

VCF petition urging for transparency presented

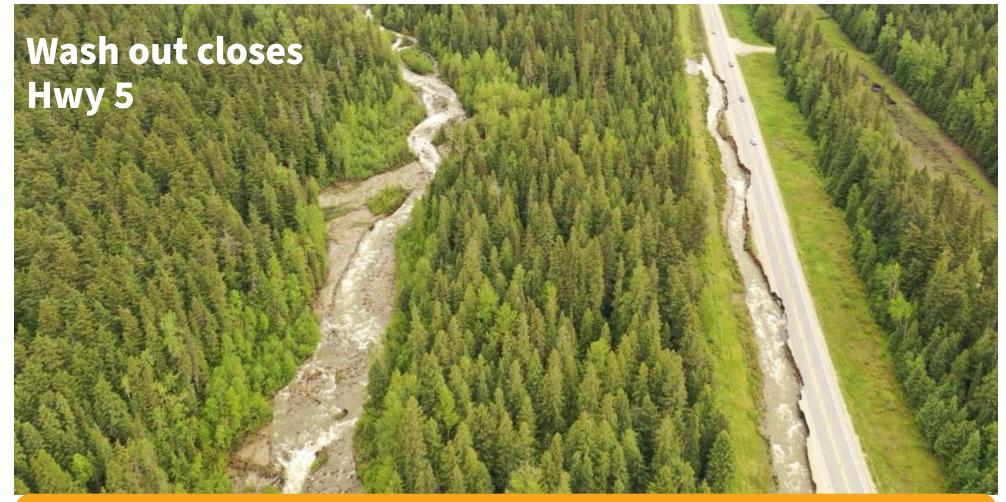
# Rocky Mountain Goat

Reduced McBride rec centre hours P2 Valemount recognizes Shirley Bond P3 Casual Valemount hikes P10 Valemount spa closing P15 Thursday June 5, 2025

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This drone image shows some of the flood damage near Allen Creek along Highway 5 between Valemount and Blue River. /COURTESY EMIL ANDERSON **ROAD MAINTENANCE** 

## Flooding damages 1.4 km of Highway 5

By Spencer Hall

Flooding caused by heavy rain combined with seasonal runoff damaged about 1.4 kilometres of Highway 5 between Valemount and Blue River over the weekend.

The Ministry of Transportation said the roadway experienced significant damage to the ditch, shoulder and road surface at Chappell Creek and Allen Creek after water overflowed and spilled onto the highway. A third location at Lempriere saw mud and debris come onto the road.

The highway was closed in both directions on Saturday evening and only reopened to single lane alternating traffic nearly 24 hours later. The Ministry told The Goat that Highway 5 will remain open over the coming weeks while the road is being repaired. The Ministry added that it will continue to work with Emil Anderson, the highway maintenance contract, to

recover the highway.

"DriveBC remains the best information source for highway closures and conditions and will be updated as new information becomes available.Drivers are advised to reduce their speed and use caution when they encounter poor weather or limited visibility on highways," the Ministry said in an email.

#### Concerns caused by heavy rain

Valemount CAO Anne Yanciw told The Goat that heavy rainfall last week caused concerns about the Village water supply due to the turbidity of Swift Creek, which prompted Village staff to take extra measures to ensure residents had clean drinking water. "As the Public Works weekend guy said 'I can't make water out of mud.' We performed a backwash just before the weekend to ensure the system was as clean as possible beforehand, and he shut the [water treatment]

plant down on Saturday until the water cleared a bit," Yanciw said. "We likely need to backwash again afterwards."

Yanciw said the Village is not concerned that the rainfall will cause a landslide or flooding within Village limits, but said slides elsewhere could occur.

"The possibility of a slide into Swift Creek is always a bit of a worry, and flooding [or] slides that impact highway access is also always a concern," she said.

In the event that the Village needs to issue any advisories, such as a boil water notice, water restrictions, or evacuation alert, Yanciw said it would use the Voyent! Alert system. In the meantime, the CAO advised residents to stay away from the banks of Swift Creek while water levels remain high due to the rapidly flowing water undercutting the banks, making them unstable.

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## Reduced rec centre hours concern McBride doctor

By Andrea Arnold

Dr. Jessica Burian was among the residents of McBride who were unhappy when the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George announced that the hours of the Robson Valley Recreation Centre would be adjusted for the summer, effective at the start of May.

According to Dannielle Alan, RDFFG Area H Director, the hours, Monday to Friday 6 am to 2 pm and Tuesday and Thursday 6 pm to 9:30 pm, were decided on as a way to lessen the operating costs over the summer months.

Local doctor Dr. Burian was on maternity leave when the announcement was made, and was surprised to learn of it upon her return.

"This change affects many people, especially working families, youth, and seniors," she said. "I felt it was important to give the community a voice and create a way for residents to demonstrate their support collectively."

Dr. Burian created a petition to show the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George that a significant portion of our community truly values the recreation centre and wants to maintain and ideally restore—its operating hours. As of May 22nd, over 250 individuals had signed the petition.

From her perspective as a medical professional, Dr. Burian believes that facilities like the rec centre are essential to both physical and mental health—especially in rural communities.

"Exercise helps manage chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and arthritis," she said. "Just as importantly, it supports mental health, reduces isolation, and offers people a sense of structure and routine."

She also sees how the facility supports both preventative care and rehabilitation. In the past, McBride's visiting physiotherapist used the gym to teach her patients exercises. She can no longer do this under the current schedule, which limits the quality of care residents receive. In recent years, the facility and the community centre next door have been used as refuge in the instance of heat domes,

and as Dr. Burian pointed out locations that provide options during smokey conditions during wildfire season.

"Making both facilities critical parts of our public health infrastructure," she said.

Alan said that in this year's budget there is a fund set aside to allow the facilities to be opened in case of emergency like a heat dome, wildfire, or evacuees.

"The money will allow us to act quickly without having to wait for funding approval," she said.

Dr. Burian has e-mailed the RDFFG with her initial concerns. She plans to follow up with them including the results of the petition and detailed feedback from residents. She met with the local Community Consultation Committee as well to provide them with the information she has gathered.

"The goal is to advocate for more equitable access to recreation services in McBride," she said. According to Kenna Jonkman, General Manager of Community and Development Services for the Regional District, the daily cost to operate and maintain the Robson Valley Recreation Centre are funded by local taxes and the Regional District along with the Community Consultation Committee adjusted the operating schedule for summer months to respond to increased costs of operating the facility.

Jonkman referred to the Open House that was held on October 2nd, 2024 where approximately 100 people attended, and subsequently, 280 surveys were completed. The survey asked the public to provide feedback on the importance of the service to the community, usage of the facility, how to best fund the service, requisition, level of service, user fees, and ideas for new programming.

"At this open house, Regional District Administration presented information related to historic service establishment, recent and future investments required/ proposed, operating budget, requisition and 5-year financial planning, facility assessments completed and in progress, and next steps," said Jonkman.

Following the survey, the RD worked with the Community Consultation Committee to develop a financial strategy that takes into consideration requisition rates, the level of service for winter and summer months and user fees.

Alan, also a member of the CCC, said that in making the decision, they overlooked the fact that for many Robson Valley residents, summer schedules don't begin until July. She said there will be adjustments for June.

When asked if there was room for change, and how the RDFFG hopes to increase usage and income if the doors are closed during the time of day when usage would be at its greatest, Jonkman responded that the RD is open to feedback on the current hours and any suggestions residents may have on improving access for all different users during the summer months. She said that feedback can be provided through emailing RVRC@rdffg.bc.ca or filling out a comment card available at the Robson Valley Recreation Centre.

"Comments and suggestions will be considered when planning future operating hours for summer months,"she said.

When asked if there was a possibility that the facility could be open full days, select days of the week, Jonkman replied that the Regional District will consider all scenarios when considering future operating hours for summer months.



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#### for summer months.

She was unable to provide The Goat with an estimated date for a return to regular hours outside of ice season. "The Regional District budgets annually for the Robson Valley Recreation Centre service and will continue

to work actively with the Community Consultation Committee to determine the

CONT'D ON P7



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#### FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025 - THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025



## **Valemount Council:** municipal award, wildfire fuel management, cemetery fees

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

VALEMOUNT COUNCIL NOTES

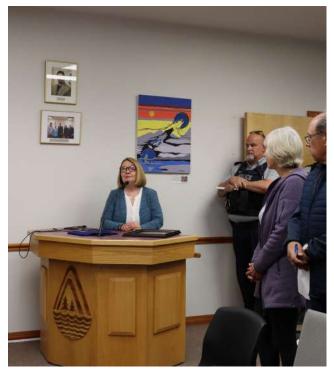
Valemount Council presented an award to former MLA Shirley Bond, discussed wildfire fuel management, and new cemetery fees during its May 27th regular meeting. Mayor Owen Torgerson called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m., after the evening's public

hearing ended Council adopted the agenda for the night's meeting, and adopted the minutes of its April 22nd regular meeting as well as the May 8th special meeting.

