



ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

Your bi-weekly source of news, views and entertainment

New home for McBride daycare P4

Dunster Forest Academy coming this fall P7

Music in the Park comes to an end P8

McBride Peak FSR re-opens P13

Thursday September 4, 2025 Volume 16 Issue 27 PM42164515

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After 18 festivals, the Robson Valley Music Festival has officially come to an end. This past weekend's festivities were chock full of what the event has been known for: its music, fun, community and its celebration of a special place on the Fraser. What's next? Read more inside on P10. Above: Jelly Tribe led a special finale to their jellyfish umbrella workshop with the help of an improvised marching band around the festival grounds./LAURA KEIL

"We might have paved the way, but paving the way sucks."

Valemount falling through cracks in economic recovery funding

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

21 lobbying meetings, three members of Parliament, six B.C. ministries, and zero commitments to economic recovery funding. Over a year after the Jasper wildfire sent thousands of evacuees into Valemount overnight – and precipitated highway closures that sent local businesses into freefall – the village has yet to receive any financial support from the B.C. and federal governments, says Mayor Owen Torgerson.

When he recalls the night where he received a text about the fire from Jasper mayor Richard Ireland and the following weeks of fallout, Torgerson remembers unclear communication from the B.C. and Alberta governments, and the stress of running an emergency operations centre on a skeleton crew – but he also

remembers how community members and business owners stepped up for their neighbours.

"Businesses – to their credit, and to my gratitude – they shut off their tills, they turned off cash registers, and they just fed people," he said. "Kind gestures like that from the business community went a long way."

Between sheltering and feeding evacuees, and a subsequent lack of tourism due to highway closures, the village's economy has been left in a tailspin since last summer. According to Strategies North – a consulting firm the Village hired last November to develop an economic recovery strategy – Valemount businesses would need an estimated total of \$1.5M in funding to recoup losses from last July and August.

As part of the strategy, the Village, Strategies North and Simpcw First Nation CONT'D ON P6

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The Valemount Marina held its 44th Fishing Derby this past weekend. 199 participants cast their lines over Saturday and Sunday for a chance to win fabulous prizes and bragging rights. The event also featured a silent auction and a 50/50 draw.

Above: Keven Baggett takes a bow after receiving his prize — a brand new fishing rod — for largest rainbow trout in the men's division. That catch also snagged Baggett this year's trophy for the largest rainbow trout overall, weighing in at 3 lbs.

Left: The youngest fisherboy at this year's derby was 18-day-old Milo, who will need a while to grow into his new fishing rod. Youngest fishergirl was fourmonth-old Everen (not pictured). See more on P3/SPENCER HALL

44th Annual Valemount Marina Fishing Derby

- Sponsors and Results

Spaz Logging Great West Equipment/Nors Equipment Valemount Fire and Rescue Dept. **Inland Kenworth Wayron Trucking Grading A Cut Above** Stone Haven Inn. **Valemount Lordco Karolyn Russ RD Mechanical** 3 Boys Trucking The Fishing Hole **Trans Alta Best Western Spiral Contracting Ltd.**

Owen Torgerson **Valemount Home Hardware** Valemount IDA **D.A.N Contracting Cedar Valley Holdings** Vern Mickelson **Reiter Mechanical** Valemount Pines Golf Men's Club **Swift Current Electrical Walter Matwee Mica Mountain Transport Simpcw Resources Group VARDA BDA Contracting CN Rail Canoe River Campground**

13-15 yrs

Rainbow

Kokanee

Aggregate

2nd

Bob & Lorna Griffin
Glacier Fire Pizzeria
Caribou Grill
Mercy Falling
IGA
Roy Maxwell
Whisper Creek Cabin Rentals
Hagen Surveys
McLennan Car and Truck Stop
Fitz Plamondon
Travis Auto
Village of Valemount
Schnell Family
Dryden Plumbing and Heating

Sass Studios
Alpine Country Rentals

Winner

SJ Gidney Colby Voth

Colby Voth

SJ Gidney

Large Gra

Ladies	Weight	Winner
Rainbow	2.20	Karen Doughty
2nd	2.09	Tanya Rich
Kokanee	0.71	Payton Voth
2nd	0.69	Kristine Bricker
Aggregate	16.60	Karen Doughty

Weight

1.89

1.76

0.58

6.23

Blue Sky Cabin
Rental

AAA Logging Ltd.

Valemount Community Forest
Grizzly Ridge Powersports
Ignite Mav.

Specialty Motorsports
Emerald Earth Organics
Jeanne Dennis
Corlare Sporting Goods
And Thanks to anyone we missed!

OVERALL	Weight	Winner
Largest Rainbow	3.0	Keven Baggett
Largest Kokanee	0.73	Bryce Garland
Grand Aggregate	16.60	Karen Doughty
TOTAL FISH CAUGHT	371	
TOTAL AGGREGATE	438.91	
TOTAL ENTRIES	199	

Men's	Weight	Winner
Rainbow	3.0	Keven Baggett
2nd	2.80	Corbin Cinnamon
Kokanee	0.70	Terry Meek
2nd	0.69	Frank Sigal
Aggregate	14.91	Frank Sigal

6 yr under	Weight	Winner
Rainbow	2.45	Riley Towers
2nd	1.54	Everen Rich
Kokanee	0.62	Riley Towers
Aggregate	7.17	Riley Towers

7-12 yrs	Weight	Winner
Rainbow	1.91	Mayson Voth
2nd	1.74	Evie Wismer
Kokanee	0.66	Evie Wismer
Coarse	9.89	Gabon Carlton
Aggregate	12.36	Gabon Carlton



Young Riley dominated the six years and under category this year with the largest caught rainbow trout, kokanee, and aggregate scores. She's even more equipped for victory in next year's derby after being presented with multiple fishing rods for her wins by Valemount Marina Association President Vince Clark. /SPENCER HALL



Keven Baggett is all smiles as he poses with his trophy with Marina President Vince Clark. /SUBMITTED



After derby winners were announced, kids under 12 were called up to receive a participation award, which came with fishing lures attached. Owen Torgerson is seen above after distributing the awards to the first wave of children.

/SPENCER HALL

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Robson Valley Community Centre, 441 Columbia St.



No fee to attend! See the **event agenda** and **register** at: https://www.mcbride.ca/business-and-development/economic-development-projects/agriculture-forum-2025



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Editorial



By Spencer Hall Editor & Owner goatnewspaper@gmail.com

Micromanaging public works projects hinders progress

Two McBride councillors have been quite outspoken over the past few months during council meetings about their shared belief that Council should be more involved with public works projects. While I commend their desire to be more hands-on with project decisions, I am concerned they've decided

to repeatedly — and publicly — lambaste Village staff over minute details during the meetings.

In any public works project, Councils, the Village and Public Works staff all have a role to play. Village staff bring a report to Council that explains what the project is and why it should move forward. Council approves or denies the project, sometimes deciding they need more information before moving forward. Once a public works project is approved, it goes to Public Works staff, who make decisions regarding who works on the project and how it unfolds, unless a significant issue requires Council's attention.

How the Village and Public Works staff have handled several projects over the past few months have garnered criticism from Councillors Joe Kolida and Tina Bennett, who say they've felt out of the loop when it comes to the Village's alternate water source feasibility study, the train station accessibility upgrades project, and the cemetery fencing project.

All of these projects have been brought forward to Council, but later had to be amended for one reason or another.

Kolida and Bennett's issue with the cemetery fencing project is that, after voting on a material and putting up a bid, the project was delayed after quotes provided by contractors were too high and the selected fencing material was later found to be unsuitable by Public Works staff.

Kolida expressed his concerns about Council not being

involved in the fencing decision.

"I'm a councillor here, I made a motion, and I voted on that motion, and it got thrown right out the window. Does the councillor have any authority here, or why are we here?"

Kolida also said when a decision is voted on and passed, it shouldn't be changed unless it comes back to Council with an explanation as to why.

He is correct in that he has some authority in the Village of McBride, but he isn't the head of Public Works. If Public Works deems building material to not be in suitable condition, it makes sense the Village would need to pivot, instead of wasting money on installing fencing that is in poor condition. It is fairly common for these things to occur in a municipality. It wouldn't be a great use of Village staff and Council's time if they had to assemble every time a minor decision had to be made and it would also significantly delay every project undertaken by Public Works staff.

Bennett and Kolida also blamed Village staff for "scaring away" contractors looking to bid on the fence project because the contract stipulated that contractors would be liable for any damage to graves during fence installation. This is a standard clause for municipalities to include in any public bid. Indeed, if my family member's grave was damaged by someone installing a fence, I would think they should have to pay for it, not the Village and certainly not the resident.

Runtz clarified that contractors didn't bid on the project because they didn't want to install a weak or damaged fence, but Bennett clung to her belief it was the Village's fault.

The cemetery fencing project is now back to square one after Bennett and Kolida's repeated objections and an open house for the public will be held in the future.

It may seem that on the surface, Bennett and Kolida are advocating for their constituents, and perhaps they are to some degree, but after reviewing council meeting recordings, it is apparent to me that the two are more interested in making CAO Jeanette McDougall's life — and the lives of her supporting staff — more difficult.

