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Thursday August 21, 2025 Volume 16 Issue 26 PM42164515

25 GST INCLUDED



Nearly \$15K raised for driver injured at Speedway

LOCKLAN MCCRACKEN

By Spencer Hall

The racing community has come together to raise about \$15,000 in support of one of their own after driver Gregory Sorenson sustained a spinal injury at an event at the Rocky Mountain Speedway earlier this month.

Sorenson was racing in a super stock race on August 9th when his car experienced a mechanical failure, causing the vehicle to roll several times and leaving Sorenson with two fractured vertebrae.

In a statement posted to social media, Sorenson detailed the incident.

"Corner one and disaster strikes. The rear end snaps without warning, launching me into the air. Mid-flight, I knew I was in trouble, but all I could do was hold on for the ride," Sorenson wrote. "The Rocky Mountain Speedway safety crew was on me

instantly, and within 20 minutes I was strapped in and heading to the helicopter out of Valemount."

"Two fractured vertebrae later, I spent hours stuck staring at a hospital ceiling and trust me, that gets old fast. You start picturing cars ripping around above you just to stay sane," Sorenson said.

He was cleared to leave the hospital three days later on the morning of August 12th. The Goat reached out to Sorenson for additional comment, but did not receive a response by time of publication.

In a written statement, Rocky Mountain Racing Association President Tamara Cinnamon said that thanks to Sorenson's safety equipment and the high build quality of his car, his injuries are far less severe than they could have been. She added that on-site medics and first responders acted swiftly

to get Sorenson the medical attention he

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Speedway injury... Cont'd from A1

"Their quick thinking, calmness under pressure, and seamless teamwork ensured he was safely removed from the vehicle and in the care of medical professionals within minutes. It was a textbook example of skill, preparedness, and dedication in action," Cinnamon said.

She added that Sorenson is a talented young racer, who "led the pack" and entertained the crowd throughout the weekend of the event with his speed and skill.

"His spirit shone through even in the moment. When asked by a medic if he knew where he was, he replied, 'The Rocky Mountain Speedway in Valemount and I was hauling ass!' We're grateful he's on the road to recovery and wish him a full and speedy return to the track," Cinnamon said.

The Rocky Mountain Racing Association has started a fundraiser to support Sorenson as he recovers from his injury, with the association matching the first \$2,000 raised.

"Gregory is a great young man from a racing family that has always given back to the sport and to all of us. Now we'd like to give him a hand up," Cinnamon said.

Donations from then poured in from other racers, fans and the Merritt Speedway. As of writing on Aug 18th, a total of \$15,000 not including mailed cheques has been raised, according to Cinnamon.

Those interested in donating can send funds via e-transfer directly to Sorenson at Gregorysorenson2003@gmail.com with the password onthemend.



Gregory Sorenson (right) who races under #41, sustained two fractured vertebrae during a super stock race at Rocky Mountain Speedway earlier this month. /COURTESY ROCKY MOUNTAIN RACING ASSOCIATION



REGULAR HOURS

MON-SAT: 9 AM - 5:30 PM

Books of the Week

HISTORY

THE MAD TRAPPER OF RAT RIVER

"The Arctic trails do indeed have their secret tales, and one of the best is that of The Mad Trapper of Rat River, equal to the legends of Bonnie and Clyde or John Dillinger. Now author Dick North may have solved the mystery of the Mad Trapper's true identity, thereby enhancing the saga." --Thomas McIntyre



NON-FICTIO

THE ZEN OF CLIMBING

Written by philosopher, essayist, and lifelong climber Francis Sanzaro, The Zen of Climbing explores the fundamentals of successful climbing, delving into sports psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, and Taoism. Awareness, he argues, is the alchemy of climbing, allowing us to merge mental and physical attributes in one embodied whole.



GUIDE

THE NORTHERN GARDENER

This book includes hundreds of hardy perennials, including many native plants, accompanied by hundreds of beautiful colour photographs. While glossy gardening books from warmer climates abound, the perennials described here really do thrive inzones 2 to 4, making this an indispensable reference for novice and experts alike.



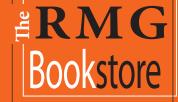
CHILDREN

Meet The Mushrooms!

Meet the mushrooms who peek through the die cuts on each page of this layered board book. Join them in the forest for a busy day of dancing, playing, and exploring—the more mushrooms, the merrier! With a gentle, rhyming text and adorable illustrations, this book is perfect for young mushroom enthusiasts.







VALEMOUNT HOURS: MON 9:30am-4:30pm TUES CLOSED WED-FRI 9:30am-4:30pm 1170 5th Avenue ACROSS FROM THE IGA DOWNTOWN





The vehicle after the accident. /COURTESY ROCKY MOUNTAIN RACING ASSOCIATION

Bat research taking flight near Kinbasket Lake

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

Efforts to preserve a population of northern myotis – an endangered bat species that used to be found throughout eastern B.C., but whose range has been contracting to the central interior – are under way near Kinbasket Lake. The Wildlife Conservation Society, a non-profit based in New York City but with offices across the globe, is participating in two projects near the lake to study and support northern myotis populations: on the south shore of the lake, researchers are planting fake bark to mimic the old-growth trees where the northern myotis roosts, and on the north side they are using radio detectors to determine how many of the bats are present in logged areas.

Northern myotis pups require a delicate balance of humidity and temperature to survive to adulthood, and their mothers will seek out roosts with the proper "microclimate," moving their pups to new roosts about every one and a half days, according to Dr. Cori Lausen, the Society's director of bat conservation.

"They only have one pup per year, and they're extremely picky about what temperatures and humidity conditions they have for those pups," Lausen said.

A canary in the cutblocks

The species' precise needs also make them a bellwether for the rest of the ecosystem's health – if there are enough resources for the northern myotis to survive, it's a pretty safe bet that other species in the area are being supported, too.

"They need to get everything they need in that forest: places to roost, places to feed, the ability to move around and get the right microclimates every day. I always think of it as the Goldilocks approach," Lausen said. "If you can keep that species on the landscape, then it means you're keeping these intact pieces of forest on the landscape. And that's going to allow you to have a lot of other species as well."

And when bat populations thrive, they provide natural pest control that helps the rest of the forest thrive – not to mention saving farmers and the Province thousands of dollars on pesticides and biocides, Lausen said.

"Without bats, things are thrown off-balance and we end up having to respond. In our forests in B.C., that response is through biocides," she continued. "Something a lot of people may not know is that biocides are being sprayed all over this province to manage the forest. It's because of pest outbreaks, especially in these young forests where there's really no bats being reported because the trees are too young."

That's why Lausen and her team are working to understand what the northern myotis needs to survive in areas that have been logged, and if artificial old-growth bark can make a suitable replacement for the real deal.

Logging may not be an automatic death sentence to bat populations, Lausen says, but it needs to stay within the limits of what northern myotis colonies can sustain. One of the project's goals is to identify those limits.

"The part we want to understand is, can we keep this species on the landscape and still have timber harvest?" She said. "We think yes, but there's got to be this critical mass of the size of the [old-growth] patch, and interconnectedness of patches, to allow the species to reproduce."

Reproduction is the key word – the northern myotis, like other bat species, can live for decades, even after their habitat has been disturbed by logging, according to Lausen. What matters for the survival of a population is whether individuals are reproducing, and if they have enough habitat for their pups to survive to adulthood. It's still unclear if the northern myotis population near the Kinbasket is reproductive, Lausen says.

"There's these tiny little old-growth patches that have been left after the timber harvest," Lausen said of the Kinbasket. "That's what got us thinking, 'Wow, how small can a patch be? Can they still have young in these patches?"

"Are we watching the last of this population?"

Misplaced conservation

When it comes to bat conservation, Lausen worries the B.C. government is missing the forest for the trees. She pointed to the Province's suggestion that Kootenay-area loggers leave one old-growth tree in a patch for the northern myotis to use, which she says is insufficient.

"It's misplaced conservation. If you save a tree for a bat, you really haven't saved any bat habitat," Lausen said.

According to Lausen, in 2018 the Ministry of Forests wrote a document outlining the best management practices for bats, to give foresters guidance on how to leave some bat habitat intact. The document was never released, but Lausen hopes research on B.C.'s northern myotis populations could push the Province to take bat conservation seriously.

In Lausen's experience, grassroots conservation efforts can be more efficient than waiting for conservation policies to work their way through the bureaucratic maze of the provincial and federal governments. She said in the past, she has spoken with loggers and explained the importance of keeping bat habitats intact, and they're often receptive. She added that discussing conservation needs with First Nations can be effective as well.

"We start locally to try to get conservation happening on the ground because we



know everything else – publication, policy, practice, all those changes – they are going to be years down the road."

In that vein, Lausen suggests that people interested in promoting bat conservation join their local community forest.

"Locals helping to make decisions about forests, trying to keep these intact patches of old and mature forests – it's increasingly important," Lausen said.

The Wildlife Conservation Society accepts donations, and people can direct their donation specifically to the bat program or to any of their other programs, she added. Most importantly, people need to be aware of the threats facing bats, and the consequences of losing these vital animals, Lausen said.

"We depend on bats," she said. "It's too late in some areas, but it's not in most areas. We can still get in there and try to keep them reproducing."





McBride resident launches fundraiser for service dog

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative REPORTER, RMG

When McBride resident Kelli Lynn Parker leaves her house, she's wracked with anxiety about having an allergic reaction and facing indifferent, or even aggressive, strangers. When she stays home, her arthritis makes it difficult to type, pick up objects and control her hands, so it's hard to take care of herself.

The solution to this may come in the form of a diligent, highly-trained worker - that is, a dog from Edmontonbased Aspen Service Dogs. In July, Parker began fundraising to cover the first of three installments the organization requires to adopt one of their dogs. As of writing on August 8th, Parker's GoFundMe page has about \$370, well below her \$9,000 goal.

Parker says a service dog would help her live more independently. Her severe allergies make it difficult to go outside - even catching a whiff of someone's coconutbased shampoo could send her into anaphylaxis - and have given her more anxiety, Parker said.

"I've been in places where I've gone into anaphylaxis and people assumed I was drunk or high, and so they didn't help me," she said. "That caused me to start having panic attacks and extreme anxiety."

According to Parker, a service dog would be able to smell her allergens a full 20 seconds earlier than a human could – giving the dog plenty of time to alert her and have her move away. Additionally, dogs that are trained to help with PTSD or anxiety could calm her during the onset of a panic attack, she said.

A service dog could help her around the house, too, she added. Parker's arthritis makes it difficult to grasp objects and causes muscle spasms - she now keeps her cellphone on a wrist strap so she doesn't involuntarily throw it across the room. A trained service dog could pick up objects and bring them over to her, she said.

Despite the essential service they provide, getting a service dog is a cost-prohibitive process, according to Parker. With specialized training for Parker's allergies, arthritis and emotional support, the total cost rises to tens of thousands of dollars according to her.

Parker plans on getting a dog through Edmonton-based Aspen Service Dogs, an organization which says it tries to keep costs as low as possible. In an interview with The Goat, CEO of the organization Caelan Snow said the cost for a medical service dog – one trained to detect allergies, for example – would total around \$30,000.

While the organization strives to keep costs low, each dog requires 2,000 hours of training over the course of two years, plus vet costs and food, Snow said.

"We see far more individuals who are in need of service dogs than those who are able to acquire funds for it," Snow added. "We definitely see community groups, friends [and] family rally around our clients, and it's always wonderful to see that. The dogs absolutely do change these individuals' lives ... there's not enough access to funds out there for the individuals who need

While Parker hopes to save enough for the entire cost of training over the next few years, earning the first \$7,500 is crucial, she says. That's the amount needed to claim a puppy, pay for health and wellness checks and begin training the dog.

"I've got under \$1,000 of that first \$7,500 I need," Parker said. "I'm pushing really hard until the middle of September, because by that time, if I don't have enough money ... I don't qualify until next year."

Parker says her need for a service dog is urgent. Her current dog, who is not a service animal but has helped with her anxiety when leaving the house, is 12 years old and may not live much longer, she said. If she can raise the initial \$7,500 soon, she hopes to obtain corporate sponsorships, get disability assistance from the provincial government and find other ways to cover the rest of the cost. There are some grants available that she could use, but she has to be approved for disability assistance first, Parker added.

It's difficult for adults who are not veterans to get funding for a service dog, according to Parker.

"A lot of people will donate for service dogs for children, for diabetes, for allergens, for autism," she said. "But because I have a specific condition that is not what they consider mainstream, there is no funding available

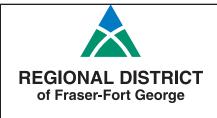


McBride resident Kelli Lynn Parker is hoping to raise the first \$7,600 she needs to claim a puppy from Aspen Service Dogs. The dog will cost at least \$32,000, but it will be worth it for the improvements to her quality of life, she said. /SUBMITTED

for what I'm doing."

As she works to raise funds, Parker says she hopes people will approach the topic of disabilities with an open mind. She encourages stopping to ask if people who appear to be in distress are okay, and says you can't always tell if someone is disabled or facing a health issue at first glance.

"We have an amazing community – I just think that sometimes we need to stop and realize that not all disabilities are visible," Parker said. "Just because we don't understand it doesn't mean it isn't real."



ROBSON AND CANOE VALLEY REC CENTRES

Facilities Update

Summer programming is almost over at the McBride and Valemount recreation centres!

Canoe Valley Recreation Centre

 August 31: final day of summer activities

Ice-making starts September 2 and the ice should be ready at both facilities by September 15.

rdffg.ca/RVRC | 250-569-3360 rdffg.ca/CVRC | 250-566-4740

Robson Valley Recreation Centre August 29: final day of summer activities September 2: winter operating hours return, open 6 am to 9 pm daily

Mammogram van stopping in Valemount

By Abigail Popple, Local JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Valemount residents will be able to book mammograms – a method of screening for breast cancer – with the BC Cancer Agency next week, from August 25th to 29th.

The Agency operates three mobile mammogram coaches which visit around 170 rural communities throughout the province, according to a BC Cancer web page. The coaches are wheelchair-accessible and include a reception area, a dressing area, and separate, private screening room.

