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Fire Prevention Week

P8-12



ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

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Thursday October 5th 2023
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Ada's Place



Members of RVCS and Village Council gathered at the new apartment and daycare complex for its grand opening. /LAURA KEIL

New apartment-daycare complex to support local women and families

McBride extends state of emergency, POSTPONES OPEN HOUSE

BY SPENCER HALL, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Village of McBride extended its state of local emergency due to drought on Tuesday, September 26th until further notice and postponed its open house meant to give residents more insight into the need for water usage restrictions.

McBride Economic Development Officer Karen

CONT'D ON P19

BY SPENCER HALL, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

A new secure, independent housing facility in Valemount known as Ada's Place, aimed at supporting women fleeing or at risk of violence, held its grand opening ceremony on September 28th.

According to Co-Executive Director of Robson Valley Community Services (RVCS), Donalda Beeson, the new facility offers housing and "wrap-around support" to self-identified women with or without children, who have experienced intimate partner violence or abuse and whose income levels are low to moderate. The Roots Of Care child care center, which is open to all community members also operates out of the building. Krista Voth with RVCS told The Goat the center has created more affordable spaces for Valemount families while supporting families already enrolled at VCAS.

"It allowed greater access to quality childcare and collaborated services such as supported child development and infant development programs as well as virtually eliminating the waitlists. It created new positions for Early childhood educators and improved current

positions for the existing staff of VCAS," Voth said.

The daycare center also includes a therapeutic room and provides personalized supports for kids with diverse needs.

"We feel that as part of inclusion, children should be supported in such a way that they are able to participate in daily activities with their peers to the best of our ability. That can be having sensory items available to them and other children as they are needed and available," Voth said.

Ada's Place, the housing portion of the facility prioritizes local applicants who prefer to stay in the community and offers a Second Stage Housing program, as well as long-term affordable housing options.

At the opening ceremony, Simpcw First Nation Cultural Education Worker, Rachael Bowser, noted the importance of being able to stay in the community one calls home before reciting a prayer in Secwepemctsin.

"Having been a descendant of my great-grandmother, who did the walk from Tete Jaune to Valemount in the 1960s before being taken to the train down to Shuswap, I recognize the importance of staying where

CONT'D ON P2

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Ada's Place

Cont from pg 1

your roots are,” Bowser said.

Beeson told the crowd that while RVCS has been working on opening the facility for five years, it had been a dream of her predecessors since Beeson started with RVCS 13 years ago.

She added that RVCS named the housing portion of the building after her late colleague, Ada Redekop.

“[She] was a long standing advocate and really wanted to see this project come to fruition. She also said she always saw herself here. So I think she’s probably here and I just wanted to honour her,” Beeson said.

Mayor Owen Torgerson emphasized the amount of partnerships required to get the building running, adding that the project was nearly canceled multiple times.

“I don't know the amount of times the former director of RVCS, Lina Thompson, went to Victoria to plead with the then minister responsible for housing, Selina Robinson,” Torgerson said.

He said the building was pivotal not just for the community, but for the entire province because it showed the provincial government that housing needed its own ministry.

“This building was instrumental in providing the needed oversight for something so important province wide. It not only changed the community and the North — it changed the province and how we look at housing and childcare,” Torgerson said.



ABOVE and BELOW LEFT: L-R Donalda Beeson, Mayor Owen Torgerson, and Jana McMaster cut the ribbon on Ada's Place during the grand opening Sept 28th. /LAURA KEIL. BELOW: Photos of the apartment spaces upstairs. /SUBMITTED BY RVCS



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Ada's Place



Long Term Affordable (LTA) Housing is now officially accepting applications for review and triaging.

The eligibility criteria is: those who identify as women with or without children who have experienced intimate partner violence/abuse and is otherwise open to community to apply. These units are largely hands off, clients need to be able to live independently and must provide their own furnishings.

These tenants must fall under the Housing Income Limits (HILS).



Applicants will be triaged based on immediate risk, vulnerability, and need. We are aiming to start moving tenants in on a staggered basis starting Oct 1, 2023

LTA Housing Program application can be picked up at 99 Gorse St. Valemount, requested by emailing housing@rvcsbc.org, or found on our website.

Applications can be sent to: housing@rvcsbc.org, faxed to (250) 566-0011, or dropped off at 99 Gorse St. Valemount.



The bright sun-lit rooms of the daycare provide plenty of space for children to learn and play. There are four separate daycare rooms and two separate outdoor playgrounds for daycare use. A third playground is there for residents of the apartment upstairs. /LAURA KEIL



Financing quest continues for Valemount Glacier Destinations

By SPENCER HALL, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The design firm behind the long-awaited Valemount Glacier Destinations ski resort, Pheidias Group, says it's helping Valemount Glacier Destinations work with potential investors to secure funding for the proposed project.

The provincial government approved the year-round glacier skiing resort in 2017 with a planned opening date of December 2018. However, the project has faced several challenges since then, including a lack of investment, higher construction

costs, inflation, and supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vice president of Pheidias Group, Tommaso Oberti, told The Goat last week that the company and Valemount Glacier Destinations is working with "several interested parties" to complete financing for the project but couldn't identify them because of confidentiality and "due diligence" reasons. He said construction of the resort can start once project funding has been finalized.

"It is difficult to place a timeline on it. The project has been delayed for

a variety of reasons, but we continue to work towards its realization and strongly believe it will be an unparalleled Canadian tourism destination once complete," Oberti said.

Oberti said MM Realty, the company originally responsible for finding investors, has been unsuccessful in finding the complete funding amount required for the resort, but the company is still involved in the project, though not as active as before.

The Ministry of Tourism said in an emailed statement the project's master development agreement (MDA) remains

in good standing in its 60-year term and will expire in March 2077.

"The MDA is replaceable for a new term recognizing the development of a destination resort has substantial upfront investment and is a permanent project on Crown Land," the Ministry said.

In the meantime, the Ministry's mountain resorts branch is working with the Valemount Ski Society to set up a community ski area in the resort's tenure area — an initiative the Province said has its support, along with that of Valemount Glacier Destinations and Simpcw First Nation.

Editorial



Andrea Arnold
Associate Editor/Reporter
goatnewspaper@gmail.com

The need for understanding in communication

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

After spending the last five days with my cousins from the land 'Down Under' I experienced a "light bulb" moment.

We speak English, and so do they. However, there was plenty of opportunity for misunderstandings, missed opportunities for connection and missed learning as we toured them around the valley and got to know each other better.

We had a great time because we stopped and asked for clarification if a word used in conversation didn't make contextual sense in our opinion. I learned a lot.

For example, my two younger cousins told me that my dog was "puffed out." Instead of being offended by the association we would have with the phrase "puffed up," I asked for clarification. They meant that she was tired out from playing. The first drops of rain to hit the windshield, those are driplets.

In another conversation, we found out that they use a word that sounds very similar to awful to describe the innards of an animal, and "How are you going?" is not a way to find out your transportation choice, it's their way of asking how you are.

It got me thinking. How often are words or phrases used between members of communities, friends

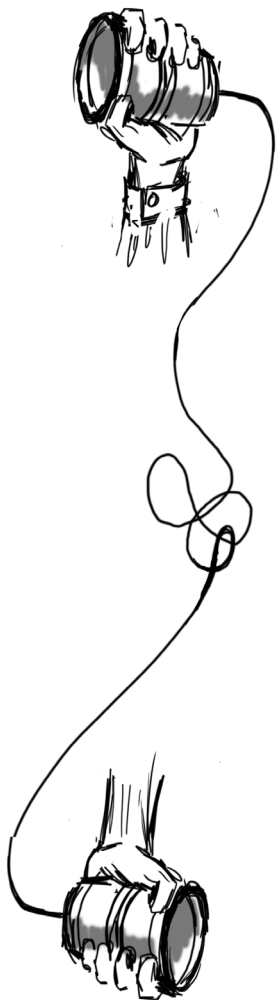
or families taken out of context or misunderstood? Most of the time this is thought of as a language barrier issue, but just because people speak the same language does not mean the words they use have the same meanings.

Clear communication is a necessity in life. Extending the opportunity to those in your life to feel free to ask for clarification (without fear or judgment or backlash), and then to provide it in a respectful manner is a way that people can work together to better serve the community, friend group or family as a whole.

