reflections.

The idea sprung from the typical end of year art and music show the school presents, said music teacher Peter Takach. He was discussing the show with art teacher Jory Wong, who suggested expanding it to include other subjects. Soon, teachers for science classes, cooking and wood shop came on board, among others.

“Everyone was on board with it,” Takach told The Goat. “The staff was really pumped to work together... it’s always good to have people in the school to celebrate.”

The event gave a unique opportunity for both parents and residents who don’t have school-aged children to support the work of secondary school students, Takach added. Typically, people find out what students are up to through parent-teacher conferences or watching performing arts events – this gives a chance to see a more holistic view of what the students work on in school, he said.

"We work really hard to provide relevant opportunities for students to make products, presentations and experiences they can share with each other. And that’s where I think we get a lot of our best learning done, when we’re excited and working towards something.”

- Peter Takach, music teacher at VSS

Students were excited to present their projects, according to Takach.

“There was a lot of great energy in the halls as everyone was setting up ... before the day of the Valemount-a-palooza,” he said. “I had some students getting very excited for next year and starting to think ahead.”

Takach added that turnout to the event was higher than expected. While staff haven’t decided if they’ll host another event next year, he said teachers enjoyed the evening and he hopes to make it an annual event.

“I think this is an important part of what we do here at the school. This stuff isn’t just for marks to be thrown away once you’re done,” he said. “We work really hard to provide relevant opportunities for students to make products, presentations and experiences they can share with each other. And that’s where I think we get a lot of our best learning done, when we’re excited and working towards something.”



Parents, students and community members alike gathered at the Valemount Secondary School to look at students’ artwork, science projects and sample their food last Thursday. The event was a success and staff hope to host similar events in the future, said teacher Peter Takach. /ABIGAIL POPPLE

SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE *Public Interest Disclosure Act*

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act* is British Columbia’s whistleblower protection legislation for current and former public sector employees.

Learn more and submit your input by Aug 1, 2025 via **bcleg.ca/consultations** or scan the QR code.

Or call: 250-356-2933
Toll-free: 1-877-428-8337



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Special Committee to Review the
Public Interest Disclosure Act

ROBSON VALLEY & AREA

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

THUR June 19: Join us for the Baby Blossoms program, held one day a month, designed to provide parents with essential knowledge and practical skills to support their infant's development during the first three years. Each month, we focus on a specific aspect of infant care. 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM at the RVCS office in Valemount, 1444 5th Avenue. June's Topic: Breast feeding basics with Bernita Nesjan – Public Health Resource Nurse. For caregivers of children aged 0–3 years who want to learn more about breastfeeding techniques, benefits, and available resources. Whether you're expecting, just starting out, or looking for guidance, this session offers valuable insights and a chance to connect with other caregivers. All are welcome!

FRI June 20: Join us in Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day with a special screening of short films from the National Film Board of Canada at the RVCS Office in Valemount, 1444 5th Avenue June 20th, 2025 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, there will be refreshments provided. Everyone is Welcome! No registration required, this program is brought to you by the Indigenous Literacy Program.

THUR June 26: Join us for a Rock Painting Workshop, on Thursday, June 26th, 2025, from 1:00-3:00 PM at the RVCS office in Valemount, 1444 5rd Avenue, for an afternoon of artistic expression and fun. Let your imagination run wild as you transform ordinary rocks into colorful, unique masterpieces. Whether you're a seasoned artist or just looking to explore a new hobby, this workshop is for everyone! All supplies are included—just bring yourself and your creativity. Let's get those artistic juices flowing—come paint, connect, and create!

SAT June 28th Berg Lake Trail Grand re-opening celebration 10am-2pm at the Berg Lake trailhead.

TUE July 1st Canada Day Festivities TBA.

SAT July 5th Celebrating Yellowhead Helicopter's 50th Anniversary and supporting RCL Branch 266 with 12 minute heli tours of Mt. Robson and our valley. \$80 per person. Contact 250-566-1115 for details.

July 18-21 Children of Autumn creative educators workshop at Wellspring Sanctuary. Learn interactive teaching techniques to build children's connection to nature. More info at [childrenofautumn.com](#)

Ongoing Valemount

Pancake Breakfast - Sundays
Pancake breakfast at the Valemount Legion Sundays 8 to 10:30a.m. By donation!

Cribbage - Mondays
Join us every Monday at the Golden Years Lodge for a game of cribbage! 1 PM. All welcome.