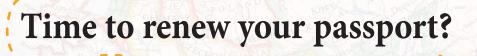
While in Valemount, the coach will be located at the Best Western Hotel at 1950 BC-5 South.

Mammograms are recommended for people with breasts who are 40 years or older, the Agency says.

"Screening mammograms are available to most women, and many Two-Spirit, trans and gender-diverse individuals, 40 years and older with no symptoms," the agency said in a

Those who are currently pregnant, have breast implants, or have a history of breast cancer are not eligible for the Agency's screening program.

Residents can book a screening by calling 1 (800) 663-9203, or visit http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/screening/ breast for more information.



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Valemount Council: Lheidli T'enneh agreement, electric scooters, 5th Ave repaving

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

Valemount Council discussed an agreement with Lheidli Tenneh First Nation, electric scooter use and repaying 5th Avenue during the regular August 12th meeting

Mayor Owen Torgerson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. After adopting the meeting's agenda and

approving minutes from the July 8th regular council meeting and the July 10th special council meeting, councillors moved on to hear administrative reports.

Quarterly Report

Council received the second quarterly report of the year for information. The report includes statistics on grants the Village has received, water and sewer use, and building permits, among other items.

Councillor Hollie Blanchette said the report is laid out well and easy to read. CAO Anne Yanciw said the report was prepared by the Village's intern, Sazzad Hossain.

Lheidli T'enneh MOU

Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. The memorandum has been in the works since last October, when the Village had a Community to Community forum with the First Nation to discuss shared priorities and opportunities to work together.

The memorandum includes commitments to collaborate on joint action plans and hold regular formal meetings, though it does not specify how often meetings will be held. Representatives of Valemount and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation will meet in Prince George on September 4th and 5th for another Community to Community forum, where they will sign the memorandum.

"I'm really looking forward to our relationship moving forward," said Torgerson.

Marina Association donation

The Valemount Marina Association applied for a \$200 grant from the Village to cover costs associated with its annual family fishing derby, to be held August 30th and 31st. The grant will cover purchasing prizes, trophies and barbeque supplies for the event, according to the application.

Torgerson recused himself from discussion as he is on the Association's board. Councillor Donnie MacLean stepped in as deputy mayor.

Council approved the Association's request. The 2025 budget included \$4,000 for municipal donations, and Council has now granted a total of \$1,052.50 to three different organizations, leaving \$3,147.50 in the budget.

Tax exemptions

Torgerson returned to the meeting after the Marina Association's request was approved. Then, Council discussed property tax exemptions for local non-profits. Staff recommended approving tax exemptions for a five-year term, from 2026-2030, because Council will review an amended version of the Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw at its next meeting. Typically, tax exemptions are approved on one-year terms.

Council approved of using five-year terms for all five organizations that applied for an exemption: the Legion Branch 266, the Valemount Affordable Rental Society, the Valemount Curling Club, the Valemount Learning Society, and the Valemount Lions Club.

Blanchette moved to give a 25 per cent tax exemption to each of the non-profits, which is the same exemption Council approved in 2024. Council approved her motion.

According to the staff report, staff will add Council's approved exemptions into the tax exemption bylaw before it is reviewed at the September 9th regular meeting.

Electric scooter pilot

Electric kick scooters – which the Province defines as "battery-powered motorized devices with two to four wheels, a platform for standing and handlebars for steering" – are currently prohibited on public roads

in B.C., unless in a municipality participating in the Province's electric kick scooter pilot project.

The pilot project began in 2021 and was slated to end in 2024, but the Province extended the project until 2028. Staff recommended applying for Valemount to join the project, as there are electric scooter users in the community.

According to the staff report, the pilot project regulations say riders must be 16 or older, wear a helmet and drive under 25 kilometres per hour.

Blanchette noted that the Village is responsible for any costs associated with the project, according to an FAQ the Province sent to local governments. She asked if staff know of any costs the project might incur.

"There shouldn't be any municipal costs," Yanciw said. "There is some reporting that's required as part of the program, but that reporting will be RCMP statistics."

Torgerson said the Village could partner with the RCMP to educate residents on safe scooter use. Councillor Pete Pearson asked if the Village has

discussed the project with the RCMP.

"Right now, I don't see a whole lot of control on the light scenture. I'm not a hig supporter of the ones in

kick scooters. I'm not a big supporter of the ones in town," he added.

Yanciw said staff have discussed the project with RCMP officers.

"Unusual is a good word for how the prohibition on kick scooters was rolled out. There was no notification to RCMP at all, so they had no idea that they were illegal," she said. "Once they became aware, they were very much in favor of doing this, so that there's at least some means of regulating them."

Torgerson said the lack of notice to the RCMP is concerning and wondered if there are other issues the Province has not shared with the Valemount detachment. Pearson said police should also consider where scooters should be allowed – for example, using a scooter on 5th Avenue behind cars parked at an angle may be dangerous, but if scooters are not allowed on sidewalks it may be their only option.

Council approved of applying to the pilot program.

5th Avenue paving

Council approved a contract with Terus Construction to mill and repave 5th Avenue between Highway 5 and Centennial Park. According to the staff report, since Terus is currently milling and paving Highway 5, the Village was able to access their services through discussion with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

5th Avenue was last paved in 2010. Milling and repaving it would cost about \$421K, according to the staff report. The 2025 budget included \$385K from the gas tax, which was not earmarked for a specific project, and the Village will receive another \$111K from the tax this year.

Staff considered paving Dogwood Street instead, but that would cost an estimated \$1.2-\$1.7M, the report adds. However, the Village has discussed milling Dogwood Street to mitigate dust issues, the report says. Council approved the \$421K project with Terus.

Snow removal

Council approved an amended version of the Village's snow removal policy. The amendments include adding a section saying the Village will not clear snow on properties which it leases to tenants, including the courtyard in front of buildings at 1163-1185 5th Avenue.

Enforcement Bylaw amendment

Council gave first, second and third reading to an amended version of the Bylaw Notice Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Amendment Bylaw, which sets fines for bylaw violations. Staff updated the bylaw to reflect the newly amended traffic bylaw, and set fines for violating the bylaw by averaging traffic violation fines from other communities, including Golden, Hope, Nelson, 100 Mile House, Revelstoke and Smithers. The new fines include \$100 for unlawful parking, \$200 for impeding traffic, and \$150 for littering.

Fees and Charges amendment

Council gave first, second and third reading to an amended version of the fees and charges bylaw. The updates include removing Visitor Information Centre fees, as the centre is now operated by Tourism Valemount, increasing the event tent rental fee to account for assembling and disassembling the tent, and a stipulation that the Village only allow use of the photocopier for internal documents so it does not compete with local businesses.

Pearson asked if there is a rental fee for the Sports Plex concession stands, as the bylaw only lists a damage deposit, janitorial work, propane use and short notice cancellation fee under the Sports Plex section.

Director of Finance Lori McNee said there is no rental fee for the concession stands, and the Village charges for propane use so renters can operate the deep fryer.

Pearson also asked about the recommended \$750 fee for the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

"Would that be considered for a new license? Or if somebody's making a change for their license, would that fee apply to you?" He asked.

Corporate Officer Carleena Shepherd said the fee would be for new applications.

Council will consider adopting the amended bylaw at its next meeting.

Community Forest meeting

General Manager of the Valemount Community Forest (VCF), Alana Duncan, wrote to Council requesting a meeting between the VCF board and the Village during the week of August 11th. In her letter, Duncan said the meeting would be used to establish clear communication channels between VCF and Council, share some information on VCF operations to improve transparency, and discuss how VCF and the Village can cement their relationship.

Torgerson asked Yanciw if councillors could send their availability for the week to staff by the end of the following day. Yanciw said that would be possible, but suggested waiting a week if Council wanted to include Councillor Hugo Mulyk, who was on vacation at the time.

Pearson asked when the letter was sent, since the Council meeting was already taking place during the week of August 11th. Blanchette agreed the request was short notice.

"It's nice to have at least a full week's notice so that if we have to move things around, then we can," she said.

Council moved to have staff create a scheduling poll and do research on meeting procedures such as how many board members would need to attend to meet quorum, and whether the meeting should be public.

In-camera

Torgerson adjourned the open session of Council at 7:27 p.m. Council entered a closed meeting in accordance with Section 90 (1) 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;

(d) the security of the property of the municipality; and (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality.

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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.



Remembering Chuck Girard

Dear Editor,

Well known Christian singer, Chuck Girard, passed away, August 11, 2025, after a battle with cancer. He was 81. He went home to be with his Lord, peacefully, with his family by his side. He was living in Franklin, Tennessee at the time.

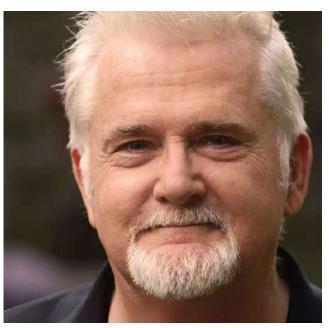
Dunster resident, Rod Reimer was his Canadian booking agent and tour road manager for 16 years. TheReimers travelled with Chuck on the road for many of those years and he spent many off days on tours with them at their home, in Dunster. They were best of friends and Chuck loved the Robson Valley. He said it reminded him of Switzerland.

Chuck was booked locally, several times between 1992 and 2007 at the New Life Sanctuary in Valemount and the E-Free Church in McBride. Most recently he was booked for the River Gospel Music Festival in Valemount by Valemount resident, Christine Torgerson. He headlined that festival for all four years from 2014-2017.

Chuck was most well known as one of the pioneers of contemporary Christian music in the 1970's with "Love Song", one of the first Christian rock bands, and also as a solo artist. Many will also remember his 60's hit, "Little Honda" when he was with the band "The Hondells".

Though Chuck will be missed by all who had the privilege to know him, he will live on through the memories and his extensive musical catalogue available on Spotify or Apple Music in addition to his

Rod Reimer, Dunster, B.C.



Chuck Girard was a well-known Christian singer with a deep connection to the Robson Valley. He passed away on August 11th surrounded by family in Franklin, Tennessee. /SUBMITTED

Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER



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

Gwynne Dyer is

Trump Management

It's like one of those slapstick comedies from the early days of silent films: the 'Keystone Cops' movies, perhaps, or Buster Keaton's various efforts. Lots of people rushing around, constant reversals of fortune, and many pratfalls.

Last Wednesday (14 August), on very short notice, the presidents and/or prime ministers of all the other major countries in the NATO alliance got together online to prep Donald Trump for his 'summit' meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska on Friday.

He had to be coached about his newly adopted positions defending Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity because everybody knows that Trump tends to echo the views of the last person who talked to him, especially in subjects he doesn't know much about.

So French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, and sundry other European NATO notables drilled Trump on what to say and what not. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky also got a few words in.

Most importantly, they all said, Trump must insist that Russia accept a cease-fire before peace negotiations started. Otherwise Putin could drag the negotiations out forever while continuing to conquer more Ukrainian territory. Trump was already quite cross about Moscow's foot-dragging on a cease-fire, so he seemed to take their advice seriously.

Indeed, just before he stepped aboard Air Force One to fly to Alaska on Friday he told reporters: "I want to see a cease-fire rapidly...I'm not going to be happy if it's not today...I want the killing to stop." But he was flying there to meet Putin – who would then become the last person he talked to on the subject.

It was probably inevitable that Trump would do a U-turn as soon as he was in Putin's presence. All his promises of "severe consequences" (secondary tariffs on countries importing Russian oil) if Putin would not agree to a cease-fire went out the window. The fifty-day deadline, the eight-day deadline, the tomorrow deadline - all forgotten in a moment.

Flying home from Alaska, Trump wrote on Truth Social: "It was determined by all that the best way to end the horrific war between Russia and Ukraine is to go directly to a peace agreement."

To be fair, Trump probably didn't understand that this meant the Russians could go on fighting and bombing Ukraine until there was a peace settlement agreeable to Moscow - which will only be reached if and when

> Russian's maximal demands, amounting in practice to the

subjugation of all Ukraine, have been accepted. He's not a detail man.

Trump then summoned Zelensky to Washington to hear the bad news, and he'll arrive on Monday. But so will almost all the European NATO leaders who prepped him last Wednesday. They are coming uninvited (although everybody will pretend otherwise) for a lastditch effort to turn Trump around again.

Even if it works this time, it's impossible to be always the last person Trump speaks to, and the effort to be that person soon degenerates into slapstick and pratfalls. The European NATO heads of government (and Canada's) will soon have to build a new NATO that does the old one's job of deterring Russia, but without the United States.

They will, of course, carry on the pretense of the old NATO as long as possible, because although they have the money and the numbers to perform that task without American help there will be many shortfalls and gaps in the new alliance during a lengthy transition (three to five years)

It will take a massive campaign of perpetual flattery for the old NATO countries to keep Trump on side for that long while simultaneously keeping Ukraine out of Russia's hands. However, that is the task they have now set themselves, although some have yet to come fully to terms with the new strategic realities.



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McBride Council: Water metering, parks plan, cemetery fencing

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

McBride Council discussed water meters, a new plan for local parks and cemetery fencing during the August 12th regular meeting. Mayor Gene Runtz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

After approving the night's agenda and adopting the minutes from the July 8th meeting, Council heard from two delegations.

Water Metering

Water management expert Kirk Stinchcombe spoke to Council regarding the upcoming installation of water meters. Stinchcombe is a founding partner and managing director of Econics, a company that advises water service providers on how to set rates and manage their infrastructure.

CAO Jeanette McDougall invited Stinchcombe to talk about the provincial water metering pilot project, which puts water meters in rural communities to track water use among homes and businesses. Stinchcombe is part of the pilot project's management team.

McBride is one of 19 communities across the province selected for the pilot project. The Village will receive nearly \$1.3M in funds to purchase and install water meters, according to a press release from the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs.

Aside from the benefit of having the Province cover up to 100 per cent of the cost for a water metering system, McBride will also be part of a network of communities collaborating on the best way to implement the system.

"McBride is participating in a community of practice... and through that community of practice, getting a whole bunch of technical resources, presentations, webinars, technical content to assist with implementation, [and] getting support from a provincial project team," Stinchcombe said. "People are exchanging information already – we're seeing that online and people [are] reaching out and sharing information and resources."

Additionally, McBride's participation will benefit other similar communities who start water metering programs in the future, Stinchcombe said.