I believe the responsibility for a clear understanding lies with both parties. If you don't understand what is being said, or the use of a certain word, ask politely for further explanation.

"Words have energy and power with the ability to help, to heal, to hinder, to hurt, to harm, to humiliate, and to humble." -Yehuda Berg

Wars have been started, friendships destroyed, relationships shattered and families torn apart over words. They are powerful, and we need to be careful to communicate our words with clear intent and understanding while leaving a little room for forgiveness and grace.



MCFC Open House and Meeting

Please come out to hear what is new at the McBride Community Forest Corporation!

When: October 14th, 2023 - 10:30 until Noon

Where: McBride Elks Hall

Grilled Hamburgers served after the meeting.

Proposed Timber Development Open House

You are cordially invited to attend an open house for the review of Simpcw Resources Group, Carrier Lumber, BC Timber Sales and the Valemount Community Forest Corporation's proposed timber development within the Robson Valley Timber Supply Area.

During the event, maps detailing the proposed roads and cutblocks will be available for review and comment, along with the Forest Stewardship Plans of the companies.

Date: Thursday, October 26th, 2023

Time: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: 201 Gorse Street, Valemount, BC

Refreshments will be provided. All public welcome. We look forward to your participation!

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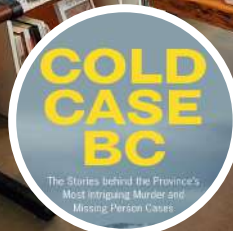
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Letters / Op-Ed

About Letters to the Editor

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

Op-Ed: the quandary of pet ownership

BY RACHEL FRASER

Modern pet ownership is a fraught endeavour. Balancing a sacred responsibility for the wellbeing of a sentient creature with respect for the rights of one's neighbors and other environmental concerns walks a delicate line. As a pet mom to two precocious beasts, the struggle is real.

My dog, a Finnish Spitz (aka "the barking bird dog"), is bred to hunt birds and small game by treeing one and barking incessantly at the base of the tree until the hunter arrives to kill it. I don't hunt, but my dog is a workaholic and has taken it on herself to single-handedly manage the local "squirrel problem." Spitzes are considered a primitive breed, in that they are closer to their wolfish ancestors than more domesticated breeds. Less trusting, less eager to please, less attached, exceedingly smart and trainable, but ultimately less controllable. Incidentally, Finland holds barking competitions. Champion Finkies can bark 110 times per minute. (Buy me a beer sometime and I'll tell you all about how I ended up with this cross to bear.) While generally polite and charming, she barks. And she barks more if she doesn't get enough exercise. And exercise is running all over the woods, barking at squirrels. How lucky for everyone around us at any time. Those on the trails, but especially those unsuspecting folks who owned houses around the one I bought.

My kitty, on the other hand, is timid and sweet, but also built to hunt. It's estimated that domestic cats kill 1.3-4.0 billion birds annually in the US, and though

the majority of that is attributed to unknown cats, one assumes the number attributable to Canadian pets is also breathtaking. We also know from perennial poisonings that free-roaming cats poop in their neighbours' gardens. And the life expectancy of an outdoor cat is only 2-4 years, a fraction of the 14 year average lifespan of one kept indoors. Therefore, responsible cat ownership requires keeping kitties inside.

The Lady of Shalott, a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson, tells the tragedy of a woman cursed to view the world through a mirror, from inside a tower, condemned to die if she tries to leave. In the end, she chooses to die, to leave her tower and see the outside world just once. You see my dilemma.

In a town of outdoor enthusiasts, we all make choices balancing safety, environmental responsibility and our own quality of life that many could judge irresponsible. What kind of life is lived as a hostage? Always enclosed by windows or restrained by a leash? I struggle with the morality of pet ownership at all in anything other than a rural setting, where pets can have some level of free rein without disturbing the peace. As a city-, and now village-, dwelling animal-lover, I've tried to err on the side of giving my pets a reasonable level of agency while doing my best to be conscious of and reasonably minimize the effects on my neighbors and fellow trail users. I appreciate every ounce of grace that has been shown to the three of us.

Rachel Fraser is a writer and pet owner in Valemount, BC

Tourists weigh in on entry sign



Dear Rocky Mountain Goat

We are four tourists from Madison, Wisconsin, USA, who have been visiting Valemount for the past several days. We are truly impressed with your town and the high quality of the reporting in your newspaper! We have read many of the articles in the 9/21 issue. We want to weigh in on the options for the design of your new town sign. All of us really love the current sign because it's rustic and majestic and as we passed under it, we really felt like we were arriving somewhere special. In fact, we saw it from the highway and it caught our eyes so much that we turned around and came back to check it out! We feel Option #3 is too modern and "plastic" looking for a town that we think is very authentic and natural. Whatever you decide, we are impressed with the amount of public input and thoughtfulness you are clearly putting into your decision.

Sincerely,
Mary Matthias
Jennifer Sunner
Lou Sunner
Troy Lethem

Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

Pantomime Politics in Eastern Europe

The Polish hate the Russians
The Slovaks hate the Czechs,
The Bulgars hate Ukrainians
And everybody hates the Jews.
With thanks and apologies to Tom Lehrer

Tom Lehrer's original song, 'National Brotherhood Week', was about how different kinds of Americans hated each other, but it translates so easily to other venues that I couldn't resist plugging Eastern European names into it. Especially since there are truly hate-filled elections coming up in Slovakia this weekend, and in Poland on 15 October.

In Slovakia on Saturday the man to beat is Robert Fico, leader of the left-wing Smer-Social Democracy Party, who has gone all pro-Russian despite the fact that Slovakia is a NATO member. He has been prime minister several times before, but was driven from office by corruption charges

in 2018.

Why is he running for the job again now? "His strong motivation is to avoid criminal investigation," explained Grigorij Meseznikov, head of the Institute for Public Affairs in Bratislava. (More charges were laid against Fico last year for creating a criminal group and misuse of power.) And his party is leading in the opinion polls.

Slovakia strongly backed Ukraine after the Russian invasion last year, even sending it combat aircraft, but Fico has found a vein of anti-Ukrainian feeling and works it hard. When Fico says he will stop sending Ukraine arms and push it to hand land over to Russia in return for peace, some Slovaks like what they hear.

With Poland it's even simpler. The ruling Law and Justice Party (PiS) knows that the forthcoming election will be close, so it make good electoral sense to pick a fight with Ukraine.

After all, the people who vote for PiS have the same profile as Trump's core supporters in the US: ultra-nationalist, mostly rural, poorly educated, and deeply religious.

When Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki declares that Poland will stop sending arms to Ukraine because cheap Ukrainian grain exports are underselling the home-grown product, most of these folks won't think: "That's bad, because the Ukrainians are defending us from Russia's expansionist ambitions."

They think: "Good for Morawiecki. He's standing up for Poland, for the Holy Catholic Church, for honest peasant farmers, and against immigrants and gays and foreigners in general. I never did trust those Ukrainians anyway."

And it doesn't really matter much, because if the PiS get back into office its leaders will wait a week or so and then resume helping Ukraine militarily. They exploit the psychology of people

who don't do much joined-up thinking on abstract matters, but they are perfectly capable of doing it themselves. Same goes for Robert Fico in Slovakia. He's not going to pull his country out of NATO or abandon Ukraine to its fate. He just needs to find enough votes to come first in a race with five other parties (20% will probably do), as that will give him first chance to build a coalition that can keep him out of jail.

So why are the Western media burbling on about a new "threat to NATO solidarity" and "support for Ukraine fading" and the rest, when they must really know better? Because they need some 'content' to hold the ads apart, and the story will only get your attention if it implies dangerous change.

Oh, by the way. The Bulgars don't really hate the Ukrainians. They hate the Serbs, but that didn't scan.



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



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Staffing shortage still a problem for local business

By RACHEL FRASER

Walk into the lobby of the Moose Pub and you're greeted by a sign that not only tells you to wait to be seated, but that due to a shortage of staff, the wait for food will be 45 minutes. Local employers are struggling to attract and retain qualified staff due to a confluence of multiple factors. While the pipeline doubled the Valemount population, which gobbled up local housing stock and added to the demand on businesses, Moose Pub co-owner Charles Kosmadia says the problem started over Covid. All of a sudden, the workers disappeared. He attributes this to a lack of work ethic. "People don't want to work. Where did everyone go? That many people didn't pass away"

WorkBC describes a more complicated situation, attributing significant blame to inflation. "The rising cost of living is prompting individuals to seek employment opportunities offering higher wages, and ... the increasing costs of running their businesses are placing a strain on (employer's) ability to offer competitive compensation packages," according to a statement by WorkBC.

