



Market season kicks off in Dunster

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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

Your weekly source of news, views and entertainment

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Kasey, Sophia, and Dustin Snyder sit on a rock along the edge of Swift Creek, ready to release thousands of endangered Chinook Salmon fry into the creek. Snyder, a member of the Salmon Support Team with Spruce City Wildlife Association, told attendees the survival rate of the fry raised in their hatchery have an 85 to 90 per cent chance of survival, compared to a survival rate of five to 15 per cent of fry in the wild.

The team harvests eggs from salmon to raise them in their hatchery to conserve the species.

"We go to a variety of streams throughout the upper and middle Fraser. We collect broodstock, which means we capture the adults. We take the eggs in the milk, we bring them back to our facility in Prince George, and we raise them there until they get to a certain size and we get to the right time of year, which is right now. We go back to that natal stream and we release them. The reason why we're doing this is as part of a rebuilding program for conservation," Snyder told attendees.

Read more on P8

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# “Cone Zone” safety campaign enters its 14th year

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The annual Cone Zone campaign – a joint initiative of the Work Zone Safety Alliance and Road Safety at Work – launched last Monday. Now in its 14th year, the campaign aims to discourage reckless driving around workers in “cone zones,” high-traffic areas where construction, landscaping, emergency medical responses, or other roadside work is occurring.

According to Trace Acres, Program Director for Road Safety at Work, an average of 25 roadside workers are seriously injured and one is killed by passing vehicles in B.C. each year. The organizers of the Cone Zone campaign would like to see those numbers reduced to zero.

“We really try to get the message out to remind drivers of the need to slow down and pay attention when they’re driving through or past roadside work,” said Acres. “We always run it at the same time, the middle of May, to coincide with the major road construction season around the province.”

While work sites might not always have specific speed limits posted, drivers should take note of cones, flashing lights,

and any signage suggesting work is happening, said Acres.

“Any time you come upon a scene where you see those lights, you should slow down, pay attention, look for people who might be directing traffic and look for signage telling people what to do,” he added. “If you’re on a four-lane road and it’s safe to do so, move over into the left lane to give the workers more room to do their jobs.”

Operations Manager at highway maintenance contractor Emil Anderson, Brock Maguire, told The Goat he’s seen firsthand how important cautious driving is around roadside work – especially along the narrow lanes of Highway 5.

“For the most part, (drivers) are careful,” Maguire said. “But there are certainly some people who have a little bit of a lack of respect for the work that’s going on ... we do the best we can to slow traffic down, but during long weekends and heavy traffic in the summertime it gets to be a bit of a handful.”

Maguire believes campaigns like the Cone Zone are important for their advocacy of safe working conditions.

“Anything we can do to make the travelling public more aware of what we go through as road maintenance workers along the highway is important,” he said.

# Firsthand from a flagger

By ANDREA ARNOLD

In order to take a job as a flagger working along the highways, one has to live life a little differently, according to local flagger Travis Feldham.

“It’s a crazy job,” he said. “You spend most of your shift trying not to get hit by vehicles.”

Feldham has been working with the McBride-based flagging crew Robson Valley Traffic Control for about a year, and he says he still really likes it and the people he works with.

In just the short time that he has been out on the roads, he has noticed an overall increase in aggression shown by drivers.

“Initially, the big problem was out on Highway 5 where signs were left out when they were not needed,” he said. “People lost faith in the signs.”

However, now that the pipeline construction has moved on, he says that the level of intensity has not decreased and he isn’t sure why.

When the flagging crew is called out, they first set up their speed reduction zone. Feldham explained that the zone starts at the construction ahead sign, typically about 1.2 kilometres before the work site, and continues until .4 kilometres past the resume speed sign.

“Every other day at least we are dealing with someone driving dangerously over the speed limit,” said Feldham. “Not just five or 10 kilometres. I’m talking serious speeds.”

The crew has seen people speed into the work zone and try to run the stop sign. Feldham says that the automatic sign arms are most often targets of this behaviour.

When possible and safe, the flagging crew will try to get the attention of a reckless driver and get them to stop where a reminder that it is illegal to speed through a work zone is given. If the driver refuses to stop, crew members try to note the licence plate number, as well, they have a radar gun with them.

Feldham says that one of his coworkers was nearly hit while trying to get a driver to slow down going through the zone.