#### Freedom of the Municipality award

Former MLA Shirley Bond has been a familiar face in the Robson Valley for over two decades. She served as MLA for the Prince George-Valemount riding from 2001 until August 2024, when she announced she would not be running for re-election after BC United leader Kevin Falcon suspended the party's election campaign. Throughout her time in office, Bond advocated for

improved rural healthcare, education and infrastructure – which is why Valemount councillors voted to give her the Freedom of the Municipality award, the highest honour a B.C. municipality can give to someone. The



Former Prince George-Valemount MLA Shirley Bond received the Freedom of the Municipality Award at Valemount Council's regular meeting on May 27th. "I'm incredibly humbled and deeply honoured, and I'm thrilled to vote in another municipality," she said. /ABIGAIL POPPLE

award recognizes a person's public service and leadership in a community, and dozens of residents packed into Council chambers to watch Torgerson present the award.

"Shirley Bond's illustrious career and her profound connection to the Robson Valley have undoubtedly earned her this distinction," Torgerson said. "Her impact is particularly noteworthy in her efforts to enhance rural healthcare, infrastructure and economic development, which are fundamental for the well-being of smaller communities like ours. Shirley has been a tireless advocate for us all." honoured, and I'm thrilled that I get to vote in another municipality."

#### Cedar Valley layoffs

Local mill Cedar Valley Holdings is set to close in June, which will result in the layoff of 14 people. Employees allege that the mill's financial hardship is owed to difficulty in getting an adequate supply of cedar from the Valemount Community Forest (VCF), and claim VCF has been sending usable cedar to pulp mills in Prince George. VCF says it is in compliance with its timber and fibre supply agreements with Cedar Valley, but has not provided a comment on the claims made by the mill. Cedar Valley employee Simon Heiniger began circulating a petition calling for more transparency among the VCF board of directors and a guarantee that local companies are prioritized in timber sales in early May. He presented the petition - which he says has garnered over 300 signatures - to councillors. Council did not have any questions about the petition for Heiniger.

"I just hope that we can hear something expediently and publicly, a public meeting or something," Heiniger said at the end of his delegation. "There's been a lot of support on that petition."

Torgerson thanked Heiniger for presenting his petition. Council received his petition for information. For more information on Heiniger's petition, turn to P9.

#### Wood chipper rental

BC Wildfire Service proposed a fuel management plan to the Village in early May which suggests clearing hazardous trees and debris along 13th Avenue. Wildfire Service staff could assist with the project during times of low fire activity, clearing the area of crowded trees and picking up debris, according to the staff report. Village staff recommended using up to \$10,000 in existing grant funds from the Municipal Insurance Association of BC to rent a wood chipper for the project.

Councillor Pete Pearson said he is in support of the fuel management project, but added that it may make more financial sense to purchase a wood chipper, rather than renting it – especially since staff estimate it would cost about \$1200 a day. He said he has found several Canadian-made wood chippers which are within the \$10,000 budget.

"This is not going to be a one-time thing where we go in and have to do this cleanup," Pearson said. "I think it would be beneficial for staff to look at the purchase of a chipper versus a daily rental."

Torgerson asked CAO Anne Yanciw if purchasing a woodchipper would delay the start of the fuel management project, given that the project depends on when BC Wildfire Service staff are available to assist. "It may," Yanciw said. "Another consideration is that someone needs to operate the woodchipper. Our Public Works staff are very busy this time of year." Pearson said the woodchipper will need an operator regardless of whether it is rented or purchased permanently.

"It's six of one, a half dozen of the other," he said. "I think there will be more purposes [for the woodchipper] in this community – chipping Christmas trees as a fundraiser and that kind of thing. I think there's other opportunities, versus throwing rental money out." Yanciw added that rental of the chipper comes with an operator, whereas Public Works staff will have to learn to operate the chipper themselves if the Village purchases one.

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An amendment for expansion to a **Licence for Quarry purposes** situated on Provincial Crown land located near Horsey Creek FSR, BC. The Land File for this application is **7409796**. Written comments concerning these applications should be directed to Susan Spears, Authorizations Specialist, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Omineca Region at 5th Floor 499 George Street, Prince George, BC V2L 1R5, or **susan.spears@gov.bc.ca.** 

Comments will be received by Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Omineca Region up to July 5, 2025. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Omineca Region may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit the website at https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca for more information.

He added that with the award comes an invitation to every future municipal event, as well as the ability to cast votes in Valemount elections.

A tearful Bond thanked councillors and Valemount residents for the recognition. She said Torgerson and the rest of Team Valemount – a group of government and business leaders who advocate for the community at the provincial and federal level – are an example she holds up when speaking about effective political advocacy. "I can't begin to thank you for the lessons that I've learned about public service because of the honour I've had to represent all of you," Bond said. "While I appreciate the honour I was given to represent Prince George-Valemount, what means the most to me is that I know people by name... I think that's what serving is really about. I'm incredibly humbled and deeply Council voted to rent the chipper, with Pearson voting in opposition.

#### Traffic Regulation Bylaw

Council gave third reading to an updated version of the Village's traffic regulation bylaw. The updates include changing the speed limit on 5th Avenue from 30 kilometres an hour to 40 kilometres an hour, and includes new references to the Bylaw Notice Enforcement and Dispute

Adjudication bylaw, which outlines the fines for violating Village bylaws.



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A hard copy MAP showing the location and extent of the application areas may be acquired by calling the Authorizations Specialist named above at **250-561-3479.** 

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## Editorial



By Spencer Hall Editor & Owner goatnewspaper@gmail.com

## **Council silent in Community Forest dispute**

#### By Spencer Hall

After news broke in late April that local mill Cedar Valley Holdings expects it will close its doors at the end of June due to what the company describes as a difficulty in acquiring an adequate amount of cedar from the Valemount Community Forest, one of the mill's employees, Simon Heiniger got to work on a petition, which in part called for more transparency from VCF.

There were six requests within the petition, including a request for the creation of a formal guarantee that local timber would be made available to local businesses and the establishment of regular community consultation forums so that residents could ask questions and provide the community forest with direct feedback. Overall, the requests in the petition were reasonable and didn't appear to be emotionally charged.

The petition itself garnered about 360 signatures within about three weeks and was presented to Valemount Council at its meeting on May 27th.

I can't imagine I was the only person surprised when Council then received the petition without a word of discussion amongst themselves. Members of Council didn't ask any clarifying questions or even express sentiments of sympathy for those 14 people who are reportedly about to lose their jobs. To Mayor Torgerson's credit, he did thank Heiniger for collecting those signatures, but that was the only thing said from the Village's side about this ongoing dispute.

While there is nothing wrong about how Council received the delegation, I find it disappointing that Councillors did not try to engage with Heiniger. I imagine at least one if not more members of Council likely read a print copy of his petition after it was distributed around town. Here was an opportunity for them to engage with him and show they were listening to his concerns — which numerous Valemount

residents clearly share — and none of them took it.

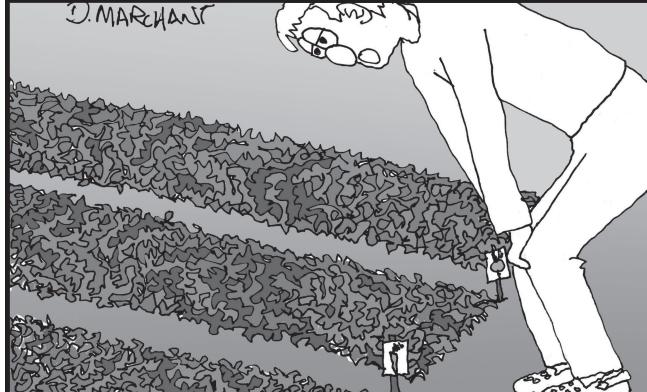
Heiniger told The Goat this week that Valemount CAO Anne Yanciw has offered to discuss his concerns in an informal meeting with him, but I find it concerning that these conversations are happening behind closed doors, especially after Heiniger and hundreds more asked for further transparency from VCF.

At the end of the day, at least 14 people are about to lose their jobs and a local business is at risk of closing its doors for seemingly arbitrary reasons. Council must take the lead on this situation to clarify the claims being made about VCF. If local cedar is in fact being sent to Prince George to make pulp instead of supplying a local business with the materials it needs to operate, that is completely unacceptable, regardless of whether VCF is "in compliance" with its timber and fibre agreements with Cedar Valley Holdings.

Do we allow the community to undergo further economic damage as long as VCF is meeting its contracted agreements? Or do we demand more from our local government officials to hold VCF — an association with the mission to "develop and strengthen the economic diversity of the community while promoting the social well being of the residents in and around Valemount" - accountable?