Meetings stretch on with passive aggressive comments about Council involvement, but little progress to speak of. At the last meeting, Kolida and Bennet repeatedly asked if Council would be consulted on many items on the agenda

Kolida and Bennett's conduct is not just rude, but counterproductive. It could also be a financial liability for the Village if the CAO or other staff decide to sue for workplace harassment. While Mayor Runtz tried to keep councillors focused on meeting agendas, he has not been able to quell the consistent comments from the two councillors.

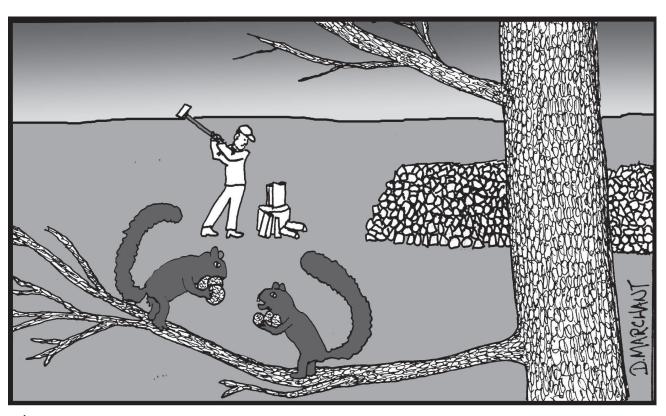
Bennett and Kolida could also face disciplinary actions for their conduct if fellow councillors vote to censure them for their behaviour.

Municipal dysfunction is not an issue unique to McBride. Since 2022, Harrison Hot Springs, Sechelt, and Kamloops have all had issues when it comes to bickering among elected officials.

In June, then Minister of Municipal Affairs Ravi Kahlon announced the Province will be stepping in to quash "prolonged infighting situations" between elected municipal officials, with new legislation aimed at increasing oversight of clashing Council members. Currently, there is no way to recall elected officials in B.C. and mayors and council members can only be removed for certain reasons.

I don't believe the situation in McBride requires anyone to be removed from Council chambers, nor is the Village at the level of chaos the City of Kamloops is facing and has been since the election of Mayor Reid Hamer-Jackson. However, it appears to be rapidly devolving into a feud between Bennett and Kolida versus Village staff.

At the end of the day, everyone deserves to work in a respectful environment free of harassment and that is not what has been happening at McBride Council meetings as of late.



"BETTER GATHER A LOT. JUDGING FROM THE AMOUNT OF FIREWOOD THE HUMANS HAVE THIS YEAR, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS WINTER IS GOING TO BE A COLD ONE."

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Little Munchkins Daycare finds new home

By Andrea Arnold

McBride childcare provider, Little Munchkins will soon be able to almost double its capacity, and increase staff numbers.

In a partnership with the McBride Community Forest Corporation, renovations have begun to transform the former Scotiabank location into the new home of Little

Founder Tabatha Reis says she is very excited for this new phase.

"I've been trying for three years to find a permanent home for all three programs," she said. "Forget plan A and B, I think this must be plan H."

"Reis came to us about a year and a half ago," said MCFC Board Chairman Mike Monroe. "We committed at that time to match her fundraising dollar for dollar. Then, when she came to us with the idea of buying the old bank building, I think she was surprised when we agreed."

General Manager Craig Pryor, and Financial Manager Samantha Palmer, along with Monroe agreed that there is always a risk when the MCFC invests in something but that Reis is capable and driven and they believe she will do great things with the

"This is a valuable and needed service for any community," said Monroe. "The Community Forest needs to be community minded. It's good we are able to give back to the community in this way. This will benefit residents from Dunster to Dome Creek, as well as create more jobs."

Reis confirmed that once the childcare center is operating at full capacity in the new building, she will need four or five more employees. She would like to see residents apply and says there is funding available to train the right candidates.

The first phase of renovations is in process and Reis plans to move the after-school program in at the start of October. Phase two will require further renovations in order to move the rest of the children in. Phase three will open up a gym-type space and kitchenette for community use.

When the news broke that the empty bank building would require some intense renovations in order to meet emergency exit requirements, community members jumped to the defense of the train mural that runs down the whole north side of the

The mural, a 1950's CNR passenger train, was painted by local Robson Valley artist, Glen Frear, about 20 years ago.

"110 feet long, and 9 feet high, the mural has held up surprisingly well with only

minor retouching needed," said Dannielle Alan.

A rumor began circulating around the community that the mural would be completely destroyed.

However, so far, contractors have been able to cut in and install windows with minimal damage. MCFC members say they would like to see it protected as much as it can be during the transition.

"I find it encouraging that they're working to preserve the mural if possible," said Alan. "We have also been photographing it in order to preserve the memory and perhaps create a reproduction if that is wanted."

Monroe says that they plan to change the front of the building as well, beautifying the empty building and as a result, sprucing up Main Street.

Through negotiations, MCFC was able to purchase the building from Scotiabank well below the asking price. This allowed them to foot the bill for this first round of renovations.

"Little Munchkins has signed a 10-year lease agreement for the use of the building," said Monroe. "We understand that more renovations are needed, and that Little Munchkins will be responsible for those. We have an agreed upon floor plan, but the details will be up to them."

Reis says Little Munchkins has been and will continue to fundraise, apply for grants, look for sponsors and manage their budget very carefully. She says they plan to honour their financial supporters through a visual display within the building.

Three years ago when Reis and her family moved to McBride she saw the need for childcare services. She has been building the program with support from the community, the staff and her family.

"Communities need this service to attract and retain residents," she said. "We have kids whose parents are doctors, paramedics, teachers, and social workers to name a few. Placement within the program is an added incentive for Northern Health employees moving to the area with kids."

Reis says that if the program is full, it doesn't mean a local child will lose their spot for an incoming NH employee's child. If that's the case the incoming child will be put on the wait list.

She can't wait to get all the kids under one roof in a building designed to help them meet the needs of all the kids within the program.

"I have no doubt that if anyone can do it, it's her," said Monroe. "She has the abilities and the community spirit to get it done."

Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER



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

Greenland, Ukraine and All That

Last Wednesday the Danish foreign minister, Lars Lokke Rasmussen, summoned the top US diplomat in Copenhagen to his office to complain that the United States is running a covert operation in Greenland, a semi-autonomous part of the Danish kingdom.

According to DR, Denmark's public broadcaster, the goal of the operation is to infiltrate Greenland's society and promote the island's secession from Denmark to the US. It's straight out of the Russian playbook in 2014, when Vladimir Putin was subverting the Russianspeaking Donbas in the eastern part of the Ukraine and funding a separatist movement there.

There's nothing particularly original about getting some dissident or sold-out minority to call on a great power to intervene in order to provide political cover for what is really an invasion. The old Soviet Union did it to Czechoslovakia in 1968 and to Afghanistan in 1979.

To be fair, the attempt to recruit a few 'pro-American' Greenlanders to front the operation suggests that the Trump regime prefers a non-violent conquest if at all possible. On the other hand, it also indicates that at least some of the planners in Washington have been instructed to start preparing the ground for an American takeover. (Canadians take note.)

Would NATO survive? Not really: the basic rule of alliance-making is that members refrain from invading other members. However, most of NATO's other 31 members have depended on American military guarantees, particularly about nuclear weapons, for eighty years. It will take them at least five years to fill the gaps if they create a similar alliance without the US.

That is not an impossible gap to span, because half the Russian army is currently tied down in Ukraine and it would take a while to rebuild it afterwards whatever the outcome in that beleaguered country. Europe's best bet is to keep Ukraine in the war as long as possible (the US won't help) while frantically modernising and expanding its own military capacity.

It's extremely disagreeable to have to make these calculations when democracy is in retreat and the real emergency is global warming. Those should be our priorities, but we are where we are and Donald Trump is who he is.

Russia is already a fascist state and America may end up as its closest ally if Trump survives. So who is left to defend the rule of law, and above all to protect the fundamental international rule that nobody may change borders by force?

That was the law, written in 1945 by the survivors of the

greatest war in history, that has saved us from far worse wars for the past eighty years. Indeed, there have been no wars even one-tenth as bad as 1939-45 in all this time. Fear of nuclear war forced us to be reasonable, but 'no territorial changes by force' was how we turned that into a policy.

Now Russia has moved outside that law, and the United States is heading the same way. So who's left?

Well, actually, almost everybody else. China's obsession with Taiwan is regrettable, but it is rooted in a civil war between rival Chinese governments. On every other matter, it is a devout defender of the territorial status

The European Union's members will strive to uphold the rule about no border changes by force, as will almost all the democracies of Asia, Oceania and the Americas. Africa's devotion to the rule that borders must not be changed by force is unshakable.

Together, Russia and the United States have about half a billion people - one-sixteenth of the world's people. Yes, they have most of the nukes, but they are really

Almost everybody else lives in countries whose governments still uphold the key law about borders, regardless of their domestic political arrangements. We are not alone. We are the great majority of the world.



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Valemount economic recovery...Cont'd from A1

Chief George Lampreau had nearly two dozen meetings with officials from the B.C., Alberta and federal governments.

The team faced several hiccups when trying to schedule lobbying meetings. The B.C. elections last fall meant cabinet ministers were gone for weeks on end, and the federal election in April also caused delays in meeting with federal departments.