“The driver not only proceeded through, he swerved, looking as though he was trying to hit her,” he said.

Feldham says that the abuse does not end with their physical safety. The radio channel the crew uses to communicate is public. He says they are frequently sworn at and threatened as they are trying to create a safe environment for workers and travellers alike.

“I’m not sure why, when someone has been driving at 100 kilometres per hour for the last however many hours, that waiting for five minutes to be able to proceed safely is a big deal,” he said. “I had someone ask why they couldn’t just drive on the other side of the road. I had to explain to him that if he did that he would be driving into oncoming traffic.”

At two job sites recently, Feldham says that the RCMP were present to help keep people safe. At one location south of Valemount, 10 tickets were issued in one day, and during the clean up following the recent Goat River accident, 12.

He says that their crew has built a really good relationship with the other departments they work alongside when out at a site, and with the local law enforcement. He calls the flaggers human shields, that work to make sure everyone working is safe, and that they do not have to watch their own backs.

Feldham says that one of the things he really appreciates about the crew he works with is the overall mindset of safety orientation.

One example of different departments working together to increase safety, is that this past winter, while flagging crews were set up at the West Twin bridge while BC Hydro worked, Emil Anderson crews provided extra road coverage leading up to and through the speed reduction zone.

In spite of the serious and dangerous nature of the job, Feldham feels like the positivity that he personally experiences on the job outweighs the negative.

“Sometimes people bring us water,” he said. “Others may just wave or give us a thumbs up as they drive past. The one or two people a day who provide positive feedback either in person or even on Facebook, makes up for it all.”

# Market season kick-off



The annual plant sale and market was held at the Dunster Hall on Saturday May 18th. The weather looked suspect but the sun won out for the event as people from across the valley came together for the first market of the year. Many vendors had starter plants for sale. There were some food options, creative clothing and trunk sale booths set up. A successful start to the market season. The next Dunster Community Market will be held in July. /ANDREA ARNOLD



Bo keeps a watchful eye from his hiding spot as dad Ray greets visitors to the River Bottom Farm booth. /ANDREA ARNOLD

# Valemount Council: Audit, Entrance Sign, RV use

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Valemount Council discussed their 2023 audit, reviewed an updated design for the entrance sign on 5th Avenue, and repealed a bylaw allowing RVs to be used as residences on lots in the village during their May 14th meeting.

Mayor Owen Torgerson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Village Audit

Council received two delegations. The first was from Corey Naphtali, a Lead Engagement and Audit Partner for accounting organization KPMG. Each year, local governments must have their financial statements audited by an independent auditor, who then presents their audit opinion to the government's council or board. Then, the government provides a copy of the statements to the Inspector of Municipalities by May 15th.

Naphtali said the Village's financial statements are clean and in adherence to Canadian public sector accounting standards. He gave an overview of how the Village's 2023 financial statements compare to the 2022 statements.

The total financial assets for the Village have decreased, from \$25.7M in 2022 to \$25.2M in 2023. However, the Village's financial liabilities have also decreased, so the Village's net financial assets came out to roughly \$22M in 2022 and 2023. He also gave a breakdown of the revenues and expenses the Village accrued in both years.

Torgerson asked how the public transportation service costs – which were about \$606,000 in 2023 – were calculated, as Valemount does not have public transit. Naphtali said the wages and other costs associated with the Public Works department, including road maintenance, building maintenance, and airport maintenance are covered under the public transportation section.

Torgerson thanked Naphtali for his presentation, and Council moved to receive the delegation.

### Recycling Interruptions

Naphtali's delegation was followed by a presentation from Laura Zapotichny, General Manager of Environmental Services for the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. Zapotichny gave updates to the District's plans for its recycling services, as recycling for non-cardboard items will be unavailable from May 31st until early fall.

Read more about Zapotichny's presentation in this week's issue.

Once Council moved to receive Zapotichny's delegation, they moved on to administrative reports.

### Quarterly Report

Council reviewed their second-ever quarterly report after staff introduced the format in February. It provides an overview of data on the Village's operations, including bylaw contraventions, water use, and permits issued, among other things.

### Asset Management Plan Grant

The Village is currently following an Asset Management Plan developed in 2020. Staff are seeking to apply for a grant which would help fund the creation of an updated capital plan, which would include more up-to-date infrastructure costs and identify capital projects for the next five to ten years.