Allowing 14 people to lose their long term jobs is the opposite of economic development. Legal proceedings or not, the community has the right to know if the claims being made about VCF are true. If they are, the Village and VCF need to engage directly with the community to reform the association so it is doing its job of strengthening our local economy, especially at a time where locals are already facing so much economic uncertainty.

The Village and Council still have an opportunity in the coming weeks to publicly address the concerns of the community when it comes to the community forest, it is imperative that they take it.



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#### About Letters to the Editor

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



Dear Editor,

If ever we get the chance to decide together our common future, we will not let any of us get a far larger part of the wealth and leave a large group with just enough to survive.

Of course such a call for real democracy can hardly be understood these days, as everyone seems convinced, despite all evidence, that "representative democracy" is democracy. This has been repeated so many times, over such a long period of time, in the mainstream media, that even several progressive forces are buying it.

I can already hear strong reactions. Oh, but this real democracy is not possible today, we are far too many. Nonsense! First, the technology is there; second, and more importantly, most decisions should be taken by the concerned people, directly or indirectly, not by absolutely everyone. Plus, we should realize that real democracy would eliminate a lot of issues raised by the actual absence of democracy in terms of peace, fairness and environment.

Most of what we can do now is listening to the rich and powerful ones, laughing at us, despising us, protected by this fiction of democracy – the representative democracy. A time will come, I hope, for our own collective future and the future of our planet, that democracy, real democracy, will prevail.

Bruno Marquis Gatineau, Q.C.

## **Global Thoughts**

BY GWYNNE DYER



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

## **Geoengineering or Bust**

This is the second anniversary of the arrival of the Emergency, but practically nobody is mentioning it. Maybe they hope it will go away if we don't talk about it.

Two years ago this month (June 2023), the average global temperature jumped by a third of a degree Celsius in a single month. That shook the climate science world to its foundations, because the orthodox predictions assumed about one-tenth of a degree of warming every five years.

The June 2023 event was 'non-linear'. Like most major shifts in natural systems, the pressure built up and up, and then suddenly the system flipped into a different stable state. It took more than another year – until last December – to figure out what actually happened.

Ninety percent of the extra heat in the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels goes straight into the ocean. That heat was bound to affect the ocean currents, and sooner or later one of those currents would start returning very warm water to the surface. events, where the warming we cause triggers further changes in the climate, is called a 'feedback' – and since we didn't cause it directly, we can't turn it off. So two years ago we got three-tenths of a degree of warming in one huge lurch – from  $\pm 1.2^{\circ}$  to  $\pm 1.5^{\circ}$ C in June 2023 – and since then about one-tenth of a degree more in slow but steady warming. The average global temperature has been around  $\pm 1.6^{\circ}$ C for the past year. Many scientists had hoped that we could hold the warming down to  $\pm 1.5^{\circ}$ C at least until the mid-2030s, but that's already past. This means more and bigger forest fires, floods, droughts, cyclones and killer heatwaves, which is bad enough – but it also turns the future into a minefield.

The 'never-exceed' limit on warming, set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ten years ago, was  $+2.0^{\circ}$ C. They chose that limit because they realised we would activate many feedbacks if the warming went past there. Some they knew about (e.g. melting permafrost), but they also feared that there might be some hidden feedbacks north of  $+2.0^{\circ}$ C. It's turning out that big, hidden feedbacks start kicking in at a much lower temperature. We already hit one at  $+1.2^{\circ}$ C two years ago, and for another feedback just ahead. In fact, feedbacks might even come in clusters that cascade and carry us quickly up into much higher temperatures. Unlikely, but not unimaginable.

So suddenly the absolute priority is to hold the heat down. Greenhouse gas emissions must be stopped as soon as possible, but there is no way that can be done in less than ten or fifteen years – and the World Meteorological Organisation says that we could reach +1.9°C average global temperature as soon as 2029.

The only way to hold the heat down in the short term is 'geoengineering': direct intervention in the atmosphere to reflect more sunlight back into space and thereby cool the planet. Many people are nervous about it, but we find ourselves in a position where geoengineering is the least bad option.

I spent three days in Cape Town last month interviewing many of the leading scientists in the field at the largest ever conference on geoengineering. None of the men and women I spoke to were ready to deploy geoengineering techniques now, but they could probably begin to deploy within five years if a crash programme were launched right away.

The water gave up its heat to the air – and suddenly, two years ago, the low-level clouds over the eastern North Atlantic started to thin out, letting in much more sunshine to warm the ocean's surface. This chain of

It's a long shot, but that would be the best available outcome.



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## Valemount Council...Cont'd from P3

The bylaw has been reviewed by the Public Works Superintendent and Valemount RCMP, and can be considered for adoption at Council's next meeting on June 10th, according to the staff report.

#### Official Community Plan updates

B.C. municipal governments are guided by Official Community Plans, which outline land use practices and long-term objectives for the community. The Village is amending its zoning bylaw in accordance with new provincial legislation on shortterm vacation rentals, and staff say the Official Community Plan's section on shortterm rentals now has minor inconsistencies with proposed updates to the zoning bylaw.

Staff recommended amendments to the Official Community Plan to resolve these inconsistencies. These amendments include allowing two additional dwelling units per lot – the current plan only allows one per lot – and removing the requirement that the owner of a property needs to occupy the principal residence on the property in order to operate a short-term rental on the same lot. Additionally, the current plan does not permit short-term rentals in a detached additional dwelling unit, although this is permitted in the proposed amendments to the zoning bylaw. Staff recommended updating the plan to allow this.

For more information on the Official Community Plan, read our coverage of the public hearing on P7.

#### Zoning bylaw updates

Staff have recommended minor updates to the Village's zoning bylaw in response to new provincial legislation. The updates include changing the definition of a minor short-term vacation rental to mean an attached or detached accessory dwelling unit or room in the home. A major short-term vacation rental is only permitted in the principal dwelling on the property, rather than in additional dwelling units, under the updated bylaw. Additionally, staff recommend changing the minimum height of fencing around a home from three feet to four feet, and allowing two additional dwelling units per land parcel, whereas the current bylaw only permits one. Council voted to give third reading to the bylaw. Staff will send the proposed amendments to the Ministry of Transportation for approval.

#### Cemetery amendment bylaw

Council gave first and second reading to the updated Cemetery Bylaw. The amendments suggest removing an appendix to the bylaw which includes fees and charges pertaining to the cemetery, since these fees are included in the Village's Fees and Charges Bylaw. New cemetery fees will be in effect this fall when the new columbarium – an area to display cremated remains – is in place, and the Fees and Charges bylaw is being updated to reflect this, according to the staff report.

#### Fees and Charges bylaw

Council gave first and second reading to amendments to the Fees and Charges Bylaw. The amendments add fees previously included in the Cemetery Bylaw to the Fees and Charges Bylaw, which consolidates the Village's fees for using municipal services. Additionally, the amendments add a \$1,000 fee for residents to purchase a place in the columbarium, and a \$1,500 fee for non-residents.

#### In-camera

Torgerson adjourned the open meeting of Council at 7:56 p.m. Council proceeded to a closed meeting for consideration of three items under Section 90 (1) (c) and (g) of the Community Charter to discuss matters related to:

(c) labour relations or other employee relations, and

(g) two items pertaining to litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality.

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#### Employment Opportunities: Join our Team!

**Summer Filing Clerk (Full-time, Temporary):** Review old municipal documents, determine retention periods, and archive or destroy accordingly. June to September. \$20-25/hour (experience dependent), plus 10% in lieu of benefits. This position is funded by the Canada Summer Jobs Wage Subsidy Program for young Canadians aged 15 to 30.

Clerk competition closes 4pm, Sunday, June 8. Bylaw Enforcement Officer (Part-time, Permanent): 3 days/week with statutory holidays off and additional requirements on occasion. \$30-34/hour.

Bylaw competition closes at 4pm, Sunday, June 22. For complete job descriptions and more information, visit www.valemount.ca/village-office/job-postings.

#### Outdoor Water Use Restrictions Stage 1: June 1

A reminder that default Stage 1 Water Restrictions are in effect annually from June 1 to September 30, unless drought conditions or other factors (e.g. fire suppression) necessitate further restrictions. For a refresher on Stage 1 restrictions, see Water Regulation Bylaw 822 at valemount.ca > Village Office > Bylaws > Bylaws & Policies Directory.

#### 2025 Property Taxes

Tax Notices for 2025 have been mailed out. If you do not receive your notice by mid-June, 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 <u>www.gov.bc.ca</u>. 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.

#### www.valemount.ca

#### 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 before June 30 of each year. At the public meeting, Council must present the report and accept submissions and questions from the public.

Starting June 10, the Annual Report will be available for public inspection at <u>valemount.ca</u>, and at the Village Office. It will be presented at the Regular Council Meeting, 7pm, June 24, Valemount Council Chambers.