Torgerson said once Village staffcould finally meet with senior levels of government, every elected official they spoke to was happy to offer lip service – but the Valemount team came away from each meeting empty-handed.

"There was a lot of gratitude... but in the end, it was just, 'Thanks, way to go," he said.

The team was told that there are no funding programs in place for a municipality suffering the economic effects of a disaster located outside of their own province. Torgerson says this is an oversight in the economic recovery facet of provincial and federal emergency management authorities.

The first, but not the last

While Valemount's situation was seemingly unprecedented at the time, it won't be unique forever, Torgerson said. When discussing the situation with Tony Baldinelli, MP for Niagara Falls, Ontario and Shadow Minister for Tourism, Torgerson pointed out that Ontario municipalities will likely be in the same boat within a year. He worries choosing not to fund Valemount's economic recovery may discourage other small municipalities from helping their cross-provincial neighbours in the future.

"If you don't do this, what message does that send to other rural municipalities along the border?"

To keep local economies intact in the face of increasingly frequent natural disasters, provincial governments will need to establish economic recovery funding that can protect communities impacted by disasters in another jurisdiction, Torgerson said. Valemount could be a case study in how to support small towns that step up to help communities from across a border, but it doesn't seem like the Province is taking that opportunity, he added.

B.C.'s Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness gave the Village nearly \$60K to hire a consulting firm for its economic recovery strategy, but has not provided financial support otherwise, according to documentation from Strategies North. In an email to The Goat, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Kelly Greene said she is thankful for the Robson Valley residents who opened their homes to

"Wildfires show no regard for provincial borders - and

"Not only did people open up their homes to friends and family, but to complete strangers. ground. If there are enlergency that we don't have a task number for... that's our funding," she said. "It's Evacuations aside, it was awesome to see."

- Mayor Owen Torgerson on Valemount evacuee response

neither does B.C. when it comes to emergency response," the statement continued. "Events like the Jasper wildfire have only strengthened the spirit of cooperation between B.C. and Alberta. We remain committed to working closely with our neighbours, learning from one another, and standing ready to help wherever and whenever we're needed."

Alberta's government was the first to offer support to Valemount when it agreed to allow the Village to submit expenses to the Municipality of Jasper. The Municipality will forward those expenses to the Ministry of Public Safety and pass the reimbursements back to Valemount.

The Goat reached out to the Alberta Ministry of Public Safety, who sent a press release from Premier Danielle Smith in lieu of a response to specific questions.

Valemount's struggle was also felt by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. In an interview with The Goat, Electoral Area H director Dannielle Alan said

the Province only reimburses emergency operations expenses when an emergency occurs in the regional district's province

"In order for us to activate emergency services, we need a task number from the Province," she said. "When we get a task number, we can bill for opening up the rec centre, the extra staff hours, everything like that... With Jasper, it was a different province. There was no provincial task number."

To prepare for a similar situation in the future, Alan put forward a motion to keep reserve funds that can cover expenses for emergencies that aren't in B.C.'s jurisdiction.

"We went and put together a \$25,000 fund that we passed in this year's budget to be more nimble on the ground. If there's an emergency that we don't have a not much, but it's enough to staff the rec centres and open up the community halls."

While it's unlikely that Valemount will find itself in a similar situation in the near future, Torgerson hopes businesses here and across Canada know to keep scrupulous records on the expenses they take on. He added that Valemount's economic crisis should signal to governments that they need to take economic recovery funding seriously.

"We might have paved the way, but paving the way sucks. It's terribly inefficient," he said. "You make mistakes, but in the end, you try and identify what you could have done better and make sure that policymakers at both the federal and provincial levels are well aware of current programs and the gaps that need to be addressed down the road."

Despite the struggle to make Valemount businesses whole again, Torgerson takes pride in the community members and staff who stepped up in Jasper's time of

"Not only did people open up their homes to friends and family, but to complete strangers. Evacuations aside, it was awesome to see," he said. "If we ever had to do an evacuation like that again, it would be with the team I

Delinquent Property Taxes

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

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

Community to Community: Valemount & Lheidli T'enneh First Nation

On September 4-5, members of Council and administrative staff will attend a Community-to-Community Forum hosted by Lheidli T'enneh. During the forum each community will formally sign a Memorandum of Understanding founded in the desire to work together in a respectful and honest way. To learn more about the ongoing working relationship between communities and their respective, commitments to strengthen communication, foster cooperation, and advance reconciliation efforts, visit us at valemount.ca > Village Office > Mayor & Council > Agenda and Minutes, and check out the August 12 Council Meeting agenda.

Pick Your Fruit, Save a Bear

It's time to pick! Fruit from our trees makes an easy meal for bears, who are seeking out high-calorie snacks at this time of year as they prepare to hibernate. Take fruits, including windfall, indoors (slightly unripe will ripen indoors), and remember to prune your fruit-bearing trees and shrubs in spring to make the fall harvest more manageable.

VILLAGE OF

Highway 5 Resurfacing

Commencing September 4, Terus Construction will be doing night-time milling and paving in the immediate vicinity of the Village Office/Visitor Information building, necessitating detours to allow highway access/egress.

During the hours of 7pm to 7am, please expect delays, slow down, and obey all signs while travelling through the construction zone. Terus will make every effort to minimize inconveniences; emergency vehicle access will be maintained at all times.

Be inspired. Get prepared. FireSmart your future.

Thank you to all the community members who attended the **Ignite Awareness Movie Night** on August 27. It was an unforgettable evening of film, insight, and fire prevention: following a viewing of The Test, a powerful story about community resilience in the face of wildfire, the audience was treated to an exclusive talk with Alan Westhaver, a leading expert in wildfire preparedness.

The photo contest winner will be announced soon, and a recording of Westhaver's talk will be available for those who could not attend in person.

Hazard Assessments: As part of our commitment to helping our community prepare for wildfire, the Village offers free Home Ignition Zone Assessments.

During an assessment, the FireSmart Coordinator will visit your property to evaluate structures and landscapes for potential wildfire vulnerabilities. You'll be sent a list of simple recommendations for making your home more wildfire resilient.

Email fsc@valemount.ca to book your assessment.

www.valemount.ca

Residential Garbage Pick Up

The Village is currently experiencing some garbage truck mechanical issues. As always, please remember to put your bin out for pick up by 7am on your scheduled day, but note that it may take us a little longer than usual to get to your address. If your bin was out on time and got missed, please notify the Village Office. Your patience while we do our best to address these mechanical issues is greatly appreciated.

E-Scooters in Valemount: Approved!

The Village has received notice that our application to participate in the Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project has been accepted.

Electric kick scooters (commonly called E-scooters) are battery-powered motorized devices with two to four wheels, a platform for standing, and handlebars for steering.

The pilot project, which aims to evaluate the use of electric kick scooters in participating communities and determine whether they should be authorized for permanent use in the province, has some set rules. For information on the rules for riding, please visit the Government of BC website at www.gov.bc.ca and search for "Electric kick scooter rules and safety."

Bylaw Enforcement Officer

The Village would like to extend a warm welcome to Jeff Wismer, who stepped into the role of Bylaw Enforcement Officer on September 2.



Valemount committee approves accessibility plan

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

The Village of Valemount's Accessibility Committee approved a new accessibility plan last Tuesday, August 26th. Council will consider officially adopting the plan during its next meeting, on September 9th.

The plan – which the Village began developing in 2023 as required by the Accessible British Columbia Act – lists 12 action items for improved accessibility on Village property. Action items include high-priority goals such as building a ramp to the bathrooms at Centennial Park and adding accessible playground equipment to the park, as well as long-term items like adding lighting along the Bigfoot Trail and replacing a dysfunctional automatic door in the Village office.

The plan also suggests revising some Village policies to include accessibility considerations. For example, the Village's Snow Removal Policy does not currently include guidelines for how wide of a walkway should be cleared on sidewalks, which can pose problems for people who use mobility aids. Additionally, the plan notes that the ramp into the Community Hall is too narrow and steep for manual wheelchair and walker users, and that there are high steps in the washrooms and concessions at John Osadchuk Park. In both cases, the accessibility plan recommends including accessibility considerations in the master plans for future buildings at these sites.

In an email to The Goat, CAO Anne Yanciw said municipalities are required to include accessibility considerations in their master plans under provincial legislation. The Village's accessibility plan will provide a local focus that consultants can refer to when drafting master plans.

Yanciw added that the Village recently won a grant from Columbia Basin Trust that will fund an accessible merry-go-round in Centennial Park. The date of installation has not yet been confirmed.

The accessibility committee developed the plan through consultation with residents and a "field trip" where committee members walked and drove around the village, noting areas where accessibility could be improved. A draft of the plan was available for public feedback for two weeks, but the Village did not receive any comments during this period, said Village Planner Krista Etty during the meeting.

In an email to The Goat, Mayor Owen Torgerson said the committee approval of the plan is a major milestone in the Village's efforts to improve quality of life for residents.

"It demonstrates commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion by creating a more welcoming community for everyone and will put Valemount in compliance with provincial legislation," he said. "I really want to thank the committee members and staff support team for their contributions as well as the public for their feedback."

The accessibility committee will continue to meet regularly, though meetings may be reduced from a quarterly schedule to a biannual one, Etty said at the meeting. The Village will continue to receive feedback on accessibility at accessibility@valemount.ca, or by calling the Village office at (250) 566-4435.