The Union of BC Municipalities offers an Asset Management Planning program which can fund the development of asset management plans. Village staff sought approval to apply for a \$25,000 grant from the program, which would cover half the estimated cost of developing an updated plan.

Council unanimously approved the request.

### Entrance Sign contract

The current entrance sign at the corner of 5th Avenue and Highway 5 is rotting and may obstruct drivers' field of vision, so Council contracted Image Signs to create new potential designs. Council chose a design

at their February 13th meeting, but staff had concerns about whether the sign's height could accommodate commercial vehicles. Staff sent the design to the Ministry of Transportation for review and incorporated the Ministry's suggestions into the new design.

Council approved staff to enter an agreement with Image Signs to build an entrance sign based on the new design, estimated to cost a little under \$233,000. The current sign will be replaced in late summer or early fall of this year, according to the staff report.

### Water Service extension

Ray Smith and Jessica Hammerstrom operate a bed and breakfast in their home just outside of village limits. Their current water source is a shallow well on their property, but it is difficult and expensive to maintain, according to the letter they sent to Council. Smith and Hammerstrom asked if it would be possible to tap into the Village's water line instead, which runs in front of their property.

Staff recommended that Council deny Smith and Hammerstrom's request. Fulfilling the request would require lots of time and resources, according to the staff report: for example, inspectors would have to determine the risk of contamination from the nearby well, and a meter would have to be installed to track the property's water use and charge fees accordingly. The Village has denied similar requests for the same reasons, the staff report says.

Council unanimously decided to deny the request.

### Parking Recommendations

In January, Valemount Council approved for the Traffic and Transportation Committee to investigate establishing an Active Transportation Route on Karas Drive, which would allow pedestrians and cyclists to use the drive. The Committee asked consulting firm Urban Systems for feedback on the proposed Active Transportation Route and reviewed its recommendations

CONT'D ON P6

www.valemount.ca

### Village of Valemount

#### Notice of Development Variance Permit Application

Please Take Notice that Development Variance Permit Application DVP-24-01 will be considered for approval:

**When: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 7:00pm**  
**Where: Council Chambers, Village of Valemount Office, 753 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC**

The Village of Valemount Council will be considering applications for Development Variance Permits for the following premises:

#### Development Variance Permit 24-01

The applicant proposes to vary Section 2.2.1 of Schedule A of the Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw to waive the requirement to use asphaltic concrete paving on Dogwood Street.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** THE NORTH WEST 1/4 OF DISTRICT LOT 7355 CARIBOO DISTRICT EXCEPT PLANS B5959, H343, 8811, 9689, 11201, 11338, 14606, 17326, 18679, 22253, 23527, 26557, 27976, 30322, 33998, PGP48091, AND EPP103445 (202 Ash Street).



A copy of the Development Variance Permit will be available for viewing on the Village website at www.valemount.ca and during regular office hours (Mon. to Fri. 8:30am to 12:30pm & 1:30pm to 4:30pm), from this date through May 28, 2024

### Cont'd...

at the Village Office, 735 Cranberry Lake Road.

Anyone who deems their interest in land to be affected by the proposed Development Variance Permits are invited to submit comments. Written submissions can be submitted by email to planner@valemount.ca, or via letter to the Village of Valemount. Written submissions will be accepted until **12:00 pm on May 28, 2024.**

All correspondence submitted to the Village of Valemount in response to this Notice will form part of a public record and will be published in a meeting agenda when this matter is before the Council or a Committee of Council. The Village considers the author's address relevant to Council's consideration of this matter and will discuss this personal information. The author's phone number and email address is not relevant and should not be included in the correspondence if the author does not wish this personal information disclosed.

### VIC & Museum Update

Tourist season is upon us! You may notice the streets once again lined with busses, and you'll start to feel the summer energy in the air. So, when you see new faces around town, make sure to stay kind, patient, and inclusive. Keep your eyes open for updated Visitor Centre hours in the coming weeks, and make sure to stop by the museum, opening the first week of June.

### Traffic Flow Change

Village Council has approved a change in traffic flow at the intersection of 5th Avenue and Main Street. The purpose is to reduce the risk of an oncoming train while vehicles are stopped on the rail tracks.

This change will be implemented this spring. Please watch for a change in signage and proceed accordingly.

