



Remembering a Swift Creek mishap P10

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

Your weekly source of news, views and entertainment

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Thursday April 6th 2023  
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## 50 years of the Mica Dam

### How an international treaty changed the face of Valemount's Canoe Valley

By LAURA KEIL

50 years ago last week, the Canoe Valley south of Valemount began a transformation that would permanently alter the landscape, the economy, and the future of the area.

The Mica Dam, which remains one of the highest earthfill dams in the world, was the third dam built in Canada under an international treaty that harnessed the Columbia River system to facilitate flood control and maximize power generation in the U.S. and to a lesser degree in Canada.

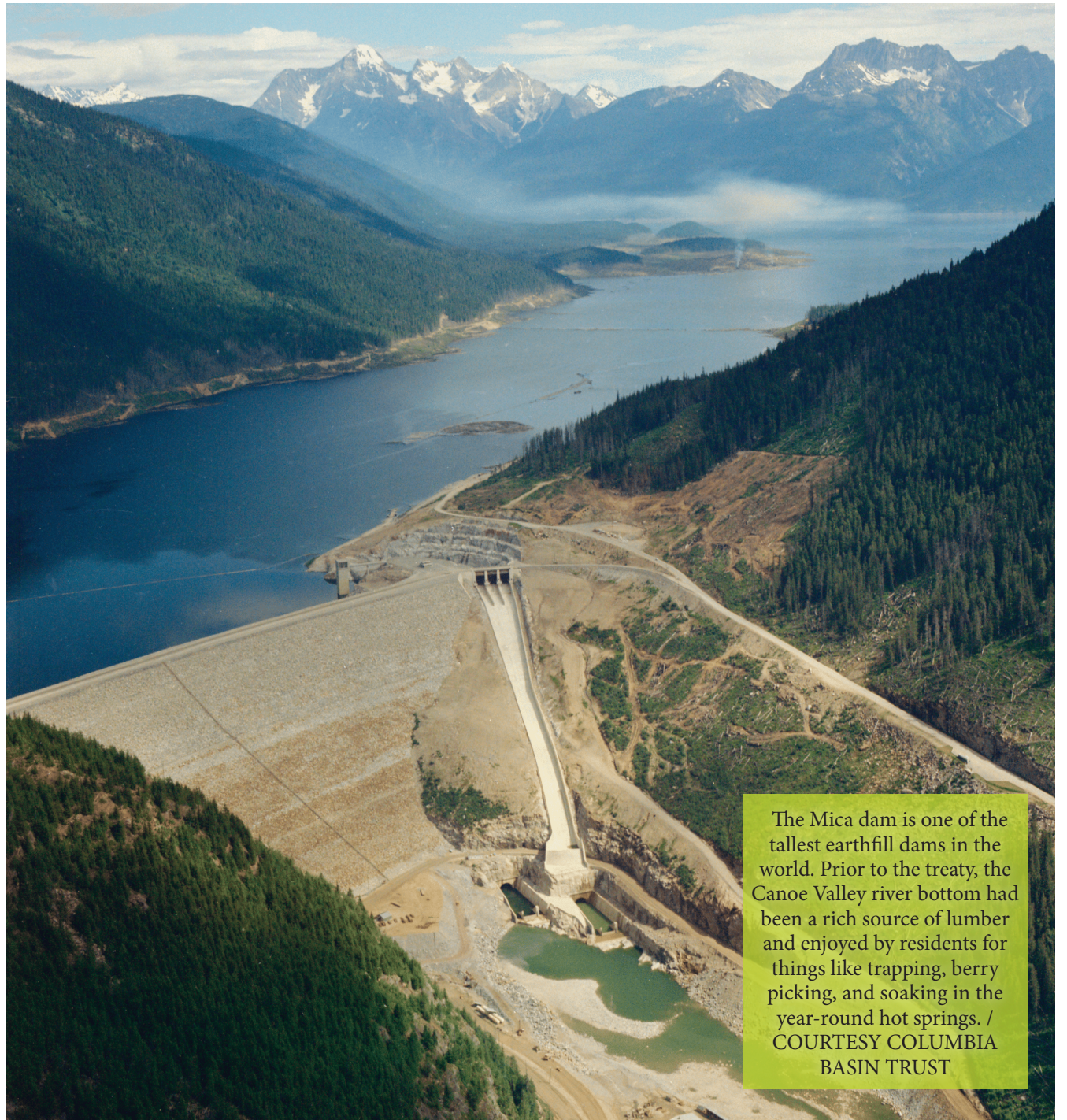
The dam began operations on March 29th, 1973, and in the years that followed, the lush valley south of Valemount would transform from an age-old river snaking its way through old-growth forests into a treaty-dictated reservoir, taking with it thousands of acres of forestland, wetlands, and a year round hot spring.

Prior to the treaty, the Canoe Valley river bottom had been a rich source of lumber and enjoyed by residents for things like trapping, berry picking, and soaking in the year-round hot springs. There were no large settlements down the Canoe Valley, only mills and a few trapper cabins. Compared to the Arrow and Kootenay Lakes, which were also flooded by CRT dams, there was hardly any private property affected.

But that fact didn't mean the transformation wasn't shocking to local residents.

Ann McKirdy-Carson was

CONT'D ON P8



The Mica dam is one of the tallest earthfill dams in the world. Prior to the treaty, the Canoe Valley river bottom had been a rich source of lumber and enjoyed by residents for things like trapping, berry picking, and soaking in the year-round hot springs. / COURTESY COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

## Valemount welcomes Enduro bike race

By ANDREA ARNOLD

The Valemount Bike Park will receive national exposure July 15th and 16th by hosting the Canadian Enduro League. The league is hosting 10 events between the end of April and the end of October. By hosting one of the 10 events, the Valemount trails and the community will be in the company of mountain bike destinations like Revelstoke, Cypress Hills, Whistler, Sun Peaks and Bromont Quebec.

VARDA Executive Director Curtis Pawliuk is thrilled to

see the event coming to Valemount.

"We are extremely excited to be chosen for one of the locations this year," he said. "The race typically sees between 200 and 250 participants at each venue and each of those people bring friends and family along with them. This has the opportunity to provide a large economic spinoff of our community and to showcase our trail network to hundreds of people who may not realize what Valemount has to offer."

Enduro racing is different from downhill racing. The races are divided into timed stages that can be over 30

minutes long for each race.

"An enduro is a style of racing where riders must pedal around the network to access certain segments of trail within the network that will be timed," Pawliuk. "Typically there are five segments. Only these five segments are timed, although riders have to do an extensive amount of pedaling to access the locations spread throughout the network."

The Enduro Canada website explains that courses will be fully marked using tape, arrows and signs. Dangers, hazard areas

CONT'D ON P5

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# EASTER Fun

The McBride Elks & Royal Purple, Mountainview Boutique and Welcome Home hosted an Easter event for kids up to the age of 12 on Saturday morning. In spite of the snow, approximately 30 kids attended and received gift bags full of treats and swag. There was an egg decorating station and colouring pages available as well. The Easter bunny made a rare early appearance to hand out treats and pose for photos with the kids. There was even a modified (no hitting needed) pinata that spilled more treat filled plastic eggs out onto the ground for the kids to collect.



Jack was the first child to approach the Easter Bunny. He needed a little encouragement from his grandma initially, until he realized there were treats to be had. /ANDREA ARNOLD



10-month old Phineas was not at all worried about the giant Easter bunny with his dad Hayden McIntee at his side. /ANDREA ARNOLD



The Easter bunny even had treats for some of the older residents who stopped by to say hi. Amy Bartlett was all smiles as she received her chocolate bunny. /ANDREA ARNOLD



Emberly, Finley and Sula watch as Gina Gallacher dips their eggs to create brightly coloured canvases for them to decorate. /ANDREA ARNOLD

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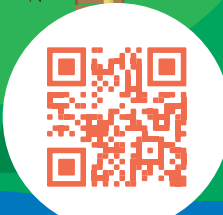
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# Valemount Council - Tourism Valemount, TMX status, & ReDi grants approved

By ANDREA ARNOLD

Mayor Owen Torgerson called the Valemount Council meeting to order on March 28th and started the meeting by congratulating Michael Peters for 10 years of service at Valemount Community TV.

## Tourism Valemount Update

Tourism Valemount Executive Director Marcie Down presented to council a summary of their activities of the past year and what they

have planned for the coming year. The group's vision statement says that Valemount and area will be a unique and sustainable tourism destination in the Canadian Rockies. Their mission statement explains that they hope to accomplish this through partnerships with many other groups locally and across the province. They want Valemount to become BC's all-season trail destination and are working to improve local amenities, facilities and attractions. They are also increasing the contribution of the tourism sector to the local economy.

Nine Valemount residents serve the community through the organization on the Board of Directors or as staff. Currently they are working in partnership with four marketing co-operatives: Mountain Biking BC Ride North, North Thompson Valley, Let's Ride BC and BC Ale Trail, to promote and market Valemount.

Down presented some of the highlights from the 2022 year and what the group has done and is planning to do in 2023. She also explained some of the statistics they have collected. The most commonly asked about activities, information requested, how long visitors stay, where they are from and the reason for the visit.

She also talked about the group's social media campaign, hitting Instagram, and Facebook and tracking likes/follows/audience and impressions. She can use this information to target Tourism Valemount advertising on these platforms.

She ended her presentation by addressing the next two big events being held by Tourism Valemount:

April 24-28 Tourism Week. They will be hosting a meet and greet. Details to come.

April 22 Earth Day. CITO Cash in Trash Out 10:30-1:00 at Cranberry Marsh.

## TMX Update

Kent Taylor, Community Liaison for Trans Mountain Expansion Project presented to council.