By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

The Dunster Schoolhouse will see its first class of students since its closure in 2010 this September.

The Rocky Mountain Forest Academy – a nonprofit society whose mission is to inspire learning by connecting with nature – is using the schoolhouse to host its forest recreation program from September 15th, 2025 to June 22nd, 2026. The Academy did not respond to The Goat's repeated requests for comment over the course of several months. The Goat also reached out to the Dunster Fine Arts School Society for comment but did not receive a response.

The program will operate on Mondays from 8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. and costs \$40 a day, according to a post on the Academy's Facebook page. It is open to children in kindergarten through grade seven.

According to the Facebook post, the program will draw on principles from Montessori education, a style of teaching that emphasizes self-directed learning and typically does not involve tests and grades. The program is also based on "coyote mentoring," a teaching technique started by the Wilderness Awareness School in Duvall, Washington. Teachers who use the technique observe students to see what interests them, waiting for moments of curiosity they can use as a teaching moment, according to a Wilderness Awareness School web page on coyote mentoring.

The Academy's recreation program will emphasize a connection to nature and community, says the Facebook post. Regular activities will include wandering, bird language and storytelling, along with lessons in first aid, campfire cooking and shelter building, among other skills.

The Academy may open a four-day-a-week school starting in September 2026, the post adds.

As of August 22nd, 16 of the 24 available spots in the program have been filled. The deadline for registering in the program is September 5th. Parents can email rockymountainforestacademy@gmail.com for more information.

RCMP investigating death, assault in Valemount

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

An assault in a Valemount home on the evening of Tuesday, August 26th has left one person dead and another in critical condition.

In a press release published the morning of August 28th, North District Media Relations Officer Madonna Saunderson said the North District's Major Crime Unit is investigating the incident.

"Valemount RCMP responded to a report of an assault at a residence on Pine Rd. in Valemount, BC," Saunderson said in the release. "A female and a male were located at the residence with serious injuries and were transported to the Valemount Health Centre. The male died shortly after."

Investigators say there is no ongoing threat to the community. The RCMP declined to provide further details as the investigation is ongoing.

"Police are not releasing further information to protect the integrity of the investigation," Saunderson said via press release.

Those with information related to the investigation can contact the Valemount RCMP detachment at (250)-566-4466.

As of September 1st, the RCMP have not responded to multiple requests for comment on the status of the person injured in the incident.



NOTICE OF

Public Consultation Meeting

Temporary Use Permit No. 293

Subject property: 2119 Hillside Drive, Electoral Area H

Purpose: to continue Tourist Accommodation use for a threeyear period

Next steps: there is a public consultation meeting on Monday September 15, 2025 at 7 pm Canoe Valley Recreation Centre, 100 Elm Street, Valemount BC

For details visit rdffg.ca/landuseapps



DRAFT 2025-2035 WOODLOT LICENCE PLAN REVIEW AND COMMENT

Notice is hereby given that the holder of Woodlot License # W0276 is making their draft Woodlot license plan available for review and comment for 30 days as required under sec 17 (3) of the Woodlot Planning and Practices Regulation.

The woodlot license plan covers a ten-year term and identifies results and strategies concerning government objectives for forest management and identifies legal practice requirements. The woodlot license area covers 597 ha of Crown land, located west of Valemount, BC.

The draft Woodlot License Plan will be available for review and comment upon request from September 4th, 2025, to October 10th, 2025. A digital or mailed copy of the draft plan and WLP maps can be requested via email at denise.kerr.rpf@gmail.com or by phoning 250-961-2638. A hard copy of the plan can be made available to view in Prince George, Dunster, McBride or Valemount with an appointment upon request.

To ensure their consideration in developing the final draft plan, comments must be received in writing by 4:00 PM on October 10th, 2025 to Denise Kerr, RPF, 1068 Hansard Crescent, Prince George BC V2M 4J9 or by email to denise.kerr.rpf@gmail.com

Submission of written comments by email is preferred.





Protect your kids, family, and community, from preventable diseases like measles, HPV infections, and more. Vaccines are the best protection for those you love most!



FireSmart co-creator comes to Valemount

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

Coniferous trees, wooden decks, cedar shingles. What do all these have in common? Aside from being ubiquitous features of B.C. homes, they're all potential ignition sources highlighted in FireSmart, a nationwide program that encourages Canadians to make their homes more fire-resilient.

The program, created in 1990, gives guidelines on how to protect the 30 meters immediately surrounding your house. Following recommendations to complete small tasks like clearing your gutters make for an easy way to protect your home, neighbourhood, and first responders, says the program's co-creator Alan Westhaver.

Westhaver spoke to dozens of Valemount residents during a Village-organized FireSmart movie night on Wednesday, August 27th. Attendees gathered for a screening of "The Test," a documentary about Logan Lake, a B.C. community that survived the Tremont Creek wildfire in 2021 without losing any buildings. The 2000-person town has had a robust FireSmart program for over twenty years, including a youth program that employs teens to clear brush and dry fuels from the forest surrounding town. While wildfires are scary and can be overwhelming, British Columbians should take heart in examples of fire-resilient communities like Logan Lake, Westhaver said.

"What does fire-resilient really mean? It means a community that bounces back quickly and completely," he said "It means that we get to go home, we get to go back to our jobs, we go back to work in a community that has far less to recover from."

The effects of climate change are having a big impact on wildfire seasons, according to Westhaver. Stronger winds, hotter summers, more frequent and intense droughts all mean that fires grow stronger, hotter and faster. Canada has seen its 10 worst wildfires

RVCS hosts information session with Community Living BC

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

Local non-profit Robson Valley Community Services (RVCS) is exploring ways to support adults with developmental disabilities in the valley. In the latest step of this effort, RVCS invited Community Living BC – a Crown corporation that funds programs and living support for people 19 and up who have developmental disabilities – to host an information session in Valemount and McBride on August 26th and 27th respectively.

Community Living BC aims to support people eligible for its programs by funding the services that meet their needs, said the organization's North Region Service Manager Andrea Emmons.

"We're focused on the quality of life for individuals and meeting individuals where they're at," Emmons said, noting that the organization ensures its services are culturally sensitive. "It's our goal to keep people in their community as much as possible and to age in place wherever they can."

For the organization's Prince George office, that means building face-to-face relationships with people across northern B.C. as much as possible, Emmons said. She added that facilitating connections with local services that allow people to stay in their home community is an important part of that relationship-building.

"It's the same for any of us: a sense of belonging and a sense of community and connection, no matter what size the community, that connection is important," Emmons continued. "To feel connected and belong – it just builds quality of life." Community Living BC doesn't directly provide services to the clients it supports, but they fund agencies – in this case, it would be RVCS – who employ community support workers, Emmons said. Those workers can provide services ranging from helping people get employment to grocery shopping with people or providing home living support.

While Community Living provides services for those aged 19 and up, families can start planning for their services as soon as an eligible individual is 16, according to Emmons. Once they reach adulthood, the organization requires parental consent for parents to be involved, and the individual makes their own decisions with Community Living staff helping to identify the services that could meet their needs, she added.

Now, both RVCS and Community Living hope to work together to one day bring support services to the Robson Valley. RVCS Manager of Child and Family Services Isla Jackman told The Goat the two organizations have been discussing a possible partnership for years.

"What we hope to do is find [adults with developmental disabilities] more connection with service provision," Jackman said. "[Community Living] doesn't hire the support workers that support the people that need it – they find agencies that do that. Them showing up and sharing their information here starts the conversation in the Valley of who would access their services."

Emmons also said Community Living hopes to build more relationships in the Robson Valley, and RVCS could be part of that.

"We've been talking for a couple of years about potentially having them provide services that are funded by CLBC, and we would love to see that happen," Emmons said

Jackman and Emmons agreed that the information session was a good step forward for building relationships between community members and Community Living.

"Basic outreach from these stakeholders goes so far. Even though our population is small, I want it to be valued. Even if there's five or six people, [organizations] need to come out and help people get this information," Jackman said.

of the past century all within the past 15 years, Westhaver said.

It's not all bad news, though – the FireSmart program empowers residents to combat wildfires by mitigating their damage ahead of time, Westhaver said. When everybody in a community pitches in, they have a better shot at saving the whole neighbourhood.

"If the homes don't ignite, they don't burn. If homes don't burn, we don't have a disaster – we go back home. That's what we're trying to do," Westhaver said.

Common landscaping and home design features such as wooden decks, trees near the home, and mulch can add fuel to the fire, easily igniting when an ember lands on them. Taking easy steps like adding mesh underneath a deck so embers can't float underneath them, making sure trees are pruned to a height of two metres, and swapping mulch for gravel go a long way in making a home more fire-resilient, according to Westhaver. Firefighters are more likely to save your home and neighbourhood if it's FireSmart-

Firefighters are more likely to save your home and neighbourhood if it's FireSmart-compliant, Westhaver added.

"The benefit of neighbourhoods tackling this problem together is that your home has a chance to stand alone without a lot of extra firefighting protection. And when firefighting resources are available, they're way more effective, and it's a lot safer both for residents and for firefighters," he said.

The Village's FireSmart movie night was a good first step in getting residents to think about wildfire preparation, Westhaver told The Goat. He hopes to see more community members follow the program in the future.