### Changes at Regional District Transfer Station

The Village has received notification of a change to the RDFFG recycling service provider beginning May 31<sup>st</sup>, leading to a temporary disruption in recycling services at the Valemount Transfer Station.

The Village will continue to pick up solid waste on the current schedule, and will monitor the volumes entering the waste stream during this temporary disruption. Should the current level of service not meet needs, we may consider alternatives to manage the extra volume.

As always, people are asked to refrain from illegal dumping of any products.

Like you, the Village is looking forward to enhanced recycling services when the new recycling contract is in place.

If there are concerns from individual residents regarding recycling, they are asked to call Darren Wahl, Operations Manager at the RDFFG at 250-960-4400.

### CBT ReDi Adjudication Committee

Residents of Valemount and RDFFG

The Village of Valemount is looking for committed volunteers to fill vacancies on the CBT ReDi Adjudication Committee for the 2025 cycle of the program.

This is your chance to be part of the process that will make recommendations to Council on which non-profit projects should be prioritized in our community.

There are 4 upcoming vacancies on the Committee and the deadline for applications is 12:00 pm on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Visit [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca) for more information on how to apply.



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

# ✓ Last-Minute Checklist for Protecting Your Home and Property from Wildland Fire



## Evacuation tips

Monitor conditions and follow the advice of local authorities.

**If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately.**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Review your evacuation plan for your family and pets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit <a href="https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/">https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/</a> for helpful tips and evacuation plan templates.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have your emergency kit ready and stocked with cash, portable radio, prescription medications, eye glasses, change of clothes, pet food, flashlights and batteries, etc. Make sure your phone numbers, insurance information and other important documents for your emergency kit are current. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit <a href="https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/">https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/</a> for a more complete list of emergency supplies.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Before evacuating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turn off air conditioning.</li> <li>Turn off your home water, electricity and gas.</li> <li>Close all doors, garage doors and windows. If weather seal or doors have gaps, seal with duct tape.</li> </ul>



## Quickly address outside surroundings

Complete a scan around your home and property and take steps to remove combustibles.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove everything combustible within 10 m of your home, such as toys, patio furniture, cushions, decorative items, firewood, and potted plants that are on and under your deck and within 10 m of your home. Prioritize the first 1.5 m (5 ft) around your home and deck moving outwards from there. Move all combustible items into your shed, home, or garage.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove leaves, pine needles and other debris from your roof and gutters.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mow grass and weeds within 10 m of the house to 10 cm in length or less.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clear all dead plants, leaves, and weeds within 10 m of your home. Maintain a 1.5 m non-combustible surface around your home and deck by sweeping or raking down to mineral soil, rock, or concrete. Remove all bark mulch within 1.5 m of your home.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have a propane tank located on your property: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move propane tanks to more than 10 m away from structures.</li> <li>Remove weeds and other debris from the area around large stationary propane tanks so there is no combustible material near the tank.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have a combustible fence that attaches to your home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure the gate in an open position.</li> <li>Clear vegetation and debris along both sides of combustible fence lines.</li> </ul>



## Check around the house

Check vents on roof, foundation and exterior walls to prevent embers from entering your home.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Check your attic and foundation (crawl space) vents to see if they are screened and in good repair. Use duct or metal tape to temporarily cover damaged vents and those with 3 mm mesh screening.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you store cardboard boxes and other easily ignited materials near a vent in your attic or crawl space, move them as far away as possible from vent(s). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Another option is to place tape over vent(s) at these locations. <b>Be sure to remove tape when you return home.</b></li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover dryer vents and wall-mounted make-up air openings for furnaces with a plywood cover, metal tape or duct tape. <b>Be sure to remove plywood, metal tape or duct tape when you return home.</b>



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# Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER



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

## South African Election: The Fall of the ANC

“The old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born,” wrote Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci in 1929. “Now is the time of monsters.”

Gramsci’s remark is being liberally quoted by South African journalists in the run-up to the election on 29 May, for the old world in which the African National Congress completely dominated the country’s politics is definitely coming to an end. For the first time since the end of apartheid, the ANC’s share of the vote will fall below 50%.

Unfortunately, the decline of the party that ended white minority rule in South Africa has not led to the emergence of big new parties with big new ideas. The latest opinion poll puts the ANC at 40%, the Democratic Alliance (DA) at 22%, and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) at 11.5%, plus a couple of smaller Zulu tribal parties.