WorkBC currently has approximately 115 open positions posted for the Robson Valley, a number they say is roughly comparable to last year.

While WorkBC had no specific data to illuminate how the availability of local accommodation is currently impacting staffing levels, Northern Health did confirm that a lack of local housing is an obstacle to staffing the Valemount Health

Centre. To offset this, they have partnered with the Village to jointly purchase and operate a staff house.

IGA Manager Gaurav Singh also observed that rents haven't really gone down, but listed other obstacles to staffing, such as the remoteness of the community and lack of amenities. "Six months out of the year it's dead. Only one bus out of town, once per week." He says they are trying hard to hire; they work with Work BC and have ads in other communities, but what they are finding difficult to attract are the skilled specialists they require for produce, meat and bakery. Some former IGA employees say their hours were cut to the point where they couldn't get the hours they needed to stay on, leading to a further staff shortage.

Northern Health noted that clinical staff is particularly difficult to attract in rural and Northern communities in general, and they are hoping the provincial government's health human resources strategy will improve this. They acknowledged that the shortage has resulted in service interruptions locally, but stressed that they are doing everything they can to minimize the impacts. They pointed to the Northern Health Virtual Clinic as an additional means of accessing health care where in-person services are limited.

Kosmadia would like to see more immigrants dispersed to the interior rather than staying in cities. He's trying to hire under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, but despite the government knowing the hospitality industry is

Regional District preparing to update official community plans

By SPENCER HALL, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) is planning to review all of its official community management plans, with plans in Electoral Area A and Electoral Area H set to be reviewed first.

According to a report from Kenna Jonkman, General Manager of Development Services with the RDFFG, official community plans describe the long-term vision of a community and contain objectives and policies that guide decisions on regional district planning and land use management.

She added these plans need to be revised to ensure they align with the community's needs and wants, as well as the District's strategic priorities, which include strengthening Indigenous relationships, what role the District will play in climate adaptation and mitigation, economic health, and supporting agriculture in the region through the District's

regional agricultural strategy.

Jonkman said the first plan to be reviewed is for Electoral Area A - Salmon River Lakes, which the board adopted in 1997. At its September 14th meeting, the District board authorized entering into a competitive bid process for consultant services to conduct the review and update the Salmon River-Lakes plan.

Each six-phase review will take about 12-24 months to complete and includes a technical review, community engagement, and feedback gathered from intergovernmental agencies.

Jonkman expects work on the Salmon River-Lakes plan to begin at some point in 2024.

"Once that project has its foundation and footing, then we anticipate going back to the board to authorize the request for proposal for the Electoral Area H official community plans. I envision that happening at some point in 2024, or early 2025," Jonkman said.

suffering, obstacles such as Labour Market Impact Assessments make it a very frustrating process. In the meantime, he says the shortage means closing Sunday/

Monday to give staff time off and not burn them out. "I'm here early in the morning until 10 or 11 at night. The only way we can survive is to cut the hours down.

www.valemount.ca

Village of Valemount – Job Opportunities

- Chief Administrative & Corporate Officer** – The Village of Valemount is seeking a personable and dynamic professional to lead the complex daily operations of British Columbia's most northern resort community. As Chief Administrative Officer you will report to, and work collaboratively with, Council in developing policies, programs and strategies that address the unique needs of the community. Complementing a high performing and resilient employee team you will help shape the Village's future and have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the community.
- Public Works Labourer/Operator** – Reporting to the Public Works Superintendent, this position provides general labour, heavy equipment operation, water treatment plant and/or wastewater plant operations for the Village of Valemount.

Contractor Opportunity:

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Please visit www.valemount.ca for details.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week runs from October 8th to 14th, 2023, and the theme is:

Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.

The annual Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest is open to all students from kindergarten to grade 12 who are attending an Indigenous, public, or independent school in British Columbia. For full contest rules see next page or visit www.gov.bc.ca/FirePreventionWeek.

Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program

It is not too late to exchange your old wood stove for a new more efficient wood stove or an alternate option. Rebates may cover the cost of the appliance and any additional costs (installation, materials etc.)

Visit: www.valemount.ca/services/grants-funding for more information.

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The Anti-Idling Bylaw restricts idling to **5 minutes** within the Village of Valemount. Idling for longer than this could result in a fine of \$100.

Exemptions to idling restrictions:

- When outside temperatures are below -20°C or above 20°C.
- When waiting for trains to pass.
- Vehicles helping at an emergency situation.
- A person requiring the temperature or humidity levels to stay within a specific range, for medical reasons.

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Open Monday to Friday

8:30am to 12:30pm & 1:30pm to 4:30pm

Closed for lunch

Closed on statutory holidays

The Municipal Office & Information Centre will be closed on:

- Monday, October 9th, to observe Thanksgiving Day



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250-566-4435 PO Box 168

Village of Valemount approves 5.5 per cent tax increase for 2024 budget

By SPENCER HALL, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Valemount council approved a 5.5 per cent tax increase at its September 13th meeting to prepare for the municipality's 2024 budget.

The increase comes after a March 2020 report prepared by Urban Systems, titled Improving Asset Management Planning At The Village Of Valemount, which said the Village needed to increase its revenues from taxation and user fees to accomplish its ten-year capital plan and make sure its water, sewer, and road systems remain economically sustainable in the long-term.

The financial model included in the 2020 report cited a 2.5 per cent tax increase each year for 10 years to allow the Village to complete repairs and upgrades to some of its aging infrastructure that is due to be replaced "in the coming decades." It also recommended an annual three per cent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to account for inflation.

In the Village's report to council, Director

of Finance Lori McNee acknowledged inflation has "risen significantly" in the three years since the asset management report.

"Staff work diligently to ensure the budget only requires the recommended taxation increase of 5.5 per cent," McNee wrote.

In an email to The Goat, McNee said if all property taxes go up or down by the average, there will be an approximate increase of 5.5 per cent on the municipal portion of property taxes.

She said the Village won't know the assessments until the new year when BC Assessment releases their updates in March.

The Village began implementing the tax increases recommended in the 2020 report in 2022, according to McNee.

She added the increase will also allow staff to budget toward items in the Village's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, which includes initiatives like replacing, upgrading, and decommissioning various parts of Valemount's sewage infrastructure and building redundancies in the community's water supply.

SUPERCHARGED



Construction on a TESLA supercharger station is underway near the Valemount ESSO station. According to Tesla Canada, the Valemount Supercharger is one of three set to open in region. Another station in Clearwater is also under construction, while another in McBride is set to open early next year. The Valemount Supercharger was first added to Tesla's list of upcoming Superchargers back in April. The underground conduit will support 8 V3 Supercharger stalls. According to Tesla's map this Supercharger should be open before the end of the year. /LAURA KEIL

New spin on Squash

On Tues Sept 26th, Shawn Zwierzchowski from Squash BC hung out at the Robson Valley Recreation Centre squash court teaching residents the finer points of the game albeit slightly modified from what players have been doing. Zwierzchowski was introducing using a larger ball and racquet than what has traditionally been used, allowing for a higher success contact rate between ball and racquet. He taught participants court positioning, service protocol and scoring. Students from McBride Secondary School, accompanied by teacher Janice Mercuri attended the first part of the clinic. /ANDREA ARNOLD



MCBRIDE COUNCIL NOTES

McBride Council - Carbon capture protocol, Yellow Ribbon support & new truck purchase

By ANDREA ARNOLD

Acting Deputy Mayor Peter Caputo called the Sept 26th McBride Council meeting to order at 7:00pm. All members of council as well as the CAO were present via Zoom.

Protocol feedback request

Mayor Runtz requested he take on the role to provide input for the Draft Carbon Capture and Sequestration Offset Protocol. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is asking for feedback and perspectives to ensure that the application of the final protocol is practical for all those affected. Mayor Runtz said he would endeavor to get information to Council as soon as it becomes available to him.