B.C. has an unusually low rate of water metering, according to Stinchcombe – about 75 per cent of homes across Canada have water meters, and Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario all have water meters in over 90 per cent of homes.

"When you put meters in and charge by volume, the water consumption goes down significantly," Stinchcombe said. "As a general rule of thumb, it'll usually go down [about] 20 per cent ... but it can be as high as 30 per cent."

Water metering creates a financial incentive for residents to use less water, Stinchcombe added. Without metering, everybody pays the same rates regardless of how much water they use - meaning residents who use less water subsidize those who pay higher amounts, he

"The other benefit is that once you meter, you're able to dramatically improve your control of leakage because you know where water is being used in the system," Stinchcombe said.

Small leaks can go unnoticed for years without a water metering system, Stinchcombe said. According to him, finding and repairing small leaks can be the biggest source of water savings.

When the water metering system is installed, some residents may face higher bills while others face lower bills, Stinchcombe said.

"A key thing is that everyone will have the opportunity to control their water costs," he said. "In a metered system, people can make decisions to conserve, and so they can control their water costs more than they can without meters."

Stinchcombe added that while residents may be opposed to water meters at first, in his experience people want the water meters to remain once they've been

"Typically, there's a little bit of argy-bargy during the project, but once it's in place, you don't see a lot of sustained negativity towards it," he said, adding that he recommends creating a communications plan to discuss water metering with residents.

Runtz thanked Stinchcombe for his presentation.

DragiT Challenge

McBride resident Chuck Rollinson gave a presentation about the community's first-ever annual Show and Shine day, which took place on June 21st.

"I'm here to thank you, Council, Jeanette [McDougall] and Karen [Dubé] for making it a huge success," Rollinson said. "You guys went above and beyond. Some of our councillors here were on site, working their butts off and helping out. It's very appreciated."

Rollinson added that in his experience, it can be hard to find a sufficient number of volunteers to put on a big event. Having the Village's support helped make the event possible, he said.

The event raised \$700 for the McBride legion, and \$200 each for three local food banks, according to Rollinson. Councillors thanked Rollinson for putting on the event.

"Chuck, I don't think this would have happened if it wasn't for your leadership and what you took on. All of us owe you a debt in that regard," Runtz said.

"It's the community that made it happen," Rollinson said. "I think we're in a great little community here. We should be proud of it."

Runtz thanked Rollinson for his delegation.

Parks project grant

Council approved an application to the Union of BC Municipalities' Community-Building Fund under the capacity building stream, which funds projects such as infrastructure planning and asset management. Staff suggested applying for the grant to pay for a Parks and Recreation Plan, which would include a new design for Steve Kolida Park, redesigning the parking lot near the train station, and outlining improvements to the Dominion Creek and Phil and Jennie Gaglardi Park trails, among other work.

Staff consulted engineering firm R. Radloff & Associates, who estimated the project would cost around \$280K. The grant covers projects up to a maximum of \$7M per community, according to the staff report. Economic Development Officer Karen Dubé told Council having the plan could improve the Village's chances of winning grants for future projects.

"This funding opportunity, should we [succeed], would give us the opportunity to have engineer-planned designs, which would get us to the next phase for applying for grant funding for actual construction," Dubé said. "Right now, we don't have the ability to apply for funding for any of the projects listed in the report because we don't have the plans in place."

Runtz asked if the grant could also pay for consultants to evaluate local trails and see which improvements need to be made. Trail evaluation would be a component of the project, Dubé said.

Councillor Joe Kolida asked if \$280K would be sufficient for the project. Dubé said grant applications typically require a contingency amount to be built in, so there's extra funding to draw on if costs rise higher than expected. She added that the costs were only for planning, not for constructing the proposed projects. Councillor Tina Bennett asked if Council would be

consulted before making new plans for Steve Kolida

"A significant portion of the project would be focused on consultation with community for all components,

Sewer upgrades grant

Council approved an application to another Community Building Fund grant, this time under the capital infrastructure stream, which covers building large-scale infrastructure projects. Staff recommended applying to the grant for storm and sewer upgrades, which would include repaving alleys between Columbia and Main Street and extending the Queen Street storm sewer - which catches runoff - to the alley behind Main

The cost of the project would be about \$6.7M, just under the grant's \$7M maximum, according to the staff

Cemetery Fencing survey

McDougall submitted a report suggesting the Village hold an open house or distribute a survey to get input on how to complete the cemetery fencing project. The

project has faced multiple delays since the fencing material the Village initially purchased was found to be inadequate upon closer inspection – according to Public Works, the material would not last long, was already damaged and was too light to withstand wind. Councillors have suggested alternatives such as installing benches and hedges around the cemetery. Additionally, councillors have expressed concern that they were not consulted before Public Works decided not to use the material councillors had approved.

McDougall's report also included different options for the fencing, such as cast iron, a chain-link fence, or a stone wall, among others.

"My suggestion is that the survey ask the public to rate their preferences," she said. "We'll have a comments section where they can add additional comments. Council wanted some input on this, so that's why the report is here."

Bennett said she doesn't understand why the project has had so many delays.

"We had a committee of the whole, we purchased the fencing, we put it up for bid... then all of a sudden it changed, but not by Council," she said.

Bennett added that she did not like all of the materials McDougall included in the report, such as the chainlink fence, and would prefer if some materials were not included in the survey.

"The point I'm trying to get across is that we've already purchased [materials], so we're wasting money," she said. "Again, Council made a decision, and it's being changed."

Runtz said councillors have previously brought up using hedges and benches to surround the cemetery, and the survey would give an opportunity for residents to show their support for those solutions. He asked Bennett to explain why she feels Council's decisions are being changed again.

"We made the motion to ... do the cement base. We made that decision, and now it's being changed," Bennett

McDougall said when the Village first issued a bidding opportunity for the project in September 2024, the project did not receive any bids.

"During that process, the product was being examined... It was considered too light for the purpose, it would bend easily. There were some scratches, it would mean painting additional parts," she said. "We went back to the drawing board."

Kolida said the fence is there for visual appeal and does not need to be strong.

"We don't need to be holding in buffalo. It's a cosmetic fence, and if that fence isn't proper, that's fine," he said. "What we're saying is the changes were made, but not by us. If we made the original decision, it should have come back to us to change the decision."

Kolida added that rather than presenting fencing options to the public, they should be given a blank slate to submit their own ideas.

Runtz said councillors are meant to represent the community, so residents should be consulted before making a decision on the fence. Bennett said she agrees residents should have input on the project, but added that her issue is that staff changed the project without consulting Council.

Runtz asked Public Works Manager Brian Taphorn to share more information about the fencing material the Village initially purchased.

"We met with contractors... they were all in agreement that the fencing was not all the same, it was not going to be easy to put up, and it was not at any strength for any wind [or] snow," Taphorn said.

Runtz added that contractors did not bid on the Village's project because they didn't want to install a weak, damaged fence.

"It wasn't because of the fencing that they didn't put it up, it was because of the contract," Kolida said. "You guys scared them. You said, 'If you go through a grave, that's your responsibility'... They're not going to drill a hole, go through a grave, and then get sued or get charged or have liability."

Runtz said staff had made it clear where any construction would take place, so there was a low risk of hitting a grave while installing the fence. Bennett said she still believes contractors did not bid on the project because the contract would have held them liable for any damage to graves.

"Rather than [continuing to] go over this thing and

McBride Council...cont'd from P8

putting blame on staff, we're back to starting over again," Runtz said. "The idea was to get a survey out."

Kolida moved to hold an open house where the public can give their opinions on how the project should move forward. McDougall asked if councillors would like to include the suggested materials she had in her report.

"We're looking for input from the public, and ideas on the cemetery – whether it includes a fence, or no fence, or a hedge, or a bench or nothing at all," Kolida said.

Bennett asked Dubé if the UBCM grant council discussed earlier could be used on a cemetery project. Dubé said cemeteries are typically excluded from infrastructure grants because local governments collect funds from people who purchase cemetery lots, and those funds can go towards cemetery improvements. However, she offered to find relevant grants.

Council approved Kolida's motion for an open house. Public Works report

Staff submitted a report with updates on all of the Village's ongoing Public Works projects, including washroom renovations in the train station and the alternate water source feasibility study, among other items.

Bennett asked about the water metering project, which the report said is in its initial planning stages.

"When we discussed the grant ... [we said] we would discuss it more if we were [installing] water meters. Is that going to happen?" She asked. "We had asked for a referendum with the public also."

McDougall said she would have to review Council's resolution to apply to the grant to see if it included a direction to organize a public referendum. Dubé said now that the grant has been approved, the Village is in its community consultation and education phase.

"I must have had a major misunderstanding when

we applied for it," Kolida said, adding that he believed Council would revisit the topic and get public input if the grant was approved.

Minutes from the meeting showed that Council had approved to apply for the grant, but did not move to hold a public referendum. Because the report was only for information, Council did not make a motion on the water metering discussion.

Gigglin' Grizzly support

Council approved a request to write a letter of support for the Gigglin' Grizzly Pub's proposed patio expansion. In a letter to Council, Chris Fry of Stacks Ventures Inc. said the pub needs to apply for a license with the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch which would cover the extended patio. Part of the application process includes consultation with the local government, according to Fry.

"The existing patio is currently licenced [sic.]. To enhance the local pub experience, licencing [sic.] the expansion will reduce confusion and potential conflict as to where liquor can be served and consumed," Fry wrote.

Zoning for daycare

The McBride Community Forest Corporation recently purchased property at 311 Main Street, hoping to lease the building as a daycare. However, the Village's zoning bylaw does not allow that lot to be used as a daycare.

Council gave first and second reading to a zoning bylaw amendment which would change the 311 Main Street zoning to allow a daycare or childcare centre. According to the staff report, staff will issue notice of the bylaw amendment and hold a public hearing so residents can give feedback. After the public hearing, Council can consider third reading and adoption of the bylaw.

The Corporation hopes to open the daycare in early October, according to the staff report.

Street closure

Resident Teo Esser submitted an application to close Lonsdale Street on August 13th from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The closure would allow him to run a kids' summer camp, according to his application.

Council approved Esser's application.

Business facade improvement

Council approved granting \$5,000 from the Village's business facade improvement program to Robson Valley Community Services for facade improvements at 942 3rd Avenue. The upgrades would include staining cedar on the building's beams, repainting the main door, installing new lighting and adding a new sign, among other projects.

Runtz asked Dubé if the business facade improvement program is a provincial or federal grant.

"This program is funded through Northern Development Initiative Trust," Dubé said. "We've applied annually since 2003 [or] 2004 for up to \$20,000 a year that we can then in turn provide to local businesses to improve the fronts of their buildings."

Council unanimously approved the grant.

In-camera

Runtz adjourned the open meeting at 7:57 p.m. Council moved to an in-camera session to discuss matters related to Section 90 (1) of the Community Charter:

- (c) labour relations or other employee relations; and
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality.

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the entire basin.

Columbia Basin Trust celebrates 30 years

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

according to Strilaeff.

This July marked the 30-year anniversary of the founding of Columbia Basin Trust, an institution that operates hydroelectric plants throughout the Columbia River and funds projects throughout the basin.

The Trust was created in response to concerns Basin residents had after the Columbia River Treaty was established in the '70s, said Trust CEO Johnny Strilaeff.

"We were created so residents could share in some of the benefits that arise from the Columbia River Treaty to help mitigate all the negative impacts [of the Treaty]," said Strilaeff. "In Valemount, there's the Kinbasket's drawdown... the negative impacts, depending where you're at in the region, are different but are really significant." With that in mind, the Province passed the Columbia Basin Trust Act, and the organization began with around \$321 million dollars total from the Province,

While most trusts make money by reaping returns on their investment portfolios, the Columbia Basin Trust gets most of its funds from its three hydroelectricity plants, said Strilaeff. This makes the Trust nearly one-of-a-kind – Strilaeff says he only knows of one similar organization, a non-profit based in New Zealand.

It also means the Trust was in uncharted waters when it began in 1995, Strilaeff said. "When the Trust was created, there was no other organizational model that we could look at to help create an organization with this mandate," he said. "Our mandate is to support the social, economic and environmental well-being of the region. There was years of effort to transform this endowment and our mandate... into an actual action plan."

Early on, the Trust's team had to figure out how to collect and incorporate feedback from Basin residents, since the organization is meant to develop its priorities by consulting Basin residents. Strilaeff said this is always a challenge, but it has resulted

in one of the Trust's hallmark programs: Resident-Directed Grants, often called ReDi grants.

In Valemount, ReDi grants have funded trail maintenance initiatives, equipment purchases for the community TV station, and a new trailer for the volunteer fire department, among other projects.

While the Trust's grant programs and community investments are a point of pride for the organization, managing billions of dollars in funds to make wise investments in the Basin does not come without its challenges, Strilaeff said.

"At times in our past, we have made investment decisions with very good intentions, but without the proper diligence or the rationale for making investments," he said. "When it comes to investments, we have to be strict and remember that, in effect, we're investing residents' money."

Today, the Trust invests in businesses that are less risky – a high return on investment means more money that can go to programs that benefit the entire basin, Strilaeff said. And aside from giving grants, Trust staff are taking a more hands-on approach to meeting community needs, he added. For example, the Trust is working with different communities to bring broadband internet access to rural areas.

"We could just very easily have continued to be a granting organization," Strilaeff said. "I'm particularly proud of how we've evolved to support work in this region to make sure we're doing it in the way that's most effective for any particular challenge." In that vein, Strilaeff said the Trust works with different communities to meet their specific needs – while appreciating the river that works as a connecting thread through

"Each community has its own... set of values, priorities, interests [and] natural attributes," Strilaeff said. "The one unifying commonality is our collective connection to the place we live, the environment we get to live in, and the river system that connects us all."

Larry Stamm: local luthier

SUBMITTED BY DAVID MARCHANT

The Dunster Museum has been putting on a series of visitations to the studios and workshops of creative people living in the Robson Valley. Saturday, August 9th was the third of such visits; this time it was to the workshop of Larry Stamm, a luthier (a maker of stringed instruments). I have found each visit extremely interesting and like the others, I was left astounded at the talent that lives in our remote and sparsely populated valley.