#### Volunteers Needed!

The Village needs volunteers for several important community boards and committees. Get involved!

- Accessibility Committee
- Community Foundation BoardClean Air Task Force

To learn more, and to access the Committee Application Form, visit <u>valemount.ca/committees-of-council</u>, pick up a form in person from the Village Office, or call 250-566-4435 and we can guide you through the process. Submit your application: email <u>corporate@valemount.ca</u>, drop it off at the Village Office, or mail it to Village of Valemount, PO Box 168, Valemount BC, VOE 2Z0.

#### Be Bear Aware

Let's keep our fuzzy neighbours safe! Prioritize managing attractants like garbage and food: secure waste and compost in bear-resistant containers, keep barbecues clean, avoid leaving pet food outside, and consider picking tree fruit before it ripens—it will ripen indoors! If you encounter a bear in your yard, be calm, speak quietly, pick up small children and pets, and back away slowly as a group into the closest shelter. Avoid blocking the bear's escape route, and make sure there is nothing to attract them back. Remember: a fed bear is a dead bear.

#### 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
- · Lost or delayed mail will NOT be excused from penalty
- 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 <u>valemount.ca</u>), and e-transfer to <u>dof@valemount.ca</u>

#### 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 Neighbourhoods Program

If you're concerned about the wildfire hazard in your area, your neighbours probably are too!

The FireSmart Neighbourhoods Program is designed to encourage self-organized groups of residents to implement wildfire mitigations on their own properties. The program provides people living in wildfire-prone areas with the knowledge and organizational means to significantly reduce their neighbourhood's vulnerability to wildfire. They plan and work together with the support of the local FireSmart Coordinator, develop an action plan, and reduce the hazard simply and effectively.

Contact Valemount's FireSmart Coordinator, Michel

Woodman, at fsc@valemount.ca and get the ball rolling in

your neighbourhood.

VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT Let the mountains more you

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

## McBride rec centre...Cont'd from P2

level of service desired by the community and how to balance that with the annual operating costs," she said.

Alan says that the challenge for the rec center is that for the past several years they've been dipping into reserve funds to help fund operating expenses.

"That is not sustainable," she said. "In previous years, we've shut down entirely for a month or two in the summertime, this year we focussed on full hours during the winter season and reduced hours during the summer. Our mistake was not accounting for the amount of use during the shoulder season - May through the end of June." Dr. Burian attended the most recent Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting on May 28, attended by CCC board and staff from the Fraser-Fort George Regional District. She said that the meeting focused on the current situation at the

Robson Valley Recreation Centre, particularly around reduced hours this summer. A few points were brought forward that Dr. Burian thought were important to bring to public attention. The recreation centre is fully funded by local taxes, user fees, rentals, and grants. When applying for grants, many applications require matching funds, which is something that is becoming more difficult for the rec centre. Although the budget is set preventing major changes, Dr. Burian is hopeful that some adjustments to the facility's hours can still be made to improve accessibility. With schedule changes come staffing adjustments and this is a complex issue due to union agreements and employment standards.

As a result of the meeting, Alan reported that Jonkman, along with the CCC, will

rework hours so that more people can be accommodated within the limited budget that they have during this time, and the facility will be returning to full operating hours in the fall when the ice is in.

"Last year we increased our budget by four per cent, and are still dipping into reserves and are not putting enough money away to fund future capital needs," she said. "We will need to see an increase next year, and if the community wants full-time hours in the summer, that increase will be around significant."

Alan stated that there is no plan to ever shut the recreation centre down, and they are fully aware of how important the recreation centre is to the community. She would like to see larger groups like CN or Emil Anderson step up with sponsorships to help keep the facility open and affordable.

"There will be community engagement sessions and an open house to get community feedback on what is truly important to them next September as we will start working on the 2026 budget.

"Last year we heard loud and clear that the community wanted full hours during ice time, so we did our best to accommodate that," said Alan. "We need to hear more from people about their needs during the off-ice season."

There will be another open house held in the fall where residents will be asked for more information and feedback. Both Alan and Dr. Burian hope people attend and share ideas that will allow accessible services for residents.

#### **DON'T MISS OUT ON WHAT'S HAPPENING!**

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Just \$1.10/week for an online subscription! CALL 250-566-4606 / email billingrmg@gmail.com

## Valemount looks to amend OCP, zoning bylaws

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Valemount Council held a public hearing before its May 27th regular meeting to discuss updates to the Village's Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw. Mayor Owen Torgerson called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

B.C. municipalities use Official Community Plans as a long-term guiding document for land use and housing policies. According to the Local Government Act, municipalities must provide an opportunity for public feedback and hold a public hearing before making changes to their Official Community Plan.

Village Planner Krista Etty presented the amendments to Council during the public hearing. The amendments will ensure the Official Community Plan does not contradict the Village's zoning bylaw, which is currently being updated to reflect new provincial housing legislation, according to Etty. These amendments include allowing two additional dwelling units - secondary residences on the same lot as a principal residence - on one land parcel, rather than just one additional dwelling unit. They also include allowing detached additional dwelling units to be used as short-term vacation rentals, and removing the requirement for an owner to occupy the principal residence on a property when renting out additional dwelling units.

According to Etty, Village staff did not receive any written comments on the amendments by the 12:00 p.m. deadline on May 27th.

Resident Melinda Goodell commented on the plan during the public hearing. "Publications referring to the region of Valemount [in the plan] were about as clear as mud," she said, referring to the notice of the public hearing which has a map of Valemount coloured in yellow and yellow-green, which she said were difficult to distinguish from one another.

Mayor Owen Torgerson thanked Goodell for her feedback. Council moved on to the public hearing for amendments to the Zoning Bylaw.

The amendments include the same updates to short-term vacation rental regulations as the Official Community Plan updates, Etty said. Additionally, the bylaw is being amended to change the minimum fence height around a property from three feet to four feet, and establishes a minimum fence height to six feet if it is around a pool. Staff did not receive written feedback on the proposed amendments by the 12:00 p.m. deadline, she added.

With no public comments on the zoning bylaw, Torgerson adjourned the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.



**Board of Directors - Call for Applications** 

The Village of Valemount is currently accepting applications from community members interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Valemount Community Forest Corporation OR the Valemount Industrial Park Corporation, for a one- or two-year term.

The Valemount Community Forest (VCF) supports the community by maintaining local control over forest resources, and creating local employment on behalf of the Village of Valemount.

The VCF Board of Directors meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 2:30pm, to assist with decision making for the Valemount Community Forest in accordance with VCF Policies.

The Valemount Industrial Park (VIP) supports the community by creating local employment and economic diversity, and producing specialty wood products on behalf of the Village of Valemount.

The VIP Board of Directors meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 3:00pm, to assist

#### Columbia and Duncan operations update meeting

We are hosting a virtual meeting to provide updated information about this year's operating conditions in the Columbia Basin and forecasted reservoir levels and river flows, including Kinbasket Reservoir, Revelstoke Reservoir, Arrow Lakes Reservoir, Duncan Reservoir, and the Columbia River at Birchbank. We will also provide updates on the Columbia River and Duncan Dam Water Use Plans.

When: Wednesday, June 18 Time: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. PDT Location: MS Teams

We hope you can join us. For more information, or to register, please email southern-interior.info@bchydro.com by Friday, June 13.

Columbia Basin reservoir information is also available online at bchydro.com, by phone at 1 877 924 2444, or through our reservoir updates that are distributed via email every Friday. **BC** Hydro

Power smart

Members will be notified in advance of changes to meeting dates and/or times. Directors are expected to attend meetings of the board, participate in board discussions, and vote on matters before the board.

with decision making for the Valemount Industrial Park in accordance with VIP Policies. Members will be notified in advance of changes to meeting dates and/or times. Directors are expected to attend meetings of the board, participate in board discussions, and vote on matters before the board.

Applications are available at www.valemount.ca > Village Office > Committees of Council, and must be submitted by 4:00pm, June 8, 2025, referencing the following:

> Attn: Corporate Officer Re: Application for VCF OR VIP Board of Directors

Applications can be submitted via email to corporate@valemount.ca, mailed, or dropped off in person at the Village Office.