Drop-in pickleball - Sun, Tues, Thurs
Drop-in pickleball at the Community Hall at noon Sundays, and 8:30am Tuesdays and Thursday.

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

Personal Tech Help - by appointment
Hosted by the Learning Centre Need help with your ipad, tablet, phone or computer? Schedule your one-on-one appointment 250-566-4601 or email learn@valemountlearningcentre.org

Old-time Music - Wednesdays
Oldtimers band and music night at Golden Years Lodge in Valemount 7 PM every Wednesday. All welcome! Play music, listen or dance.

Valemount Coffee House - Thursdays
Free Drop-In/Coffee House at the Golden Years Lodge the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month 10 AM -2 PM. It's open to everyone regardless of your age. If you currently have mobility issues, call CARE-A-VAN 778-915-8550 for a ride.

Virtual Fitness Classes at Peak Physio:
Barre workouts Tuesday mornings at 7am
Cardio Kickboxing Thursday mornings 7am
We are adding yoga Monday nights at 7:15pm
Above workouts are taught by a virtual instructor but held in our quaint gym space. Limited to 6 participants - pre-registration is advised. Kickboxing limited to 4 people. \$10 per session. Sign up online at www.peakphysiotherapy.janeapp.com or call/text 2650-566-4650

In-Person Fitness Classes at Peak Physio:
High-intensity circuit training Tuesdays 7-8pm and Wednesdays 9-10am. Low-intensity circuit training Fridays 9-10am or Sundays 10-11am. Instructor Laura Smith. Sign up online at www.peakphysiotherapy.janeapp.com

Legion dinner and music nights - Fridays
Dinner at the Valemount Legion 5:30 followed by music at 7 PM every Friday. Music varies by week and includes open mic, karaoke, jam sessions and special events. ON HOLD UNTIL MID-JUNE.

Family Place Drop In Program - Fridays
If you have questions, are looking for parenting resources, or just need to chat, you can join us in person 9 AM-noon every Friday in Valemount at 1444 5th Ave. Our weekly targeted programming is a great way for kids ages 0-6 (with their caregivers) to play, connect, explore, and learn!

June 20 – Watercolor Painting
June 27 – Puppets & Rhymes

The Valemount Seed Library Mon-Fri
The seed library is available in our lobby during business hours at RVCS Valemount (1444 5th Avenue). Office hours: Monday 10 AM -6 PM and Tuesday to Thursday 8 am-4 pm. 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.

The Free Food Farm Stand & Pantry Mon-Fri
The stand and pantry are available for anyone who would like some free, fresh produce. We also accept donations of unprocessed fruits and veggies. The stand is accessible in the front lobby at RVCS Valemount (1444 5th Avenue) 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 info, call 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

McBride

THUR June 19: Join Axis Family Resources for an Information Session on **Becoming a Foster Parent**. Are you ready to make a meaningful difference in a child's life? Whether you're interested in full-time foster care or part-time respite and relief roles, Axis Family Resources invites you to learn more about how you can support children and families in our community. The Information sessions will be held at the RVCS office in McBride, 1444 5th Ave, June 19th, 2025. at 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Come explore the rewarding journey of fostering and how you can help improve the availability of these vital supports in our valley. Light snacks, coffee, and tea will be provided. No registration required.

FRI June 20: Join us in Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day. We will be playing a series of short movies through the National Film Board of Canada at the RVCS Office in McBride, 943 3rd Avenue June 20th, 2025 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, there will be refreshments provided. Everyone is Welcome! No registration required, this program is brought to you by the Indigenous Literacy Program.

SAT June 21 1st Annual McBride Show & Shine and Family Fun Day In conjunction with the upcoming BC DragiT Challenge at the McBride Airport on Sunday, June 22, 2025, this FREE inaugural, annual event will feature a Show and Shine, BBQ, Live Music, Children's Activities and more! Steve Kolida Park, McBride

10am-3pm. Everyone welcome! Contact: Chuck Rollinson at chuckrollinson@msn.com to register your car for the Show and Shine or for more information.