Larry has been handcrafting beautiful instruments for decades, and I was amazed at all of the different types of instruments he has created: Guitars, mandolins, violins, ukuleles, and hybrid instruments that I have never heard of (banjo/mandolins, viola/mandolins, and instruments of other combinations). Larry custom-makes instruments for people and also repairs broken instruments.

He uses beautiful local and exotic woods to create his instruments and has a stockpile of woods for further creations. It was incredible to see and feel the very thin pieces of wood that he had made to be used in constructing the tops and bottoms of instruments, and of course some will be bent for the sides and arched tops.

While Larry has some power tools, most of his time in creating instruments is done with hand tools. He showed off some of his hand planes, one of which he had made himself that was only about 3 inches long which he uses for careful fine work.

I was impressed with the beauty, the sound, and neck-action of the mandolin that was passed around during Larry's presentation. Larry is certainly an accomplished luthier and it was enlightening to see how he goes about making his fine instruments.

In the photo below Larry explains his current project. He is making a unique instrument for a customer. It will have the neck of a five-string banjo, with the body of an enlarged mandolin. You might be able to make out the shape of it drawn out on the paper.

David Marchant is a McBride-based artist and a long-time contributor to the Rocky Mountain Goat.



Dunster local Larry Stamm walked vistiors through his workshop and explained how he handcrafts instruments such as mandolins, guitars, violins and ukeleles. The visit was a part of the Dunster Museum's "Discovery Visits" program. /SUBMITTED

www.valemount.ca

Electric Kick Scooters

It's summertime and electric kick scooters are out and about. In BC, you must be at least 16 years old to ride an e-scooter and you must wear a helmet. You do not need a licence or insurance. You cannot, however, ride an escooter on public roads, shoulders, sidewalks or trails unless you are in a community participating in the provincial e-scooter pilot project.

At the August 12 Regular Council Meeting, Council considered and approved an application to join the provincial Pilot Project. Please stay tuned on this initiative. For more information on e-scooter rules, visit the Government of BC website.



The Chinook Salmon run is here!

Delinquent Property Taxes

Properties with delinquent taxes are eligible for tax sale by public auction which is held the last Monday in September in each year.

Please call the office to discuss the payment of your taxes before the deadline to avoid your property being sold.

Highway 5 Resurfacing

Terus Construction will be grinding and paving Highway 5 between Whiskey Fill Road up to and including the Highway 16 East/West junction. There will be single lane alternating traffic until September 5. Please expect delays, slow down, and obey all signs while travelling through the construction zone.

Resurfacing operations have impacted traffic flow at the highway 5 intersections into the village. As disruptions increased, Terus temporarily paused work to reassess the situation and develop a plan that better accommodates both highway and local traffic. Thank you for your patience while repairs are made during the busy summer season.

Notice Disposition of Land

Pursuant to Sections 26 and 94 of the Community Charter, notice is hereby given that the Village of Valemount intends to lease to the Northern Health Authority, at a monthly rate of \$1500.00 plus GST, with a 3% increase to take effect on November 1st, 2025.

The building is situated at Lot 5, District Lot 7355, Cariboo District Plan 9689 (1133 – 6th Avenue), with the lease comprising of the main floor of the residence, for a term of 1 year from August 1st, 2025 to September 30, 2026.

For more information please contact:

Carleena Shepherd, CO, Village of Valemount 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0 (T) 250.566.4435 (E) corporate@valemount.ca

Ignite Awareness: FireSmart Movie Night

Join us for an unforgettable evening of film, insight, and fire prevention. Watch "THE TEST", a powerful story about community resilience in the face of wildfire, followed by an exclusive talk with Alan Westhaver, a leading wildfire preparedness expert.

Date: Wednesday, August 27th, 2025 Location: Valemount Secondary School

Time: Doors at 6:30pm

Admission: Free, Family-friendly, Snacks & Refreshments by donation to the VSS Timberwolves Basketball

Be inspired. Get prepared. FireSmart your future.

Photo Contest: Show Us What Makes Our **Community Shine!**

As part of Valemount's Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan, we are inviting you to share photos that capture the heart and soul of Valemount. What makes this place special to you? The people, the landscape, the traditions? We want to see it through your lens. Let your perspective be part of our future.

Send your photos to: epc@valemount.ca

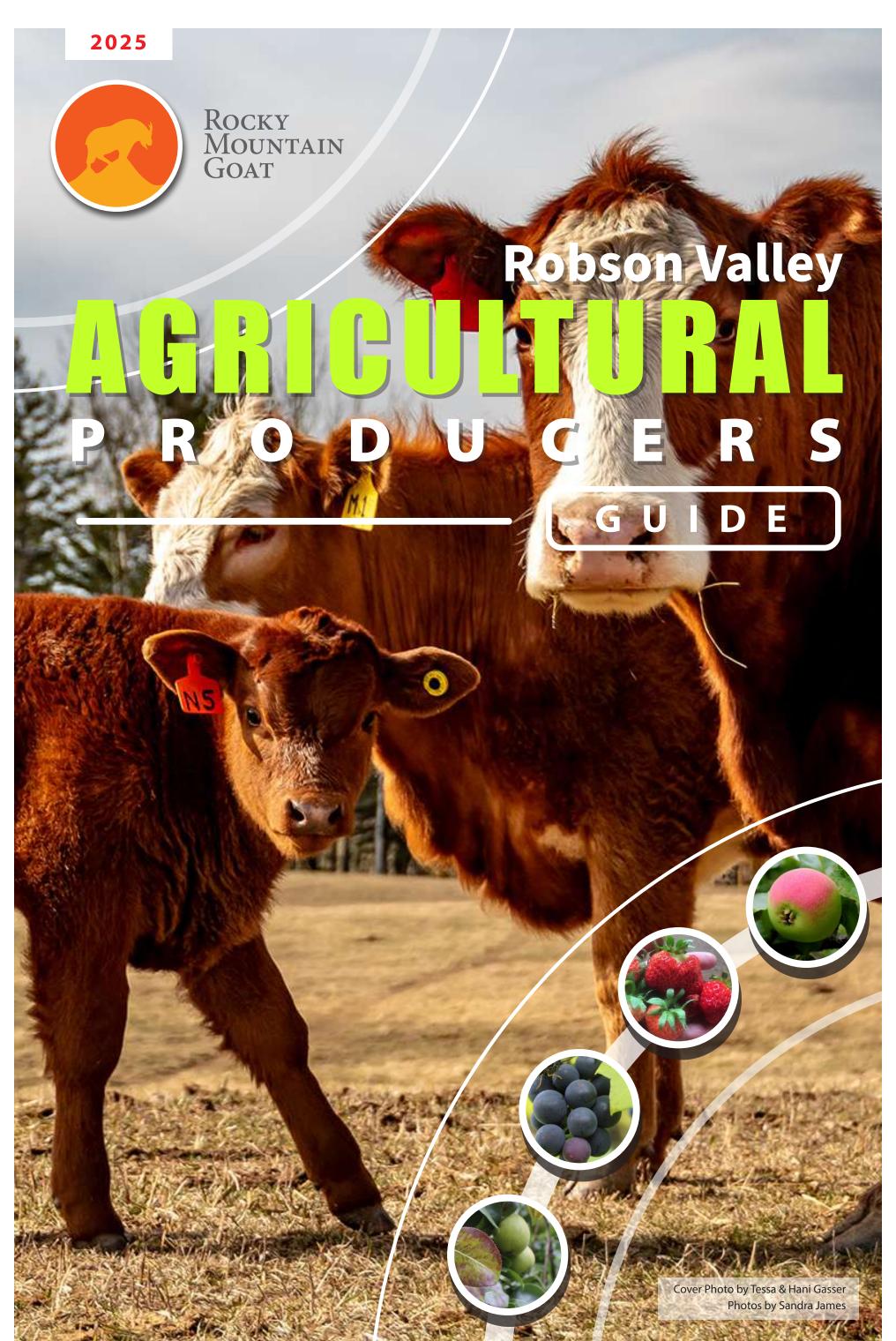
Deadline: Monday, August 25, 2025, 4pm Voting: will occur at the FireSmart Movie Night at the

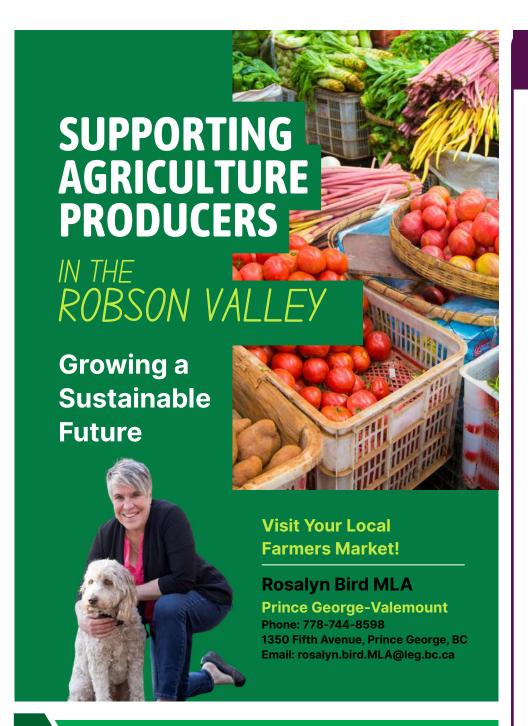
secondary school on Aug 27

Prizes for: Top Photo (featured on the cover of the plan!), Runner-Up, and Honourable Mention.









LISTINGS

BC Fruit Truck - Jonathan Deuling

Telephone: 778 - 867 - 6267

 $\textbf{Email/Website:} secretary.bcfruittruck@gmail.com \bullet www.bcfruittruck.com$

Facebook: @BC Fruit Truck

Type of goods/services offered for sale:

Cherries, canning peaches, apricots, blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, grapes, peaches, nectarines, prunes, plums, pears, apples, pickling cukes, tomatoes, corn, garlic, and more.

Season of Availability:

Serving Valemount every Saturday 11 - 2PM @ Tourist Info Centre. Contact us, join our email list, and be "in the know" for products, prices, promos and more.

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Telephone: 250 - 793 - 4742

Address: General Delivery, Dunster, BC, V0J 1J0 Email/Website: butterkupfarms@gmail.com Type of goods/services offered for sale:

When you buy our grass fed beef you are buying more than just meat, you are buying our hopes, dreams, passion, and hard work. We feel very blessed that our customers appreciate the beef they buy from us. Our beef graze on lush grass that is fertilized with sea salt, Kelp meal, volcanic minerals, and natural grass fed cattle fertilizer. Our beef herd is a combination of several breeds of cattle, and an extensive amount of research goes into the blood lines of each breed. We utilize these cattle breeds to obtain a superior product with marbling, CLA, DHL, Oleic acid. All of which have been proven to be very beneficial to humans. Our meat is free of added hormones, antibiotics and is humanely raised. We never give antibiotics to food chain beef, nor any other additives or injections. No fillers or nitrates are used in our products. We market full blood and part bred cattle of these various breeds for foundation stock to other ranchers. We are adamant about halter broke cattle with gentle dispositions. We raise and market fullblood and part bred Jersey cows as family milk cows. We are marketing the following products, all with sea salt, diatomaceous earth, kelp meal, no artificial or synthetic fertilizers; an extensive variety of fresh garden vegetables, herbs, fresh & dried cut flowers. Our honey is 100% wildflower honey with no antibiotics fed to our honeybees. Our old fashion German Shepherds we raise & sell have structurally sound bodies, hips and minds.

Season of Availability:

All Year

BUSINESS PROFILE

GRAZING PATCH FARM

RACHEL JANTZI





- FACEBOOK & INSTA: @grazingpatchfarm
- WEBSITE: www.grazingpatchfarm.ca

Spring of 2024, with hands-on help and expertise of the Young Agrarians, Rachel set into motion a long-held dream.

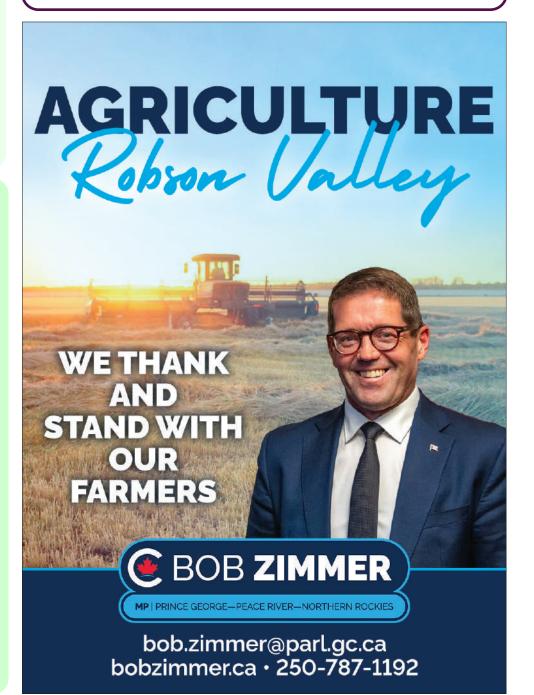
Rachel grew up in a community with scenic roads and rolling hills where conventional farming was practiced. As a young tot, she used to sing to the piggies in the barn. And as she grew up, she gathered understanding and collected skills that got her to where she is today. It was not a linear path.

Rachel had the good fortune to learn and work at an organic vegetable farm right out of highschool; she picked up practical skills in carpentry through college, technical and mechanical understanding as a robot builder, and later as a plumber apprentice. Along the way, she studied under Richard Perkins who runs Europe's leading regenerative agriculture farm in Sweden and Joel Salatin in Virginia whose chicken tractor designs influenced her own builds. She leans heavily on Mark Shepherd and Steve Gabriel for agroforestry practices and on Greg Judy for his methods of soil building by grazing.

Wendell Berry writes that "care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope."

So how do you do this? At

CONT'D ON B4





Support LOCAL Eat LOCAL at the Valemount

Farmers' Market!

By Korie Marshall

If you want to support local growers and businesses; if you want access to locally grown and locally made products; if you want to hang out in a relaxing shopping environment, amid stunning mountain views -

come to the Valemount Farmers Market! Here, you'll find fresh and locally grown produce, local frozen meat and fresh eggs, locally made breads, baking, crafts, art,

much more! The Market runs every

bath and body products, and so

Thursday from mid June until the end of September. It is on from 4-7, next to the Valemount Tourism office and Visitor Information Centre, at 375 Cranberry Lake Road - right at the intersection of Highway 5.