The overall project is nearly 80 per cent complete with 809 km of pipe in the ground and nearly 95 per cent of all facilities complete. Locally, Valemount to Avola, the project is also 80 per cent complete.

The current workforce is approximately 2000 workers between Valemount and Clearwater. 24 percent of these are locals, and eight per cent Indigenous. They are anticipating a month to month work force reduction. Through the project, 2.3 million dollars has been invested in upgrades to Valemount's water, sewer and road updates, and one million has been used to support the hiring of registered nurses for the health centre.

TMX has been contacted by residents with concerns regarding local accommodations and services, and vehicle idling and are working to mitigate concerns. Individual landowners with concerns are directed to TMX Land Agents.

As work moves towards Blue River, local worker numbers will decrease. The planned closure of the Valemount Camp is scheduled for Q2 2023, subject to change, and mechanical completion is set for late 2023.

Taylor finished by asking Council if they had any questions. Councillor Pearson voiced his concern that camp is closing but that work will still be occurring. He said he would like to see camp stay open and workers moved into camp, freeing up local accommodation for local use.

Taylor responded that he heard the concern and that could be an option going forward.

Councillor Hollie Blanchette strongly agreed with Pearson. She said that if we can't hire nurses and teachers and doctors because they don't have a place to live, that doesn't work for the community. Taylor said that he will take that back as a key message.

Mayor Torgerson said that he is pleased to see local hire numbers have increased since the last update. He then commented that Q2 is really long. 90 days long. He asked if the timeline is referring to the beginning? Or

the middle? Taylor could not give a specific date but said that as soon as he knows something solid, he will get that information to Council as soon as possible.

Looking forward to the summer, Mayor Torgerson also asked what comments can be expected from tourists coming from Kamloops as the delays along that stretch of highway have been long, and how village staff can respond. He asked Taylor if this is expected to continue or change in the foreseeable future. Taylor said it will be better next year for sure. He said he would look into what can be expected for the summer. As crews start to pull access roads out, it is possible that traffic interruption will lessen.

Councillor Blanchette asked Taylor to pass on a reminder to pull construction signs. She said she has seen signs up but no workers present. When this happens repeatedly, people stop listening to signs creating a hazard for everyone. Taylor said he has experienced that first hand, and will bring it to the crew's attention.

## Farmers' Market coupons

Councillor Blanchette made a motion to send a thank you letter to Minister of Health Adrien Dix regarding the BC Farmer's Market Nutrition Coupon program. In 2022 \$16,407 in coupons were redeemed at the Valemount Farmers' Market allowing over 50 lower-income residents to enjoy more fresh food items, and providing additional income for the providers.

## Strategic Priorities

Council approved "Valemount Council Strategic Priorities 2023-2027." Council and staff had a planning meeting on Feb 1st and 2nd hosted by Doug Flemming, then had another session with CAO Eric Depenau to ratify the plan. There are four newly defined categories within the plan: Communication, Health & Safety, Fiscal Responsibility and Development & Diversification. The document will provide a way for staff to monitor progress toward outcomes and budget accordingly.

## Museum operations

Council approved Village of Valemount staff to oversee the future operations of the Valemount Museum, subject to confirmation that current funding streams can be

transferred from the Valemount Historic Society to the Village of Valemount.

## ReDi Grants

Council approved the following recommendations from the committee regarding the Columbia Basin trust ReDi Grants Funding. Prior to the motion, Mayor Torgerson extended his thanks to all the applicants, and the adjudication committee.

Robson Valley Spay and Neuter Society will receive \$4,000.00 for their project, Community Spay and Neuter Support Project.

Valemount Learning Society will receive \$40,000.00 for their project, Green Energy for Village Greens - local leafy greens year-round. Mayor Torgerson recused himself prior to the vote as his wife is the applicant.

Valemount JCR Adult Committee Society will receive \$4,945.00 for their project, Backcountry Equipment.

Valemount Entertainment Society will receive \$40,354.00 for their project, Conversion of CHVC-TV Channel 32 to Digital, and the Purchase of an Emergency Alert Messaging System for VCTV.

Valemount Curling Club will receive \$30,733.00 for their project, Valemount Curling Club Building Upgrades.

Valemount Secondary School Parent Advisory Council Society will receive \$42,641.80 for their project, Valemount Youth Mountain Bike Club.

Valemount Community Sports Day Association will receive \$10,702.80 for their project, Valemountain Days 2023

## Temporary Use Permits

Council gave initial approval to TUP 23-03 for 1170 Canoe View Place for a period of two years. The request is for one recreational vehicle to be used as a resident on the property.

Council gave initial approval to TUP 23-04 (a renewal of TUP 21-04) for 1133 14th Ave for a period of three years. Approval of this request would allow a recreational vehicle to continue being used on the property.

## Bylaws

Council gave Five Year

CONT'D ON P6



McBride Big Country Snowmobile Association

### Invitation to Quote - 2023 Trail Brushing Belle & Renshaw

**Description:** The McBride Big Country Snowmobile Association is looking for interested parties to submit a quote for brushing, approximately 9 KM on lower Belle Mountain snowmobile trail short loop and approximately 10 KM on the upper section of the Renshaw snowmobile trail.

Viewing of the proposed brushing areas will be on Saturday, June 17th beginning at 9 AM at the Belle Mountain parking lot at 5 KM, An ATV (quad) or 4X4 will be required to access trails. Any interested parties must attend this meeting, there will be no exceptions.

The scope of the work must be completed prior to winter setting in or by October 15th, 2023, at the latest. All quotes must be received by Closing Date and Time: July 31st, 2023, 2:00 PM (Local Time) Once awarded, there will be a contract written up.

Final payment will be made once follow-up inspection of brushed areas has been completed. The lowest quote nor any quote will necessarily be awarded.

Any questions regarding this request for quote, please contact Dave McLeod, MBCSA President at 403-998-9643 or email [sledmcbride@outlook.com](mailto:sledmcbride@outlook.com).

**On site viewing: June 17th, 2023 @ 9 AM local time, Belle Mountain parking lot**

**Bid closing date: July 31st, 2023, 2:00 PM Local Time**

**Completion date: October 15th, 2023, 5:00 PM Local Time**

# Editorial



Laura Keil  
Publisher / Editor  
goatnewspaper@gmail.com

## Kinbasket Lake's history a rocky one

BY LAURA KEIL, EDITOR/PUBLISHER

“Where did all the water go?”

For those new to the Valemount area, this is a common question about Kinbasket Lake during the low water period of the reservoir. As the Mica Dam is roughly 100km away as the crow flies, few newcomers realize the lake is a reservoir. But spring is a yearly reminder of this fact, as the reservoir's drawdown exposes dusty mud flats and driftwood and spawns terrible dust storms until the water rises with the freshet.

It's taken nearly 50 years to “clean up” the lake, and still the work is not over. On the Arrow Lakes, an area in the Kootenays inhabited by several thousand people, BC Hydro did properly clear the lake of the timber they knocked over when they built the Hugh Keenleyside Dam. But up here, they didn't. What this has cost the valley, it's hard to say. Due to severe log jams and dust storms, the lake wasn't really promoted to tourists until the 2010s, despite BC Hydro's eager promises of a scenic lake when the dam was built.

Only a handful of locals can remember this time in Valemount's history, but it's one that we're vaguely aware of anytime someone

mentions the Columbia Basin Trust or the hot springs. The Trust provides hundreds of thousands to Valemount each year in the form of grants to area non-profits. It has helped build our renowned mountain bike park, revitalized our downtown, helped fund the Valemount Industrial Park, and boosted the operations of countless non-profit ventures.

All this doesn't put back the timber that was lost, or replace Valemount's hot springs, but it has been a boon to the community and helped offset some of the losses due to the flooding.

As the Columbia River Treaty is renegotiated this year, many are hoping that values such as ecosystem health and human health play a greater role in the agreement. But to complicate matters, five million acre feet of water is referred to as “non-treaty” storage. This is storage BC Hydro and the Bonneville Power Corp in the U.S. negotiate for the purposes of flood control and power generation that is separate from the treaty.

As Valemount slowly reclaims its "lake," I believe BC Hydro should be doing more to offset the dust storms created by its operations. It's taken dust control measures in Revelstoke and the Arrow Lakes. It's time we lobbied for better treatment in the north.



**The RMG Office will be closed on Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, and we will resume regular hours on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to 4PM.**

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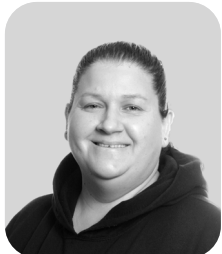
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# McBride Council - Lemonade & Trunk Sale, Growing Community grant & Cannabis retail bylaw

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

Mayor Gene Runtz called the McBride Council meeting to order on March 28th. Councillor Peter Caputo was absent from the evening's proceedings.

## 2023 Budget Schedule

Council received the revised 2023 Budget meeting Schedule for consideration and discussion. Council then moved to approve the schedule as presented.

## Lemonade & Trunk Sale

Council approved the McBride Chamber of Council application for the temporary street closure on Main Street between 1st Ave and 2nd Ave 3:00-8:00pm on Friday May 12 contingent on the Chamber obtaining insurance. The Chamber plans to host the 2nd Downtown Lemonade and Trunk Sale. Vendors will rent spots from the Chamber to sell

items, either garage sale-style, or small business type items.

## Growing Communities grant

Council gave first, second and third reading to the McBride Growing Communities Reserve Fund Bylaw. This new fund is being created in response to a letter from the Province stating that McBride is the recipient of a \$780,000 grant under the Growing Communities Fund. One of the stipulations of the grant is that it be placed in a segregated reserve fund, and report annually to the province how the money is being spent. Council will determine the use of the money at a later date, but will need to consider the Province's request that the money should be used for one-off costs needed to build required infrastructure and amenities rather than funding ongoing or operational activities.