Call for input

Council decided to strike the next item off the agenda after a brief discussion. Danielle Wiess, Director Transportation Initiatives contacted the village in regards to zero emission medium and heavy

duty vehicles (MHDV) Education and Awareness Initiative NRCAN Funding Application. This education and awareness project will focus on building capacity, knowledge, and understanding of these vehicles over the next two years. Interim CAO Leslie Groulx said that she believes the village staff does not have the capacity to take on the project.

Yellow Ribbon Campaign support

Council passed the motion directing staff to follow up with the Ministry and the local RCMP Detachment for an update as to the status of implementation for "Yellow Ribbon Campaign" throughout the Robson Valley and rural and remote sections of the province. This motion came following a letter from McBride District Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dave Hruby. He said that the issue of repeat call outs for First Responders is a real problem and by widely implementing the yellow ribbon/all clear tape initiative, he feels they can make a difference. Following the 2022 UBCM conference where a resolution was submitted regarding the issue, the province responded, saying that the

ministry would ask RCMP "E" Division Headquarters for more information on the initiative that has been started by the Robson Valley First Responders. However, Hruby says that they have not heard very much or seen any movement in regards to the motion presented last year. He asked the council to follow up.

Councillor Joe Kolida said that they did bring up the topic at UBCM this year, and that they would keep working on it.

Bylaws

Council moved to give first and second reading to both the Business Licence Bylaw Amendment No. 827, 2023 and Sign Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No 819,2023. Both of these bylaws have to have adjustments made to them following the adoption of the cannabis retail business license and signage. The changes were proposed by McElhanney planners Kevin Brooks and Makayla Berger following the zoning bylaw change to allow cannabis retail establishments. These changes will ensure that proper protocols are followed in regards to signs and business licenses that may follow.

New truck purchase

Council authorized staff to find a ¾ - one tonne pickup truck for between \$45,000 and \$60,000 inclusive of taxes and that a staff report be brought back to a future council meeting with the addition of what can be used to purchase a hybrid model.

Main Street closure

Council authorized the closure of Main Street between SW Frontage and Highway 16 to help insure safety for those working on the section of the street adjacent to the old Chevron fuel station.

In camera

Council moved to an in-Camera following a 7:18pm adjournment of the regular meeting to discuss 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; and (c) Labour Relations or other employee relations.

FIRE PREVENTION

National Fire Prevention Week is October 8th to 14th, 2023! Stay safe this home heating season by cleaning your chimneys and practising safe cooking practices.

HOUSEHOLD SAFETY TIPS:

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D. MARCHANT

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For your Commitment
and Bravery While
Keeping us Safe**

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THANK YOU!
Heartfelt thanks to our dedicated volunteer firefighters for putting themselves at risk to keep us safe.

SHIRLEY BOND, MLA
PRINCE GEORGE - VALEMOUNT

250-612-4181
Shirley.Bond.MLA@leg.bc.ca
@ShirleyBondforBC
@ShirleyBond

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volunteer
firefighters, thank
you for keeping our
community safe!**

www.mcfc.ca
250 - 569 - 0262

McBRIDE COMMUNITY FOREST CORP

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A special Thank you to all the local firefighting volunteers for keeping our Communities safe!

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

A special Thank you to all the local firefighting volunteers for keeping our Communities safe!

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THANK YOU
*to all our dedicated
volunteer firefighters.*

Robson Valley Home Hardware
256 Main St, McBride, BC
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WEEK

What to know about chimney fires

ONTARIO MUNICIPAL FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Fireplaces and wood stoves are designed to safely contain wood-fuelled fires, while providing heat for a home. The chimneys that serve them have the job of expelling the by-products of combustion – the substances given off when wood burns. As these substances exit the fireplace or wood stove, and flow up into the relatively cooler chimney, condensation occurs. The resulting residue that sticks to the inner walls of the chimney is called creosote. Creosote is black or brown in appearance. It can be crusty and flaky ... tar-like, drippy and sticky ... or shiny and hardened. Often, all forms will occur in one chimney system. Whatever form it takes, creosote is highly combustible. If it builds up in sufficient quantities – and catches fire inside the chimney flue – the result will be a chimney fire. Certain conditions encourage the build-up of creosote: restricted air supply, unseasoned wood, and cooler-than-normal chimney temperatures are all factors that can accelerate the build-up of creosote on chimney flue walls.

Air supply: The air supply on fireplaces may be restricted by closed glass doors or by failure to open the damper wide enough to move heated smoke up the chimney rapidly (the longer the smoke's "residence time" in the flue, the more likely is it that creosote will form). A wood stove's air supply can be limited by closing down the stove damper or air inlets too soon and too much, and by improperly using the stovepipe damper to restrict air movement.

Burning unseasoned firewood: Because so much energy is used initially just to drive off the water trapped in the cells of the logs – burning green wood keeps the resulting smoke cooler, as it moves through the system than if dried, seasoned wood is used.

Cool flue temperatures: In the case of wood stoves, fully-packed loads of wood (that give large cool fires and eight or 10 hour burn times) contribute to creosote build-up. Condensation of the unburned by-products of combustion also occurs more rapidly in an exterior chimney, for example, than in a chimney that runs through the centre of a house and exposes only the upper reaches of the flue to the elements.



The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

Did you know?

Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

Have activities that keep **kids out of the kitchen** during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done **outside** the kitchen.

Courtesy the National Fire Protection Association

On behalf of the Village of Valemount, Mayor, Council and staff would like to extend their gratitude to all of the Valemount volunteers involved with fire prevention

Thank You!

VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT
Let the mountains move you.

NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK

A special Thank You to all the local firefighting volunteers for keeping our Communities safe!

McBride: 250 - 569 - 2266
Valemount: 250 - 566 - 9107

On behalf of the Village of McBride, a Special Thank-you to all the local Firefighting Volunteers for keeping our communities safe!

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week

Enjoy Responsibly

Bob Zimmer MP
PRINCE GEORGE-PEACE RIVER-NORTHERN ROCKIES
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Thank you to all our Firefighters in the Robson Valley!

250-566-4610
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www.valemountcommunityforest.ca

THANK YOU

To our dedicated volunteer firefighters for keeping our communities safe!

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THANK YOU
To our dedicated volunteer firefighters for keeping our communities safe!

FIRE PREVENTION

A day in the life at fire practice



It's shortly after 7pm on Thursday Sept. 28th and a dozen members of the Valemount Volunteer Fire Department swap banter as they wait for Fire Chief Rick Lalonde to start the meeting. On tonight's agenda is Halloween and information about the elementary school's Fire Prevention Week activities. Lalonde explains the Halloween fireworks will go ahead this year on Oct 31st. He also talks about the fire hall tour given to the lucky winners of the Fire Prevention contest that is run in conjunction with the elementary school. Kids are invited to draw their home and what escape route they would take if there was a fire. Then Lalonde and veteran firefighter Dale Mintz break the group into two, one practicing how to put on full firefighting gear - including oxygen tanks and masks - the other practicing using power tools that are used in extrication from vehicles during highway rescues. Midway through fire practice a real fire call comes in and the firefighters run to their stalls to collect any remaining gear. Within two minutes, they are pulling out of the fire hall to attend a rescue call. Not long after they leave, dispatch calls to tell them to stand down - that other first responders are already on scene. /LAURA KEIL



THANK YOU
To our dedicated
volunteer firefighters
for keeping our
communities safe!



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(250) 566 1207



Thank you to all
the members of
the Robson Valley
Fire Base for all
your hard work
and dedication.




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**Thank you to our
volunteer firefighters**

Thank you
to all our Firefighters
in the Robson Valley!