SUN June 22 June 22 The BC DragiT Challenge is a 5-day event where street legal racers drive to four race locations in communities across BC. The 2025 drag and drive event will culminate at McBride's Charlie Leake Airfield on Sunday, June 22 2025, where over 100 racers will be timed on the airport runway! McBride's Airport (Charlie Leake Field) Gates open at 8:00am, Racing starts at 9:00am. Fee: \$10 per person (children under 13 FREE). BBQ: Provided by McBride Elks and Royal Purple During the BC DragiT event, all racers are required to drive the whole event with only their car and no support vehicle. The BC DragiT Challenge is the ultimate stamina test for race cars and drivers! Race organizers are thrilled to be heading to McBride in 2025 and thank Village Council and staff, Chuck Rollinson, Elks and Royal Purple and others for getting involved to support this event.

MON June 30: Join us from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at the RVCS office in McBride, 942 3rd Avenue, for a special **Canada Day recognition event**. We'll be screening the NFB of Canada Film Shining Mountains-The Ancient Ones at 942 3rd Avenue, McBride RVCS. This breathtaking film explores the deep history and sacred connection between people and the majestic Rocky Mountains — a landscape that surrounds McBride and shapes our identity. Featuring stunning cinematography and rich storytelling, this documentary invites you on a journey through time, unveiling the stories etched into the peaks and valleys of this ancient land. Let's come together to reflect, connect, and celebrate Canada Day a little early — through the lens of nature, history, and community.

TUE July 1st Canada Day Festivities TBA.

WED July 2nd Free Legal Advice at the library
2:00 pm Hosted via zoom by former Dunster resident, Jesse Stamm, Barrister and Solicitor, Bsc. Bsc. These private sessions will be held in the meeting room at the McBride Library. This service is first come first serve, to the maximum of 15 minutes per person. Please arrive promptly if you wish to speak to Jesse, as he will end the call if there is no one waiting to speak to him.

SAT July 5th 1:30 – 3:30 An introduction to chain mail! Come join Jeff for an afternoon of creativity at the library. All supplies provided. Ages 12 and up. Registration is required. Please call 250-569-2411 to reserve a spot.

Ongoing McBride

MONs Family Place Drop In Program If you have questions, are looking for parenting resources, or just need to chat, you can join us in person 9 am-noon every Wednesday in McBride. Our weekly targeted programming is a great way for kids ages 0-6 (with their caregivers) to play, connect, explore, and learn!

June 18 – Messy Sensory play
June 25 – Indigenous Puppet show with Lamia from Indigenous Literacy

MON's Starting MAR 10: Join our workshop, How To Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk, a seven week program from 7 PM to 8 PM at the McBride Secondary School, 1300 2nd Ave. Learning these skills sets everyone up for success, fostering a harmonious and supportive environment for both you and your children. All supplies and workbooks will be provided. Enhance your communication skills and create a positive impact on your child's development. Registration is required, please contact the office to reserve your spot.

TUES ASL Sign Language Club 3:00-3:30 Basics & 3:30-4:30 Beyond Basics @ the McBride E-Free Church. Great for families, friends and cognitive brain stimulation. Contact Lonnie 250-569-7657

Dungeons & Dragons - Tuesdays
For ages 12-18, the classic fantasy storytelling

game. Join us on Tuesdays 3:30-6pm, McBride Library. Bring D&D dice if you have them!

Children's Learning Series - Tuesdays 3:00pm starting with a story and snack, each week library staff will host activities under the umbrella of a variety of themes. Geared to ages 9-12. Please call 250-569-2411 or stop in to register children. More info on the website library@mcbridebc.org. April 1 is Games Galore, April 8 is an art collage, April 15 is the viewing and discussing the ground breaking animation techniques in Spider-Man Across the Spider-Verse (families welcome).

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

Fibre Artists - Wednesdays
On Wednesdays the McBride Library host the Fibre Artists' group 10 AM-12 PM: come knit, sew or crochet with us! Beginners welcome. Online option available. Call the library 250 569 2411.

Book Clubs for Adults - Thursdays
The McBride Library holds two monthly book discussion clubs for adults Thursday afternoons 1:30 PM. Call 250 569 2411 for info.

Sunshine Stories - Thursdays
10:30-11 AM Thursdays. An early literacy program for children ages 0-5 and caregivers. Songs, rhymes, stories and fun! In partnership with Decoda Literacy.

McBride Community Market - Fridays
Starts Friday June 20 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm in the pavilion at Steve Kolida Park. Bring your own table. Space rent is \$10.00 per week. The sale of high risk foods requires a permit from Northern Health. For further information contact Jackie Edwards at 250 569 7101 jackie.c.edwards@gmail.com

Writing Group - Fridays
Writing Group for adults meets every Friday afternoon at the McBride library 1:30-3 PM. We tend to chat for the first 30 mins about what we are working on, then we sit silently for an hour to write. Writers are working on a range of things – novels, memoirs, poems, short stories, dissertations. Join us!