735 Cranberry Lake Road PO Box 168, Valemount BC V0E 2Z0 
 VALEMOUNT
 PO Box 108, valemount BC VOL 220

 Mon – Fri: 8:45am – 12:30pm, 1:30pm – 4:15pm
T: 250-566-4435

7319

#### Friday June 6th

•		
10:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Museum Display – Valley Museum - Kitchen Kitsch display	Pione
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Kids Fun Run – Location: McBride Mountain Trails: Km 1 McBride Peak FSR Trail Trek, 5 km loop, hike, bike, or run. (prize money) – Bring water and snacks. Hosted by McBride Mountain Bike Assoc.	Ju
9:00 a.m6:00 p.m.	Visitor Centre open. Start your weekend by stopping in at the Visitor Centre at the Train Station. Pick up a schedule of events.	Scł
7:00 – 8:15 p.m.	Slo-Pitch Tournament – Village Diamond	
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Treasure Hunt – E-Free Church – sponsored by Josh's Place (Grade 7 - 12)	
8:00 p.m.	"Rock, Paper, Scissors" – Community Hall - 1 <sup>st</sup> \$1500 and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$500.00	
	19 and over. – Refreshments available – Must show ID	
	MANDATORY REGISTRATION 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Precise start at 9:30 p.m. \$10.00 registration	n fee
	Chance to win a Cash Prize of \$367.00 with every wood ticket sold that night.	
	Designated Drivers hosted by McBride Elks/Royal Purple	

#### Pioneer Days Weekend June 6–8th 2025 Schedule of Events

#### Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. S	Slo-Pitch Tournament – Village Diamond (11:00 a.m. Beer Garden)
9:00 a.m6:00 p.m.	Visitor Centre open. Start your weekend by stopping in at the Visitor Centre at the Train Station. Pick up a schedule of events.
10:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Museum Display – Valley Museum - Kitchen Kitsch display
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Amazing Race Registration – ages 13 and up. (limit of 20 people) prizes to be determined – Village Park
10:00 a.m.	Bob & Hazel Balcaen Memorial Parade – Meet and register at Village Office Parking Lot – to line up Parade – Main Street
11:00 a.m.	Parade starts
11:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Concession – Elks Hall Country Girl Donuts on sale
11:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Model Train Display - McBride Model Railroad Society – Train Station
11:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Video Game Party Truck – Free event - Village Park
11:30 a.m.	Show & Shine – Pub parking lot
11:30 a.m.	Two Rivers Art Gallery – Kids Hands-On Crafts - Village Park
11:30 – 12:45 p.m.	Tuesday Night Jam – Village Park Pavillion
12:00 noon	Norman Lamming Memorial Horseshoe Tournament straight knockout (singles) -Village Park sponsored by Warren McLennan
12:00 noon	Kids Activities/Kids Loggers Sports – Village Park
1:00 p.m.	Amazing Race – Village Park hosted by Little Munchkins
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	By Request – Keith Monroe & Company band – Village Park Pavillion
1:30 p.m.	Face Painting/Balloon Animals– Village Park
3:15 – 5:00 p.m.	COGS – student band – Village Park
4:00 p.m.	25 Anniversary - Founding of the Whistle Stop Gallery - Local Art Display – Train Station
9.00  pm = 1.00  pm	Dance "Poadside Splinter" McBride Perroation Contro - Cost \$20,00/adults (19,8,01der) Tickets available at Welcome Home TG

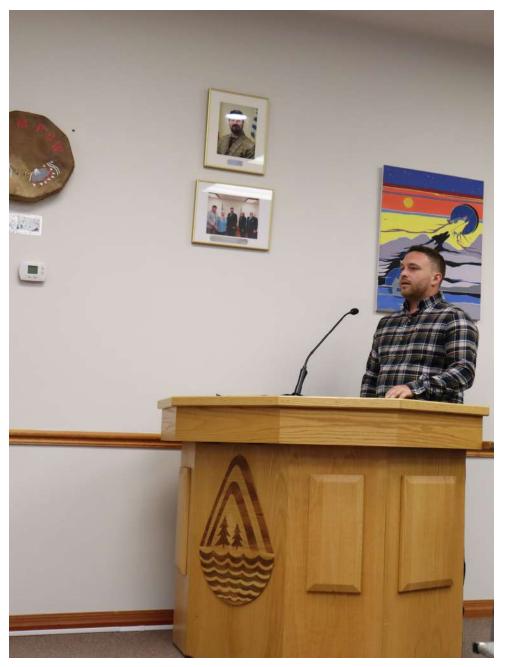
9:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Dance "Roadside Splinter" McBride Recreation Centre - Cost \$20.00/adults (19 & Older). Tickets available at Welcome Home, TGP & Whistle Stop. They will also be available at door. Designated Drivers available. Sponsored by the Elks & Royal Purple

#### Sunday June 8th

7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Slo-Pitch Tournament – Village Diamond (Beer Garden)
8:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast – Elks Hall (hosted by Live Different)
9:00 a.m7:00 p.m.	Visitor Centre open
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Volunteer Fire Dept. Kids (16 and under) Obstacle Course – town park – prize money & candy
10:30 a.m.	Registration for Logger's Event – Must have closed toe shoes - McBride Self Storage Parking Lot – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.
11:00 a.m.	Dutch Molendyk Memorial Logger's Events –McBride Self Storage Parking Lot – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave
11:00 p.m.	Kids Games – Village Skateboard Park

11:00 a.m. Kids Face Painting – Village Park 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. Bouncy Castle – hosted by Little Munchkins – Village Park Bake Sale – Hosted by the Grade 7 class (proceeds towards their field trip) 11:00 – 2:00 p.m. 11:00-4:00 p.m. Concession – Elks Hall 12:00 noon Watermelon Eating Contest - open for all ages - Town Park - sponsored by McBride Hospital Auxiliary 12:00 noon Norman Lamming Memorial Horseshoe Tournament straight knockout (doubles) - Village Park sponsored by Warren McLennan COGS – student band – Village Park Pavillion 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Announce winner of firewood/cedar slabs will be announced - Village Pavilion 4:00 p.m. 1st prize - Dump truck load of mixed firewood (16")- Sponsored by McBride Community Forest 2nd & 3rd prize load of cedar slabs 14x8x3 trailer load donated by Sointula Cedar Products - Tickets \$2.00 each 3/\$5.00 available at Dance & Beer Gardens. Look for members wearing purple volunteer shirts. Chicken Poop Bingo - Purchase your square at the Pub or Beer Garden and have a chance to win cash. Hosted by the McBride Figure Skating Club

McBride Scale Model Solar System guided tour - see Visitor's Centre for times on Saturday and Sunday.



Cedar Valley employee Simon Heiniger presented a petition in support of the company to Valemount Council at the May 27th meeting. The petition, which he says has garnered over 360 signatures, asks for more transparency among the Valemount Community Forest board. /ABIGAIL POPPLE

## VCF petition presented to Council

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Employees of Valemount-based sawmill Cedar Valley Holdings are still in limbo as the company anticipates an interruption in work – and possibly closing altogether – by the end of June. Owner Jason Alexander says the expected closure is due to difficulty in getting an adequate supply of cedar, and that the Valemount Community Forest board has not responded to his offers to purchase its cedar harvest.

Following the announcement of the possible closure in late April, Cedar Valley employee Simon Heiniger began circulating a petition calling for more transparency among the community forest board. The petition claims that the community forest has been sending cedar logs to pulp mills in Prince George, and asks that local manufacturing and milling is prioritized in future timber sales. The Goat has been unable to verify these claims with the community forest and Prince George-based pulp mills.

Heiniger presented his petition during the most recent Valemount Council meeting on May 27th. According to him, the online and print versions of the petition have a total of around 360 signatures. Council voted to receive the delegation but did not ask Heiniger follow-up questions.

In a follow-up interview with The Goat, Heiniger said he did not expect Council to respond to his petition during the delegation.

"I knew they weren't going to do anything with [the petition] there. It was clear that I'm not supposed to ask any questions as a delegation," he said of councillors' reaction to his presentation.

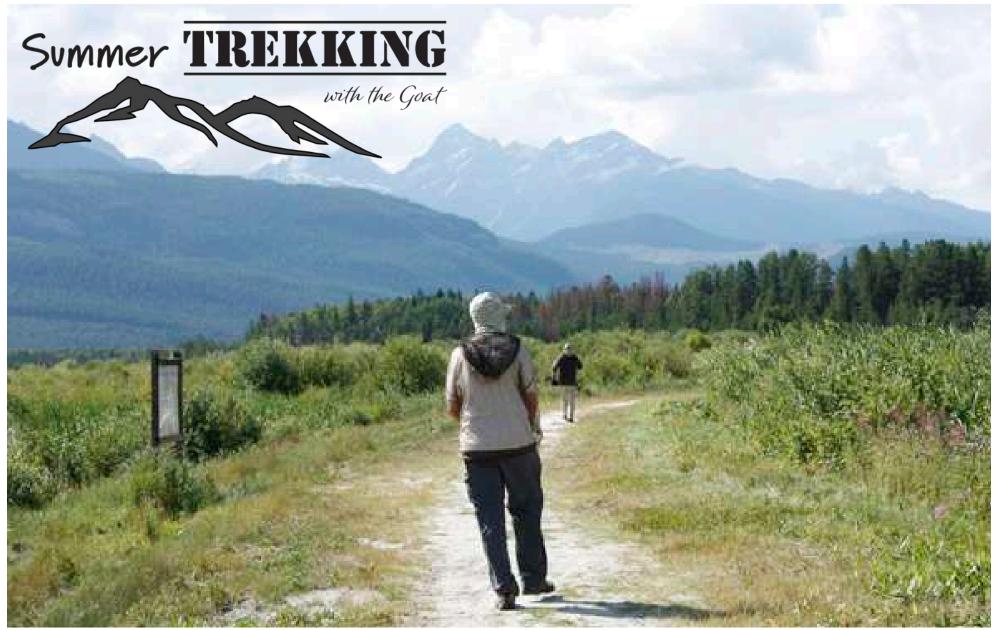
Heiniger added that CAO Anne Yanciw has offered to discuss his concerns in an informal meeting with him, which he takes as an encouraging sign. While he said he understands that the Village will need time to decide on a course of action, he hopes for a quick resolution before the company has to lay off employees or temporarily stop work. According to him, it is highly likely that Cedar Valley will have an interruption in production towards the end of the month, though it may not close down permanently.