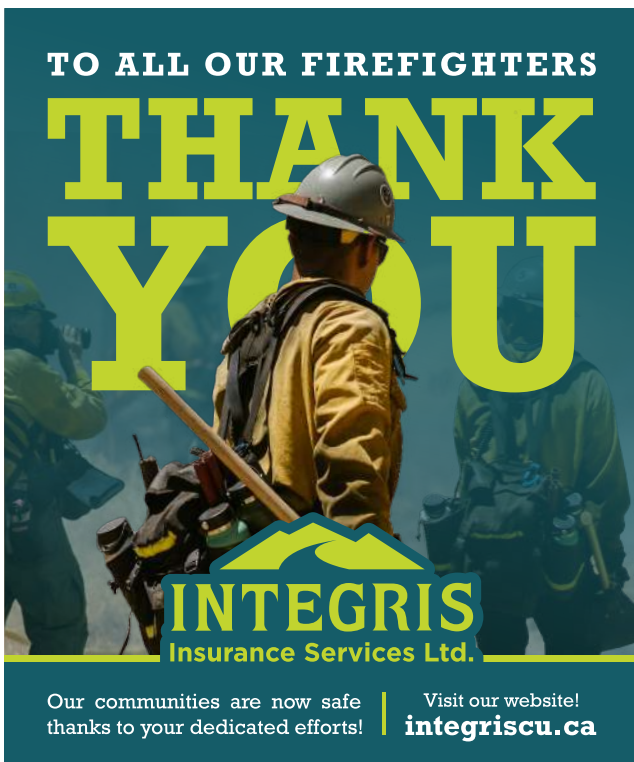


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WEEK



Dale Mintz shows a younger firefighter how to properly fit his gear to ensure he stays safe during a fire. / LAURA KEIL 



(Left) Gerhard Oberauer shows his mastery of this power tool as he successfully places a wooden block on top of a very wobbly "Jenga" tower. The game is used to practice using the power tool which is often used in vehicle extrications during highway rescues. Below: Billy manoeuvres the block to the top of the pile. /LAURA KEIL 



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211 Main Street,
McBride
250 - 569 - 2525



THANK YOU
to all the local emergency workers
and volunteer firefighters for your
hard work, for risking your lives
and for keeping our communities
safe and secure!

THANK YOU
To our dedicated
volunteer firefighters
for keeping our
communities safe!



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THANK YOU
To our dedicated volunteer
firefighters for keeping our
communities safe!



250 - 569 - 0140
410 Main, McBride, B.C.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries?
Cooking safety starts with YOU.



NFFPA FIRE PREVENTION WEEK Pay attention to fire prevention.



Weekly fire practice ensures firefighters stay on top of their driving skills, their procedures, and how to properly fit their gear to ensure they stay safe during a fire. /LAURA KEIL

Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.



NFFPA Learn more about cooking safety at fpw.org

Fire is DEADLY! Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do.
Fire won't wait. Plan your escape at fpw.org.




Thank you volunteer firefighters for all that you give to your communities!





SUBMITTED BY LEE ONSLOW

Another successful gardening season was enjoyed by the members of the Blue River Community Garden. Our 2023 garden season began early spring when the Blue River Elementary Students started seedlings in their indoor garden classroom. The students planted a variety of vegetables, herbs and flowers which were then transplanted into the community garden's raised beds.

The Blue River Community Garden provides opportunities for recreational gardening and food production as well as garden education for the elementary school students. Over the years the community garden has become a gathering place for residents and visitors to enjoy. We have a screened in gazebo, a large rock flower garden, and 44 garden boxes as well as very comfortable furniture and a vegetable was station. It's quite the place!

All are welcome to come to the Blue River Community Garden! Volunteers have painted yellow smiley faces on the community boxes that are free for anyone to enjoy a fresh snack! The other boxes are used by the volunteers for their individual gardening enjoyment, and we would ask that you look – but to please not take anything from those boxes.

Our community garden would not have been possible without the support of many different organizations and community members. Of special note is the North Thompson Communities Foundation. The foundation has provided annual financial support to our garden projects since 2018. This year the foundation provided the garden with the money needed to purchase top quality soil which was used to fill three large flower boxes that were donated by Ledcor. As well the soil is being used to top up our rock garden and other garden boxes. We have an automatic watering system that was funded through the Trans Mountain community investment program and it sure makes our garden more enjoyable!

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maanz.cic@gmail.com



The Buzz from Blue



The town of Blue River hosted a Terry Fox Run on Sept 27, 2023 at 10 am. The run started at 10 am with participants running and walking a 5.34km route around town. Lake Eleanor was in her glory mirror imaging the fall colours and the mountains as the participants went by.

The town raised just over \$2500 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing and the Blue River Elementary School teamed up to make the event a success and we look forward to this becoming an annual event. The school children chose to add onto the first loop of the run and logged a total of 9km. /SUBMITTED BY LEE ONSLOW



CAREERS



Valemount Community Forest LP

PO Box 1017, 3300 Highway 5 South, Valemount, BC, V0E 2Z0

Phone # (250) 566-4610

Job Opening: Community Forest Manager

POSITION OVERVIEW:

Since becoming established in 2008, the Valemount Community Forest Company Ltd. has become known as an efficient and progressive community forest model in British Columbia.

We are now looking for a reliable, self-motivated individual to take over the management of this successful company. The successful candidate will enjoy a balanced mix of field and office work and will take part in all aspects of sustainable forest management.

DUTIES INCLUDE:

- To manage two Community Forest licences, a small Forest Licence and a Woodlot. Roughly 100,000m3/year
- Responsible for all aspects of financial, legal, administration, forestry activities, First Nations and stakeholder communications and business acquisitions and partnerships.
- To work under an Environmental Management System
- Work closely with a board or directors
- To manage a small experienced staff (Silv/Planning RPF, Operations and Admin)

IDEAL CANDIDATE:

- Leadership and Financial Management skills with at least 5 years forest management and field experience
- Demonstrated excellence in written and oral communication
- A willingness to learn, is energetic and have a positive attitude
- Ability to foster an effective teamwork environment
- Good physical condition with a valid B.C. driver's license (Class 5 minimum)
- Ability to prioritize and multi-task workload and time management
- Good computer skills
- Preference will be given to individuals with an RPF or RFT designation or registered with the Association of BC Forest Professionals to become an RPF/RFT.

VCF LP offers a competitive salary based on experience. You'll also receive a competitive benefits package.

APPLICANTS MAY SEND A RESUME AND COVER LETTER IN CONFIDENCE TO:

Valemount Community Forest LP c/o P.O. Box 1017, Valemount, BC. V0E 2Z0, admin@valemountcommunityforest.ca, no later than October 31, 2023.

Thanks in advance for your interest; however, only those applicants invited for an interview will be contacted.

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

FRI Oct 27 Seniors are invited to come and **Make your own Candle** from 2-2:30pm. Location To be determined. Sign up is required to determine amount of supplies required. This program is brought to you by the Seniors Outreach and Activities Program, funded by CBT. For more info call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org.

TUES Oct. 24th VACS presents Juan Martin, a world class flamenco artist. Voted top flamenco artist two years in a row, and after 7 decades of art, one might say Juan Martin is a master of his craft. This is a do not miss event! 7:30pm, doors at 7:00pm. Valemount Community Theatre. General Admission: \$40 Student/Senior: \$35

Ongoing Valemount Events

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). For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org. Sept. events listed below:

- October — 9 Stat Holiday no drop-in
- October — 16 Gratitude activity at Centennial Park
- October — 23 Activities and breast feeding resources at Centennial Park
- October — 30 Halloween crafts and activities at Centennial Park

TUES, WEDs, THURS **StrongStartBC** at Valemount Elementary School 11:30-2:30 starting Oct. 3rd. Free drop-in program for children 0-5 years accompanied by their caregivers. Enjoy play-based early learning incl. songs, stories, art and more. Stop by the school for more info.

WEDs **Oldtimers band and music night** at the Golden Years Lodge 7pm. All welcome! Bring an instrument, listen or dance.

THURs ages 8 to 12 years are invited to join our **Worry Dragons program** happening at the Valemount Library (1090A Main Street) from 3:00-4:00pm starting Oct 26 to December 7. Come along with Child and Youth Mental Health Staff to tame your Worry Dragons. This program is designed to help children with anxiety learn new skills to cope with their worries. Parents will need to attend the first and last sessions and registration is required contact RVCS at 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org

THURS Free **Drop-In/Coffee House** at the Golden Years Lodge the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month from 10 am until 2 pm. It's open to everyone regardless of your age. If you currently have any 'mobility issues' call Derek 250-613-6905 for a ride in the accessibility bus.

WEDs & SATs **Yoga** at the Hall. Yoga classes for every body. Hatha yoga Wednesdays 6:30-8pm. Yin Yoga Saturdays 9-10:30am. Includes breathwork, strengthening and relaxation. \$15 drop-in or 10-class pass \$120. Please bring mat and props. Questions call/text 250-566-1740.