The Valemount Farmers' Market was revived in 2012, and the Valemount Learning Society took over operation of the market in 2021. With our "Make it, Bake it, Grow it" rules, the market helps



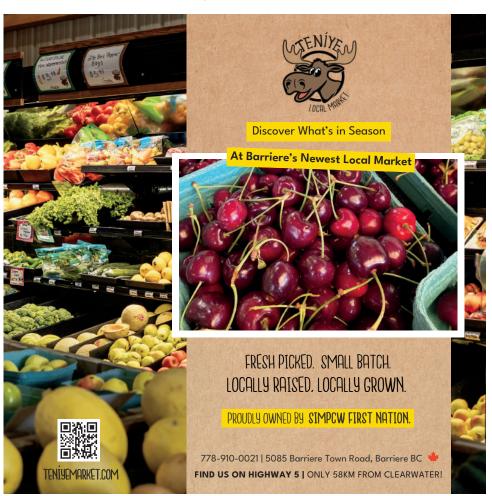
support local producers and artisans, and the Nutrition Coupon Program from BC Farmers' Markets is a huge hit with low-income families, pregnant people and seniors in the community. The program, funded by the Ministry of Health and supported

by Columbia Basin Trust, helps get local fresh food like veggies, fruit, eggs, and meat to the community, and it supports



the producers of these items by increasing

A study in 2023 showed the Valemount Farmers' Market is a significant economic player in Valemount, injecting nearly \$358,600 annually into the local economy. The study, sponsored by the BC Association of Farmers' Markets in collaboration with Dr. David Connell of UNBC, showed the market received 9,125 visits annually.



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Telephone: 1 - 833 - 852 - 8811 Address: Your Local Propane Provider Email/Website: www.cangaspropane.ca Type of goods/services offered for sale:

PROPANE - Specialized energy solutions for all your agricultural heating needs

Season of Availability:

All Year

COMMUNITY FUTURES FRASER FORT GEORGE

Telephone: 250 - 561 - 6424 ext. 117

Address: 1556 7th Ave, Prince George, BC V2L 3P4 1290 6th Ave, Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0

Email/Website: shonat@cfdc.bc.ca • general@cfdc.bc.ca • www.cfdc.bc.ca

Type of goods/services offered:

Community Futures offers small business supports, resources, and services including financing, business coaching, skill development and training for all industry sectors and interests. We continue to offer these services and work with producers, investors, and entrepreneurs in agriculture in the Robson Valley.

Season of Availability:

All Year

DUNSTER FARMER'S MARKET

Telephone: 250-968-4453 Address: Dunster Community Hall

Email/Website: robsonvalleyrancher@gmail.com

Type of goods/services offered for sale:

Local growers and artisans. Products vary weekly depending on vendors. Locally grown mixed vegetables, Herbs - Garlic, baking goods, jams and relishes, Available grass fed beef, variety of Plants and Flowers, handmade crafts and products.

Season of Availability:

11AM - 1PM, SATURDAYS - July 5, 2025 - September 27, 2025

EDEN SONG FARM - Annie & Jesse Spangler

Telephone: 250 - 566 - 1625

Address: 15683 Old Tete Jaune Road, Tete Jaune Email/Website: edensongfarm@gmail.com Type of goods/services offered for sale: Offering No-Spray Flower and Vegetable starter plants.

A wide selection of annual flowers, and some perennial flowers. Many varieties of vegetable starter plants, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet and hot peppers, and much more!

Season of Availability:

Opening day is Mother's Day.

GRAZING PATCH FARM - Rachel Jantzi

Telephone: 778 - 258 - 2688 Address: McBride, BC

Email/Website: farmer@grazingpatchfarm.ca / www.grazingpatchfarm.ca

Facebook: @grazingpatchfarm

Type of goods/services offered for sale:

Pasture Raised, Regenerative, Non-GMO Chicken & Eggs

Season of Availability: All year or until sold out

HARVEST HILL FARM - Linton & Barb McCoy

Telephone: 250 - 569 - 4072 Address: McBride, BC

Email/Website: dunsterfarmgirl@gmail.com

Type of goods/services offered for sale: Frozen meat: pork, beef and chicken. A large variety of cuts.

Grass fed, no synthetic hormones.

Custom raised hogs and chickens. Round hay bales.

Season of Availability:

Orders available until sold out or by preorder.

Available at the Farmer's Markets:

Valemount Farmer's Market on Thursdays

McBride Community Market on Fridays

Dunster Farmer's Market on Saturdays

Our meat is available in the McBride TGP grocery store

KETTLE HAWK FARM - Aaron & Amber Ford

Telephone: 250 - 569 - 7517

Address: 1780 Bircher Road, McBride, BC Email/Website: aaron.s.ford@gmail.com Type of goods/services offered for sale:

Haskap (U-pick & Frozen), Hay

MCBRIDE COMMUNITY MARKET

Telephone: 250 - 569 - 7101 Address: Box 579, McBride

Email/Website: jackie.c.edwards@gmail.com Type of goods/services offered for sale:

Local growers and artisans. Products vary weekly depending on vendors but usually a variety of plants, baked goods, home canning, crafts and locally grown vegetables.

Season of Availability:

11AM - 2PM, FRIDAYS - Mid June, 2025 - Labour Day weekend, 2025





Contribute to the Fraser Fort George Food System Asset Map!

✓ Producers ✓ Food System Stakeholders

✓ Processors ✓ Educators ✓ Non-Profits ✓ Retailers

You're invited to participate!

This interactive *Food System Asset Map* is designed to showcase and connect the many assets in our regional food system to help identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for collaboration and growth across our Fraser Fort George region.

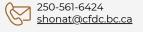
A map is only as strong as the information it contains. That's where you come in.



Explore the map and participate by **adding** your information here.

https://bit.ly/RegionalFoodSystemAssetMap

Ouestions? Contact Shona:







Save the Dates!

Oct 3-4, 2025

Village of **McBride** presents the



Robson Valley Agriculture Forum

Join us for a day and a half of workshops, presentations, panel discussions and networking as we explore the future of agriculture in the Robson Valley.



Friday, Oct 3, 7-8:30pm — On-Farm Emergency Planning Workshop Saturday, Oct 4, 8:30am-5:00pm – Forum

Saturday, Oct 4, 5:30pm on – post-event social - Gigglin' Grizzly Pub



Robson Valley Community Centre, 441 Columbia St., McBride



Free to attend! Pre-registration is required. Stay tuned for registration details.

Questions? Call 250-569-2229 or email Karen at edo@mcbride.ca. Check out: https://www.mcbride.ca/business-and-development/economic-<u>development-projects</u> for more info and to register.

Event Sponsors

Presenting:



Gold:



Silver:



This project is funded by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

BUSINESS PROFILE Continued





Grazing Patch Farm, Rachel says, "we regenerate the land 'one patch at a time'. Our pasture-

raised animals move regularly to fresh grass in such a way that pastures and forests improve year over year. The animals thrive in this

environment and they get to do what they do best: chickens scratch, pigs root and sheep graze.

Our hope is to increase resilience to climate extremes. Our soils possess an increased water holding capacity and are better able to withstand droughts while preventing erosion and nutrient loss during

floods. As we build our top soil, we increase carbon capture which feeds more nutrients back to the plants and ultimately back to the animals.

In addition to their daily pasture forage, we feed organic grains to our chickens and pigs. This results in healthy and happy animals, climate resilience and ultimately the most delicious and nutritious meat and eggs you'll find!" Now, into her second

season, you'll find Rachel

once again selling her golden yolked eggs and delicious tasting chicken at the Valemount and Prince George Farmer's Markets as well as delivering in the areas between.

Rachel continues giving it her best effort, listening to her customers, and regenerating the land 'one patch at a time'!



Valemount | McBride | Dunster | Blue River



Robson ValleyAgriculture Forum

Cultivating Growth and Collaboration

Submitted by the Village of McBride.

The Village of McBride is preparing to host the first-ever Robson Valley Agriculture Forum, a landmark event for the region's producers, processors, and agri-entrepreneurs. Scheduled for October 3–4, 2025 at the Robson Valley Community Centre, the two-day forum will bring together a dynamic mix of farmers, producers and growers with technical experts, funders, and organizations with one shared goal: to grow a stronger, more sustainable agricultural sector in the Robson Valley.

A First-of-Its-Kind Event

This inaugural event—free to attend—is a direct response to conversations with local farmers who voiced a need for more practical, accessible support for agriculture in the region. The forum will focus on actionable tools and meaningful connections. Whether you're an established grower, a young or transitioning farmer, or just exploring agri-business opportunities, the forum is designed to meet you where you're at.

"The forum is all about equipping

producers with knowledge and connections that help them succeed," said Karen Dubé, Economic Development Officer for the Village of McBride. "It's a chance to hear from peers, discover new funding streams, and learn practical skills—without having to travel hours to a big city."

Agenda Highlights

The weekend kicks off Friday evening with a workshop -- On-Farm Emergency Preparedness -- led by representatives from BC Agriculture Council and AgSafe BC. Saturday is packed with keynote presentations, panel discussions, and interactive sessions on topics including:

Advanced rotational grazing and cell design workshop (BC Forage Council)

Farmers Markets: Strengths and Limitations (Dr. David Connell, UNBC) Land matching and succession planning (Young Agrarians, BC Ministry of Agriculture)

Climate and labour adaptations (Hope Farm Organics)

Best practices for managing invasive plants, pollinator importance, and farmland preservation

And more!

The event also features a trade show, multiple networking breaks, catered lunch, and spotlight presentations from key organizations like Community Futures Fraser-Fort George, FarmFolk CityFolk, the Native Bee Society of BC, and the NW Invasive Plant Council, and more!

We invite attendees to a postevent social meet up at the Gigglin' Grizzly Pub after closing the Forum around 5pm for a chance to continue discussions, swap stories and ideas, win prizes and relax after a busy day.

Built for Producers

The timing and format were designed with farmers in mind—sessions run Friday evening and all-day Saturday to accommodate those with weekday obligations or full-time farm work. Registration and attendance will be at no charge and the Village is seeking sponsorships to ensure meals and refreshments are included.

Building for the Future

More than just an event, the Agriculture Forum is part of a broader effort by the Village of McBride to support regional food security and economic resilience. Through initiatives like investRVR.ca, collaboration on regional agriculture strategies, and consistent support for grant access and planning, the municipality is helping local producers thrive.

"Our hope is that this forum plants seeds for long-term success," said Mayor Eugene Runtz. "We want to see more robust farm operations, stronger peer networks, and a community that feels empowered and connected."

Join the Conversation

Whathar you're a lives

Whether you're a livestock producer, market gardener, rancher, food processor, landowner, or just curious about opportunities in local agriculture, you're invited to attend.

Robson Valley Agriculture Forum October 3–4, 2025

Robson Valley Community Centre, McBride

Free admission | Meals provided on Saturday | All welcome (pre-registration is required)

Event sponsorship: Presenting sponsors include McBride's own Robson Valley Home Hardware and Covers & Co., Gold Sponsor – Robson Valley Community Services, and Silver Sponsor – Four Rivers Co-op.

In addition, this project is funded by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

For more information about attending the forum or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, reach out to Karen at edo@mcbride.ca or call 250-569-2229. Follow www.mcbride.ca (https://www.mcbride.ca/business-and-development/economic-development-projects) and Facebook. Pre-registration details will be released in the coming

16 Thursday August 7, 2025

G

NORTH - HOME RANCH - Maria Lerch

Telephone: 250 - 566 - 0010

Address: 1250 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount Email/Website: bamermoidicanada@gmail.com Facebook: Maria Lerch & Privat Group (Jimmy's Hideout)

Type of goods/services offered for sale:

Veggies, herbs and herbal remedies, berries, eggs, livestock bedding plants

and perennials

 $\label{prop:continuous} Farm\ Store\ -\ new\ \&\ used\ books,\ arts,\ crafts,\ baking,\ jams\ and\ chutneys$

Season of Availability:

Seasonal - eggs, fresh veggies, bedding plants and perennials

Farm Store - Available year round

McKIRDY CREEK FARM - Mike & Jean Ann Berkenpas

Telephone: 250 - 566 - 8460

Address: Box 333, 3130 McKirdy Road, Valemount Email/Website: www.mckirdycreekfarm.com
Type of goods/services offered for sale:

SUMMER MARKET: produce available at the Valemount market: raspberries, apples, garlic, peas, kale, potatoes, carrots, squash, herbs, flowers, berry jam, and gluten free baking available seasonally.

SPRING PLANT SALE: annual sale at the end of May with perennial flowers, berries, herbs and some bedding plants, as well as wool garden pellets and home saved seeds.

WINTER MARKETS: berry jam, gluten free baking, wreaths, and locally grown artisan wool products including felted wool rugs, wall hangings yarn and





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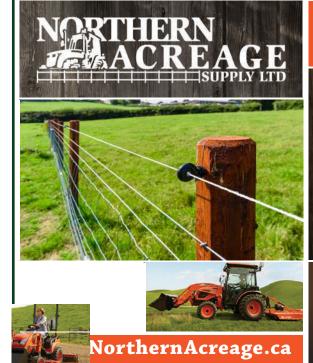
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250-596-2273

sales@northernacreage.ca 4870 Continental Way, Prince George, B.C.

MCBRIDE FARMERS INSTITUTE (a member of the BC Farmers' Institutes)

Telephone: 250 - 569 - 7101 (Jackie Edwards Secretary)

Address: 1st Ave. Box 176, McBride, BC V0J 2E0 **Email/Website:** jackie.c.edwards@gmail.com

Type of goods/services offered:

- 1. To improve conditions of rural life so that settlement may be permanent and prosperous;
- 2. To promote the theory and practice of agriculture;
- 3. To arrange on behalf of its members for the purchase, distribution or sale of commodities, supplies or products;
- 4. To act generally on behalf of its members in all matters incidental to agricultural pursuits and rural development; (eg) to promote home economics, public health, child welfare, education and better schools.