## Retail cannabis zoning

Council gave first and second reading to zoning bylaw

amendment no. 815, 2023 and directed staff to schedule a Public Hearing for April 25, 2023. The bylaw adds Cannabis Use Regulations and outlines the required regulations a retail cannabis establishment would have to adhere to. The amendment adds Cannabis Use Regulations as a subsection under general permitted uses. The subsection states: Cannabis Retail establishments are permitted in Core Commercial (C-1) and Highway Commercial (C-2) zone. However, it also states that no primary public entry to a cannabis retail store shall be located within 150 metres of a parcel boundary of a public elementary or secondary school.

## Village of McBride Strategic Plan

Council adopted the Village of McBride Strategic Plan 2023-2026 as presented. On March 6th, Council and staff attended a one-day workshop to identify

the overall strategic focus areas and to determine key initiatives, set priorities, allocate limited resources, measure success, guide the work of staff and communicate to the citizens of McBride. The five main strategic plan items are: Good governance & accountability, asset management, advocacy, economic development, and organizational capacity.

## Funds reimbursed for Mayor

Council approved payment of the Travel Expense submitted by Mayor Runtz for his attendance at the Old Growth Forum in Richmond, BC February 5-8, 2023.

## In-camera

Council adjourned the public portion of the meeting to move into an In-Camera session for consideration of matters of the Community Charter related to Section 90 (1): (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who

holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality; (c) Labour Relations or other employee relations; (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stage and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public; (o) the consideration of whether the authority under section 91 [other persons attending closed meetings] as well as Section 90 (2) (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

## Enduro... Cont'd from A1

and intersections will be clearly marked. Riders are asked to stick to the trail. Riders who take shortcuts are disqualified. Enduro Canada releases course

information typically the Friday before the race weekend. They post the information on the Trailforks website only, and will announce the release on social media.

Riders must be a minimum of 13 years old on the race date, and must use helmets with full face protection made between 2019-2023. All other protective gear, knee

pads, elbow pads, gloves and eyewear are strongly recommended. Each rider is responsible for their own timing ship. They must pick it up, wear it on either their fork or wrist and make sure they are turned in within 45 minutes after the cut-off time. If a rider misses this deadline they are automatically disqualified.

This is the first year Valemount has had the opportunity to host an event of this calibre.

"We will look at this year as a trial run, and if we receive positive feedback and community support, it is something that we would hope to be a part of for years to come," said Pawliuk.

# Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

## Israel – The Fascists and the Fanatics

Imagine that Donald Trump had been the president of the United States, in office and out and in and out and in yet again, for more than half of the past 25 years. What would the US look like today?

Well, that's about what Israel does look like today. In miniature, of course, and Prime Minister Binyamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu is a lot cleverer than the Orange Ego. But he's no more honest, he's just as ruthless, and he's in even more trouble with the law.

In fact, Netanyahu is even willing to destroy Israeli democracy to stay out of jail – and it's a lot easier to destroy. No written constitution, no second chamber of parliament. All it has is the supreme court, which can set aside laws that it sees as unjust or undemocratic.

So the obvious course for a man as deep in legal trouble as Bibi – charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust – is to take control of the judges. That's not an option available to your average person facing criminal charges, but it's different if you control the government.

Netanyahu is a man of the right, and two-thirds of Israeli

voters say they are right-wing. Nevertheless, the Israeli political carousel throws up so many different parties and leaders that all Israeli governments must be coalitions.

Binyamin Netanyahu was once the master coalition-maker, but by 2019 he had betrayed or alienated so many of the players that his existing (fifth) coalition government collapsed and he could not form another. However, nobody else could form a stable coalition without his Likud Party either.

Four elections in rapid succession produced four 'anybody-but-Bibi' coalitions with the lifespan of mayflies. Meanwhile, Netanyahu worked at cajoling three hard-right parties, each too small to get the 3.25% of the vote needed to qualify for seats in the Knesset (parliament), into a single united party that passed that threshold.

The new party is called Religious Zionism. Some of its leaders are Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank who want to annex the whole territory to Israel, maybe even expel all the Palestinians. Others are ultra-Orthodox fanatics who want to impose their religious rules and traditions on all the secular and liberal Jews in the country as well.

Extreme nationalists like Bezalel Smotrich, leader of the



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

Religious Zionists, now control the West Bank and the lives of millions of Palestinians. The first of many new laws to subordinate the courts to the decisions of the ruling coalition has already gone through the Knesset. But the secular, liberal part of Israel has woken up and started protesting.

The demonstrations grew steadily bigger and louder, the level of violence rose, and last week the country's biggest trade union, Histadrut, called a general strike. On Monday night Netanyahu, shocked by the strength of the protests, brought the whole process to a shuddering halt.

He was "not willing to tear the nation in half," he said. "When there's a possibility of avoiding fraternal war through dialogue, I will take time out for that dialogue." But he's only pausing the new legislation for a month, until the end of April. His far-right coalition partners would accept no longer.

Is civil war really looming in Israel? Probably not at this stage in the proceedings, but the country's integration into the Middle Eastern style of politics is making great progress. As Amos Harel of the Ha'aretz newspaper put it: "After 75 years, Israel has instantaneously closed the gaps between itself and its neighbours in the region."



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# Valemount Council

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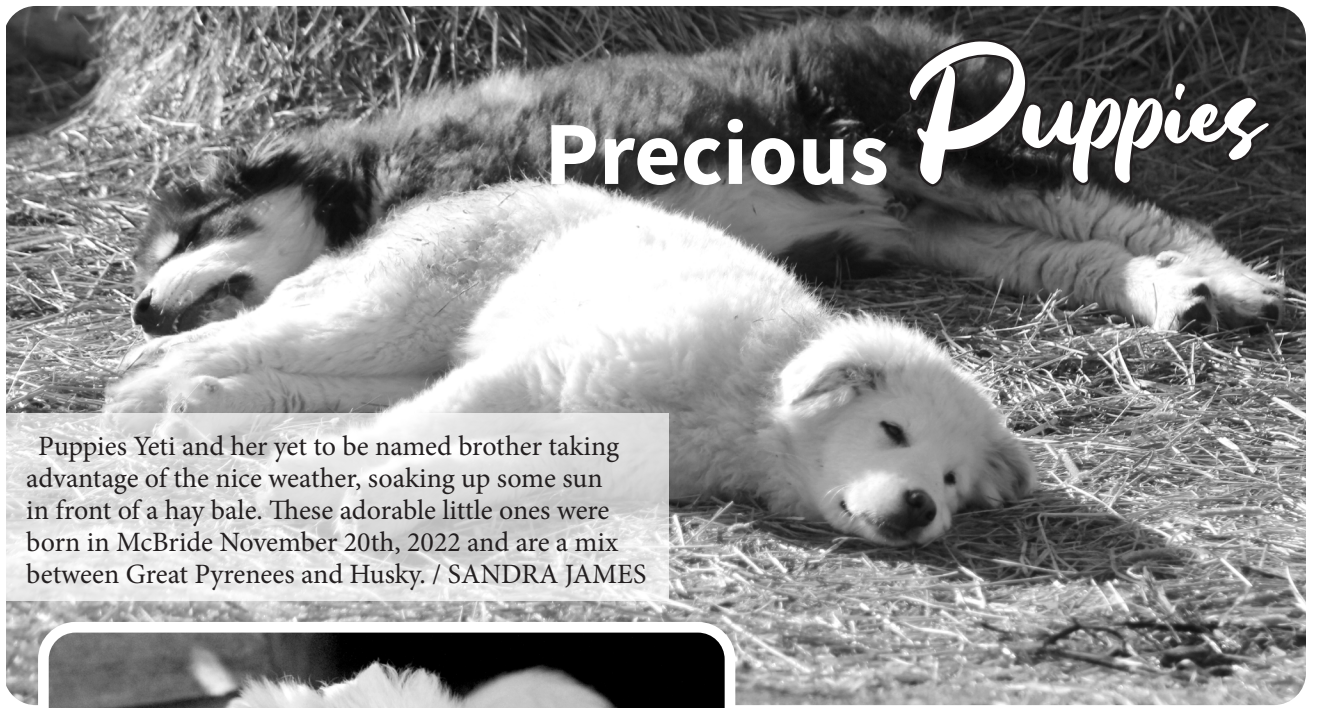
Financial Plan Bylaw No. 871, 2023 first and second reading.

## Hwy 5/Karas Drive traffic concern

Councillor Pearson brought a concern to Council at the last regular meeting regarding Karas drive. Pearson read the statement saying that there are ongoing issues revolving around traffic patterns and parking difficulties along Karas Drive and the entire Hwy 5, Karas Drive, 5th Avenue intersection, as well as growing frustrations with members of the community. The statement also said that the Village is seeking ways to make access to the downtown safer for pedestrians and traffic and to enhance active transportation. Council voted in favour of having the Village of Valemount create a Select Committee of Council to explore possible solutions to the traffic and parking issues along the highway corridor. This group would include, but may not be limited to, such stakeholders as Village staff, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, local residents, retailers and industry.

There were no in-camera items on the agenda, so the meeting was adjourned.

Thank you to VCTV for providing recordings of Council meetings.