New Games Cafe Night – Fridays 6pm
Meet up with others to enjoy board and card games. Suitable for casual players looking for a fun night out to hardcore strategists who love a challenge. Staff are happy to introduce new games at this time.

Free Food Pantry Mon-Thurs
Free food pantry at McBride RVCS (942 3rd Ave) that's available to all! Emergency top-up food is accessible to our clients and anyone who walks through the door. We share and accept donated foods that are safe and fresh for use. This project is made possible thanks to grant funding from United Way of BC and the residents of the Robson Valley! Contact RVCS at 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org. The local Food Bank is also available: 250-569-3186.

Dunster

SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd CANCELLED - 8x8 AUCTION & YARD SALE.

Sat. June 28th the annual Dunster Ice Cream Social! 7pm-11pm. All you can eat dessert buffet!

AUGUST 1-3rd DUNSTER SCHOOL REUNION! 50+ years of students, teachers, parents, and community members who have participated in the Dunster School in any capacity, come and celebrate this historic place over the weekend! All welcome. More details coming soon!

PUZZLES



CROSSWORD

Answers on P21

Across

- 1. Top of the house
- 5. Escort's offering
- 8. Vandalize
- 11. Mouth related
- 12. Way through
- 13. Look at
- 14. Existed
- 15. Not on
- 16. Managed
- 17. Snob of a sort
- 20. Continued
- 23. Taxpayer's worry
- 26. ___-time low
- 27. Two hours before mid-night
- 29. No way
- 30. Mistake
- 32. Polka ___
- 34. Hit the jackpot
- 35. Varieties
- 37. Injures
- 39. Certain software down-loads
- 41. Put into practice
- 43. Toaster's choice
- 44. Blade side
- 48. Part of a price
- 49. Animal's coat

Down

- 50. Disaster
- 51. Speak
- 52. Lawyer's charge
- 53. Email, e.g.
- 1. Brouhaha
- 2. Iron in a seam
- 3. Galley tool
- 4. Swift
- 5. Evaded
- 6. Break
- 7. "GoodFellas" group
- 8. Rapid decline
- 9. Pro vote
- 10. Sunset colour
- 18. Tennis court decision
- 19. Natural heat pro-vider
- 20. Survive
- 21. Friend in a conflict
- 22. Smooth like an eel
- 24. Tune player
- 25. Counting method
- 28. Middle of ___ (remote place)
- 31. Vegetable that rolls
- 33. Shoe part
- 36. Personnel

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
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30			31		32		33		34		
35				36		37		38			
			39		40						
41	42			43				44	45	46	47
48				49				50			
51				52				53			

- 38. Subscribers
- 40. Hint
- 41. Kind of truck
- 42. Mediterranean, for example
- 45. Rightful
- 46. Triumphant card game cry
- 47. Conclude

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

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 P21

The Toughie

Answers on P21

Across

- 1. Motivates
- 7. Hotel chain
- 11. Musical items
- 14. Disney's chronicles
- 15. The Everly Brothers composition
- 16. Tic-tac-toe win
- 17. Hard effort
- 20. Intimidate, with "out"
- 21. Betwix
- 22. Dumbo's likeable trait
- 23. Sermon basis
- 25. Tip-off
- 27. Billboard features
- 30. Chiselled
- 32. Throw gently
- 35. Con
- 38. Stingless bee
- 40. Toils as diligently as others
- 43. Separately
- 44. Thermal, nuclear and electrical
- 45. Article in France-Soir
- 46. Irks
- 49. Bawl
- 50. Ancient Roman garment
- 51. "Hey!"
- 54. Cross-country and Alpine
- 57. Singer Fitzgerald
- 59. Shinbone
- 63. Spare no effort on getting something done
- 66. Prefix with lateral
- 67. Simpsons' character
- 68. Request sweetener
- 69. Bell and Kettle
- 70. Damon of "Good Will Hunting"

Hunting"