"Once people start doing things in their own backyard, their neighbours will get curious, I guarantee you. It's infectious," Westhaver said about the program. "It gives us something we can do that makes a big difference."

Valemount Transfer Station to increase hours

By Abigail Popple, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, RMG

The Valemount Transfer Station will be open six days a week year-round starting this November, thanks to a decision to increase operating hours from the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George board.

The new schedule has the transfer station open every day except Wednesday, and will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends, which amounts to an additional 13 hours per week.

Under the station's previous operating schedule, it was closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from November through March. Holiday closures will remain the same under the new operating schedule. This means the transfer station will be closed on New Year's Day, Family Day, Good Friday, Canada Day, BC Day, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Additionally, it will operate from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Labour Day and Thanksgiving Day.

The decision to increase operating hours was made to help the station accommodate materials which will be hauled from the McBride Transfer Station, according to a statement from RDFFG Manager of Communications Hilary Erasmus. Under the district's contract with RecycleBC, approved in March, material from the McBride station must be hauled to Valemount, where they will be sorted. Under the previous contract with Cascades Inc., the Valemount station was responsible for a smaller array of materials and did not collect material from neighbouring stations.

The increased operating hours can be paid for through the 2025 Solid Waste Management budget, according to a report from Environmental Services staff. Additional costs from the new operating hours will be outlined in the proposed 2026 budget, the report adds. The Regional District declined to respond to The Goat's question asking for an estimate of the additional costs.



PUBLIC NOTICE

FOREST OPERATIONS MAP REVIEW

Carrier Lumber Ltd., invites the public to review its Forest Operations Maps (FOM ID: 2526) which provides development plans within the Robson Timber Supply Area and administered from the Prince George Natural Resource District. The FOM(s) have been prepared in accordance with the Forest and Range Practices Act and describe areas planned for Cutting Permit and Road Permit development within the next three years. The public may provide comments on the FOM(s) at any point during the review and comment period, which starts September 4, 2025 and ends October 3, 2025.

The FOM(s) is accessible for public review and comment submissions online at the following website address: Forest Operations Map (gov.bc.ca) or https://fom.nrs.gov.bc.ca/public/projects#publicNotices

Alternatively, in-person review and comment of FOM(s) can be completed, by appointment to ensure a Carrier Lumber woodlands staff member will be available, at the following locations during regular office hours (8:30 am to 4:00 pm):

4722 Continental Way, Prince George BC V2N 5S5

FOM(s) comments may also be submitted by mail to the above address or by phone at (250) 563-9271 or by email at fom.pg@carrierlumber.ca

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The curtain draws on the Robson Valley Music Festival

Top photos L-R: A History of Gunpowder works the crowd Friday night. Top centre: Billed a "five-piece femme powered Hip Hop/R&B group," Vancouver-based NADUH write, engineer, and produce all their music. They wowed the audience with their on-stage personality and synchronized dance moves.

Alt-pop duo Midnite Gossip gave a soulful performance Friday night.



By Laura Keil

The final Robson Valley Music Festival did not go out with

The sold-out weekend brimmed with talent, heart, and even a wedding — a fitting add-on to an 18-edition festival that has grown out of love for both people and music.

"It is bittersweet," Shara Gustafson, Artistic Director of the Robson Valley Music Society, told the Goat Monday, as the festival wrapped up. "We are officially finished with the Robson Valley Music Festival."

This was the last one of this kind, she said, and they won't be doing anything in 2026, but die-hards can hold out some hope — they may do a smaller private, invite-only party in the future.

"We don't really know what the future looks like,"
Gustafson said. "For now, all I can say is that we are so
grateful for the support and love we have had over the last
18 festivals."

Gustafson has a special connection to the event — it's staged on her and her husband Seth MacDonald's property in Dunster, and the pair are in a band together. Over the years, roughly 1000 people have descended on their strip of paradise along the upper Fraser River to immerse themselves in music, art and nature. Musicians from around the world as well as local artists have regaled the crowds on the gorgeous timber-frame stage built just metres from the river and below the skyline of the Caribou mountains. The location is part of the magic: at night, along the dimly-lit road, the starry sky looks spongy, the milky way ribboning out to the horizon. Powdered road dust from bicycles, feet, slow-moving cars rises like heat from the ground. The reflection of coloured stage lights on the river give it a bioluminescent sheen. All around are people there for an unrushed shared experience of music.

That end result comes at a cost, though. It takes a herculean effort by 100 volunteers who flag and fence the property, cook gallons of delicious food, stand sentry to check tickets, empty trash cans and run shuttles. In short, they're the steady bass beat that keeps the music going. Guiding them is a team of 11 board members who support the work and direction of the artistic director, a collective that must leap through hoops of permits, insurance, artist contracts and grants.

The festival grew from a much-smaller gathering of 300 people in 2005 to an event they have purposely capped at 1000 and have taken great lengths to make as family-friendly as possible, catering many activities and shows to kids and ensuring attendees know this isn't a place to party hard

Instead it's a place for music, nature, and connection.
That theme is what drew Valemount resident Devin
Palmer and Hinton resident Courtney Lovestrom to say
their marriage vows in the campground of this year's

"It's our dream wedding," said Lovestrom on the Saturday afternoon, giving a special shout-out to organizers for allowing their 'ring dog.' "It's been perfect."

They had attended the festival three years ago and loved it. Originally the pair joked about a music festival themed around a stranger's wedding, but decided that would be too much to plan. They reached out to the Robson Valley Music Festival and got permission to host there instead. They put out an open invitation so they weren't sure until a few days before who was coming. And during the weekend, they invited people they had just met to their reception at the campground.

When asked why they decided to get married here, the answer was swift:

"It's the atmosphere. The vibe. And the people."



Above left: A family poses in silhouette in the psychedelic glow-in-the-dark alley between road and campground. Above centre: Above: Sisters Tiffany Ayalik and Inuksuk Mackay of PIQSIQ entranced the audience with a blend of traditional Inuit throat singing, beats and electronic looping to create a sometimes haunting orchestral sound. Above right: These glam ladies — Shola Phoenix and Meredith Mainguy — weren't shy about leaning into Friday night's "sparkle" theme. Below left: Devin Palmer and Courtney Lovestrom said their marriage vows in the campground. Lovestrom made her wedding gown from second-hand materials — a white curtain and doilies, and all the planning kept low-key. When the Goat took their photo, they said it was their first official "wedding photo." /LAURA KEIL



UPCOM/NG Events & News

Legion Branch 266

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**

Blngo 2nd Thursday of the

month. Doors at 6pm.

UPCOMING FRIDAY EVENTS:



Closed



Open Mic 7-10pm Hosted by John Crowley

FRIDAY MUSIC IS BACK!

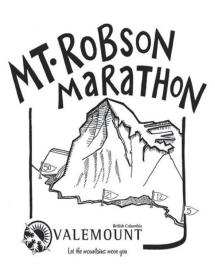
General Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of month 7pm

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.



There are some fish out of water at the Tête Jaune bridge. New murals of salmon creatively showcase the area's iconic landscapes and cultural designs. Residents told The Goat the murals were spearheaded by local Linda Blackman. /ABIGAIL POPPLE



Join us as the Mount Robson Marathon celebrates 10 years of running to Berg Lake and Robson Pass!

Presented by BC Parks and the Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association.

September 6th at Mount Robson **Provincial Park**

50km Ultra Marathon, Half Marathon, Kinney Lake 12km, and Flatlander 5km on the iconic Berg Lake Trail. Free Kids' Fun Run at 12 noon. Register on-site!

Event Schedule

Friday (at the Valemount Visitor Centre) 6:30-8:30pm number pick up and t-shirt sales

Saturday (at the Mount Robson Welcome Centre)

7:00am number pick up opens

- 8:00am Start of the 50km Ultra Marathon
- 10:00am Start of the Half Marathon
- 10:30am Start of the Kinney Lake 12km
- 11:00am Start of the Flatlander 5km
- 12 noon Free Kids' Fun Run
- 1:00pm Awards Ceremony and draw prizes



2025 Sponsors

Gold: Tourism Valemount, Yellowhead Helicopters and Robson Helimagic, Cafe Mt. Robson, Best Western Plus, Home Hardware Valemount, IGA Valemount, Caribou Grill, Totem Ski Shop, SmartWool Banff/Whistler, and BC Parks.

Silver: BoShay's Bistro, Peak Shuttles, Vale Coffee, and Whisper Creek Log Homes.