Puppies Yeti and her yet to be named brother taking advantage of the nice weather, soaking up some sun in front of a hay bale. These adorable little ones were born in McBride November 20th, 2022 and are a mix between Great Pyrenees and Husky. / SANDRA JAMES



One of Wendigo's pups is sticking close to the security of mom. She had her first litter eight weeks ago, which consisted of six cute little fluff balls in total. They are a Maremma/ Great Pyrenees mix which are very similar breeds. In general the Great Pyrenees is slightly taller and more strong willed than the Maremma, whereas the Maremma sheepdog tends to be more eager to please. Maremma's herding instinct is highly developed and the dog is happiest when at work tending to the farm. They will be loyal to their master and devoted to their flock but intolerant of intruders, for this reason the breed is also a good guard dog. / SANDRA JAMES

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

### Village of Valemount

#### Notice of Public Hearing

Please Take Notice that a Public Hearing for Temporary Use Permit TUP-23-02 will be held:

**Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm**  
**Council Chambers, Village Office**  
**735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC**

#### 1. Temporary Use Permit 23-02

Proposes to permit 1 recreational vehicle to be used as a residence for a period of 2 years.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Lot 21 District Lot 7355 Cariboo District Plan EPP66975. (1292 Fowler Place)



At the Public Hearing, anyone who deems their interest in land to be affected by the proposed Temporary Use Permit TUP-23-02 shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard. Comments may be made in person at the Public Hearing.

Written submissions can be submitted via email to [publichearing@valemount.ca](mailto:publichearing@valemount.ca), or via letter to the Village of Valemount. Written submissions will be accepted until **12:00 pm on April 11, 2023.**

All correspondence and materials submitted in response to this Notice will form part of a public record.

### Cont.

All written submissions and verbal presentations must state your name and area of residence. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. The author's phone number and email are not relevant and should not be included in the correspondence if the author does not wish this personal information to be disclosed.

Digital copies of TUP-23-02 are available at [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca). Paper copies will be available for viewing during regular office hours (Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm - 4:30 p.m.), until April 11, 2023 at the Village Office, 735 Cranberry Lake Road.

### Consolidated Five Year Financial Plan

#### Public Presentation

All interested members of the public are invited to view the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan budget located on the village website: [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca). The public consultation period is from April 5 – 19, 2023.

Comments are to be received by the Director of Finance at [dof@valemount.ca](mailto:dof@valemount.ca) prior to April 19th at 12:00 pm.

All comments received will be provided to Village Council for consideration in advance of the third bylaw reading, which is expected to be on the agenda at the April 25, 2023 Council meeting.

### Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program

Exchange your old wood stove for a newer model or a cleaner, more efficient option.

Take advantage of the rebates! Up to \$3,600 depending on replacement option.

For information on rebates and eligibility, visit:

[www.valemount.ca/services/grants-funding](http://www.valemount.ca/services/grants-funding)

### Notice Disposition of Land:

#### Airport Land Lease

Pursuant to Sections 26 and 94 of the *Community Charter*, notice is hereby given that the Village of Valemount intends to lease property to Mr. Jeremy Hiemstra.

The land to be leased is a 2000 sq. ft plot located on the east side of the airport, legally described as Block A, District Lot 5705 Land District 05 THAT PART OF DL 5705, to be occupied by an airport hangar.

The annual rental fee for the space, from April 2023 to April 2024, is:  
 \$0.33 per square foot of leased space (\$637.86 per year plus GST).

For more information please contact:

**Eric Depenau**  
 CAO, Village of Valemount  
 735 Cranberry Lake Road  
 PO Box 168  
 Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0  
 (T) 250.566.4435  
 (E) [cao@valemount.ca](mailto:cao@valemount.ca)

### WE ARE HIRING!!

The Valemount Visitor Information Centre and Valemount Museum are hiring seasonal visitor center counsellors and museum assistants who are passionate about Valemount and supporting remarkable visitor experiences. If you love sharing local history, can recommend a top-notch hiking/biking trail, or read a map upside down, we'd love to hear from you! For detailed job descriptions, visit: [www.valemount.ca/village-office/job-postings/](http://www.valemount.ca/village-office/job-postings/)



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

# Early Easter in Tete Jaune



Kyran (above) and Addison (right) rushes to locate the colourful eggs hidden around the Tete Jaune Community Hall. Once no more eggs could be found, children could return their eggs for a goodie bag at the hall. The event was followed by a turkey dinner, complete with a dessert table that would put any other to shame. /LAURA KEIL



Alice Olson received letters of congratulations from the Prime Minister and retired astronaut Chris Hadfield for her 99th birthday last year. Her 100th birthday will be celebrated Sat. April 8th 12-5 at the Valemount Community Hall.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
to Alice Olson!

Don't count the candles.  
Count the many family and friends  
whose lives you've enriched  
just by touching them  
with your life.

The Nordli Clan (Joan, Dennis & Denise, Juliann & Douglas, Geoffrey and Nicole, Kim and families)

Come out and help us Celebrate  
**Alice Olson's**  
**100th Birthday**  
Saturday April 8, 2023  
Drop in 12-5  
Valemount Community Hall

McBride Community Forest Corporation  
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**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – 2023 Prequalification List**

The McBride Community Forest Corporation (MCFC) is establishing and maintaining a Select List of prequalified Contractors and Suppliers specializing in all Forestry Related service areas such as:

- Grading – Winter/Summer
- Road Construction/Maintenance/Deactivating
- Sheep Grazing
- Logging- Cable and Conventional
- Log Loading/Unloading/Sorting
- Danger Tree Assessments
- Weighscales
- Cruising and Layout
- Site Prep
- Tree Planting
- Brushing
- Regen Surveys
- Recreation Site Maintenance
- Log Scaling

This list will establish a Select List of eligible contractors who are most suitable and available to compete and participate in subsequent direct invitation or select invitation solicitations on upcoming contracts and/or projects. Only prequalified contractors will be invited to participate on these contract solicitations.

The MCFC does not guarantee evaluation resulting in short-listing of contractors wishing to compete on issued tenders. The MCFC reserves the right to limit the number of prequalified contractors invited to compete on any subsequent contract, as well as, the right to select contractors to compete on a rotational basis. Contractors submitting responses will receive fair and uniform treatment and submissions will be given due consideration.

New contractors may be added to the Select List at any time throughout the year and will be evaluated in the same manner as contractors already on the list.

Contractors interested in being evaluated for inclusion on the Select List are invited to submit a response with the Desirable Criteria:

1. Resume containing education, relevant employment history, skills, designations and references, show that Locally based (within the MCFC footprint), Demonstrate Service Area Expertise
2. Hourly OR Daily fee rate(s)
3. Limited Liability Insurance (with Forest Fire Endorsement of \$5,000,000 and MCFC as additional insured), Worksafe BC, SAFE Certified. (or demonstrate that these can be obtained if needed).

Please note that this advertisement and the information provided is for viewing purposes only and is not an Official Invitation to Tender. **Submissions for this process will be accepted up to April 28, 2022 at 4pm local time.** Paper format, fax or email submissions are acceptable.

Email: [admin-asst@mcfc.ca](mailto:admin-asst@mcfc.ca)

# 50 years of the Mica Dam Cont'd from A1

only a teen at the time, but remembers the “salesmanship” involved in the government’s communications.

“They were telling stories of what an amazingly beautiful lake we would have, etc. There was a lot of salesmanship in getting people on board with it.”

She said two of her teachers were well-informed about Hydro’s plans and spoke to her class about it. But many folks weren’t well-informed.

It wasn’t until the valley was razed that McKirdy-Carson’s dad Jim truly realized what was being lost by the Mica Dam. Due to time constraints, BC Hydro contractors clearing the valley to prepare it for flooding had only processed the largest trees — the rest they’d simply fallen.

“It was very brutal,” McKirdy-Carson said. “It was just two Cats with chain in between them knocking trees down. And I remember my father, standing at the edge of it, just being shocked and horrified at what had happened — the devastation to a valley he’d known from his infancy.”

She recalls it wasn’t clear to him prior to the clearing what was going to happen, and probably not to a lot of people.

“They didn’t really understand how things would unfold, actually.”

## Loss of hot springs and cedars

Prior to the flooding, McKirdy-Carson recalls frequent Sunday outings to the hot springs. Rather than use the cable car to cross the Canoe River, they’d cross the river in her dad’s boat to the hot springs, which were just inside the forest, next to a small lake. They’d been fixed up a little, by some ex-pats from Sweden.

The water was clean and clear, Catherine Hiroe, McKirdy-Carson’s sister, previously



The Canoe Valley south of Valemount before the flooding /JOAN NORDLI, COURTESY VALEMOUNT HISTORIC SOCIETY

told the Goat.

“Us children would be free to walk the trail at our own pace ... the giant devil’s club on either side prevented us from going off of the trail. The bridges over creeks and wet spots were made of hollow pieces of rotted cedar,” Hiroe says. “It was so different from our everyday world. It felt magical, like we were little hobbits on an adventure.”

They would soak in a makeshift cedar tub, gravel carpeting the bottom which had been packed up from the river. Two streams, one hot and one cold, could be adjusted for temperature control by moving the position of some rocks.

Dennis Nordli, a child at the time, recalls the cedars being tremendously wide. He recalls one photo with nine Boy Scout Cubs touching hand-to-hand in front of the massive trunk.

“I figure it was pretty close to 12 feet

across the bottom, just about four metres. That was the biggest tree I’ve ever seen in this valley. The only trees that come close to those were the ones at the (Ancient Forest) park,” he said.

McKirdy-Carson says there was a smell among the ancient cedars near the hot springs that was distinctive. The only other place she’s smelled that scent was at an ancient redwood forest in California.

She also recalls many days spent berry picking in former logging blocks, areas rich with wild blueberries and raspberries.

## Local work

Some locals benefitted temporarily from the dam construction. Joan Nordli’s late husband Arne Nordli worked as a machine operator on the dam during 1968-1969 and commuted from Valemount to the dam site on his 305 Yamaha motorcycle on the road that followed the Canoe River. The dam was roughly 100km from Valemount, and he could do it on one tank of gas.

But it wasn’t always an easy journey. Joan recalls one such time.