In a phone call with The Goat, VCF General Manager Alana Duncan said the organization cannot comment on the situation as legal proceedings are ongoing. During her report to the VCF board on May 28th, Duncan said the community forest has not yet resolved its conflict with Cedar Valley.

The Ministry of Forests has declined to comment on Heiniger's petition, saying that it concerns a business-to-business relationship which the Province is not involved in. The Goat will continue to follow this story as it unfolds.



Mountain meadows and slide areas give excellent feeding areas for bears with the new green-up in early spring. Here a lone grizzly ambles slowly through a meadow covered in spring beauty flowers. Under these flowers are nutrient packed bulbs that the bears enjoy each spring. /LEON LORENZ



Cranberry Marsh is abuzz with nature at this time of year with insects and waterfowl alike. As you explore local trails be bear-aware by making plenty of noise and carrying bear spray. /LAURA KEIL

## **Easier hikes within walking distance of Valemount**

#### By Laura Keil

As the snow recedes and hiking season emerges, it is tempting to bite off more than one can chew at the beginning of the season. At high elevation don't be fooled — your hiking boots are no match for the metre of snow still laying claim to the upper mountain. But even if the alpine is still out of reach, there are many underrated trails at valley-bottom that are worth exploring or re-exploring. Here are five that don't require much (or any) driving from the Village. Tip: the trailhead coordinates can be copied and pasted into Google maps.

#### Swift Creek Lookout

**Trail distance/Elevation:** 3.6 km return, elevation approx. 37m.

**Best parts:** Natural air conditioned walk along Swift Creek, 180 degree views from the top of the hill, Views of Canoe Mountain, the Premier Range, and the Village continues in a loop (see Swift Creek Loop below) or you can turn around here.

**Trailhead coordinates:** 52.838632°, -119.267895°

**More info**: www.hikevalemount.com/ swift-creek-viewpoint/

#### Swift Creek Loop

**Distance/Elevation:** 10km loop. 150 m elevation.

**Best parts:** The calming rush of the creek, the huge cedar trees, the lookout overlooking Valemount and surrounding mountains, the lichen, mushrooms and other plant life, plus the suspension bridge. Watch out for bears (make plenty of noise so they hear you and carry bear spray).

**Trail description:** This trail follows Swift Creek to a lookout and then descends back to the creek, across a suspension bridge, through a grove of old-growth cedar, and then back up to 5-Mile Road. **More info:** hikevalemount.com/swiftcreek-loop

#### **Cranberry Marsh**

**Distance/Elevation:** 5.5km loop. Mostly flat.

**Best parts:** wildlife watching (nesting birds, muskrats, dragonflies), mountain views, raised viewing platforms.

**Trail description:** This trail skirts the edges of Valemount's Cranberry Marsh, a wildlife sanctuary and important wetland environment. A boardwalk has been built on the north side. Some sections of trail on the south side are wet or muddy depending on recent weather. Watch out for bears in the same area (make plenty of noise so they hear you and carry bear spray).

**Trailhead coordinates:** (Ash St. cul-desac) 52.819133°, -119.258308°; (Parking lot near Best Western) 52.815450°, -119.270077°; (Boat launch) 52.820472°, -119.241927°.

#### George Hicks Park

**Distance/Elevation:** 0.5 km out-and-back. Mostly flat.

**Best parts:** Short and sweet trail between Swift Creek and the parking lot below the Visitor Centre. The twisty flat trail bordered by reeds is perfect for young kids to expend some energy.

**Trail description:** A very accessible and short trail, George Hicks Park trail weaves its way through a marsh adjacent to the salmon viewing area on Swift Creek near Hwy 5. View tadpoles, dragonflies, muskrats, frogs, and an assortment of marsh creatures. View Chinook salmon during the last leg of their spawning journey from mid-August to mid-September.

**Trailhead coordinates:** 52.833585°, -119.281875° (Near creek)

More info: hikevalemount.com/georgehicks-park/

of Valemount.

**Trail description:** Trail follows Swift Creek before ascending steeply to a viewpoint. Proper footwear is a must. The trail

**Trailhead coordinates:** Main St. Trailhead: 52.838697°, -119.267809°

More info: www.hikevalemount.com





#### CROSSWORD Answers on P13

#### Across

- 1. Bathing facility
- 4. "Planet of the
- 8. Kind of roast
- 11. Pointer's crv
- 12. Advanced money
- 13. Flabbergast easter wind
- 14. 15. Free
- 16. Veggie
- 17. Assert, in a way
- 19. Battle memento
- 21. Law and Order investigation subject
- 23. Blade
- 26. From abroad
- **30.** Outer surface
- 31. Neck of the woods 32. Superficial
- 34. Relates
- 36. Peg
- 37. Wight, for one **39.** Pointer
- 43. "That's it!"
- 45. It follows the Gospels
- 47. Next to nothing
- 48. Score
- 49. Pump, e.g.
- 50. Broke bread

- 51. Big Apple player
- 52. Tough guy 53. Curtain fixture
- Down
  - 1. Lip-\_ \_\_\_ (pretend to
  - sing)
  - 2. You can make a big splash here

  - 3. Halo, e.g. 4. College graduates
  - 5. Compose
- 6. Purposes
- 7. It's in the warehouse
- 8. Pepper
- 9. Be in hock
- 10. Bag of leaves, per-
- haps
- 18. Notions of perfection
- 20. Echo
- 22. Time long past
- 24. Douglas tree
- 25. Terminate instead of germinate 26.
  - target
- 27. Copper or bronze,
- e.g.
- 28. Dependent

2	8			1			4	7
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## SUDOKU

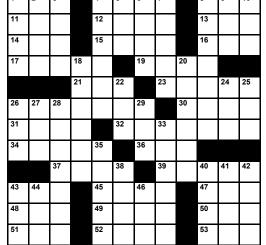
#### Answers on P13

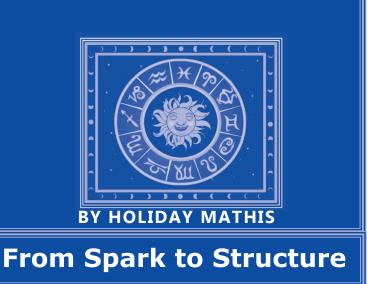
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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

### The Toughie

Down															
1. Man of the	1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13
cloth	14		-		15					16					
2. Handsome															
shark?	17			18					19						
3. Baked clay box	20		_				21	+							
4. Gung ho															
5. Negative prefix	22					23					24	25	26	27	28
6. Cause for a	29		-		30				31	32					+
blessing?															
7. Bungle					33		34	35				36			
8. Employer's fear	37	38	39	40							41				1
9. Car radio			_												
button?	42					43									





The first week of June, named for Juno, goddess of marriage and devotion, begins with Venus entering Taurus -- a sensual, love-charged transit. Venus and Juno both speak of love: Venus brings attraction, beauty and desire; Juno governs loyalty, commitment and lasting bonds. Together, they chart love's full arc, from spark to structure. This week offers a chance to notice which kind of love you're drawn to -- the thrill of the new, the strength of the lasting, or the rare magic of both at once.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Sometimes you can spot the potential for trouble and exert your influence to get things back on track immediately. But this week's plot twist is one that's best accepted, the sooner the better. There's no time to waste with things like denial, avoidance or arguing with what is. You're more powerful when you simply adapt.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're generous. You'll give your time, your mind, your best creative self to people who matter to you -your loved ones, friends, colleagues and even strangers. In some way, you will get free, perhaps free of obligation or a financial constraint, but most importantly free from a weight of self-questioning. You'll keep your promises to yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your creativity is a muscle that's been working so much it's strong enough to compete in the big leagues. You instinctually know what to make next and move with a sense of purpose even when you're not sure yet exactly what that purpose is. This week, your timing is sharp, your humor is real and your powers of attraction are working overtime.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are someone who makes things happen in the middle of the chaos if you have to. You've a burning desire, and as you work toward it this week, you will come to understand that your want is not a maybe, not a someday, not a thing to be earned. It's there now -- working, glowing, messy, relentless.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not mourning anymore re forging. your direction. Do you feel like the others think you're delusional? It's only because they don't share your scope of vision and they might even be intimidated by it. Your main job this week is to stay in your own frame of reality and not be seduced by other points of view.