- 71. Confer

Down

- 1. P.D. figure
- 2. Carnivores' mouths
- 3. Quarry
- 4. Create, as a statute
- 5. Willowy
- 6. Brazilian city with Paulo
- 7. Former Kardashian spouse Lamar
- 8. 2005 Steven Spielberg film
- 9. Tease
- 10. "___ Not Unusual"
- 11. Cat of 'Iron Chef America'
- 12. Portal of opportunity, perhaps
- 13. Propagates
- 18. Make stout
- 19. "Moves like a butterfly, stings like a ___"
- 24. Prefix with phobia
- 26. Milk dispenser
- 27. Dismay in London
- 28. Peach or cherry
- 29. "___ Marner"
- 31. Manitoba natives
- 32. Scientific rather than artistic mode of thought
- 33. "___ Majesty's Secret Service"

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14							15					16		
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54	55	56			57		58		59		60	61	62	
63				64					65					
66				67					68					
69				70					71					

Service"

- 34. "Heavens to ___!"
- 36. Camera inits.
- 37. Prefix meaning bone
- 39. Fix
- 41. Attack verbally
- 42. Dampens
- 47. Menu
- 48. Scout's quest
- 50. Sound of reproach
- 52. Subway entrance
- 53. Mahjong pieces
- 54. Had had a dip
- 55. Hawaii's ___ Coast

56. Eye section for color

- 58. Future J.D.'s hurdle
- 60. Marine vessel
- 61. Assuming that's true
- 62. Three or four
- 64. Original manufacturer's equipment, abbr.
- 65. All Points Bulletin, for short



BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mars in Virgo, the Sign of Health

The Mars change this week is a call to health, prevention and the care needed to either avoid or handle whatever is off-kilter. Wellness isn't lofty -- it's maintenance and tending to the basics: water, rest, balance. Consider that your irritations, frustrations and discomforts are also your cure. Pain is a gift because it tells the truth. It's the body's alarm system, the soul's signal flare, the psyche's protest -- the wound becomes the work. The ache becomes the art.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your social landscape is changing. This is a key moment to make sure things grow in a good direction. Don't rush into new relationships. Getting to the true character of a person takes time, so let the days do their work. Meanwhile, consider updating your rules about who gets to be in your world, favoring those who listen, remember and reflect who.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Just because something is part of the established order doesn't mean it's good or has earned its place. You'll notice what's off, what's not working and what's in truly poor taste. And maybe you won't complain, because that would be a bad look. You criticize in the most effective way there is -- you make something better.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're feeling hyper-conscious of a certain relationship and your place in it, the rhythms in play, the closeness and the spaces. This week, everything you are doing feels like a part of a broader strategy. Even when you disappear, your absence is part of the plan. When you return, it's with choreography.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've often changed in a way that made sense, but this week's adjustments come with a touch of thrilling unpredictability, and touches of the wild, the mad and the beautiful. Reserve the big decisions for another time. This week is for taking the ride and giving yourself over in sheer trust as life lifts you into a dream.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The challenge is steep. Some approach stoically, others passionately, and both can work. Try not to judge anyone, certainly not yourself. There are calm people who struggle, and chaotic ones who succeed -- no way is more correct. This week, there's room for it all, including experimentation, regiment, wildness, overwhelm, rest, recovery and victory.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Remember when you were unhappy but couldn't pinpoint the source? This week will bring the opposite experience. You'll often be happy for no reason. Do you really need one? Just go with it. There will also be a chance to take your work to a new location, charm a fresh audience or present an offering to a receptive and perfect fit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Whether you were appointed to your position, you appointed

yourself, or you made the position up entirely, you're there for a reason. The authority is in you. It's sitting in a deep place at your very center, just waiting for you to tap into it. Every time you do, you'll make excellent decisions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't settle for a relationship in which someone merely says the right things. They need to also show up consistently for you. Also, if you feel guilt and confusion after interacting with someone, it's not a fit. Steering away from that dynamic where your needs aren't met will point you in a direction where they will be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When the scene is less than ideal, you don't run from it -- you get busy sorting it out instead. This will happen at a slow pace this week, similar to the pace in which a gentle river carves the land. And even though patience isn't your strong suit, you'll effectively align yourself to the flow of nature. "Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." -- Lao Tzu