“He was coming home and we had a sudden spring, and the rivers were just flooding,” Joan recalls. “By the time he got home, he was absolutely purple with the cold.”

Dennis Nordli says it took his dad about

an hour and a half to reach the Mica Dam site from Valemount.

“It was a pretty good road. It was as good as I’d say the road that’s on the west side of the lake (today).”

Some 1600 workers were at the dam during its peak season. Many of them stayed in a worker accommodation camp called Mica Village.

At the time, Dennis wagers that 95 per cent of Valemount was either affiliated with logging, highways or the railroad.

“At that time, in the BC forest industry, we had so much wood that nobody was really concerned with the volume of wood that was going to be flooded.”

## After the flood

After the valley flooded, the resulting lake was choked with logs that had been knocked down but never cleared.

Dennis recalls the fishing being extremely good, likely due to insects in the logs feeding the fish. But boating in the lake was a dangerous endeavour, and getting out of the boat, an even worse idea.

“It was good fishing ... when it wasn’t windy,” he said. “(At times) it was taking your life in your own hands.”

He recalls four-foot diameter logs sloshing against each other in the water. McKirdy-Carson says for a long time, it was just a sea of logs at high water.

“It wasn’t really a lake at all, it was a sea of logs, and it was a rather dangerous sea of logs that you could get caught in. It took them a long, long time to actually clean it up enough so that it’s kind of like it is now.”

Jean Osadchuk was a young woman at the time, and she says for many years people would go down to the lake to salvage the floating or beached wood.

“What a shame it was the way they logged it all, and the way they cut the trees and just left them laying in the water.”

Hydro had initially expropriated some of Osadchuk’s family’s land at 2KM along the East Canoe FSR, but they were allowed to buy it back once it was clear the land wasn’t in any danger of flooding.

Osadchuk says there were many complaints about the methods Hydro used at the time.

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Please visit our website at

[valemount.ca/services/grants-funding](http://valemount.ca/services/grants-funding) for full program details or contact the grant clerk to determine eligibility.



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“You’d have big arguments with everyone,” she said. “They didn’t have time, they said. They had to get this lake in.”

“It was very awful,” she said. “You hated it, especially when you were raised before, seeing how they went about it.”

Dennis Nordli recalls wood being salvaged and milled both during and after the flooding.

“There was 15 kilometres of debris this end of the lake and they (were) slowly picking through it anything that was viable either to that time which Canyon Creek sawmill or it went to CanArctic (the mill at 12km).”

Only in recent years has Kinbasket Lake’s debris control finally gotten under control. And there are still hazards. The other ongoing issue has been the dust that is swept up the valley when the water level is low. Huge dust storms now plague Valemount every spring when the water level is low and the snow no longer holds the sand in place.

**Hot spring loss**

The rising and falling waters of Kinbasket Lake wiped out the hot spring infrastructure that existed prior to 1973. Nowadays, the hot springs are only



Sign beside the Canoe Valley road in May 1973 /PHOTO COURTESY ART CARSON

accessible for a couple weeks in March and April on years when the reservoir’s drawdown is low enough to expose the spring. While visitors can drive down the west side of the lake to within walking distance, the cedar tubs are long gone, and a new soaking pool is dug in muddy beach each time the water level moves. Instead of being tucked into a lush cedar forest, bathers are surrounded by an expansive view of mountains and a rocky beach speckled with the stumps of old cedars. It’s a muddy sulfur-scented soak, changed each time by the ebb and flow of the water level.

McKirby-Carson says it’s always with mixed feelings that she goes to the hot springs now.

“I can feel a certain amount of excitement that the hot springs are being uncovered right now and there would be

a chance to go down, but it’s also weird, because I knew what it was before. I knew the incredible beauty of the rainforest there, the big cedars and stuff. It’s always with a mixed feeling of loss. I knew what it was like before. It was stunning.”

**Columbia Basin Trust**

In the 1990s, Valemount’s then-mayor Jeannette Townsend lobbied for the creation of the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), and was a founding member of the organization.

The Trust was created in 1995 “to support efforts by the people of the Columbia Basin to create a legacy of social, economic and environmental well-being in the Canadian portion of the Columbia River Basin—the region most affected by the Columbia River Treaty.”

The Mayor of Golden heard Townsend talking about duststorms on CBC radio in 1992, and realized they should join forces in their effort to get compensation for the harm done by the reservoirs.

“We would always talk (to CBC) about the dust coming in from the Mica Creek area, or the Kinbasket reservoir, and there was no water in it. “

Regional District of Columbia Kootenay Director Josh Smienk phoned her and invited her to join them. In July 1995, the Columbia Basin Trust was formalized in the BC legislature.

Since then, the CBT has been a benefactor of many non-profit organizations in Valemount, and has helped fund many important projects such as the Mountain Bike Park, the downtown revitalization, the village office building, and the Community Forest industrial lands to name just a few.

**The Future of the Treaty**

Canada and the U.S. are currently negotiating the future of the Columbia River Treaty, including the terms of flood control which expire in 2024. After the most recent round of negotiations March 24th, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Joe Biden released a joint statement:

“Canada and the United States will intensify their work over the coming months toward agreement on a modernized treaty regime that will support a healthy and prosperous Columbia River Basin.”

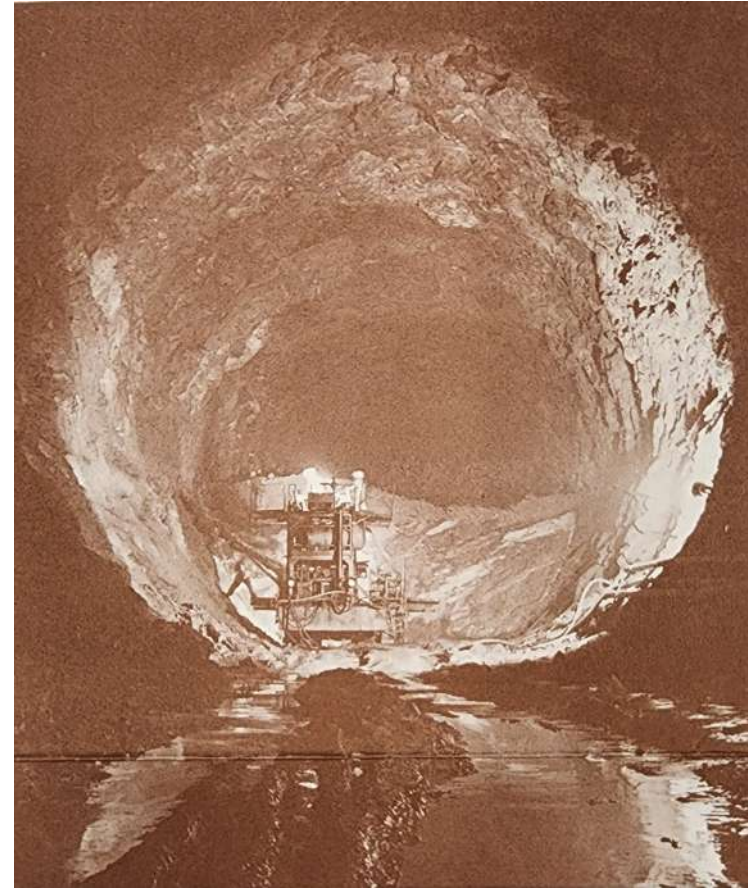
The BC Government says conversations between the Canadian and American delegations focused on strengthening co-operation to support aquatic life and biodiversity in the Columbia River Basin, ongoing studies regarding salmon reintroduction, flood-risk management, and the connection between hydropower operations and Canada’s desire for greater flexibility in how its treaty dams are operated.

Although the treaty fall under federal jurisdiction for international treaties, it requires Canada to obtain the agreement of the BC Government before terminating or amending the Treaty.



Dust storms have become a regular feature of Kinbasket Lake when the water level is low. /RMG ARCHIVES

The dramatic outline of a diversion tunnel used during construction of the Mica Dam. The photo appears in the June 1966 Columbia Newsletter, which was published by BC Hydro during the construction of the Treaty Dams. / ACCESSED AT THE NAKUSP HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES



A “mat” of logs choked Kinbasket Lake for many years following the flooding, due to rushed clearing of the reservoir basin that left most trees behind. Seen here are the charred remains of some of that wood after attempts at burning. / JOAN NORDLI, COURTESY VALEMOUNT HISTORIC SOCIETY

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**REGIONAL DISTRICT  
of Fraser-Fort George**

**ANNUAL REPORTING ON REGIONAL  
DISTRICT OF FRASER-FORT GEORGE  
FINANCES**

Annual Reporting on the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Finances will be made at the regular meeting of the Regional District Board, to be held **April 20, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Boardroom of the Regional District located at 155 George Street, Prince George, BC. The meeting audio will be live streamed on the Regional District website [www.rdffg.bc.ca](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca).

The Annual Reporting on Regional District Finances to be made at the meeting is available for inspection on the Regional District website [www.rdffg.bc.ca](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca) and in person during regular office hours at the Regional District by contacting [financialservices@rdffg.bc.ca](mailto:financialservices@rdffg.bc.ca)

**K. Jensen**  
GM Legislative and Corporate Services

**REGIONAL DISTRICT  
of Fraser-Fort George**

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*Pete Amyoony has lived, worked and gardened in the Dunster area for 43 years. He tries to deal with the "down to earth nuts and bolts of organic gardening" in his columns.*

## Peonies - perennial beds

When I was cleaning one of my perennial beds I was thinking about the beauty of the one peony plant that I have. It was planted by former owners of the property and is a reminder of them every year when it comes into bloom.

Peonies (Paeonia) are shrubby plants of the buttercup family and most are hardy from Zone 3 to 8. They seem to winter well in our area. They come in a wide variety of colours of white, pink, red, yellow, etc.