with focus and self-respect. Your confidence is grounded in truth. Your calm is earned. Your creativity is lit up and pulsing, and it's going to carry you, either to a destination you aim for or to an even better place.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're layered and sharp and carrying quite a lot right now. A great sense of humor helps with this, and you have it! You laugh at life this week, and you're funny too, so life will laugh with you. Your words snap and sting and flirt and roll their eyes. Even your disappointments come with punchlines, but don't worry. You won't have many of those.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll make magic this week, designing an experience for others. After you execute the plans, you'll be charged, carrying the electricity of a whole experience and wanting somewhere to send it. And when you do, in the right place, with the right people, it will fuel future endeavors.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Anticipation activates your imagination. This is why it's better to make plans than to "wing it" this week, so you'll have the pleasure of looking forward to events. It's a highly creative state to hang out in! The hopeful build-up creates a kind of joy more consistent and controllable than events themselves.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll do everything you can for those you love. You're willing to celebrate them, as well as hold on to pain that isn't yours but becomes yours because you care. But you're not a machine. You're a human being who needs rest. Honor your capacity -- love deeply, but protect your energy. Care doesn't have to cost your well-being.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you dare to follow an instinct, you'll get to a place in a way that truly only you could arrive. Your heart is so wide, so sincere, so full of feeling. You give love, and you know how to move forward without letting the lessthan-ideal parts eat the parts of you that shine.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAVS. You've inspired, you've supported, you've been an ally, but this year offers you a new role. You are not only the muse, you're the whole myth. You'll bring your voice to power a project like only you can. Relationships get deeper and lighter all at once. Mutual acceptance is the way -- no pretending and an open heart to the whole of one another. You get more playful and fun in your personal life, doing just as you feel. More highlights: an epic travel schedule, healing the most important thing to you, and financial and lifestyle upgrades.

44. Artist's concern "The Biggest Loser" 46. Also

HOW TO PLAY



#### 29. Acorn or almond 33. Kidded around **38.** Soundwave reflection

35. Not just trim

- - 40. Be loud, as an engine
  - 41. Mindful of
  - 42. Garden intruder
- 43. Escort's offering

29. Body of work for Agatha Christie?

21. Frankincense and myrrh, but blessing?

24. English horse racing locale button?

31. Like some pitches 33. Jurors

Across

8. Accelerated

16. Bear-like

20. Unbending

17. Old

not gold

22. Pair

23. Blessing

1. It keeps an eye on TV

14. Hawaii's Mauna \_

15. Part of a Caesar quote

4. Rodin sculpture at the Met

36. Place on the schedule 37. Bewildered comment 42. A-line line 43. Put a key in the lock 44. Telegraphy inventor 46. Meteorologist's line 51. Stow away 52. Contemptible one

55. Award for Isaac Asimov 56. Considers 58. Tiny openings in the skin 59. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" gift 64. Best at putting things away 65. Urged a right turn 66. Feasted upon 67. Supreme Egyptian god 68. Mixed emotions of wonder 69. Ship

10. Seer's alleged gift 11. Accomplished 12. Single in Madrid? 13. Square round hole 18. Like a plant in need of water 19. VIP 23. "Cabaret" setting 25. Attention grabber 26. Storage place 27. Laker, Lamar 28. Distribute, with "out" 30. N.L. Central team, abbr. 32. Cyberhandle 34. Illuminator 35. Hems and haws **37. Doctrines** 38. Suckling spot 39. Hall and Oates' " Smile" 40. Gremlins, Pacers, etc.

62. Bard's nightfall 41. Gold units, abbr. 45. "\_\_\_", how did that happen? 47. Cry of eagerness 63. Clamp shape 48. News office 49. Middlemen 50. Characters in "Macbeth" and "Poldark" 53. Last letter of the Greek alphabet 54. Good \_\_: repaired 57. Former trade agreement 58. Professors' degs. 59. One \_\_\_\_ customer 60. Sing with closed lips 61. I-95, e.g.: Abbr.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). An outsider might see the good results you're getting this week and call it luck, but it's not luck at all. This is earned strength. This is what happens because you don't wait for permission. You create value. You recognize where others fall short and instead of resenting it, you rise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). This week brings a little of everything -- caregiving, art, business, healing, strategizing -- and you'll move through it





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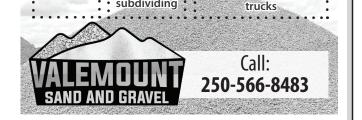
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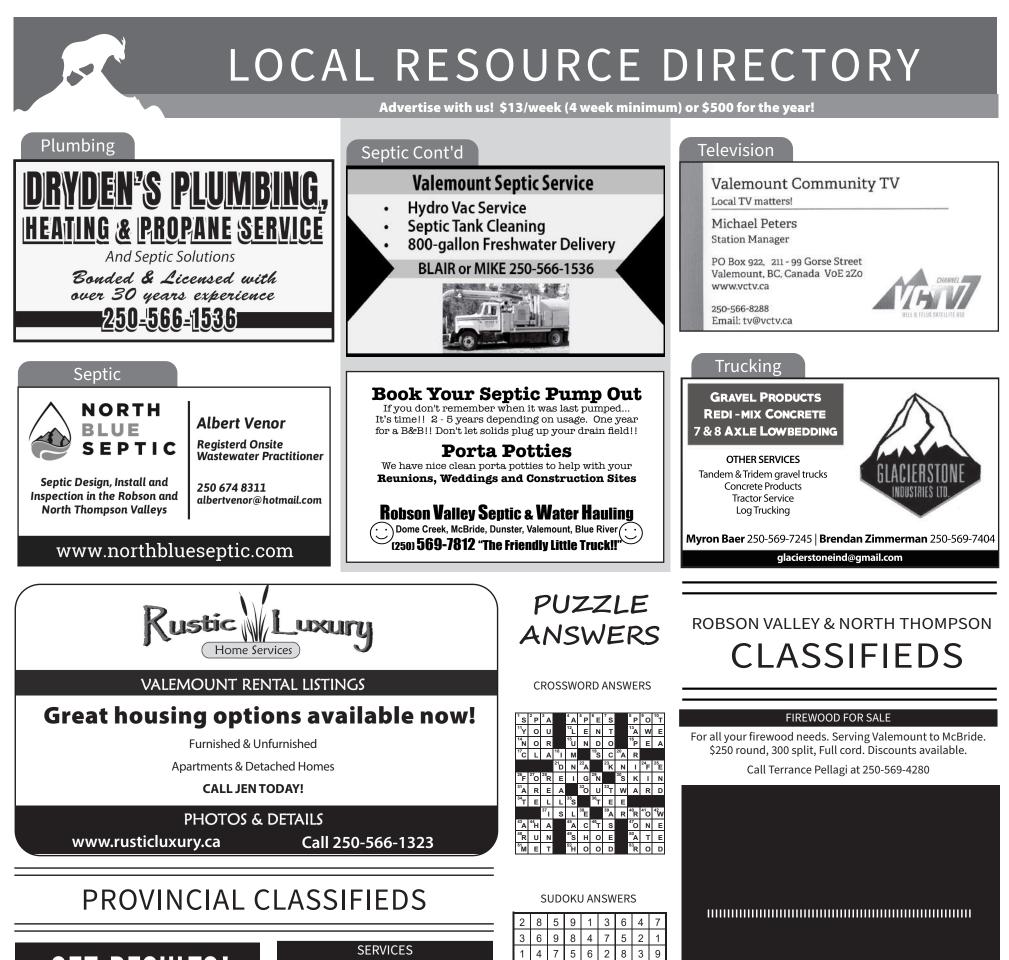


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## ROBSON VALLEY & Community Events

#### Valemount

THURS June 5th Helicopter Ride to celebrate Yellowhead Helicopter's 50th anniversay and support the Valemount Legion. 9am to 4:30pm helicopter rides only \$80 pp. for 12-minute heli tours of Mt. Robson and our valley. Contact 250-566-1555 to reserve a spot.

**UN June 8th Chinook Salmon Swift Creek release** with the Spruce City Wildlife Association. 12-2pm at George Hicks Park. For more info see ad on P15.

WED June 11 the students and staff of Valemount Secondary School invite you to Valemountapalooza, a high octane evening showcasing student learning. Exhibition tables and tapas from 5:30-6:30 with a concert from 6:30-7:30. Come see student art portfolios, capstones, science projects, nature journals and more as you nosh on delectable snacks and rock out to terrific tunes.