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You admit what you don't know -- in fact, you make a practice of it, because wondering makes you a better person. This week, your happiness will depend upon where you point your curious mind. Genuine creativity will be yours to wield. You'll defy trends, act on epiphanies, play wildcards and create breakthroughs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). No time for strategizing? That's OK. You still have your own response to life, and that's enough. Your wisdom is born not from plotting or controlling the action but from being bravely present and sensing the pivotal moment. No chance for refinements? It doesn't matter in the least. You'll take heart, send it off and stick the landing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). No one could have predicted you'd be right where you are now, not even you. You're led by complex internal logic, and you interpret life in a truly original way. Someone sees you and gets you -- you needn't explain a thing. They embrace your contradictions, emotions, heart, mind, soul and all. It's among the best feelings in the world.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: You'll be struck by inspiration -- and live inside it. The momentum you build this season becomes unstoppable. You'll make things happen with your words, your timing, your ability to listen deeply and act decisively. More highlights: travel where the views are breathtaking, committing to the endeavors and relationships that give back to you in both expected and unexpected ways, and a well-earned prize that begins your journey to mastery. You'll later teach and give the same prize to many others.



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11	O	R	A	L	12	V	I	A	13	E	Y	E	
14	W	E	R	E	15	O	F	F	16	L	E	D	
17	E	L	I	T	18	I	S	T	19				
20	L	A	S	T	21	E	D	22	A	U	D	23	I
24	A	L	L	T	25	E	N	26	N	O	P	E	
27	S	L	I	P	28	D	O	29	T	30	W	O	N
31	T	Y	P	E	32	S	33	W	O	34	U	N	D
35	P	A	T	36	C	H	E	37	S				
38	U	S	E	39	A	L	E	40	D	41	G	42	E
43	P	E	R	44	F	U	R	45	R	46	U	I	N
47	S	A	Y	48	F	E	E	49	S	50	E	N	D

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	I	M	P	E	L	S	7	O	M	N	I	11	C	D	13	S
14	N	A	R	N	I	A	15	D	U	E	T	16	O	O	O	
17	S	W	E	A	T	O	18	F	O	N	E	S	19	B	R	O
20	P	S	Y	C	H	21	A	M	I	D	22	E	A	R	S	
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28	P	R	I	S	29	O	N	E	R	30	D	R	O	N	E	
31	P	U	L	L	S	O	N	E	32	S	W	E	I	G	H	T
33	A	P	A	R	T	34	E	N	E	R	G	I	E	S		
35	L	E	S	36	E	A	T	S	A	T	37	C	R	Y		
38	T	O	G	A	39	P	S	40	T							
41	S	K	I	S	42	E	L	L	A	43	T	I	B	44	I	A
45	W	O	R	K	46	O	N	E	S	47	A	I	L	48	O	F
49	U	N	I	50	E	D	N	A	51	P	L	E	A	52	S	E
53	M	A	S	54	M	A	T	55	B	E	S	T	56	O	W	

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Wild Mountain Music Festival returning next month

By PETER SHOKEIR, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A rockin’ music festival will be showcasing Alberta artists just outside Jasper’s east gate from July 18 to 20.

The headliners this year for the Wild Mountain Music Festival are Doc Walker, Jason McCoy, Michelle Wright and Bahamas. The festival will feature over a dozen other musicians, many of them new and upcoming.

“We try to be pretty diverse and include everybody,” said Lisa Barrett, one of the festival’s organizers. “First, we try to get Alberta artists so that we can support our own province, and then if we can’t fill it up with that, we kind of broaden out, but we try to make it as many Canadian artists as possible.”

The festival features various genres of music and showcases Indigenous musicians. This year, Nèhiyaw singer/songwriter Wyatt C. Lewis from Calgary will be attending.

First held in 2008, Wild Mountain has become a popular festival known for its scenic outdoor setting in the Rock Mountain Foothills. The festival is held on the Entrance

Ranch down Highway 40.

“We use the field for camping, and then we have vendors and all that food,” Barrett said. “Very family friendly. My kids have been going since they were little, and I don’t worry about them. Just have a great time.”

Most of the festival goers come from nearby Hinton, but Barrett noted she does see plenty of unfamiliar faces each year.

“Not a lot of people stop in Hinton; they go straight to Jasper,” she said. “So, it kind of helps Hinton out as well as Jasper.”

She described the vibe of the festival as “super family friendly” and “very chill, mellow,” with the weather good most of the time.

“Honestly, it’s always a good time,” she said.

The festival will also include vendors, a beer tent, yoga in the morning and a kids’ tent and performers. Barrett added how the festival is 100-per-cent volunteer-based.

More information is available on Wild Mountain’s website, and tickets are available at Eventbrite.

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The FOM(s) have been prepared in accordance with the Forest and Range Practices Act and describe areas planned for Cutting Permit and Road Permit development within the next three years.