Although most books claim they are best set out in the fall, they can be planted in early spring as soon as the soil can be worked. They are quite heavy feeders and benefit from a well-prepared spot with rich well-drained soil.

The most important thing in planting is to set the buds of the rootstock no more than two-three inches (5-8cm) below the surface of the soil. If planted too deep they take forever to come into bloom.

# Early morning disaster

By LLOYD JECK

Early morning is my best time of day. However, the 1953 date on the submitted photo indicates that a soggy problem confronted me early that morning long ago. As dawn was breaking after an all-night dance, what occurred affected not only me, but most residents in the Valemount area, visitors and locals alike. I was one of the visitors, having travelled from McBride to attend a dance in Valemount. There were others who made that one-hour drive over the unpaved road, between the two communities. I do not remember a great deal about the dance, except that we were well entertained until the music stopped just before sunrise.

The vehicle I had at that time was a 1952 Austin A-40 sedan, kind of a fancy little rig that was fun to drive. One of the other cars from McBride was driven by Tom Fleming. Tom was a bit older than I was. Our start for home, after the dance ended, came to a skidding halt at the Swift Creek bridge. During the night, even the stream had been celebrating, and, in its rambunctious way, it had removed a large section of the bridge. The unaffected southern section of the bridge has a tall teepee-type framework over it (see photo). A crowd soon gathered, and we held an on-site meeting right there in the refreshing morning breeze. Tom decided that, if he could get his car into the streambed, he would be able to drive through the water to the other side. The highway was then located on the east side of the railway, so the bridge was upstream from the higher CNR structure.

You can be sure there were noisy revelers encouraging Tom on. Tom may already have been married to his lovely Barbara, who had come into the valley as a young school teacher. So, Barbara may have been in the car as the tires got wet. As the vehicle moved upstream, they soon



1953 Swift Creek bridge washout. /LLOYD JECK

encountered deeper water as well as a faster current. A big gulp of that chilled water forced its way through the grill and the fan quickly doused

there in the water, hanging onto the car so it would not float away, and he shouted for a tow-truck.

It just happened that there was a small bulldozer nearby, which someone was able to crank up and go to the rescue. It must have been a warm spring morning, as evidenced by the lightly-dressed person on the dozer. My memory of the rest of the action is a little blurry, but someone must have been able to hook a line, from bulldozer to car, and the crossing process continued.


Fortunately, I did have a camera with me and was able to snap the photo included with this week's story. Being so fixated with Tom's situation did not allow me to absorb my own predicament as indelibly as the impression of Tom standing out there in the fast-flowing water. I am quite sure that I did not drive my car through that water. In the background of the photo, we can see the railway bridge. High-clearance vehicles may have been able to sneak across on that structure, but the Austin would not have had clearance enough to straddle a track-rail. A couple of days' wait may have provided lower water and a safer fording experience.

During the night, even the stream had been celebrating, and, in its rambunctious way, it had removed a large section of the bridge.

the engine which gurgled to a stop. Tom had good height, and a daring level of energy, which allowed him to get out of the car. He stood out

**Gardening  
with Pete**

# PUZZLES



## CROSSWORD

Answers on P13

**Across**

- 1 Depression
- 4 Accomplished
- 8 \_\_\_ rule
- 11 King topper
- 12 Lady deer
- 13 Accepted the nomination, say
- 14 Masefield play "The Tragedy of \_\_\_"
- 15 "Go ahead!"
- 16 Soak
- 17 Hook-nosed Muppet
- 19 Rap doctor
- 21 \_\_\_ White
- 24 Police dept. employee
- 27 Bland quality
- 30 Demanding star
- 31 California's Santa \_\_\_ Valley
- 32 Bor-ring!
- 34 J.F.K. postings
- 35 Available
- 36 Cleveland cager, for short
- 38 S-shaped curves
- 42 Laugh sound
- 44 Tune player
- 47 "Take me \_\_\_ am"
- 48 \_\_\_ de France
- 49 Mrs. Dithers
- 50 The Lord of the Rings good guy
- 51 \_\_\_ favor (please, in Spanish)
- 52 Water carrier
- 53 "Uh-huh"
- 1 Twinge
- 2 World flying association
- 3 Neighbor of Mo.
- 4 Peripherals
- 5 Halloween cry
- 6 Garland at a luau
- 7 Founded, abbr.
- 8 Hall of fame
- 9 \_\_\_ Paolo
- 10 "The Ice Storm" director Lee
- 18 A Gabor sister
- 20 Equestrian activity
- 22 "Beetle Bailey" dog
- 23 Break down
- 25 A Law and Order version
- 26 Ballerina steps
- 27 Educator Bill
- 28 N.Y. neighbor

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11			12					13		
14			15					16		
17			18			19	20			
			21		22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29					30			
31				32		33				
34				35						
			36		37		38	39	40	41
42	43			44	45	46		47		
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

- 29 Educator
- 33 Tree type
- 37 Bad habit, so to speak
- 39 "Piece of cake!"
- 40 Son in Genesis
- 41 Gullible sort
- 42 Groovy
- 43 "Evil Woman" rock group
- 45 Wham!
- 46 Rush attraction

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

Answers on P13

# SUDOKU

**HOW TO PLAY**

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

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

## The Toughie

by Myles Mellor Answers on P13

- Across**
- 1. Pauley Pavilion school
- 5. Lose traction
- 9. Fashion designer, Cassini
- 13. Whale show
- 15. Result of a crack?
- 16. Seconds
- 17. Bruce of "Sherlock Holmes" films
- 18. Down the road
- 19. Thickening agent
- 20. Chopin performer
- 23. Lodge member
- 24. Backbone
- 25. Expedition in the bush
- 29. Aage Niels, Danish student of atomic structure
- 31. Face-to-face exam
- 32. Musk
- 34. Center of Florida
- 39. Much-welcomed words
- 42. Keyboard key
- 43. Big furniture retailer
- 44. Drop shot in volleyball
- 45. Feedbag feed
- 47. Horned heavyweights
- 49. Obfuscate
- 52. Draft pick
- 53. Birds with loud calls
- 59. Carry on
- 60. Country street
- 61. Come to
- 63. "Zoolander" star
- 64. Org. for Michelle Wie
- 65. No Mensa member
- 66. Some cameras, for short
- 67. Head organs
- 68. Solicits

**Down**

- 1. Wing of the mil.
- 2. Very smart
- 3. Italy's \_\_\_ di Como
- 4. Religious ending
- 5. Pool hall pro
- 6. Key figure in epistemology
- 7. Pancake maker
- 8. Breakfast item
- 9. Certain sultanate citizen
- 10. Gain access, perhaps
- 11. Clean the slate
- 12. Frobe who played Goldfinger
- 14. Stress result
- 21. "The Hollow Men" poet
- 22. After
- 25. Approximately

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13			14		15			16				
17				18				19				
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53					54	55			56	57	58	
59					60				61			62
63					64				65			
66					67					68		

- 26. Give \_\_\_ for one's money
- 27. PDQ
- 28. "I cannot tell \_\_\_" citizen
- 29. Bibliophile's collection
- 30. River into the English Channel
- 33. "Go ahead!"
- 35. Salon service, for short
- 36. Genesis son
- 37. "Yes \_\_\_?"
- 38. Sounds of disapproval
- 40. Back of a horse
- 41. Nobles
- 46. Nutrition author Davis
- 48. Cut
- 49. Rush-hour pace
- 50. German gun
- 51. Warnings
- 52. Gray ones can cause arguments
- 53. Deuces
- 54. Polynesian cloth
- 55. MIT grad.
- 56. Shade of blue
- 57. Sisters
- 58. Big bag
- 62. Guitar master Paul

# HOROSCOPES



**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**

## Cosmic Egg Hunt

FOR THE WEEK OF April 9th, 2023

While the hunt for eggs is an age-old practice not only for humans but for all animals who eat them, celebrating spring with a sporting egg hunt is a tradition with ancient roots. The Sagittarius moon favors an adventurous egg hunt with stakes and challenges. This year, will the golden egg go to the clever or the lucky? The vigilant or the quick? Under this moon it will go to the curious. More wins for the curious happen with the Venus change on Tuesday, followed by an alignment of the sun and Jupiter in Aries, maximizing luck for those willing to fight for it.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You don't idolize anyone, and neither do you demonize anyone. You really have a balanced view of who people are and why they do what they do, which will serve you well this week. You'll interact with new people, find common ground and come out with some real treasures.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). So many come to you with outstretched hands. If only you could help them all... Who knows? Maybe you will! If you do, it will be a byproduct of you following the impulses to help yourself. What do you want? If you don't know yet, you will by the end of the week.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Accept what you want and accept what you don't want. Acceptance is crucial to change because you cannot change that which you don't take on. Think of your current situation as a vehicle. You can drive this wherever you want, but you have to get inside it first. Acceptance puts you in the driver's seat.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You've been known to do amazing things even when you're tired, not in the mood, under the weather or otherwise encumbered. Bottom line: You're the kind of person who comes through to the best of your ability no matter what. Quietly celebrate your strength and others will celebrate you far less quietly.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). It's easier to wake the sleeping than it is to wake the ones who think they are already awake. Luckily, it's not your job to be the alarm clock. It will be enough for you to simply note the alertness of those around you, meet them where they are and then raise awareness.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you want someone to love you back, that's a less optimal goal than wanting to see their smile. Focusing on others comes easy to you this week. The attention you give them brings you out of your own mind and into the heart of the world.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Needing to know the reason for things is only human. The moment the mind lands on a reason (any reason at all, really), cognitive dissonance resolves. Until that point, agitation drives us forward. This week, provide reasons for people and for yourself. If you don't, you leave yourself open to speculative fiction.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You keep putting yourself in new situations because they always lead to self-discovery. If there isn't enough novelty around you, a change of location will help. Travel

is an especially effective way to jump-start your energy. If it doesn't work for this week, at least get something on the books. Looking forward to travel can be half the fun.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). "The more the merrier" only works up to a point. And for most of what you're doing this week, merriment isn't the point anyway. Small groups are better for keeping everyone accountable. When too many get involved, there's a diffusion of responsibility. You're the leader who helps everyone see how much they count. Together you'll move mountains.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). No one can get you to move if you don't want to today. You are self-directed. You follow your whims and do what you tell yourself to do. Follow-through matters much more than what you actually follow through with. It could be anything. The important thing is to trust yourself and know that you are compliant with your higher wishes.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). No one wants you to feel obligated to them, and they will give of themselves freely without strings attached. They may appreciate reciprocity, but they don't expect it. They know it comes in many forms. Know that when people consult you and prioritize you, it's happening for a good reason. To understand that reason is to appreciate your own inherently lovable qualities.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll watch everything closely and extract abundant joy from minutiae: a toddler playing, a bird feeding, the patterns of passing clouds. Take on a disorganized area of your home, as it could be stopping the flow of energy through your world and preventing you from receiving money. Clean, clear and organize your way into a weekend payoff.

**THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:** Welcome to your pickup year when you'll have opportunities to swing back and pick up what you might have lost along the way. Some will finish a degree, others will take another whirl at a relationship that didn't work out the first time. Among the found items will be material objects such as jewelry as well as things of emotional value, such as the respect of an authority figure or the acknowledgement of a group. More highlights: complex relationships that get simple and lovely, a winning to please your inner child and a physical breakthrough.

Holiday Mathis' debut novel, "How To Fail Epically in Hollywood," is out now! This fast-paced romp about achieving Hollywood stardom is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis.com](mailto:HolidayMathis.com).

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11	A	C	E	12	D	O	E	S	13	R	A	N
14	N	A	N	15	D	O	I	T	16	S	O	G
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23	S	N	O	24	S	I	N	S	25	P		
27	N	O	T	28	A	S	T	E	29	D	I	V
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36	C	A	37						38	O	G	E
42	H	E	H	43					44	P	O	D
45	I	L	E	46	C	O	R	A	47	S	A	I
48	P	O	R	49	E	W	E	R	50	S	A	M
51				52					53	U	P	

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

1	U	C	L	A	6	S	K	I	D	10	O	L	E	G			
13	S	H	A	M	14	H	A	H	A	17	M	O	R	E			
18	N	I	G	E	L	19	A	N	O	N	22	A	G	A	R		
23	C	O	N	C	E	R	T	P	I	24	A	N	I	S	T		
27						28	E	L	K	31	S	P	I	N	E		
32	S	A	F	A	R	I	33	B	O	H	R						
35	O	R	A	L	O	D	O	R	36	E	P	C	O	T			
37	M	U	S	I	C	T	O	O	N	38	S	E	A	R	S		
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42						43	O	A	T	S	44	R	H	I	N	O	S
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47	T	R	U	M	P	E	T	E	R	S	48	W	A	N	S		
49	W	A	G	E	50	L	A	N	E	51	E	Q	U	A	L		
52	O	W	E	N	53	L	P	G	A	54	B	U	N	C	E		
55	S	L	R	S	56	E	A	R	S	57	A	S	K	S			

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## Community Events

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## VALEMOUNT

April 6th **Valemount Community Sport Days Association Annual General Meeting** 6:30pm at the Rocky Mountain Goat Office. Come find out what Valemount Days is all about and help plan Valemount's beloved community festival.

Sat. Apr. 8th Come celebrate **Alice Olson's 100th birthday** 12-5pm at the Valemount Community Hall.

Fri-Sun Apr 14-16 Wishbone Theatre presents *Falling out of Place* - a cowboy tale of love and intrigue. 7:30pm Fri & Sat at the Valemount Community Theatre, matinee 1pm Sun 18th.

APR 22 **Live performance by Ellise Gustafson-Randall @ Scooters** 8:00pm. No admission fee. Donations will go towards Melanie Chitty.

**FRIs starting APR 14 to May 5th** from 2:45-3:45pm we are inviting 8-10 year olds to **Chill-Ville!** a collaboration between CYMH, and SCD where children will explore movement, inner confidence, and peer connection through mindfulness; with activities such as yoga, journaling, and senses exploration! Registration is required, please contact Robson Valley Community Services.

**Starting WED APR 19th** Seniors are invited to **Wellness Wednesdays** at the Valemount Secondary School (201 Ash Street). Visit with the students as we knit/crochet or battle over a game of crib! Registration NOT required. Supported through grant funding through Columbia Basin Trust.

SAT APR 22nd 10:30 AM-1:30pm **Cache in & Trash out** event. Enjoy an outdoor adventure on the Cranberry Marsh Trail. Meet at the trailhead by the Best Western Hotel in the parking area at 10:30am. Be prepared to walk the loop. Garbage bags will be supplied. Light refreshments will be provided. Please a water bottle and gloves.

**MONs Family Place Drop-In** is on Mondays from 9am-noon with Hannah. Come for the connection with other families, parenting resources and fun for you and your 0-6 year old children at RVCS (99 Gorse St). This month it's Mother Goose 9:30-10:30 am and Craft time.

APR 6th come make a Bunny craft at the RVCS Office in Valemount.

APR 10 – Closed for STAT

APR 17– Play Day in the Park (Location: Centennial Park) APR 24– Planting Seeds to grow at home (Location: Centennial Park)

WED APR 26th 2 PM – 7:30 PM **Columbia Basin Trust Valemount Open House & Community Conversation.** Open House from 3 pm to 6 pm: share what's important to you and your community! Fill out our survey, capture your ideas with our interactive selfie wall or video booth, and enjoy refreshments on us! Evening Guided Conversation from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm: explore your individual and collective vision for your community and the Basin.

SATs 10am-11:15am **Creative writing group** at the Rocky Mountain Goat office. Join us for writing and friendly

conversation. Everyone welcome.

SATs 1-3 pm **Crafty Stitchers meet** downstairs at the Valemount Public Library everyone welcome! 250-566-4367 for more information.

SUNs **Pancake breakfast at the Valemount Legion** Sundays 8 to 11. By donation!.

MON through FRIs the **Valemount Seed Library** is OPEN during business hours at RVCS (99 Gorse St). Stop on by to share seeds, save money, promote local adaptations, increase genetic diversity and select flavourful diversity. Contact Rebecca at 250-566-9107 or [foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org](mailto:foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org) for more information.

MON through FRI Contact the Valemount RVCS Office to book your **Community Garden Plot**. Cost \$25/year, Volunteer 8hr/year, tools provided. Contact us at 250-566-9107 or email [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org) for more information or to sign up.

MON through FRIs the **Free Food Farm Stand and Pantry** are available for anyone who would like some free, fresh produce. We accept donations of unprocessed fruits and veggies also. The stand is accessible in the front lobby at RVCS Valemount (99 Gorse St) and is available to everyone—just help yourself! Emergency top-up food is accessible to our clients and anyone who walks through the door. This initiative is supported by one-time grant funding through United Way BC.

WEDs starting APR 26th Join the **Valemount Garden Club** where you can discuss weekly topics such as Garden Planning, Seed Starting, Growing Flowers, Sprouts in a Jar. Registration NOT required contact the office for more info. This program made possible with funding from Community Adult Literacy Program.

## MCBRIDE

MON through THURs, McBride RVCS now has a **FREE FOOD PANTRY** that's available to all! Emergency top-up food is accessible to our clients, preschool program and anyone who walks through the door. We share and accept donated foods that are safe and fresh for use. Contact RVCS at 250-569-2266 or email [foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org](mailto:foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org). The local Food Bank is also available: 250-569-3186.

**MONs Family Place Drop-In** is on Mondays from 9am-noon at RVCS (942 3rd Ave) and 1pm-4pm. Join for connection with other families, parenting resources and fun for you and your 0-6 year old children. No registration required. Call 250-569-2266 for more info

THURs & FRIs **Weekly Adults' Programs** at the McBride Library: Fibre Artists (Thurs, 10:30am), Writing Group (Fri, 1.30pm). Call 569 2411 for details.

TUEs Come **Learn Sign Language** with us! In McBride at 942 3rd Ave. 11-12pm Increase our ability to communicate and teach your children and family. Stimulate your brain and learn about Deaf Culture. Registration is NOT required. Contact 250-569-2266 or email [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org) for more

information. Brought to you by the McBride Community Adult & Family Literacy Program.

TUESs **Chess Club** - 5-6pm at the library. All ages and abilities welcome.

TUEs Dance Exercise with Jodie in McBride April 11th, & 18th Seniors are invited to come try seated/ low impact dance moves and exercise at the McBride RVCS office 942 3rd Ave. No Registration is require. Contact 250-569-2266 or email [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org) for more information. Supported by the New Horizon's for Seniors Grant funding.

WEDs **Seniors Drop-In Coffee House** is every second Wednesday from 1-3pm with Sandy. All seniors are invited to come by for some social time, a warm beverage and snacks at RVCS (942 3rd ave). Next dates are APR 5th & 19th. Supported by United Way BC & New Horizon's for Seniors Grant Funding. Call 250-569-2266 for more information.

WEDs Starting April 12 Everyone is invited to join the **McBride Gardening Club** where you can discuss weekly topics such as Seed Starting, Creative Garden Spaces, Garden Planning, Transplanting Tips and so much more. Registration NOT required. Contact RVCS for more info.