Season of Availability:

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Sept to June first Thursday of the month 7:00PM at McBride Farmers' Institute, 1st Ave McBride.

The Benefits of IRECT MARKETING

Maria Lerch, North Home Ranch + Jimmy's Hideout, Valemount.

I have operated a small farm business just outside of Valemount for the last 25 years. My marketing skills improved slowly – bit by bit. Raising a family was number one priority for a long time; egg deliveries to customers, the odd plant sale, and a few livestock deals had to be enough to keep the farm status intact.

Once the children were old enough, and had started their own carriers, I began offering my products at the local farmers market during the summer months. It worked well, and I will be forever thankful for the opportunity I had there to promote myself, to meet new customers, and to find out, what shoppers

were looking for. I diversified my sales – beside eggs I also offered some veggies, herbs, remedies, bedding plants and perennials, jams and chutneys, as well as baking.

In December of 2024, it was time for a new adventure. A legacy project for a beloved family member inspired me to open the little farm store "Jimmy's Hideout" directly on our ranch property. It opened up the possibility of selling everything I had offered at the market, but in a more efficient way. I don't have to harvest the veggies for sale - instead I just list the items on a chalkboard, and get whatever is needed fresh from the garden. The eggs, the jams and chutneys are kept cold in fridges, and I am inside a

building, protected from heat, rain, or wind. I can also include items from other producers, or crafters, and decide on my own on opening days and hours of operation. If a customer takes the time, to come out to the farm, it is often not just for the purpose of buying something. It offers the person a glimpse into real ranch life. Seeing the hens busying themselves, chasing after grasshoppers, or dozing in a sand bath, will make a dozen of eggs more valuable. There are some mother hens sitting on eggs, and in another free run, one can observe the half grown chicks munch on chickweed – nasty for the garden, but so nutritious for the youngsters.

One of my biggest joys in all of this is seeing the smiles on my shopper's faces, when they watch me over the garden fence, harvesting the herbs or veggies they had asked for; conversations about many topics have evolved from moments like this, and guite a few of the members in the Jimmy's Hideout Facebook Group became friends in real life as well. I have a rocking chair in the office space of my little store. It is used frequently by visitors they can just sit there, close their eyes and relax, and maybe try a few of my yellow raspberries or white strawberries. On a rack over the window bundled herbs are drying, providing a new perspective toward tea in a jar.

Selling products directly from the place they were grown or produced, is also beneficial to the younger residents on a farm. They can follow step by step how it's done. Planting, growing, watering, weeding, harvesting and marketing.

Last, but not least, I want to take the opportunity, and thank the members of my family who have supported me on that journey and made it possible for me to show my passion and love for the work I do.



Tackling Invasive Weeds:

Tips from the NW Invasive Plant Council

By the Executive Director of NWIPC. From common tansy to spotted knapweed, or orange and yellow hawkweed, invasive plants are a problem that affects all those within the agricultural industry. These tricky plants thrive in disturbed ground and love to make their homes in hay fields, lawns, and ditches. Their competitiveness and fast reproduction making them difficult and frustrating to manage. Invasive plants can devastate agricultural operations economically by outcompeting forage and food crops and reducing crop yield and quality. Some invasive plants are even toxic to livestock. Recent drought activity across the province has put strain on agricultural crops, allowing invasives to take advantage of aging and freshly seeded fields.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Ensure products that are being brought onto your land are as weed free as possible such as seed, forage and manure. When requested, seed mixes can come with a certificate of analysis for weed free seed.

Mechanical removal, such as mowing and hand-pulling can be an effective treatment for many invasive species, including hawkweed. In some instances, when the infestation of invasive plants is too great to manage by hand or

cannot be mowed regularly, an increase in soil quality may create ideal conditions for native species to be reintroduced. If possible, graze or mow prior to the seed stage to reduce seed production.

Apply for NWIPC's Landowner Invasive Plant Removal Rebate Program: eligible applicants may receive a rebate of up to 50% of their costs (up to \$1000), after hiring a certified pesticide applicator to treat invasive species included on our target list (first-come first-serve basis).

Download the WeedsBMP app designed for producers to help identify and determine best management practices for invasive plants.

More information on invasive species identification and treatment can be found at https://bcinvasives.ca/, and the NWIPC can be contacted via email: info@ nwipc.org, or through toll-free calling at 1-866-449-3337.

ISCBC Factsheet - What's in your hay: https://bcinvasives.ca/wp-content/ uploads/2021/06/Whats-in-your-Hay-BMP-for-Hay-Forage-Producers.pdf







MOUNTAIN THYME HERBS & SPECIALTY GARDENING

- Una Jean Anderson

Telephone: 250-566-4282 / 780-852-1121

Address: Tete Jaune Cache

Email/Website: mountainthymeherbs@gmail.com Type of goods/services offered for sale:

Specializing in Perennial Medicinal Herbs, Culinary & Aromatic Herbs, Medicinal Houseplants, Handcrafted natural herb and Honey infused Tallow Soap and body lotions. Homemade soap saver dishes. Dried herbs are also available for your convenience. I also carry a wide assortment of Succulents and make unique arrangements...including my living driftwood plant art. Design and installation of medicine gardens and succulent rock gardens.

Season of Availability:

All year

UNCLE MARK'S ON-FARM HARVEST - Mark Roth

Telephone: 250 - 569 - 7805

Address: Box 492, 926 1st Ave, McBride Email/Website: markrothventures@gmail.com Type of goods/services offered for sale: Mobile Livestock Harvest, Slaughter Safe Certified.

Visit unclemarks.ca/harvest for details and prices!

Season of Availability: All year - Butcher Shop

VALEMOUNT FARMER'S MARKET

Telephone: 250 - 566 - 4601 / 250 - 566 - 3762

Address: Valemount Visitor Info Centre, 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount Email/Website: valemountmarket@outlook.com

Type of goods/services offered for sale:

Local growers and artisans "Make it, Bake it, Grow it"

Season of Availability:

4PM - 7PM, THURSDAYS - Mid-June to end of September, 2025



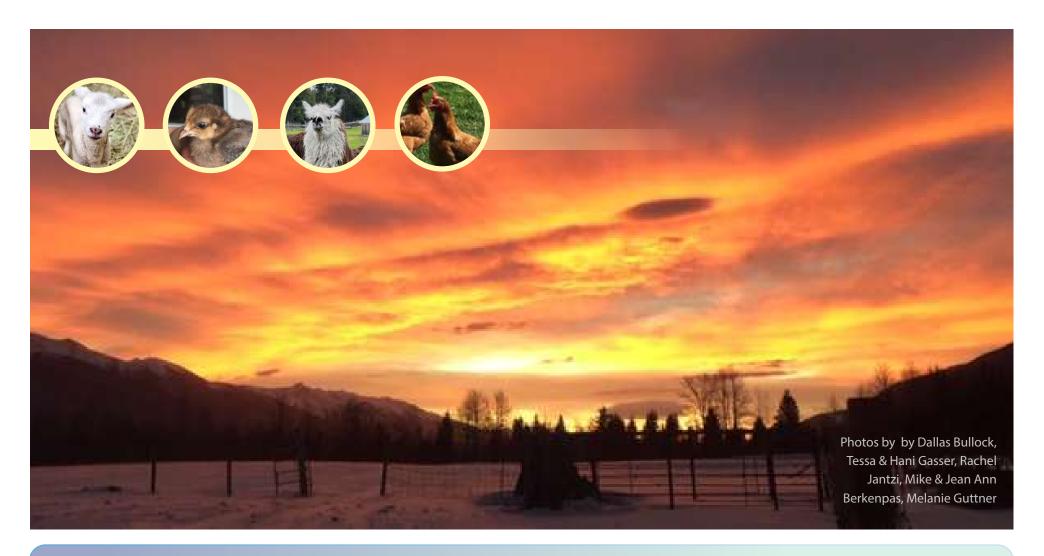




TABLE OF LISTINGS

P2 BC Fruit Truck
Butterkup Farm

P3 Cangas Propane Inc.
Community Futures Fraser
Fort George
Dunster Farmer's Market
Eden Song

Grazing Patch Farm Harvest Hills Farm

P4 | Kettle Hawk Farm McBride Community Market

P6 McBride Farmers Institute
McKirdy Creek Farm
North-Home Ranch

P7 Mountain Thyme Herbs & Speciality Gardenin
Uncle Mark's Custom Meat Cutting
Valemount's Farmer's Market

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The ABCs of the ALC: how is agricultural land managed in B.C.?

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

B.C. residents hoping to develop land in the Agricultural Land Reserve face a labyrinthine process of documentation and applications for anything as simple as filling a hole or subdividing their property to building a house. The Agricultural Land Commission, a 19-person committee appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, vets every application to ensure any land in the reserve can remain productive for farming after being developed.

To learn more about the Agricultural Land Commission and how its decision making process works in northern B.C., The Goat spoke with Regional District of Fraser-Fort George director Dannielle Alan.

The process begins with sending an application to your local regional district. The Regional District doesn't have final say on applications, Alan said - it chooses whether or not to pass the application along to the Commission, and can choose to include a recommendation on whether to approve the application. However, there are steps applicants can take to ensure their application has the best shot at being approved,

The first step is to familiarize yourself with the Commission's guiding priorities, Alan

"Look at the Agricultural Land Commission and the Land Reserve's mandate, and make sure that your application falls within that mandate," she said.

The Commission exists to preserve large tracts of land, and keep them suitable for farming in the future, Alan said.

That means the Commission might bristle at someone hoping to subdivide their land into two tracts, according to Alan – but the Commission could approve the project given the right framing. Making sure that the rationale for a project is based in agricultural production or food security makes for a more compelling application, she

"If that person said, 'Okay, let's build a market case, we're going to divide this property in half and use the money to intensively invest in agriculture...' and have a well thought-out business plan to say, 'This is how it's going to benefit farming and food security in the Robson Valley if we split this parcel in half, they might have a better

When the Agricultural Land Commission makes a decision on an application in the RDFFG, the decision is sent to the Regional District board and included in the "for

information" section of board agendas, Alan added. This means that people hoping to improve their applications can look at previous decisions – and see the rationale for approving or declining them – at rdffg.ca/BoardMeetings.

Additionally, the Regional District's planners are available to help residents with their applications, Alan said.

"The rules and regulations within the ALR are quite significant. That's why our planners are really familiar with them, and they'll guide someone through [the process]," she said.

But despite the amount of hoops Alan sees residents jump through, she worries the regulations aren't applied equally. She says she's concerned that it's easier for large corporations based in the Lower Mainland to have applications approved than it is for small-scale northern farmers.

"Their mandate is admirable. However, their lack of enforcement, their lack of resources that don't allow them to adequately defend against big developers, and the pressure put on the Province for these mega projects makes it so that where they do have authority and control, they exercise it like crazy," she said.

While the Commission strives to keep land usable for agriculture, this doesn't automatically mean its decisions contribute to making that land productive, Alan said. This means that companies can buy land in the reserve and let it sit empty.

"When farmers in Dunster were trying to fight against the land grab by Fraser River Holdings and saying, 'Well, it's in the Agricultural Land Reserve. Why are you allowing these vast tracts of land to be held by a foreign hedge company?' The Agricultural Land Commission's response was, 'It doesn't matter, as long as they're not subdividing land or wrecking it so that it can't ever be used for farming," she said.

On top of enforcement issues, the Commission has the last word on an application – if an application is denied, there's no higher body to which one can appeal, Alan said.

With new advancements in greenhouse technology every day, Alan says there is potential for northern B.C. agriculture to boom. But she worries that without changes to the Commission, it may be difficult for local farmers to thrive.

Alan says she and her fellow board members advocate for northern B.C. to have more access to agricultural land at every turn.

"We participate in every information gathering session," she said. "I think that there's tremendous opportunity for agriculture and agricultural production up here... building in these opportunities to let people do that is tremendously important for agriculture, food security and food sovereignty."

Artificial insemination available for local cattle

By Andrea Arnold

McBride resident Tanner Ferenczi has been offering artificial insemination for both dairy and beef cows since his family arrived in the area three years ago. He started about 15 years earlier when they lived in the lower mainland and used artificial insemination for their own cattle. For 10 years he worked in both full-time and parttime capacity for WestGen - originally known as the Lower Fraser Valley Artificial Insemination Association. When the family moved to McBride, he saw an opportunity and decided to continue offering bovine insemination services.

Ferenczi said the ideal time to breed a cow is 12-16 hours after it has reached "standing heat." This time in a cow's cycle is not an exact time frame, but can be determined by individual monitoring.

"If a cow is not bred during her cycle, she will go into heat again 21-days later," said

The insemination process starts when the semen specimen is collected from a bull. "Bulls in a stud farm are brought into a stall where the semen is teased out of him," he said. "An artificial vagina is used to collect the specimen."

From there the semen is tested for mortality, genetic diseases, communicable diseases and STIs. If all the testing comes back clear, the specimens can be cleared for export

"There are some diseases that are already known and widespread within Canada, so samples with these are still able to be used within the country," said Ferenczi. Some of the specimens are divided to create collections that contain higher male or

female producing semen. The semen is cryogenically frozen using nitrogen in straws in either half or quarter cc units and can be stored, frozen, indefinitely.

"Both amounts contain about a million sperm cells," he said.

Ferenczi orders up to 20 straws at a time, picking through a proof sheet to select from bulls with desirable qualities.

"I try to vary which bulls I select from to help keep genetic variety in the area," he

When a cow is ready, Ferenczi thaws the straw at 95 degrees Fahrenheit for 20-40 seconds, or a bit longer for the genetically selected straws.

"I load the straw into...a steel syringe, after I've warmed everything up, and put a plastic sheath over it," he said. "The set up has to remain at body temperature until the

Ferenczi said that he has bred cows in stalls, in a field, and even tied to trees. It doesn't matter where, but it is better if he is as clean as possible, he said.

Once he's with the cow, he has to palpate her and find her cervix. He puts the syringe rod through the vagina into the uterus where he injects the semen.

"From there it's up to the sperm cells to decide which side ovulation has occurred," he said. "They have 24 hours to find the egg for implantation to occur."

If the insemination is successful, it can be confirmed 28 days later, and calving should occur 280 days later.

"With dairy cows there's a 40 per cent-60 per cent success rate, 60-80 with beef cows," said Ferenczi.