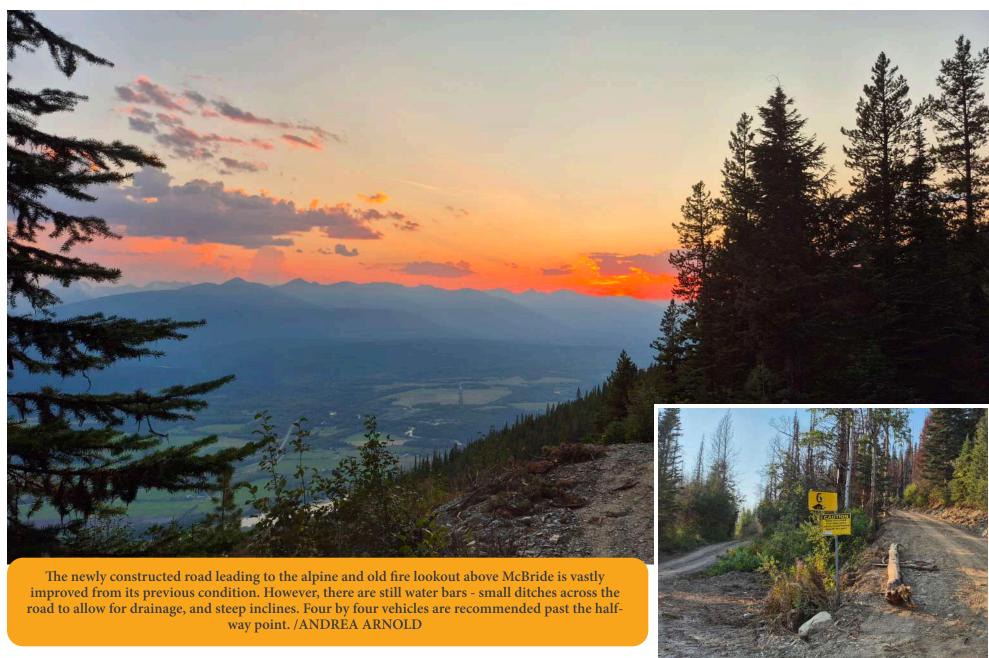
Bronze: The Source Tree Service, The Rose Cottage BnB, IDA Valemount, and Infinity Office & Health



Valemount | McBride | Dunster | Blue River

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Road to McBride lookout reopens after upgrades



By Andrea Arnold

The McBride Peak forest service road from the half-way lookout on McBride Peak up to the parking area near the alpine has been reopened following some much needed upgrades.

"It was in poor shape," said Craig Pryor, McBride Community Forest Corporation General Manager." "It has now been not just repaired but upgraded to safety standards for both people and for the environment. We are thrilled to have been able to do this for the community."

During construction, work included erosion and landslide mitigation, burn snag removal as well as road repair and widening.

Several pullout areas were also created along both the top half and lower half of the road.

The parking area at the top remains the same as it is built on a small plateau with no expansion space readily available.

"We ask people to continue to respect the alpine, and not take any motorized vehicles beyond the parking area," said Pryor.

New signage will be put in place reminding visitors of this regulation.

The road was originally a horse trail used for access to the fire lookout and about 60 years ago a bulldozer cleared a wider path to allow for access during a wildfire. According to MCFC staff, not a lot of maintenance has been performed on it since then.

"I recently heard that the World Hang Gliding Championships were held here," said Mike Monroe, chairman for MCFC. "I'd like to see something like that return."

The MCFC website boasts that it is one of the highest mountain roads in the country. Starting from Yellowhead Highway, the ascent is 12.2 km long. Over this distance the elevation gain is 1.320 metres.

Due to rainy conditions, it took local contractor Optimum Resource Management about two weeks to finish the project, including some additional set up and dry time for the new road. It reopened just in time for the long weekend. Although the road has been drastically improved, MCFC still recommends using vehicles with four-wheel drive for those wanting to explore the area.



Annual General Columbia trust Basin trust Meeting

Columbia Basin Trust's Annual General Meeting will take place online and in-person in Radium.

September 11, 2025 1:00 pm MT



Radium Hot Springs Centre4863 Stanley Street

Online via the link at ourtrust.org/agm.

We strive to host inclusive and accessible events. Contact us at 1.800.505.8998 or communications@outrust.org to advise of your access needs.

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

AREA

ROBSON VALLEY & Community Events

Send us your event to ads@goatnewsmedia.com or call 250-566-4606. Use 40 WORDS or less and we will publish it FREE up to a month before

Valemount

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, Dj sets, comedy and more. Tickets available online. Visit visit valemount.ca/event/

SAT-SUN Sept 13-14 Grand Finale Invitational at the Rocky Mountain Speedway.

SAT-SUN Fall Bike Fest hosted by VARDA. An epic weekend of shuttles, trails, food, and good vibes. Tickets on sale now.

TUES SEPT 16: Join us for an information session about Choose to Move, Tuesday, September 16, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the RVCS office in Valemount, 1444 5th Avenue. Choose to Move is a free, evidencebased physical activity program designed to support individuals, particularly older adults, in becoming and staying more physically active. No registration is required for this information

THUS SEPT 18: Join the Robson Valley Community Services' Family Court Support Program for a Court Orientation and Tour at the Valemount Provincial Court of BC, on Thursday, September 18th, 2025. Drop by anytime between 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM for an interactive and informative session designed to help you familiarize yourself with the court date process, ask questions, and gather useful resources. Private appointments are available; please contact us to arrange one. This is an opportunity to feel confident, reassured, and informed about the court process.

TUES Sept 18th Valemount Senior Citizen's Housing Society Annual General Meeting 7pm at the Golden Year's Lodge.

MON SEPT 22: Curious what a Community Connector can do for you, or someone you care about? Drop by our free info session, no sign-up required! Whether you're a senior, a caregiver, or just want to learn more, we're here to help you navigate services, support networks, and community resources. Come as you are, stay as long as you like. Let's connect! The information session is taking place on Monday, September 22, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Valemount RVCS office, 1444 5th Avenue.



Banff Mountain Film Festival

7:30 pm Fri. Sep. 26

Valemount Community Theatre 201 Ash Street

Tickets \$25 \$20 for seniors and students

On sale at Infinity & online (scan QR)



FRI Sept 26th Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour at the Valemount Community Theatre 7:30pm.

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

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@ csbc.org. See activities below:

Sept 5 - Fun with Apple Prints Sept 12 - Walk at Cranberry Marsh We meet at 10am at the boardwalk entrance at the end of Ash Street (weather allowing)

Sept 19 - Celebrate Fall with Puppets, **Rhymes & Tumble Time** Sept 26 - Play Dough & Nature Art

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

Infant Massage - Tues & Thurs

Join us for a nurturing and educational experience with the International Association of Infant Massage (IAIM) in Valemount! Learn gentle techniques to massage your baby and discover the many benefits, including: Reduced stress hormones, Improved relaxation and sleep, Enhanced bonding between caregiver and child, Relief from gas, cramping, and constipation. Starting September 2nd and running until Sept 16th, from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM at the RVCS

office in Valemount, 1444 5th Avenue. This program is for caregivers and infants aged 0-12 months. Registration is required.

The Valemount Seed Library Mon-Fri

The seed library is available in our lobby during business hours at RVCS Valemount (1444 5th Avenue). Office hours: Monday 10 AM -6 PM and Tuesday to Thursday 8 am-4 pm. Come take free seeds to grow in your garden this summer. By saving seeds, we can maintain genetic diversity, adapt to changing environmental conditions, and save money by not having to purchase new seeds every year. For more information, call 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

The Free Food Farm Stand & Pantry Mon-Fri

The stand and pantry are available for anyone who would like some free, fresh produce. We also accept donations of unprocessed fruits and veggies. The stand is accessible in the front lobby at RVCS Valemount (1444 5th Avenue) and is available to everyone—just help yourself! Emergency top-up food is accessible to our clients and anyone who walks through the door. This initiative is supported by one-time grant funding through United Way BC. For more info, call 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

McBride

THUR SEPT 4: Curious what a Community Connector can do for you or someone you care about? Drop by our free info session, no sign-up required! Whether you're a senior, a caregiver, or just want to learn more, we're here to help you navigate services, support networks, and community resources. Come as you are, stay as long as you like. Let's connect! The information session is taking place on Thursday, September 4, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the McBride RVCS office, 942 3rd Avenue.

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:

Sept 3 - Cooking with Tots: Popcorn Sept 10 – Kids Clothing Exchange (sizes 0-5) Sept 17 – Exploration Play at RVCS Sept 24 - Orange Shirt Day craft - Cloud

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.

Sept 26-28 Robson Valley Mushroom Festival 2025! Tickets on sale now! Visit https://www. robsonvalleymushroomfestival.com/



47. Organized insects

48. Main ingredient

51. Hair holder

52. Rodeo lady

53. Underhanded

CROSSWORD

Answers on P19

Across

1. Repose of sleep

5. Table place

9. 24 hours

12. Car

13. Mama mate

14. Impersonate

15. Ensemble

16. Humanities 17. Drink with ice

18. Files

20. Refuse

22. Core

24. Affirmative vote

25. Cramped 29. Kind of jerk

33. Vicinity

34. Beer kin

35. At that point

36. 1969 World Series champs11. Casual agreement

39. Heap

41. Big jerk

42. Woolly animal 45. Post-op time

49. Roof metal

50. Easter findings

54. Grandma, affectionately 27. Satisfied

55. Throw in

56. Genuine

57. Edits

58. Agreed

59. Peace treaty partner

60. Other than mentioned

Down

1. 'Darn it!'

2. Continental coin

4. It's applied with a

brush

5. Week-end getaway

6. Hearing organ 7. Prone

8. Savory

9. Computer food

10. Chimps and such

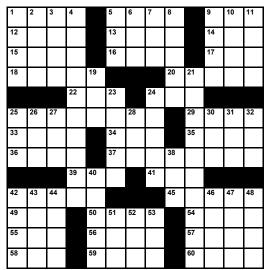
37. Brought into the country 19. Johnny Cash "A Boy

Named

21. Revival 23. Intelligence

24. Capable

25. ___ and cheese 26. "___ you sure?"