MONs & WEDs it's time to **Dance during Community Fitness** with Jodie at the Elks Hall. Twice weekly from 7:15pm-8pm this drop-in program offers free admission to seniors and youth. Other age groups are invited to pay by donation or pay what you can. Call Jodie at 250-230-8035 for more info.

THURs Starting APR 6th 1-3pm **Seniors Poet's Circle** in McBride 942 3rd Ave. Come explore your creativity with us – Recite a poem, write a poem or create one as a group. On April 6th, 13th & 18th. Registration and experience NOT required.

Marriage  
Commissioner

The Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health, is looking for an individual to serve as a Marriage Commissioner for McBride. The individual will perform civil marriages within their community on behalf of the Agency. Applicants must reside in McBride in order to be considered for this position.

For information and an application form  
please visit our website at:  
[gov.bc.ca/becoming-a-marriage-commissioner](http://gov.bc.ca/becoming-a-marriage-commissioner)

Notice of Intent  
Fort George District Road Closure

Notice is given, pursuant to Section 60(2) of the *Transportation Act*, that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has received an application to permanently close an unconstructed road right-of-way located approximately 26 kilometres south of Valemount, B.C., near Highway 5, and consolidate it with the following adjacent lot:

- Lot A, District Lot 5739, Cariboo District Plan 21779

A copy of the plan showing the proposed road closure can be emailed upon request.

Anyone supporting or objecting to this road closure should submit written comments to the ministry's Fort George District office at 360-1011 4th Avenue, Prince George, B.C., V2L 3H9, or by email to [DA.FortGeorge@gov.bc.ca](mailto:DA.FortGeorge@gov.bc.ca) no later than April 9, 2023.

For more information, or to request a copy of the plan,  
please contact the ministry's Fort George office at  
250 565-4410 or at  
[DA.FortGeorge@gov.bc.ca](mailto:DA.FortGeorge@gov.bc.ca)



Need help? [Email](mailto:) or call 250-566-4427

Valemount Elementary School  
Spring Fundraiser  
Order Deadline: April 24th  
Pick Up: May 11th



## Valemount Elementary School



We are selling **beautiful** plants  
to raise money for school field trips this spring.

[valemount.growingsmilesfundraising.com](http://valemount.growingsmilesfundraising.com)

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supporting the Valemount Elementary School.



12" Outdoor Patio Planter



10-pack 4" Assorted Herbs



12" Premium Hanging Basket

# CORE class is in session



Julie Munroe, pictured on the left, keeps a close eye on 11-year-old Brooke as she handles one of the firearms available as examples for the firearm safety portion of the CORE course. /ANDREA ARNOLD

By ANDREA ARNOLD

Former valley resident Julie Munroe returned to town as an instructor and examiner for the CORE (Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education) program during the week of March 20th. Some 25 individuals attended the 18-hour course, and 100 per cent passed. The course, held during Spring Break, was mostly younger students with 80 per cent of the students under the age of 20.

The successful completion of the CORE program is required for BC residents 10 years or older who want a BC Fish and Wildlife ID and hunting credentials, both needed for a hunting licence. The course is available both through in-person instruction as well as online. It consists of a practical firearms handling test, and a written exam covering conservation, ethics, law & regulations, first aid & survival, firearms safety, animal identification, bird identification and Indigenous People & Hunting in BC.

Munroe explained that once a person has completed the CORE course and has successfully passed both a written and a practical exam they have to submit the documentation to BC Wildlife Federation to obtain their CORE

graduation certificate in the mail. Once they have received their certificate they can go to any Service BC desk to acquire their Fish and Wildlife ID. From there they can purchase their licenses, etc, and they do not need to recertify.

Munroe became an instructor/examiner almost 10 years ago.

"My kids, as well as friends' kids, were showing interest in continuing the hunting traditions and I saw a need for a local instructor," she said.

She started teaching in McBride, and has continued since her move to the Okanagan. However, she holds fast to her valley roots and is happy to provide instruction to interested parties.

"I am proud of all my successful students, especially the women and children who are keen to learn about the outdoors and what they have to offer," she said. "It's really rewarding as an instructor to see your students show an enthusiastic yearning to learn, and share with others, a skill that essentially can be, in simplest form, a survival technique.

"Conservation really is an important aspect of our future, and I'm very happy to be able to aid in the learning of its importance," she said.

## Remembering Chuck

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the many condolences and expressions of sympathy we have received upon the death of our brother, Chuck McNaughton.

We are planning an informal gathering in memory of Chuck at the **Dunster Community Hall Saturday, April 29th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** All are welcome to come and share coffee, goodies and memories with us.

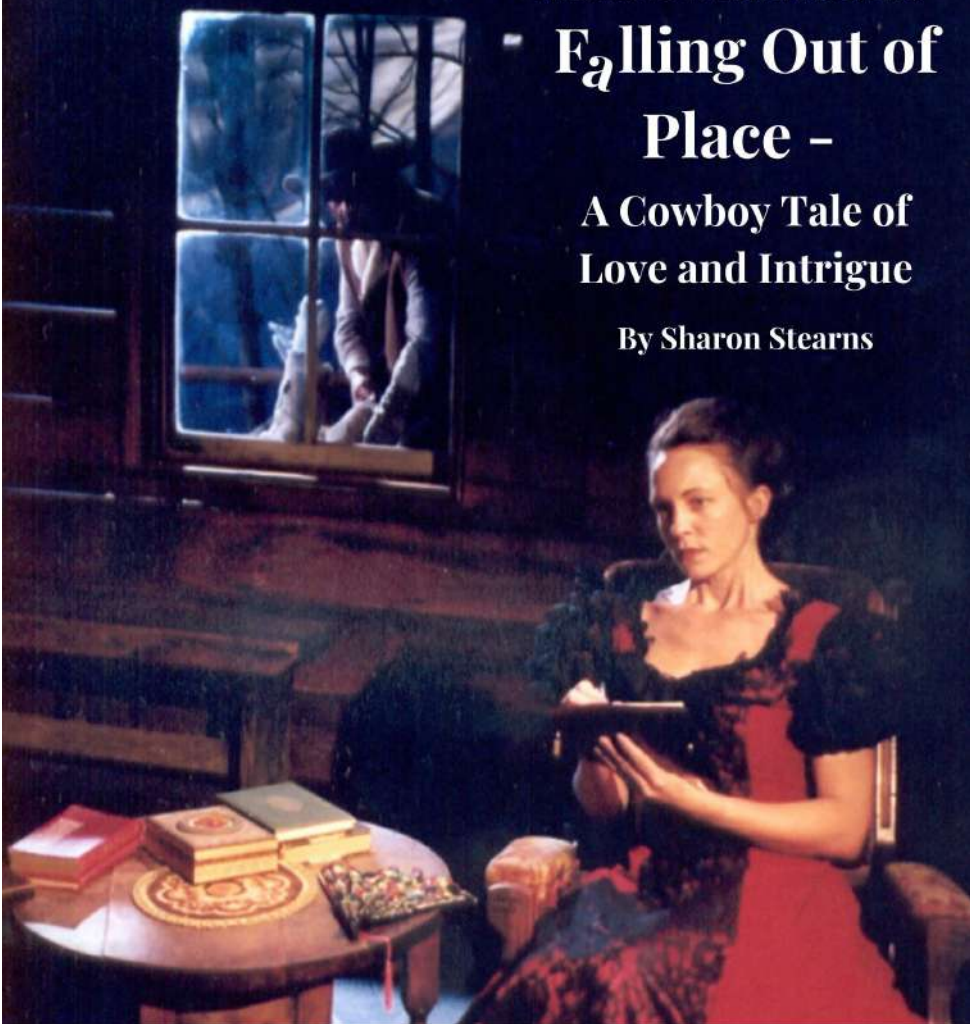
.....  
*Ken McNaughton, George McNaughton, Marg Johnson*

Wishbone Theatre Presents

## Falling Out of Place -

### A Cowboy Tale of Love and Intrigue

By Sharon Stearns



**Valemount Community Theatre**  
Fri. April 14th, Sat. April 15 - 7:30 p.m.  
Sun. April 16 - Matinee - 1 p.m.

**McBride Roundhouse Theatre**  
Fri. April 21, Sat. April 22 - 7:30 p.m.

Tickets \$20 @ Welcome Home, Infinity Office, Dunster General Store, The Door and by E-transfer to wishbonetheatreproductions@gmail.com (Call 250 566 1744)

## Walter Earl Magrum

July 13, 1928 to February 4, 2023

Born in Tugaske, Saskatchewan on a lucky Friday the 13th, where he spent the next 15 years of his life before he moved out to British Columbia, and began a 45 year career in the logging industry.

After retiring from the logging industry, Walt took some time to travel and check some things off of the bucket list.

Finding himself getting bored with retirement, Walt took a small engine repair course and began his second



career as 'Mr. Fixit'.... also known as 'The Saw Man' and 'The Lawnmower Guy' to the many that brought their items in for repair.

Walter is survived by his daughters, Lea, Anita, Kariann, Laurel and Grace, as well as Son's-in-law Dwayne, Bob and Kevin. His

beloved Grandchildren, Andrina, Tanya, Kim, Shadoe and Josh. His Great Grandchildren and Great Great Grandson. His Brothers Gene (Joyce) and Harvey (Verna).

.....  
*Funeral Service's will not be held at Walters request, instead a Celebration of Walters life will be held on April 22nd, 2023 at the Valemount Legion Hall from 12:30 to 3:00 pm - light refreshments will be served.*

**In lieu of flowers, please donate to an animal rescue of your choice, or museum of your choice.**



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**Shelly Battensby**  
 REALTOR



**1035 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

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Cleared and ready to go, this property is located on a family friendly street that is close to schools and shopping. With close proximity to recreation and clear mountain views, you'll be living your best life. Services are at the lot line.

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**Block G DL7365 Hwy 5 S**

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