WED June 11: Join Axis Family Resources for an Information Session on Becoming a Foster Parent. 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. Join us at the RVCS office in Valemount, 1444 5th Ave. Two sessions available: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, and 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM. No registration required.

FRI-SUN June 13-15 Valemountain Days weekend. Friday night street party, Saturday parade, bouncy castles, Bingo, concession, Chris the Clown, Logger Sports, live music, pony rides, petting zoo and much more! See upcoming edition for full schedule!

**SAT-SUN June 14-15 Valemount Bike Fest.** This sold-out event celebrates all things mountain bike! See the Valemount Bike Park FB page for more info.

**SAT-SUN June 14-15 Rocky Mountain Speedway race.** See the RM speedway FB page for more info as it's released.

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.

#### 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 6 – Play Dough Day June 13 – Father's day Craft 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 5: Join us for a Rock Painting

Workshop, on Thursday, June 5th, 2025, from 1:00-3:00 PM at the RVCS office in McBride, 942 3rd 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! This program is brought to you by the RVCS Adult Literacy Program.

**FRI-SUN June 6-8, 2025 McBride Pioneer Days** organized by McBride Elks and Royal Purple. Events include Kids Races, a popular Slo-Pitch Tournament, Dance with Live Band, Logger Sports, a parade down Main Street, Memorial Horseshoe Tourament, Show and Shine and so much more. See schedule inside this paper!

SAT June 7th McBride Open Gate Community Garden Annual Spring Plant Sale from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at the garden behind the McBride Elks Hall. (Pioneer Days Weekend) We usually have a great selection of bedding plants as well as house plants and cuttings and perennials to fill up your garden and greenhouse. Once again, we are asking for donations of extra plants, cuttings and divisions of your plants on the day before the sale or the early morning of the sale by dropping them off at the garden on Second Avenue. This is our big fundraiser of the year to to help keep the garden going. To volunteer or for more information, please call Pete at 250-968-4334 or Dorothy at 250-569-3343. Thanks for your support!

**THUR June 12: BRING & BRAG,** Join us on Thursday June 12th, 2025, from 1:00-3:00 PM at the RVCS office in McBride, 942 3rd Avenue, for a fun and fascinating afternoon. Bring a treasured item (or two!) and share its story-whether it's a keepsake, an artifact, or something unique that holds a special place in your heart. Everyone gets a chance to educate, inspire and connect through their objects and stories. This program is brought to you by the RVCS Adult Literacy Program.

WED June 18: Seniors and caregivers of seniors are invited to the Robson Valley Seniors Expo on Wednesday, June 18th, from 10:00 AM-3:30 PM at the McBride Community Hall. Come explore the many services and supports available to seniors, from Advance Care Planning, Home Support, Long Term Care, Assisted living and so much more! Transportation is provided free of charge for those living in Dunster and Valemount that wish to attend. Please sign-up when collecting your pre-registration ticket for this event. Limited bus seating. Pre-registration tickets required, they are available at: McBride Public Library, McBride Health Unit, RVCS office in McBride and Valemount.

**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.

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

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.

#### 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 4 – Cooking with Tots-Pioneer Covered Wagon Treats June 11 – Fathers Day Craft 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.

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 reopening celebration 10am-2pm at the Berg Lake trailhead.

#### **Ongoing Valemount**

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 **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

## **Emerald Earth Spa to close Best Western location**

By Rachel Fraser

After five years in operation, Emerald Earth Spa, located in the Best Western Plus Valemount Inn and Suites, will close its doors in late summer.

Owner/operator Sherrie Houghton was surprised to learn her lease would not be renewed by the hotel when it expires in July and is now looking for an alternative space in which to run her spa.

"Because it's so soon that the lease expires, and it's summer, they were really generous to give me a few extra months," said Houghton, adding that she has until October 31st to be out of the space. "Which is great, because that gives people time to come and visit one more time. If people have gift cards, it gives them time to come and use the gift cards. And it also gives me time to try to figure out what's next."

The Best Western has been very supportive of her business, Houghton said, and helped her grow as a business owner.

#### "There's no way around it; my spa space is coming to an end."

#### -Sherri Houghton, Owner of Emerald Earth Spa

Tony Bielec, Director of Operations for Vantage Hotels, the family-owned corporation that owns the Best Western, confirmed the end of the tenancy in an email to the Goat. He said the decision not to renew Houghton's lease was not taken lightly, but is due to the loss of the Mount Robson Inn in the Jasper wildfire complex, which was also owned by Vantage Hotels and contained the primary office. The spa space is now needed as part of the corporate base of operations until the rebuilding in Jasper is complete.

Houghton said she has a few different ideas for what's next.

"It was really recent news, so it's definitely taken me a bit of time to actually realize it's happening," she said. "There's no way around it; my spa space is coming to an end." She's already started looking for a new space but is finding it a challenge to find something affordable for a small business run by one person.

Spas and hotels make a good symbiotic business model and it's an obvious place for her to be looking for another partnership, but Houghton says she prefers to have her own studio space this time around. Houghton estimates 80 per cent of her spa guests have been tourists, some of which were a direct pipeline from the Best Western's guests. She has always marketed towards the spa being a destination amenity and has extensive experience offering spa services in tourist destinations as a contractor working away.

"I do feel it will be a bit of a loss to the tourism industry to not have that type of amenity here anymore, but I'm also hopeful that if and when I do have a new space that my marketing is still good enough to attract those customers again, wherever they're staying in Valemount."

She's considering having a studio at her house, but prior to entering her lease with the Best Western, she applied to the Village of Valemount for a business license for a home-based massage business and was refused. Without knowing why, she doesn't know what to expect if she tries again.

In an email to the Goat, Krista Etty, Planner & Subdivision Approving Officer for the Village, said that though she could not comment on individual applications, an unsuccessful business license application could be related to zoning restrictions on the property, not passing a fire inspection, or receiving the approval of Northern Health to practice massage. She also said that if someone is turned down for a license, reasoning is provided to the applicant and if any issues communicated to the applicant are remedied, they can proceed with their business license application. The zoning bylaw has been updated in the intervening years, and thus, any zoning restrictions may have changed.

If Houghton is unable to find a suitable location to offer spa services, her other option is to focus on her skincare company, which she says is booming.

"My skin care company is really thriving and definitely carrying Emerald Earth through. So I could just focus on that and just run the skin care side of the business" Houghton operates a second company under the same name which manufactures and distributes organic skin care products, such as cleansers, scrubs and moisturizers. Within the last year, sales have increased, and her products are now sold in 50 venues across North America including spas, refilleries, health food stores, eco lodges and retreats.

"I think a lot of it has to do with building the website to have a really great online presence, so people are now discovering my brand just organically online." She also likes the idea of doing seasonal pop-up spas, which would mean setting up in a temporary location just for the summer months, or just the winter.

"I'm just kind of feeling it out what the community wants, what I have time and energy for. Lots of exciting ideas!"



The United Church of Canada is 100 years, united!

On Saturday, June 7, at 7pm

#### Opera In the Chapel

at

Valemount Anglican United Church Cedar & 7th Ave with Koosha Khorramian and Tara Scott accomplished musicians from Halifax by donation Please come and join us!

Also, <u>Sunday, June 8, at 10am a service to celebrate</u> <u>100 years of the United Church</u> Koosha and Tara will join us again<u>.</u> Light refreshments to follow Come and help us give thanks for the work done so we can use the church sanctuary once again!

## **Community Events**

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.

**German Conversation Club - Wednesdays** Join us on Wednesday 11:30 - 1:00 at the McBride Library for a fun German language conversational class with Lilly. All levels and abilities welcome, from beginners to advanced. For further details, call the library 250 569 2411.

#### 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. 8x8 AUCTION & YARD SALE @ The DUNSTER SCHOOLHOUSE. 10:00am - 2:00pm. Burgers will be available! No charge for vendors, just bring your own table. Blank 8x8's are available now to pick up at the Dunster General Store, McBride Museum and Infinity. Any medium is accepted as long as it is an 8x8 size. We can't wait to see what you will create and thank you for supporting this fun Schoolhouse fundraiser!

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





Glacier Fire Pizzeria Mon-Sat 4pm-8:30pm 250-566-9090 IGA Deli Mon-Sat 8am-8pm Sun 9am-5pm

BoShay's Bistro M-Fri 8am-3pm +M,W,Th 5-9pm 250-566-0154

Lucky House Restaurant Open 7 days a week 11am -9:30pm 250-566-2345

#### here!

Reach locals and visitors on a consistent basis. Ongoing weekly listing plus one-time featured restaurant Contact ads@goatnewsmedia.com

\*\*Some eateries opted not to take part in this feature