As ‘new worlds’ go, this is deeply unimpressive. The ANC is riddled with corruption and nepotism, the DA is a safe haven for most white voters and many middle-class blacks, and the EFF are pantomime radicals whose ‘firebrand’ leader, Julius Malema, makes an unconvincing monster.

EFF members of parliament wear identical red boiler suits and Malema usually wears a Che Guevara-style beret. He talks boldly about nationalising the banks and the mines, and his line on land reform and white farmers is a real attention-getter: “We are not calling for the slaughtering of white people. At least for now.”

But that sort of bloodcurdling rhetoric has a strictly limited appeal, and the EFF is not polling any higher than it did in the last election. Malema’s best chance of gaining a share of power lies not in revolution but as a junior partner (at least at first) in coalition with the ANC he affects to despise.

He even acknowledges his real game plan publicly from time to time, albeit in his usual aggressive language: “We are going to kiss a lot of frogs along the way [to power]. We are patient. The ANC is not a small organisation. You have to eat it bit by bit.”

It’s a plausible strategy, given how tattered and exhausted the ANC is, but by the time Malema becomes president (if he ever does) he may have mellowed out a great deal more. In lifestyle, he is already as far from the people he claims to represent as the most privileged ANC

‘comrade’, although he can certainly talk the talk.

As for the possibility of reform within the ANC, it’s probably too late for that. Cyril Ramaphosa, president since 2018, was seen as the party’s last, best hope, but he has made little headway against the local party barons who have carved up the economy between them. He is also now beset by accusations of corruption himself.

And yet, it’s too soon to write off South Africa as a failed state. The economy is a wreck, but the resources are still there. The schools are atrocious, but enough children succeed to make it one of the better educated countries in Africa. The violence touches almost everybody one way or another, but people carry on regardless.

The ‘thirty lost years’ were probably inevitable. Those who fought for South Africa’s freedom in the ANC were only human, they made great sacrifices, and after victory they felt entitled to some reward. Later recruits to the ANC just followed their example.

That has to end sometime. This is one of those inflection points when change becomes possible. It could happen.

## Province hopes to reduce Kinbasket drawdown through negotiations with U.S.

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

For the past six years, negotiating committees from Canada and the U.S. have been locked in the process of modernizing the Columbia River Treaty, which sets guidelines for the use of hydroelectric power and flood control from the river. The Treaty governs B.C. Hydro’s use of the Kinbasket reservoir, and a modernized Treaty may dictate how much drawdown – that is, reduced water levels – Hydro can cause in the Kinbasket, sources say.

Village councillor Donnie MacLean sits on the Local Government Committee for the Columbia River Treaty, and told The Goat about the Treaty’s local impacts.

BC Hydro’s use of the Kinbasket reservoir results in drawdown of water levels, which in turn may contribute to airborne dust and loss of land in the area, MacLean told The Goat. These conditions can make the Kinbasket ecosystem less habitable for native animals, and mean a loss in recreational opportunities near Valemount, impacting the local economy.

MacLean’s concerns are shared by other Columbia Basin communities. In 2021, the Local Government Committee outlined these concerns in a letter to the Treaty negotiators. The Committee recommended that negotiators provide more research on the impacts of the Treaty on basin communities, work towards having less fluctuation in water levels due to drawdown, and include ecosystem function as a priority in the Treaty.

Additionally, the Province of B.C., Canadian Columbia River Treaty team and BC Hydro held an information session about the Arrow Lakes Reservoir in March which discussed Treaty negotiations. While details of treaty negotiations are confidential, the Treaty team confirmed that the U.S. and Canada are considering ways to manage water volumes through the Treaty.

In an email to The Goat, Executive Director, Columbia River Treaty, and B.C. Lead, Canadian Negotiation Delegation Kathy Eichenberger expanded on how local concerns are being accounted for during Treaty negotiations.

“The B.C. government’s Columbia River Treaty team communicates regularly with the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee to make sure Canadian negotiators are up to date on Basin community issues and concerns,” Eichenberger wrote. “The Province is aware of the Treaty’s impacts on Kinbasket, Arrow Lakes and Duncan Reservoirs and is committed to seeking improvements through ongoing negotiations with the U.S. to modernize the Treaty.”