Since beginning his career in artificial insemination, Ferenczi figures he's bred between 30 and 40 thousand cows, about 300 in the Robson Valley. He only works with bovine breeding.

"I decided to offer service in the valley because it was a skill I have to offer," he said. "I feel that a genetically sound herd can over time directly affect the profitability of a farm, by breeding for higher-yielding animals that are more fertile and more efficient. Genetics is a variable that the farmer can directly control."

Using artificial insemination is also a more affordable option to grow a herd. Ferenczi said the cost of a straw varies between \$25-\$100 depending on the bull selected, and his services start at \$20 per cow.

"It's a lot cheaper. Bulls are hard on cows, feed, fences and wallets," he said. "And you don't know, a bull might get injured while unloading or be a dud, then you're out

Ferenczi offers his services from Valemount to Dome Creek and will travel further for bigger herds (with additional travel fees). He can be reached at 604-615-6138.



Tanner Ferenczi readies his instruments for a breeding session. /SUBMITTED





CROSSWORD

Answers on P23

Across

- 1. All over again
- 5. Not at all close
- 9. "Sweet!"
- 12. Trail
- 13. Office message
- 14. By means of
- 15. Pad ___ (noodle dish)
- 16. Hotel employee
- 17. Whole
- 18. Contempt
- 20. "And another thing ..."
- 21. Table-linen piece
- 24. Occasional
- 26. Your and my
- 27. Toss out
- 29. "Don't get any funny !"
- 33. PGA contestant
- 34. Craft with a paddle **36.** Number one flyer
- 37. Oil painting supporter
- 39. Stomach muscles, briefly 10. Greasy fluids

2

6 2

8

2 6

8

- 40. English article
- 41. Part of a relay race
- 43. Picks up on

3 8

- 45. Duration
- 48. Cry of defeat

56. ___ Beta Kappa

51. Stead

52. Carbon fuel

50. Drink cooler

- 57. Scent
- 58. Spring day toy
- 59. Junior, for one
- 60. Trait carrier
- 61. Vehicle behind a husky team

Down

- 1. Suitable
- 2. "I don't think so"
- 3. Sched. time
- 4. Kitchen mixer
- 5. Household cleaning item
- 6. Foreboding
- 7. Kind of acid
- 8. Fishing pole
- 9. President's office
- 11. Angel surround

6 5

8 4

8

3

9

- 19. Gang
- 20. Tack on
- 21. "Uh-uh!"
- 22. Halo

4

3

5

8

4

- 23. Those in favor
- 25. Truck's fuel
- 28. 'CSI' evidence
- 30. Food, on a diner sign
- 31. Joint problem 32. Inquires (about)
- 35. Eclipse
- 38. "Nightmare" street
- 42. Lead
- 44. Narrow parts of bottles
- 45. Rewards for a waiter
- 46. Come back
- 47. Check
- 49. Broadway light
- 51. Journal
- 53. Garage fluid
- 54. Downed a sub, say
- 55. Was ahead

SUDOKU Answers on P23 **HOW TO PLAY**

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

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

The Toughie

Across

- 1. Deli side
- 5. Birds
- 9. Profits
- 14. Former name of Ireland
- 15. Complain
- 16. Silas Marner creator
- 17. "...double $_$ and trouble"
- 18. Monty Python's Idle
- 19. Nay sayers
- 20. "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and _____ Ralph Waldo
- 23. PBS science expert
- 24. Solitary
- 25. Altar
- 29. Grating cries
- 31. Clock std.
- 34. Japanese verse
- 35. M.'s counterpart
- 36. Saturn satellite 37. "In the end it's not the years
- in your life that count. It's the
- ' Abraham Lincoln 40. Former EU body

42. Kitchen scale marking

- 41. Sago like starch
- 43. Dance step 44. Little hopper
- 45. Nanny
- 46. Hurler's pride
- 47. Blockhead 48. "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from _____" Babe
- 56. Exclamations of disdain
- 57. Direction

- 58. Tyrrhenian sea island
- 59. Desire 60. Table spread
- 61. Skiers tow 62. Winter
- transports 63. Indian curry
- 64. Cheeky chatter

Down 1. Stiff hair

- 2. "The _ King"
 3. Deserts are this
- 4. In good health
- 5. Nautical response
- 6. Enthusiasm
- 7. Composer Siegmeister
- 8. Humane org.
- 9. Gets smart 10. Arm bones
- 11. Big bank
- 12. Muddy 13. Dolls of the 80's
- 21. Lassitude 22. Essential for a radio system
- 25. Lug 26. Israeli port
- 27. Splits 28. Big furniture retailer
- 29. Cirrus e.g. 30. Classmates listing 31. African nation

- - _beaucoup" 33. Stunning device
 - 35. Dame Hess 36. Sign on for another tour,
 - 38. Model, Campbell 39. More than "you"
 - 44. Engagements
 45. Punk'd star first name

 - 48. Combine resources 49. Hendrix song, "Bold as
 - 46. Goes with oohed 47. Traveling, in a way
- 50. Second-lightest noble gas
- 52. Incurs 53. Troubadour love
- 55. Canal zones?
- song
- 51. Ball

- 54. New corp. hires
- 56. IBM products



Now that Mercury is direct, these final days of Leo season roar with clarity. Message, voice and deed align to put a bold exclamation mark on recent efforts. By Friday's solar shift and the new Virgo moon, a clear idea of what's next begins to form. We feel ready to begin Virgo season with purpose, precision and a fresh sense of what matters -- and perhaps more importantly, what no longer does. This is a moment to edit, refine and recommit to the work that truly deserves us.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's something that wasn't a good fit for you and you will have an opportunity to release it without blame, drama or apology. The space you free up will be filled with hope, relief and more. Trust future-you to decide what is wanted and proceed the process. wanted and needed. Also, make sure your inner dialogue is filled with the respect and support you need at this time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Love is a construct, love is a force, love is what you define, name, assign. What counts as love for you? It will be on offer this week -- the chance to bond, be seen and to share moments. The chance to be different together than you are alone. Love takes many forms, but the ones that matter are the ones you recognize in real time and choose to grow.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Relationships are tricky this week. You arrive with one blueprint; they bring another. The mismatch makes for something confusing, unstable and not quite right for either of you. The week's work is about realigning -- getting back on the same page and building in one direction.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your senses are attuned to subtleties this week. You'll spot potential pitfalls before others do and steer clear. It's not a shortcut; it's what happens when you stay the course and refuse distraction. You've also got an ear for truth. You'll know when you're hearing the real story, and you'll let it guide you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will consider multiple viewpoints, come to a deep understanding and make informed choices. Set limits on how long you think and plan, though. Don't let too many perspectives complicate things. Too much information or analysis can lead to "analysis paralysis," and delayed action. Stay light. Some amount of trust is necessary.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are actively transitioning out of a long chapter of emotional over-functioning, fantasy maintenance and invisible labor. You may experience big emotions, but it doesn't mean you're stuck. This is part of processing life. You're cleaning your inner house. It's not tidy or quick, but it's healthy and it's moving you forward in life

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You don't have to know exactly what you want yet; part of you already does. The agenda felt it

needed to hide itself inside you. It's clever, inventive and will make itself known this week as subtle pulls and instincts guide you toward the goal still forming in your conscious mind. Follow the hunch. Clarity will come. And with it, the right next move.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). "Love yourself" is a tricky directive because it's so vague. What does it even look like? This week offers answers: Wearing what fits you -- physically, stylistically, emotionally. Choosing people who bring you peace. Feeding your senses, protecting your energy, speaking to yourself with care. Make it visible, tangible and practical.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your role as the emotional uplifter will often come into play this week. People subconsciously rely on you to keep the tone light, even when things are hard. It speaks to your natural resilience: Even when the work is intense, you find ways to make it fun. Others will take emotional cues from you, and your levity helps everyone stay balanced.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's said that if the shoe fits, you should wear it. But what if there are lots of shoes that fit? You can't wear them all. This week you can afford to be choosy with your proverbial shoes, and it helps to let the other elements of an "outfit" come together so you know what you're dealing with before you make the choice to put

the whole plan over the top. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll free yourself this week by letting your truest self take the lead. The performer in you wants applause and connection, but that role can be exhausting. Pay attention to your body; if something drains you, it's a signal. Liberation starts with choosing

what genuinely energizes you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've grown so much. It doesn't always feel like a celebration; sometimes it feels like grief or numbness or boredom. But that's the space that makes room for the real new stuff. You're articulating the path. You're tracking the psychic architecture of your life. Freedom is blooming.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: Enjoy this phase of being ultra-Attention in steady drips, and many are fascinated by what you're putting into the world. Love and support in abundance will be a theme. You'll also have some competition. Be strategic. Think several moves ahead. Maturity and emotional detachment are hallmarks. You'll be seen as a cool leader, and you'll be promoted. More highlights: New friends will introduce you to an array of hobbies and interests, and it will be fun to experiment and see what sticks. A positive turn for finance, you'll be selected to a power position, and you'll change to your lifestyle making you fit and strong.

SUBMITTED BY AUDREY ROSE & VALEMOUNT MINOR HOCKEY

Our 2024-2025 season finished mid-March and was a hugely successful year. Valemount Minor Hockey Association would like to thank all the participants, parents, coaches, board members, referees, arena staff, managers, siblings, and fans. Each age category hosted their own tournament with teams participating from McBride, Clearwater, Jasper, Hinton, Prince George, Quesnel. Our players got a chance to play in front of a home crowd and during all of these weekends the arena was buzzing with fans.

We registered a total of 81 kids this year with our oldest group seeing the most impressive numbers and specifically the most impressive jump in numbers (21 players in the U15-18 age some of whom were brand new to hockey and some who rejoined after years away from the sport). It was exciting to see those older athletes showcase their skills and give the younger age groups something to strive for. To any participants who are aging out, we wish you luck wherever you end up and we are glad to have been a part of your 2024-25 year.

We trained 10 referees this season. We recommend anyone interested in becoming a referee next season to reach out and keep watching the Facebook page close to September as will we be hosting another referee clinic

ESSO hockey days - Girls try hockey event

Kimberley Duncan expressed interest in holding this event and once getting approval she was able to get commitment from five coaches thus allowing for 25 participants.

We had a number of brand new players and some of our veterans joined the fun. The event was full of games, hockey, on and off ice team bonding and drills, fun, prizes, food and GIRLS. A special thanks to Valemount Community Forest for sponsoring this day. Thanks to Laura Keil for donating her time to photograph the event

Our hopes are that this event showcased the sport to a new era of female players. Valemount Minor Hockey is entertaining the idea of an all-girl's team for the 2025-26 season. Stay tuned!

Get involved / How to register

Valemount Minor Hockey will be offering online registration this year. The link to the registration will be posted on the association's facebook page in the coming weeks (following the AGM). Anyone applying for financial assistance can register after the AGM Sept 2nd. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will start at 6:30 in the upstairs room at the arena. A gear swap day will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

New this year: the arena will be putting in ice as early as September 15th, meaning hockey should be starting much earlier. Check our facebook page in the coming weeks for more info.

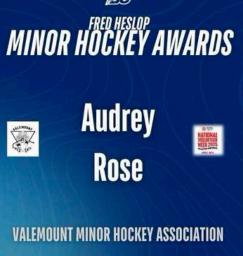
Valemount Minor Hockey Association Annual General Meeting

Sept. 2nd, 2025 @ 6:30pm

Upstairs meeting room at the Canoe Valley Rec Centre (arena)









Above: Eddie is recognized during minor hockey's awards night at the end of last season. Top: Warren celebrates after a goal. Top left: these girls hit the ice as hockey players during a special ice time for new female players. The association is considering adding an all-girls team this year. /SUBMITTED

Audrey Rose was recognized for her volunteer efforts as one of five recipients of the Fred Heslop award through BC Hockey. /SUBMITTED



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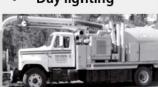
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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

FRI AUG 22nd Karaoke at the Valemount Legion 7pm-10pm!

TUE AUG 26: Curious about the services Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) offers? Drop by our open-house style info session to learn how individuals can access supports that are led by them, for them! What to Expect: How to get started with CLBC, the role of case managers and service providers. A spotlight on services like: Supported Living & Outreach, Skill Development & Community Inclusion, Wellness Supports. Tuesday, August 26, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Valemount RVCS office, 1444 5th Avenue. Whether you're a community member, caregiver, or just curious—come say hi, grab a snack, and get informed!

SAT Sept 6th Mt Robson Marathon on the Berg Lake Trail. For more info visit www. mountrobsonmarathon.ca

SAT Sept13th vALEfest a craft beer **experience** 5-11pm at the Canoe Mountain Rodeo Grounds. Craft beer, Five Alarm Funk live music, Di sets, comedy and more. Tickets available online. Visit visitvalemount.ca/event/ valefest-2025.

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.

Saturdays in the Park - Sats

Live music in Centennial Park! Upcoming shows: Aug 9th Singalong Night. Aug 16th Bush Pilot & Friends. Aug 23rd HALF/ASIAN with Amy the CODA. 6:30-8pm.

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

9 AM-12PM every Friday in Valemount at 1444 5th Ave. Come connect with other families, access parenting resources, and enjoy fun activities for you and your 0-6-year-old children at RVCS (1444 5th Ave), unless otherwise stated. Registration is not required. For more information, call 250-566-9107 or email events@ rvcsbc.org. See activities below:

Aug 22 – Watercolor-Fun at Centennial Park Aug 29 – Summer Craft

If it's too cold, rainy or windy we will meet at 1444 5th Ave!

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

WED AUG 27: Curious about the services **Community Living British Columbia** (CLBC)

offers? Drop by our open-house style info session to learn how individuals can access supports that are led by them, for them! What to Expect: How to get started with CLBC, the role of case managers and service providers. A spotlight on services like: Supported Living & Outreach, Skill Development & Community Inclusion, Wellness Supports. Wednesday, August 27, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the McBride RVCS office, 942 3rd Avenue. Whether you're a community member, caregiver, or just curious—come say hi,

grab a snack, and get informed!