28. Horror-film street

30. Pick

31. Mother deer

32. "What's more..." 38. Owned by us

40. "The Phantom of

the 42. Abide

43. Thick skin

44. Hopefully they are

not frayed 46. The quantity that

was caught

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS Risky Cosmic Business

How can you keep your heart from ever breaking? Never give it. This is also the way to a loveless life. How can you shield yourself from financial risk? Don't take any. This is also how to ensure you won't ever get lucky. This week, Saturn retrogrades back into Pisces, Mercury enters Virgo, and Uranus goes retrograde. The cosmic culmination is one of thoughtful prevention, which includes embracing the inevitable. Without risk, there is no reward.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your life vision will start to feel more concrete and actionable this week. It's not about coming up with fantasies anymore; they're turning into plans. People around you will provide scaffolding to your process to hold things up while you do the building. They won't do it (SETITAL) for (ENDITAL) you, but they'll bring stability, structure and encouragement to your scene.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Strangers note your charisma, though your close circle has grown accustomed to it. It's fine because you don't usually need or want loved ones to give you any more attention than they naturally would. But by midweek, you'll crave an audience, some acknowledgement, a witness to your sparkle. With a little distance, they can see you anew.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll see someone try to charm or flatter their way through something that really requires effort. It won't work on you. Your honesty isn't meant to be harsh, just helpful. Then again there are those around you who can't take even the slightest hint of it. Avoid them, and give your energy to those who are likely to appreciate what the truth does to situations.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The most meaningful or impactful thing about your week won't be the excitement, surprise or recognition. It will be the fact that you show up the same way you always do. You keep the rhythm. You hold the structure. Whether you're showing up to an event or a nonevent, your consistency is holding something important together. You'll hold together a plan, a household or the emotional equilibrium in

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Subtle exchanges will mean more than the loudest applause. It's easy to miss casual moments of praise or support when you're used to the spotlight, but the type of acknowledgement coming this week will feel deeply earned. It reinforces the idea that you don't need more -- you need (SET ITAL) real. (END ITAL)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your attention to detail has effects you'll never fully know, so it's lucky that the ones you (SET ITAL) do (END ITAL) see give you satisfaction, and maybe even a whiff of superiority, which you've earned. After all, only a superior person would care enough to tend to both the broad strokes and the granular work that holds it all

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be trusted to read between the lines. Rather than getting caught in the drama or judging too quickly, you'll observe with your eyes and heart wide open. You'll take note of the massy truths take note of the messy truths and move through it all with that sharp emotional intelligence of yours. It's a week for discernment, not idealism.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Boredom is powerlessness. It's not the absence of stimulation; it's the absence of agency. Being stuck, being pinned in a moment that doesn't reflect you, can't be changed and must be endured. This week, there's a change, an exit or a new opening into a source of interest and potential joy -- in other words, freedom.

SAGITTARIUS 22-Dec. 21). This week, your emotional state (particularly whether you feel content or overwhelmed) will depend less on what's actually happening and more on what you expected to happen. When expectations are set too high, stress and disappointment are inevitable. Instead, you're flexible, realistic and thus satisfied and in control.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're determined to make a change. One of the most challenging parts is just beginning. You don't have to know where to start. Just start. An outside perspective makes this easier. If you're open to asking a teacher, friend or stranger, you'll get the helpful bird's-eye view of your patterns.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've been strong in ways no one sees, but you know, and this gives you the confidence to do what others don't even try for. For instance, you take social risks, knowing that most people who look friendly actually are, and even the neutral-seeming ones can surprise you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The job of the day isn't always transcendence. Sometimes it's just getting through. You can spiral into the metaphysical later when you have the space or the calling for that. But for this week, your best bet is to keep it simple -- less thinking, more pushing forward from laugh to laugh, breath to breath, bite to bite, scene to scene.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: Love defines your year -- not declarations of love but real, tangible effort from people who mean to support, celebrate and intertwine their lives and intentions with you. You'll also love your work, especially a new area of interest, the mastery of which will speak up on of which will sneak up on you. Projects get increasingly involved until they become entire ecosystems, and you'll love who these worlds attract. Together you'll build something remarkable. More highlights: Your intuition sharpens. Games become portals. You'll win something you didn't know was a competition.

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

SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY

Answers on P19

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

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. Sacks

5. Knot-tying gp.

8. "All systems go" 11. Farm division

12. New Year's games 14. Second-century date

15. Solicit business

16. Japan's commercial center, historically 17. Home of the NCAA's Bruins

18. "Do not let making a living prevent you from _____ " John

Wooden

21. The NY Manning

22. Apportion 24. Con games

28. Now

33. Wet behind the 34. Sitcom about a Texas soccer

35. Nutritional std.

36. "Live in the sunshine, swim _" Ralph Waldo Emerson

41. They're often in a mess

42. Laser pointer battery 43. Volcano

44. Sign, as an agreement

47. Settlings 48. Asian desert

49. Basketball org. 51. "Life is really simple, but we insist on making it _

Confucius

57. "Charlotte's Web" girl 59. Red Sea peninsula 60. So-so grades

63. Land of opportunity 64. Goes with

Saxon 65. Hooters 66. Mesh

67. Pickled

delicacy 68. Wall St. letters

Down 1. Dracula, on occasion

2. Author Umberto Pat

_ record 5. Herzegovina

neighbor 6. Booty 7. ___-Śeltzer

8. Speed up 9. Body soother 10. Spectra

12. Seethe 13. "Dog Day Afternoon"

character 17. Martian ships 19. Falcon film

20. Best 23. Novelist's need

24. Marsh grass

25. Rushing after the tortoise? 26. House of Lords member 27. Portal with a butterfly logo

29. Take care of 30. Religious seat 31. Baseball score

37. Common Arabic name

meaning "noble" 38. Half a cocktail 39. Chinese river

40. German for the 45. Black, to poets 46. Available 47. "Can't Help Lovin' __ Man"

50. TV actor, Scott 52. Good works ad 53. One of five in a limerick

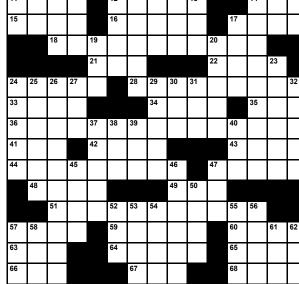
54. Pulitizer winner for

_ Bulba" (Gogol novel) 55. Coll. major

56. Wet, as morning

57. Kicks 58. Compass point 61. Trains over the

street 62. Compass point





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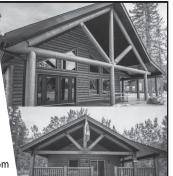


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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

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36 D	R	1	N	37 K	38 T	³⁹ H	Е	W	1	L	⁴⁰ D	Α	1	R	
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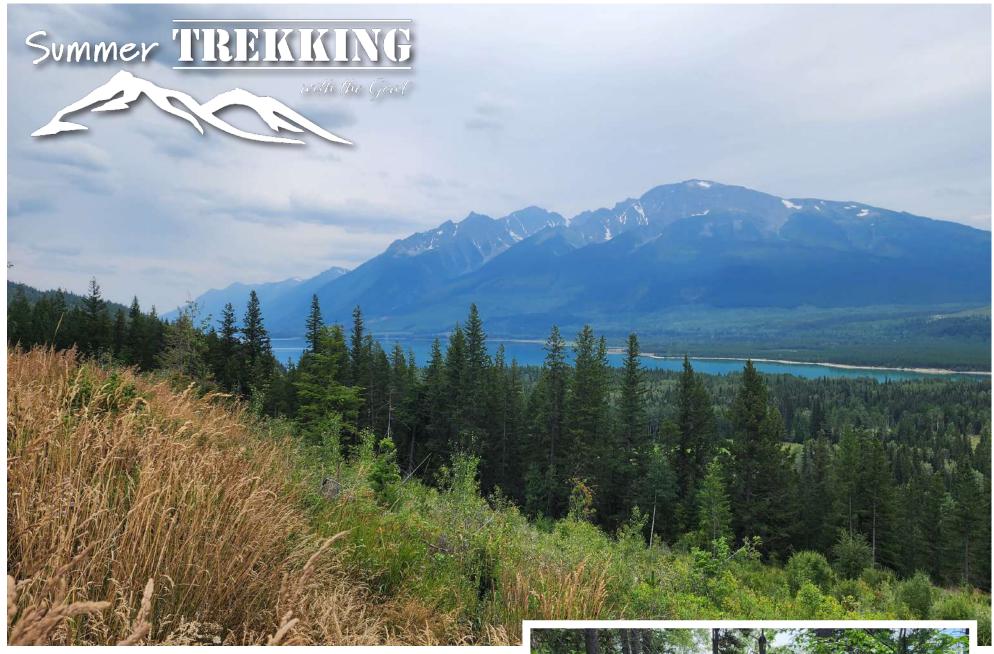
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Selwyn Traverse a lovely early or late-season hike

By Laura Keil

The medium-difficulty Selwyn Traverse meanders through beautiful forested terrain without a lot of elevation gain. The hiking trail (a portion of which is also suitable for mountain bikers) connects the bike park with the head of Kinbasket Lake, some 10km away. The undulating terrain makes the distance somewhat deceiving however — you may wish to do what many locals do and park one vehicle at either end to avoid a 20km return trip. In 2025, the trail is in excellent condition for the first 8 or so kilometres starting at the bike park. The last few kilometres (southern end) are somewhat grownin but still passable. Due to the lower elevation of this hike, it's a good one for earlier or later in the season.