The public may provide comments on the FOM(s) at any point during the review and comment period, which starts **June 12, 2025** and ends **July 12, 2025**.

The FOM(s) is accessible for public review and comment submissions online at the following website address: <https://fom.nrs.gov.bc.ca/public/projects#publicNotice>

Alternatively, In-person review and comment of FOM(s) can be completed, by appointment to ensure a Valemount Community Forest woodlands staff member will be available, at the following locations during regular office hours (9:00 am to 3:00 pm): **3300 Highway 5 South, Valemount, BC V0E2Z0**

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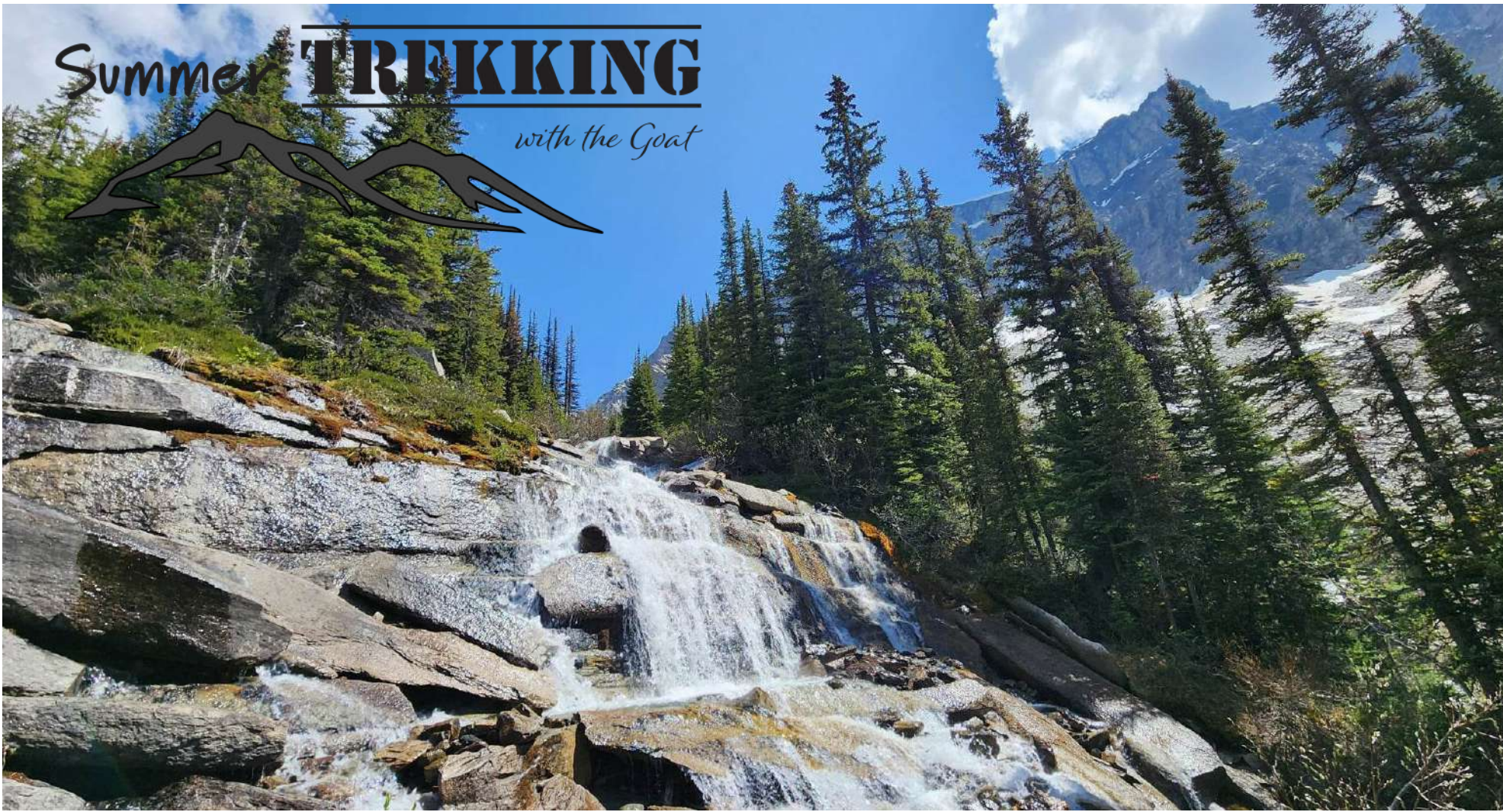
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Summer TREKKING

with the Goat

Teepee Creek trail traverses through wet alpine lands and waterfalls big and small. /LAURA KEIL

Top 5 waterfall trails in the Valemount area

By LAURA KEIL

Valemount and the surrounding area has some spectacular waterfalls, some easily accessible, others more difficult to reach. Here are my favourites.