THUR's Senior women are invited to register **Reflections, Repair, Revival** for a guided counselling group for female seniors to speak safely around experiences of violence and trauma, in the company of others with shared experiences June 29th & July 6th from 3-4pm. Registration is required

contact the office for more information 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

Most SATs 10am-11:15am **Creative writing group**. Join us for writing and friendly conversation. Everyone welcome. Contact Laura for more info at lauraishere@gmail.com.

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

SATs 10am-1pm the Valemount United Anglican Church have a **thrift store**, on 7th and Cedar!

SATs 3pm **Cribbage tournament** followed by dinner at the legion and kitchen party music 6-8pm. Bring your acoustic instrument and take part in some laid-back sing-a-longs.

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

MON through FRIs the **Valemount Seed Library** is available in our lobby during business hours at RVCS Valemount (99 Gorse St). Office hours: Monday to Wednesday 8am-4pm, Thursday 10am-6pm and Friday 8am-4pm 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. Made possible with funding from CBT For more info call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org.

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 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. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org.

MCBRIDE

THURS OCT 5 **Volleyball Fundraiser Bake sale** for McBride Sr Girls Volleyball. 3-5pm at the empty lot next to Spyer (across from TGP)

October 14th, 2023 - 10:30 until Noon McBride Community Forest Corp Open House and meeting at McBride Elks Hall. Hear what is new at the McBride Community Forest Corporation! Grilled Hamburgers served after the meeting.

WED Oct 18th Join RVCS to craft your own **decorative tea light holder!** Wednesday, from 1-3pm at Robson Valley Community Services, 942 3rd Ave, McBride BC. Funded by CALP, brought to you by McBride Adult Literacy Program Space is limited, so sign up today! For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org.

SAT Oct 28th RVCS would like to invite you to a night of education and entertainment. **Dissolve is a Shameless Hussy Productions show** on drug facilitated sexual assault. This is a free of charge event happening in

McBride at the Roundhouse Theatre (McBride Secondary School) at 7pm. The show will be about 45 minutes in duration and there will be a dialogue session afterwards. Show is geared towards high school aged individuals and up. For more info 1-844-324-2004 or events@rvcsbc.org.

Ongoing McBride Events

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. 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). Join for connection with other families, parenting resources and fun for you and your 0-6 year old children. No registration required. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: events@rvcsbc.org. **Upcoming themes:**

- October — 9 Stat Holiday no drop-in
- October — 16 Play-doh at RVCS
- October — 23 Colour and play at RVCS
- October — 30 Halloween fun, face paints, treats and games at RVCS

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

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

TUE's Come and join us in McBride for **ASL Sign Language** 12pm-1pm at RVCS office in McBride (942 3rd Ave). Drop in for beginners to advanced. Learning a second language improves cognitive and literacy skills for all ages. Plus it is lots of fun! Brought to you by McBride Family Literacy Program

TUE's Join us for the **McBride Reading Circle** starts at 2pm for our take on a "Book Club" where we will read together aloud, and discuss together each week. Our first novel pick is "Ishmael" by Daniel Quinn, "...a philosophical novel that examines the human condition as fundamentally influenced by our self-constructed culture" Brought to you by McBride Adult & Family Literacy Program

THURs & FRIs **Weekly Adults' Programs** at the McBride Library: Fibre Artists (Thurs, 10:30am), Writing Group (Fri, 1:30pm). Call 569 2411 for details.

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 250-230-8035 for info.

TETE JAUNE

Tete Jaune Community Club meetings the first Tues. of the month. Contact Garry Wallace for more info.



Pete Amyoony has lived, worked and gardened in the Dunster area for over 40 years. He tries to deal with the "down to earth nuts and bolts of organic gardening" in his columns.

Gardening
with Pete

Fall Chores – Wintering over perennials

This week I would like to cover a few more chores that need to be done in the fall before the ground freezes.

Sprinkle a few handfuls of bonemeal around your perennials and fruit trees, as it will help with the development of good root growth over the winter.

A few shovels of well rotted manure and compost around each fruit tree spread out to the drip line will also help the trees get off to a great start next spring.

If you had potted roses or other perennials that you plan to winter over outside, remember that the roots of plants in pots freeze quite easily and the plant will die over the winter. The plant can be set into the soil in a protected place in the garden, watered in well and allowed to settle in before the hard frosts arrive. If you want

to dig it up and re-pot it next spring, be sure to do it before it starts its rapid growth – before the end of May. Another successful way I have used many times to winter over potted plants is to get a load of sawdust from one of the local mills and use it to create a mulch bed for the potted perennials. I place an old tarp on the ground, put a two-inch (5cm) layer of sawdust on the tarp and then line up the pots so they are about two inches (5cm) apart. With one row placed, I fill all around the pots with sawdust being sure not to leave any air spaces for the frost to get down around the roots. Then I add another row of pots and fill around them until all the pots are in place. Be sure to add about a foot (30cm) of sawdust out past the last row of pots so the frost can't get at the roots.

Then I hand sprinkle a thin layer of sawdust all around the pots until you can't see the rims of the pots. Water everything well and check to be sure that the sawdust hasn't settled so there are spaces between the pots. I have had great success with this method in wintering over lots of potted perennials and many small fruit trees that I had potted up waiting to clear a space for an orchard. Some of the apple trees wintered over two years in large pots in this way. The greatest danger is that they will dry out if there is little snow and a dry winter. It is best to check them every month or so to be sure the soil in the pot is moist.


Most in ground perennials are best left until spring to prune back as the old growth acts as a cover to protect the roots until the ground freezes and then it helps to

trap blowing snow to act as a blanket for the crown and root. Lilies and peonies are usually cut back in the fall and seem to do well with this treatment.

Tender perennials or ones that are not really meant for our zone can be helped through the winter with a light, airy mulch to protect against freezing. Grass clippings and fall leaves are not the best for this purpose, as they tend to get soggy and rot when they get wet. Many garden books recommend peat moss and compost mixed in equal parts as they are light and allow the plant to breathe. Don't use plastic! My mother always used spruce boughs over her roses and other tender plants to help them through the cold Atlantic winter.

By taking a bit of time now, the plants will reward you with healthier growth next year.

PUZZLES



CROSSWORD

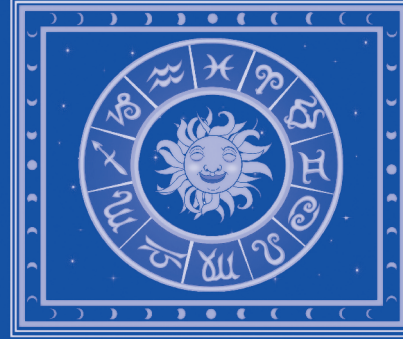
Answers on P17

- Across 1 Week-end getaway
 4 Protein-rich edible
 8 Needing a lift
 11 Manx or Siamese
 12 Weave a web
 13 Old timer
 14 It's ____
 15 Drove
 16 Clucker
 17 Fix
 19 Lode load
 21 Alum
 23 Time line divisions, perhaps
 26 Choice of colors
 29 Refuse
 30 Superstar
 31 Contested
 33 Look after
 34 Let it ____!
 35 Comedian's bit
 37 Lampoon
 41 Mirror
 43 Polish language
 45 Time the earth takes to turn
 46 "You bet!"
- Down 1 Deface 2
 Leaf unit 3 Beneath's opposite 4 Polo perhaps 5 Smooth, for Sade 6 Douglas 7 Free 8 Domains of influence 9 "You ____ here"
 10 Slip into
 18 Board discussion points
 20 Expression of protest
 22 You can take them to the bank
 24 Sampled from the smorgasbord
 25 Earth
 26 Surface indentation
 27 One in a suit
 28 Most extended
 32 Dishes

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| 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 | | |

- 36 Spark
 38 Empty
 39 Watery downpour
 40 Checked out
 41 Vote of approval
 42 Vegetable
 44 Monaco cube