Best Parts: This trail isn't super popular with bikers or hikers meaning you're likely to experience a calm and solitary trek through mature forests and over a number of lovely creeks. The viewpoint of Kinbasket Lake and Canoe Mountain on the southern end of the trail is not to be missed and is accessible by 4×4 vehicle from the East Canoe FSR.

Worst Parts: Watch out: bears are sometimes spotted here. Be sure to make lots of noise so you don't surprise them and they have time to leave. The mosquitoes can be bad in the spring and summer, although it depends on weather conditions.

Distance (one-way)

9.7km/6mi

Approx. time

3-3.5 hrs

Elevation gain

200 m/700 ft



Top: The viewpoint of Kinbasket Lake and Canoe Mountain on the southern end of the trail is not to be missed and is accessible by 4×4 vehicle from the East Canoe FSR. Above: a typical portion of trail. LAURA KEIL

How to access/where to park

Travel east along 5th Ave through downtown Valemount, and cross the railway tracks, then turn right and follow the signs for the bike park up 5-Mile road until you reach the parking area for the Selwyn as per Google Map directions located here: tinyurl.com/selwynparking

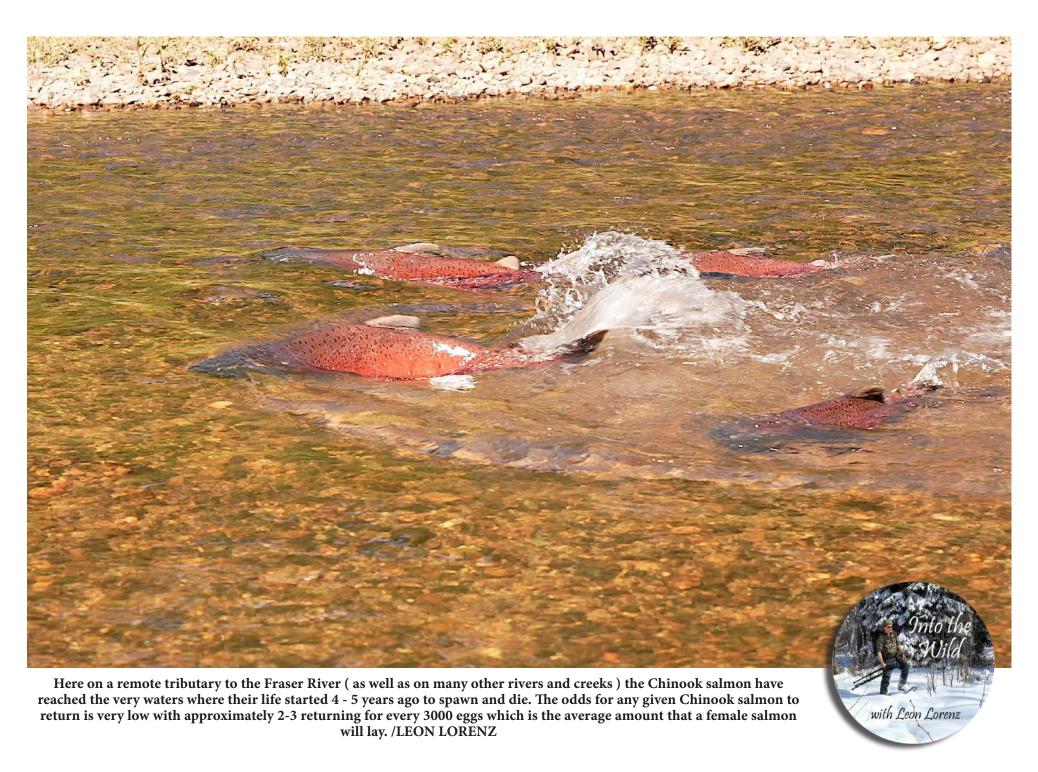
Trailhead coordinates

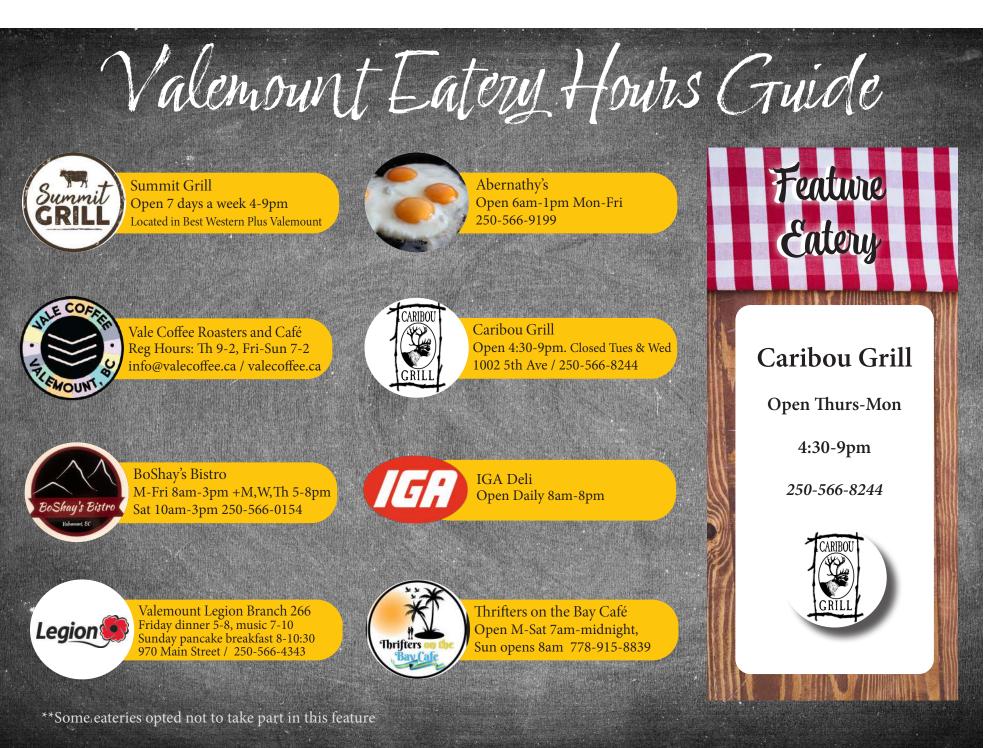
5-Mile Trailhead 52.84389, -119.24076

East Canoe FSR Trail end (Kinbasket parking) 52.78962, -119.16632

For more info on this and other hikes, visit www.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.

Shelly Battensby



TOWN 1250 9th Avenue



VALEMOUNT

This impressive home offers space, style, and flexibility for modem living. The main floor has a large family room, an upscale kitchen, and three generous bedrooms, including two full bathrooms. Upstairs, the luxurious primary

suite is your private retreat, while downstairs there is a fully self-contained suite with two large bedrooms and bright living areas is ideal for extended family, guests, or potential income as a B&B. The oversized yard has a double garage with alley access.

1480 7th Avenue



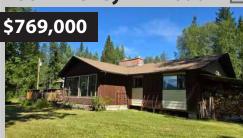
VALEMOUNT

This immaculate home features plenty of space, with 3 bedrooms, family room, living room, updated kitchen, and a large mudroom. The yard is landscaped and features a covered patio and

a double garage. The home has been well maintained and updated over the years, giving you the benefit of a bright, efficient kitchen, vinyl windows and siding, and a newer roof. Available for quick

200 Whiskey Fill Road





This 3-bedroom bungalow sits on 74 acres and offers a front-row seat to nature's best. The main yard is landscaped with mature trees, a fenced garden and

greenhouse. Inside, the heart of the home is the spacious kitchen and the cozy living room with vaulted ceilings and a striking stone fireplace. Whether you're dreaming of horses in the fields or letting the kids roam free in their own forest, this is a place that brings comfort and freedom together.

COUNTRY

1350 Dyke Road





This charming 10-acre hobby farm, located just west of McBride, offers expansive grazing areas and a 2-storey home with 4 bedrooms, large living spaces, convenient laundry on both floors, and

a stunning great room with vaulted ceilings. The property comes complete with a greenhouse, 2 hay barns, a 3-stall barn with tack room, a chicken coop, and fully cross-fenced land - everything you need to live out your rural dream.



2024 **100%** CLUB AWARD



CELL: 250-566-1086 OFFICE: 250-645-5055



RECYCLING Round Up





Items Accepted

- Household Batteries single-use and rechargeable dry-cell batteries (weighing up to 5kg each)
- Tires residential tires on or off rims
- Small Appliances vacuums, microwaves, blenders, portable fans, portable heaters, portable A/Cs, dehumidifiers, water coolers, trash compactors

- Electronics TVs, computers, musical instruments
- Power Tools drills, circular saws, electric sanders, band
 saws
- Electric Outdoor Power Equipment
 No fuel-powered equipment