Hawaii, BC (Aloha trail)

Distance/Elevation: 600m distance, 100m elevation to the main ridge viewpoint.

Best parts: Lush forest, stunning waterfalls cascading down the mountain, waterfall mist, and great photo opps.

Trail description: The route ascends through a slide area, meandering through thickets of slide alder before emerging onto a rocky look-out with views of glacier-fed waterfalls and Kinbasket Lake. Two rope-assisted routes also descend to the base of the waterfalls. Watch out for: stinging nettle, bears, slippery wet rocks & drop-offs near the base of the falls

Trailhead coordinates: The trailhead is about 20 feet prior to the 15km marker on the West Canoe Forest Service Road. This is an active logging road so heed all signs and warnings!

Teepee Creek (Mt. Terry Fox lower route)

Distance/Elevation: 12km return, 840m elevation to the lake

Best parts: the Teepee Lake trail opens onto some truly stunning vistas, and traverses through wet alpine lands and waterfalls big and small. The waterfalls and rocky peaks jutting up from the narrow valley are two of this trail's best features. Other features include the wildflowers that bloom here in spring, and the berries that ripen in late summer.

Trail description: The trails offer a there-and-back option, as well as a Big Rock/Lower Teepee Lake Loop with a return trip distance of 13 km and a total elevation gain of 950m. From the Big Rock trail, hikers can access the upper portion of the old Terry Fox trail and reach the peak where a monument to Terry Fox is placed. The myriad water features along this trail include underground streams that flow just below the surface of the tree roots in the forest. Reaching the sub-alpine just prior to the lake took us about three hours, with two hours to descend the mountain.

Trailhead Coordinates: Head towards the old Terry Fox trailhead, then instead of going to the old parking lot, take the fork to the right that says Teepee Creek. Follow the road up to the trailhead (at one point, there will be a sharp U-turn to the left).

Lily Meadows (Bulldog Creek)

Distance/Elevation: 8.4 km return, elevation 800m

Best Parts: Stunning view of Kinbasket from the top of a waterfall! Alpine flowers (yellow lilies from late-June to early July), meadows, huge bluffs, alpine lakes.

Trail description: Once you cross the alpine meadow and reach the lake, you can follow the lake west where the water flows down a cliff. The waterfall isn't huge, and nimble hikers can stand next to where it drops and get an unparalleled view of the Kinbasket Lake valley. The descent gets tricky from here; it is very steep and you have to pick your way down another rockslide just beyond the waterfall. Route finding is also a problem and it's easy to lose your way if you veer from the creek. The descent follows Horse Creek closely until it meets up with the old better-tread trail. A GPS device is useful here. Visit hikevalemount.com to download the GPS track.

Trailhead Coordinates: 52.666797°, -118.974782°

Rearguard Falls (leashed dogs ok)

Distance/Elevation: 400m return, elevation 30m

Best parts: From the viewing platform, you can stand at the top of a massive waterfall on the upper Fraser River!

Trail description: hard packed wide trail, occasional soggy spots, a few steeper sections. Viewing platform has a ramp for

those who can't do stairs.

Trailhead coordinates: 52.975191°, -119.363978°

Overlander Falls (leashed dogs ok)

Distance/Elevation: 600m, 5km

Best parts: Views of the Fraser River canyon & Overlander falls; historic sites.

Trail description: This is a gentle hike with two different routes to the falls. The longer trail follows the Fraser River and gives way to several beautiful views of the canyon below. You'll also discover the historic Hogan's Cabin along this trail. On the longer trail there are some narrow sections that drop off steeply and would not be good for someone with a severe fear of heights.

Trailhead coordinates: (1st parking) 53.031226°, -119.208004°; (2nd parking) 53.028177°, -119.230594°

For more info on these and other trails visit the Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association website hikevalemount.com



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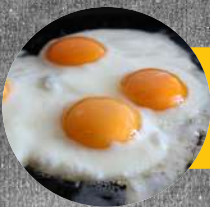
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