HOROSCOPES



BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Unbalanced Grace of Libra

Relationships are imperfect creations that will never be subject to perfect balance. They take work, and one party will always be, to some extent, doing more of it. The best relationships include enough back-and-forth where it's not always the same person carrying the bigger weight. As Mercury joins the sun and Mars in balanced Libra this week, to accept the realities of relationships is to have more grace.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No matter where you stand under the sun, the light will hit you in a unique way. So, there's no way to see the same scene as someone else, even if they are right next to you. For this reason, you won't be quick to assume someone misreads reality. You appreciate that they may just be picking up an angle not visible to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll take many approaches to a knotty problem. You'll be intellectual about it, imaginative, intuitive, kinesthetic -- sometimes all at once. Don't forget to try the tactic of doing nothing at all. It doesn't often work, but when it does, it is remarkable how much energy you have for other things.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Love requires versatility, but loving someone also gives you strong motivation to adapt. You're happy to find new ways of fitting together. It will require some stretching, some change-ups of rhythm and flow, and, of course, compromises. This will be the most satisfying work of the week.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You won't need to be loud to be heard. There are people tuned into your nuances, and it will feel good to have their attention. When you are not working too hard to be understood, it's easier to accomplish things together. You'll enjoy a certain kind of informality and seamlessness in your teamwork.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sharing stories will be a key part of the success of this week. It's especially helpful to allow your communication due process. It would be miraculous to convey an experience perfectly the first time you tried. Instead, enjoy the process of figuring out the story you need to tell, then refining and re-telling it until it lands right.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It is usual for birds of a feather to flock together, but it won't be nearly as interesting or fun. Friendship is the highlight, and being adventurous and diverse in this regard will bring you the best outcomes. You'll experience things with people who will have a take-away that is different from and very much enhanced by yours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You don't walk around assuming that you're different on the inside than anyone else, and yet there definitely are unique aspects to your inner world that you'd be smart to pay attention

to this week. Your experience has made you stronger and more compassionate and imaginative. Seize the chance to use these gifts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Change can be difficult. Change knows this about itself. That's why it always brings gifts. Trust that when things move, they are moving to something better for you. In the same way you don't realize you're dreaming until you start coming out of it, you may not realize how odd a real-life scenario is until you're backing away.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You, like most people, tend to express yourself in certain tones. Your mood typically hits certain set-points, varying a few degrees one way or the other. This week, the intensity level may turn up a bit, with a wider range. The highs and lows can both be funneled into creating beautiful depth in work and relationships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll help someone make progress on the projects they care about. You'll lessen someone's load and see their mood brighten before your eyes. You won't see anything you contribute as selfless service because doing such things forwards every desire you have for the development of your soul.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll hit a point in the decision-making process in which the intellectual machinations end. Analyzing past that point feels pointless, since somewhere inside you the decision has already been made. The wisdom or foolhardiness then seems irrelevant. The move is inevitable, arising from who you are at the time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're so close at achieving what you set out to do. This is no time to look around at the other teams. Also, there's no need to overhaul your approach. Make only small improvements now. Change in increments. If you alter too much at once, you will lose sight of what is working and what isn't.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: You're excellent at preparing for life and will be surprised when your preparations will make you ready for so much more delight than you bargained for. You'll receive comforts including the sweetness of caring relationships. You'll increase your influence as you focus on what others need. You'll pick up knowledge from a wide range of educators including the natural world, and translate what you learn. Your teachings will transform someone, but not until after they transform you first.

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.

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

Answers on P17

The Toughie

by Myles Mellor

- Across
- Suffix with west
 - Personal statement intro
 - Goes on
 - ___ culpa
 - Popular 2020 wear
 - Cocktail
 - Jackanape
 - As well
 - Most curious
 - Card game
 - Unbroken
 - Show time
 - Expected liberator
 - Ruin, as plans
 - Anon.
 - It may be put in a bun
 - Card games
 - It may be skipped
 - More refined
 - Natural alarm clock
 - Jerusalem native
 - Distinctive and stylish elegance
 - Hot spot
 - Card games
 - Foamy iced coffee
 - Words of confidence
 - Davis was its pres.
 - Housekeeper's aid
 - Arm or leg
 - Kojac, e.g.
 - Loathe
 - Exercise center
 - Batch
- Down
- "8 Mile" Rapper
 - Red pencil
 - City near Vesuvius
 - Prayer leader
 - French Sudan, today
 - Aide, abbr.
 - Fire-truck gear
 - White House worker
 - Come from
 - Brit's thank you's
 - Canine command
 - Asian mascara
 - Very, to Verdi
 - Guts
 - Bit in a horse's mouth
 - Gerund letters
 - Standout pilot
 - Gp. in charge of condominiums, perhaps
 - Gerund letters
 - Standout pilot
 - Gp. in charge of condominiums, perhaps
 - Old-time tyrant
 - Aural device
 - Morse Code click
 - Surgery ctrs.
 - Nation's economic stat
 - "It's cold!"
 - Pal of Piglet
 - Company going public has it
 - Road offense, for short
 - Store sign abbr.
 - Ballad's end?
 - Mitigate
 - Fudd of cartoons
 - Sci-fi gun
 - Gives the heave-ho
 - Approved tenant
 - All together
 - Finger tip
 - Precipitate

Card games by Myles Mellor

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 60 | 61 | | | | | | 62 | | | | 63 | | |
| 64 | | | | | | | 65 | | | | 66 | | |
| 67 | | | | | | | 68 | | | | 69 | | |

56. As far as
 57. Naval investigation show
 58. Wettish
 59. Female hoops gp.
 60. Org. that may request a recall
 61. Cause friction

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| C | A | T | S | P | I | N | P | R | O |
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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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TOUGHIE ANSWERS

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| A | B | H | O | R | S | P | A | S | E | T | | | | |

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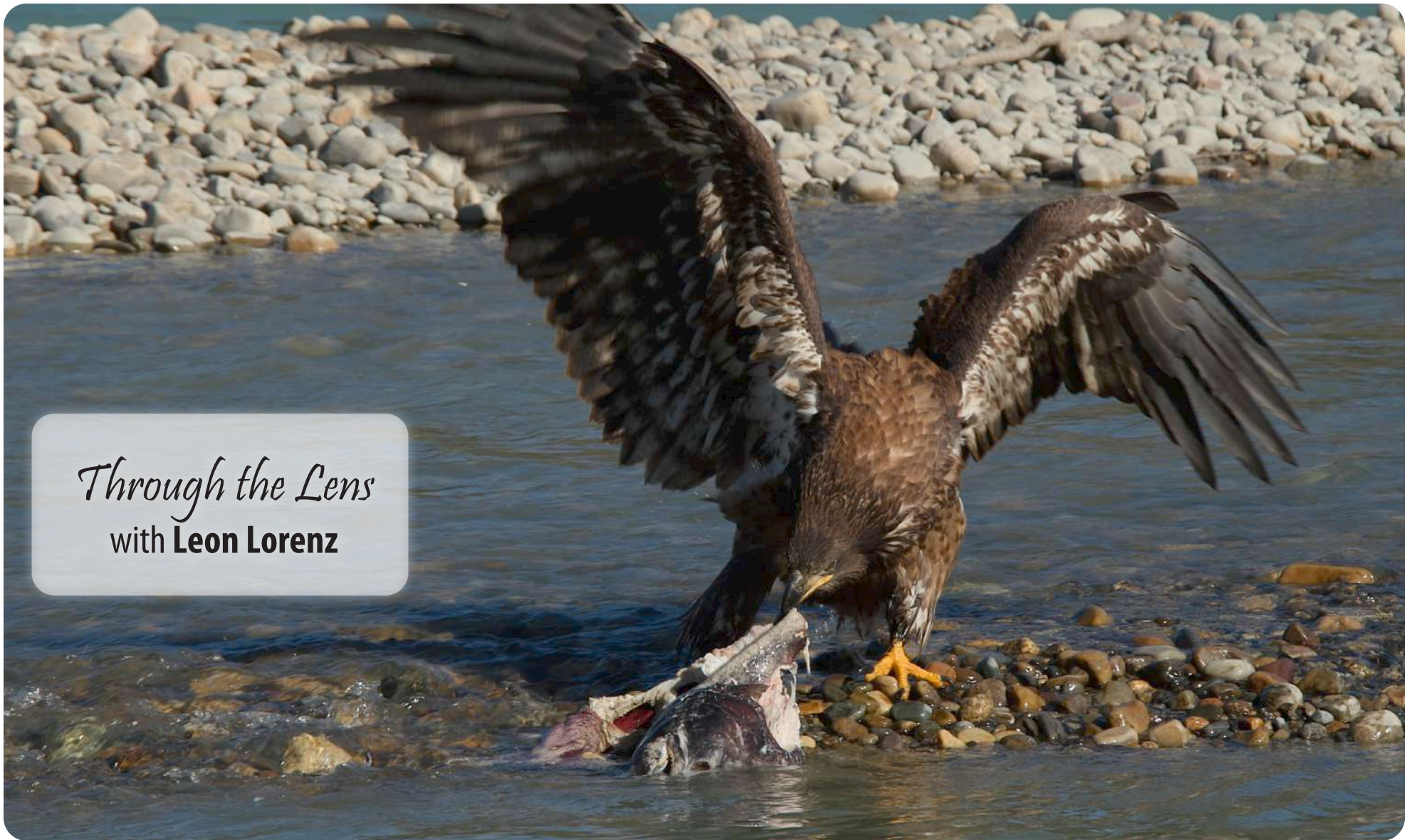
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Through the Lens
with **Leon Lorenz**

Golden eagles (as well as other creatures such as bears, vultures and ravens) play a major role in cleaning up the spawned out Chinook salmon.