Ongoing McBride

MONs Family Place Drop In Program 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM 9 at RVCS (942 3rd Ave, McBride), unless otherwise stated. Come connect with other families, access parenting resources, and enjoy fun activities for you and your 0-6-year-old children at RVCS (942 3rd Ave), unless otherwise stated. For more information, call 250-569-2266 or email events@rvcsbc.org. See activities below:

Aug 20 - Water Play Day

Aug 27 - Play at Kolida Park

Circle of Security Parenting Group - WEDs

Join us for the Circle of Security Parenting Program—an 8-session, in-person journey designed to help caregivers better understand and respond to their child's emotional needs. This relationship-based approach promotes secure, healthy parent-child connections that last a lifetime. At the McBride RVCS office, 942 3rd Avenue, starting Wednesday, Sept 10 through to Nov 5th, 2025, from 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM. Spaces are limited! Contact the RVCS office to register and take the first step toward deeper connection and understanding.

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

SATs Dunster Farmers Market is up and running again for the 45th year. Join us at Dunster Community Hall every Saturday from 11am to 1pm until the end of September. No fee for vendors. All welcome! We offer a nice lunch of local beef burgers, local veggie burgers, hot dogs, coffee and juice. We usually have veggies and plants, home baking, local crafts and art, and miscellaneous new and used items. For more information, call Pete Amyoony at 250-968-4334.

AUGUST 29-31 Robson Valley Music Festival! Three days of music, arts, and community. Camping available on-site. For the full line-up and tickets visit www.rvmf.ca

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Art exhibition allows Jasperites to reflect on wildfire

By Peter Shokeir, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

One year following the Jasper wildfire, residents came together to reflect and express themselves in a new exhibit at the Jasper Art

Voices from Jasper is part of a broader program called Stories of Resilience, the signature program of the Resilience Institute, a national charity that works to minimize suffering caused by climate impacts.

"The whole program is really about amplifying the community voices and exploring what it really means to be resilient in a changing climate," said Brooklyn Rushton, strategic adaptation fellow with the Resilience Institute. "We've done it in communities before a disaster happens as well as after. It's always a very community-centred approach to the program."

Starting February, a group of 10 Jasper residents participated in reflective workshops to discuss the meaning of resilience, the changing climate and how one tells their story about going through such a

Three themes emerged through this process. "Uprooted" deals with the raw moments of the evacuation, "reckoning" is about returning to town and trying to navigate the grief and loss, and "renewal" explores what people have learned and reflects on the whole experience.

"When the program starts, people don't even know what they want to write about, because everything is so evolving and dynamic in people's lives, especially in the middle of the winter," Rushton said.

The Resilience Institute worked with local artists to commission pieces for the show, particularly praising Greg Deagle, the president of the Jasper Artists Guild, who curated the exhibition and contributed watercolour paintings made with pine soot from the fire.

The exhibition includes visual art pieces, photographs and pieces of

"All the participants also recorded their stories from their own voice, so if people go into the exhibition, they can actually listen to the stories from the voices of the participants themselves and have a bit of a more immersive auditory experience," Rushton said.

Over 100 people attended the opening reception on July 25. The exhibition will remain open until Aug. 16, a date that commemorates the community's return after evacuation.

"I hope the community sees the exhibition as their own, as a place to connect and reflect on their own experience," Rushton said. "And I also

hope it inspires them to tell their own stories. Everyone has their own story to tell going through this whole experience."

She added this exhibition would give visitors to Jasper the chance to take in these stories and help them understand what it was like for the community to go through this disaster.

The Voices from Jasper edition was undertaken in collaboration with the Jasper Art Gallery and is part of a national partnership with the Canadian Red Cross called the Roots for Resilience.



UPCOMING Events & News

REGULAR EVENTS:

Friday Night Dinner Served 5:30-8:00pm

Friday Night Music Most Fridays 7-10pm!

See line-up below

Sunday Pancake Served 8-10:30am

Breakfast

2nd Thursday of the Bingo month. Doors at 6pm.

UPCOMING FRIDAY EVENTS:



Karaoke - 7-10pm

Sing your favourite tunes with friends



No music planned

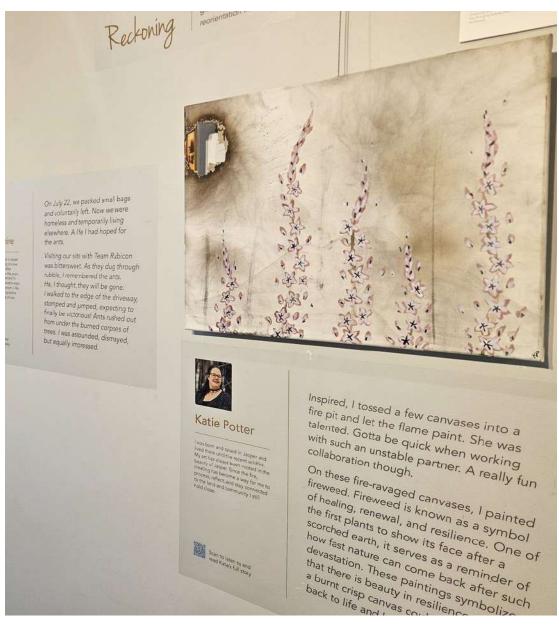
Got an idea for a music night? Get in touch! 250-566-5135

FRIDAY MUSIC IS BACK!

General Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of month 7pm

Hall Rentals: available for events, meetings, seminars. Call 250-566-1115 or email valemountlegion266@gmail.com

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 266, 970 Main Street, Valemount. Underage patrons (with guardian) welcome until 10pm.



The Voices of Jasper exhibition at the Jasper Art Gallery on Wednesday, August 6th. /PETER SHOKEIR, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER





Valemount's salmon trails: **George Hicks & Rearguard Falls**

By Laura Keil

The salmon are here! Two trails close to Valemount will lead you to one of nature's most astounding phenomenons: the spawning migration of chinook and sockeye salmon. At George Hicks Park right now you can get an up close look at the female salmon creating a nest (called a redd). One or more males swim upstream in order to fertilize the eggs she lays. Eventually both parents will die, completing the life cycle that began in this very stream. Salmon are able to find their way back to the stream where they were born after spending the bulk of their life in the ocean, which is where they feed and mature. The whole life cycle usually takes five to six years. 2022 was the first year the Spruce City Hatchery began releasing salmon fry in the stream (from eggs collected in 2021), so it won't be until 2026 or 2027 that we may see larger returns. Despite this, there is plenty to see near the viewing platforms at both trail areas this year.

George Hicks Park

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. If you want to get off the highway and experience nature, this is easily accessible to stretch your legs. View tadpoles, dragonflies, muskrats, frogs, and an assortment of marsh creatures. Right next to this trail is the salmon spawning viewing area at Swift Creek. View Chinook salmon during the last leg of their spawning journey from mid-August to mid-September.

Distance (return): 0.4 km

Approx. time: 30 mins return (loop back along the road or in-and-back) **Elevation gain:** 30 m

Trailhead coordinates: Plug these into a GPS or Google Maps search bar 52.833585°, -119.281875°

At George Hicks Park right now you can get an up close look at the female salmon creating a nest (called a redd). Opposite page: spawning salmon

leaping at Rearguard Falls.

Rearguard Falls

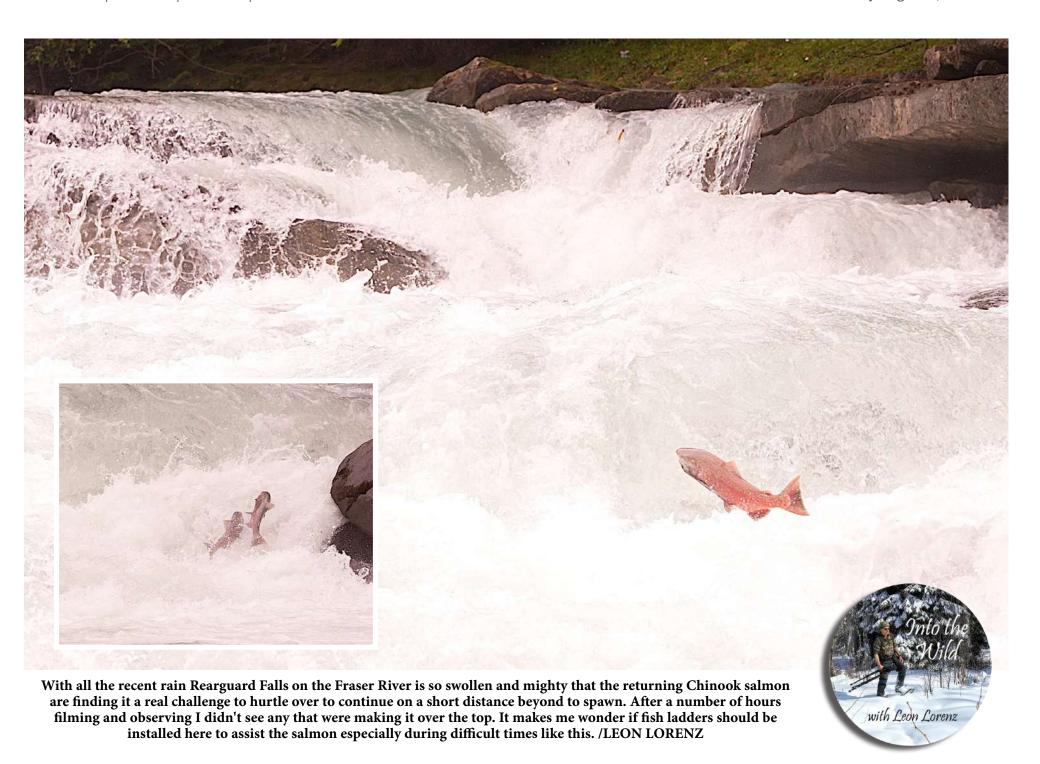
This is a wonderful short hike to Rearguard Falls which is the uppermost part of the salmon run along the Fraser River. Stand on the boardwalk right above the falls and watch salmon leap into the churning water as they struggle to reach their spawning territory in late August. You get a very close vantage right above the left side of the falls. Be warned the slope down from the parking lot is quite steep at first.

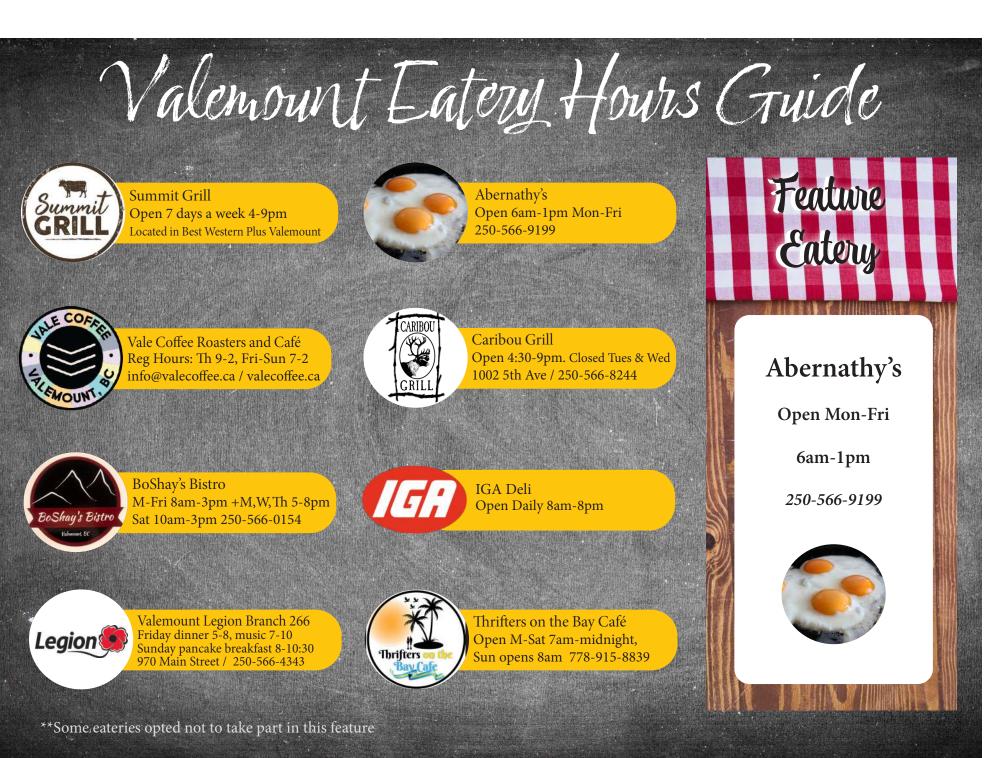
Distance (return): 0.4 km **Approx. time:** 30 mins return Elevation gain: 30 m

Trailhead coordinates: Plug these into a GPS or Google Maps search bar 52.975191°, -119.363978°

For more trails visit hikevalemount.com!







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

VALEMOUNT

lew on the Market

Shelly **Battensby** REALTOR



16305 Hwy 5 N



love with this 19+ acreage property. A comfortable 3-bedroom home awaits you with a covered porch and a pool deck. There is a 1-room cabin onsite, along

There is a lot to

with a small barn, large workshop, equipment shed, and the potential for 16 serviced RV sites so that you can earn a living from your own backyard. This property is as pretty as they come and just needs you to complete the

980 4th Avenue



MCBRIDE

This cute little cottage will surprise you. The spacious interior features 3 bedrooms, a large galléy kitchen, and a generous mudroom off the garage. The large garage also has the ideal

space for your studio or home office. Just one block from downtown and schools, this is the perfect starter home to put some sweat equity into.

Lot 3 Hwy 5 N

VALEMOUNT



Nearly 40 acres could be yours to build your dream h'ome on. With panoramic mountain views at every angle, the undeveloped property is cleared and ready to start your plans. Located just 10

minutes from town, you are close to everything while feeling miles away. This is the escape you've been looking for.

1161 McBride Crescent

MCBRIDE



Situated in the family friend McBride Crescent, this 2-bedroom bungalow is perfect for a starter or down-sizing home. With an expansive entry, welcoming kitchen and open-concept

living, you'll love coming home to this space. And the cherry on the top is the lush garden and landscaped oasis in your backyard. This property is made for making memories.



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Measles is circulating in BC and the North.

Measles is a very contagious disease that can have serious complications.

Protect yourself, your family, and your community.

Get vaccinated and know the symptoms!