Truth & Reconciliation



Right: Charlene Jones addresses those gathered to honour the day. / SUBMITTED



Valemount: (above) Several dozen people donning orange shirts gathered at Centennial Park in Valemount Sept. 30th to commemorate the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. “During this day, Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples come together in a spirit of hope and reconciliation to honour residential school survivors, their families and communities,” said organizer Sherry Tinsley. “The orange shirt symbolizes the stripping away of culture, self-esteem, and freedom from Indigenous children over generations.” Tinsley said it’s important to give age-appropriate information to today’s children so they can learn about what happened to so many. “I do not recall learning anything about residential schools when I was in elementary school,” Tinsley said. It wasn’t until she was an adult that she learned this history. “The truth of horrors my own mother had to endure. Not knowing or understanding the disconnect and separation within our own family caused by the effects of the impact left behind from these school systems. Put in place to beat the Indian out of the children.” She said the legacy of these schools continues to impact Indigenous communities. Part of reconciliation involves recognizing the ongoing trauma many adults still face from attending these schools. “Let’s be the change that is needed to move forward and heal in a positive way.” Following the ceremony and moment of silence, the group did a walk around Valemount. /LAURA KEIL



McBride: (above and inset) Community members including school children, teachers, firefighters, police officers, librarians and museum patrons participated in the walk from the library to the McBride train station ending at the museum where flags were placed in a field. Each flag had a name of one of Canada's Residential Schools from a system that closed in 1996 in the Cariboo District. In these schools, First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children were removed from their parents form the age of five to the age of 18. Participants of the walk placed their flags before returning to their day. Organizers say there was no food provided as a statement that "we are still working to achieve reconciliation and it will not be achieved till MMIW are found in a specific dump ground." /HANNAH CLIFFORD

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Drought

Cont'd from A1

Dubé said the open house had to be rescheduled due to illness and will now be held on Thursday, October 12th at 7:00pm at the Robson Valley Community Centre.

Dubé added water usage restrictions remain in place. Under the restrictions — which went into effect as of September 20th — lawn and garden sprinkling, outdoor hand watering and drip irrigation is not permitted. Residents are also to refrain from washing their vehicles, building exteriors, driveways, and sidewalks.

Bulk water use, such as filling swimming pools, hot tubs, garden ponds, and fountains is also not permitted.

On September 14th, the province raised the drought level in the Robson Valley to level 5 — the highest level on the scale.

The Village declared a local state of emergency on September 19th after issuing an Urgent Need for Water Conservation News Release on July 11th and a water conservation notice on May 17th.

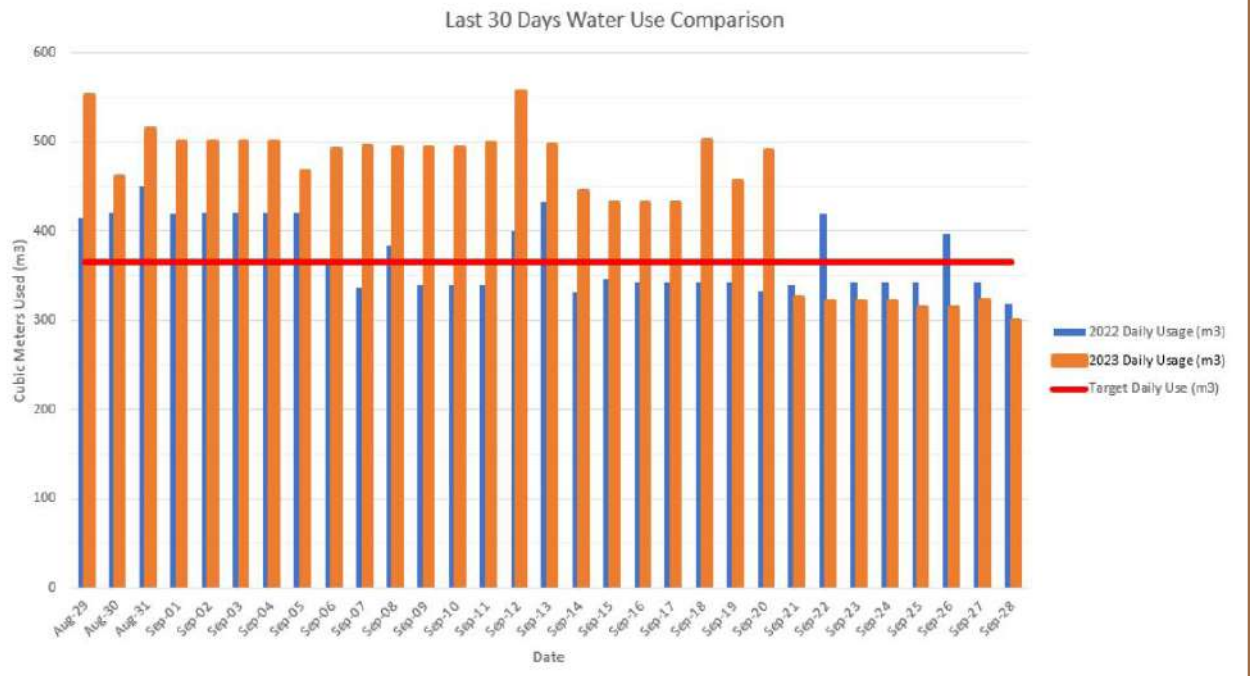
As of September 28th, water usage in McBride has remained below the Village's targeted daily use since September 21st — one day after the municipality implemented its water usage restrictions.

Dominion Creek Community Water System - Daily Water Use

Water Used on September 28, 2023

299 m3 (391 yd3)

Targeted daily use - 365 m3



Graph courtesy the Village of McBride

Pipeline construction is complete between Valemount and Barriere

transmountain.com



Pipeline construction is now complete in the North Thompson region from Valemount to Barriere. Our camp communities in Valemount, Clearwater and Blue River have now closed and are being removed as weather permits. Smaller work crews will return to the region to complete right-of-way cleanup and reclamation.

Thank you for hosting our Trans Mountain workforce in this region and for your patience during construction.

For information on construction progress in other regions and to learn more about reclamation, visit transmountain.com.

You may notice:

- Fewer workers living and working in the area
- Decreased use of local stores and services
- Closure and removal of our camp communities
- Reduced vehicles and traffic control on local roads and Highway 5
- Ongoing use of yards in the region

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Have horses but want to be close to town? Well, this property can't be more perfect than that. 3.69 acres within town limits, town water, brand new roof, recently upgraded septic, fenced and cross fenced, with a Quonset and a horse shelter. And that's just outside! At almost 4,000 sf, this 6 bedroom home is the family space you've been looking for.

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3315 Sawyer Rd



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Stunning 4 bdrm /3 bath custom built log home on over 5 acres of private land. This gorgeous home boasts a new kitchen, massive bright living room with vaulted ceilings. Private master suite with ensuite, walk in closet and your very own deck. Bonus "Mother in Law Suite" with private entrance equipped with a mini kitchen and currently rented. Huge deck, firepit, picnic area and dbl garage completes this incredible home! By appointment only.

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