Additionally, the Province has been engaging with local communities by posting updates on the Treaty website, Facebook, and Twitter feeds, and releases a regular newsletter about the Treaty. When discussions are nearing their end, the Province will engage basin communities to provide information on the proposals in the Treaty and receive feedback before negotiations are finalized, according to Eichenberger.

Specifics on the negotiations are confidential, Eichenberger said, but the Canadian Treaty team hopes to create a modernized Treaty that allows B.C. dams to adapt to climate change.

“One of our key goals is to gain more flexibility in how B.C. operates its Treaty dams. This would allow us to adjust dam operations to support ecosystems, Indigenous cultural values, and socio-economic interests, such as recreation and tourism,” Eichenberger added. “It’s important that a modernized Treaty includes fair compensation for the benefits the Treaty provides to irrigation, navigation, fisheries and recreation in the U.S. At the same time, we want to continue benefiting from providing flood-risk management downstream and coordinating with the U.S. to ensure that the region continues to produce clean, renewable energy.”

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# Valemount council...cont from pg 3

during an April 10th meeting.

The Village will likely not continue pursuing an Active Transportation Route as Urban Systems said the road would be difficult to adapt safely for pedestrians and cyclists. However, Urban Systems recommended installing signage to discourage parking on Karas Drive.

In keeping with this recommendation, the Committee asked Council to investigate placing “No Parking” posts on the curb in front of Petro Canada, and to approve painting “No Parking” on the retaining wall in front of the Valemount Vacation Inn.

Council unanimously approved both requests.

## Five-Year Financial Plan

Each year, the Village submits a financial plan for the current fiscal year and the following four fiscal years to the Province in accordance with the Local Government Act. Council gave first and second readings to the plan on March 26th, and third reading on April 23rd.

Council unanimously approved adoption of the plan.

## Tax Rate Bylaw

In accordance with the Community Charter, before May 15th of each year, Council must pass a bylaw establishing the tax rates upon which property taxes are based. Because Valemount collects taxes for the Regional District and Fraser-Fort George Hospital as well as general municipal taxes, the bylaw includes rates for all three taxing authorities.

Council gave the bylaw first, second and third reading at their April 23rd meeting. Council unanimously adopted the bylaw at their May 14th meeting.

## Public Notice Bylaw

As previously covered in The Goat, the Village is preparing to adopt a Public Notice Bylaw that would

establish methods of notice for public hearings and meetings. To comply with provincial legislation, local governments must have two methods of notice listed in their Public Notice Bylaw.

The Bylaw names the Village website, Facebook page, and the digital and print editions of The Goat as its methods of public notice. Having methods other than The Goat will improve the Village’s flexibility in proceeding with matters requiring notice, as the Village will be able to give notice even when newspaper advertising is not available, according to the staff report.

Council unanimously approved third reading of the bylaw.

## Temporary Structures Bylaw Repeal

During construction of the Trans Mountain Pipeline, Valemount saw an influx in recreational vehicles (RVs) on lots as workers struggled to find housing. Council adopted a Temporary Residential Structures Bylaw to govern where RVs could be established.

Because more housing is available within the village since completion of the pipeline, and because RVs do not meet the BC Building Code requirements for a permanent residence, staff recommended the repeal of the Bylaw.

Council unanimously approved repealing the Bylaw. RVs can no longer be used as permanent residences in the village, and Bylaw Enforcement will begin working to ensure RV users have appropriate permits.

## Upper Columbia Reservoir Updates

Torgerson said BC Hydro has been keeping water levels in the Kinbasket reservoir steady over the past five weeks, according to the company’s weekly Upper Columbia reservoir updates.

## Invasive Mussel Defence

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship sent Torgerson a letter announcing new funding for the Invasive Mussel Defence Program. BC Hydro has committed \$900,000 each year for the next five years to the Program, and the BC Wildlife Federation, Pacific Salmon Foundation, and Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation collectively contributed \$150,000. Torgerson said the Program is receiving support from many organizations.

## Valemountain Sports Days

The Valemount Community Sport Days Association is holding this year’s annual Valemountain Days festival from June 7th to 9th. President Laura Keil wrote a letter requesting approval of road closures and use of the sportsgrounds to hold the festival.

Torgerson said Council delegated the authority to approve road closures to Public Works about six months ago.

## Public Comment

Resident Junior Osadchuk asked how much funding the Village has received from water, sewer, and garbage fees, as he was unable to read those numbers on the slideshow for the KPMG audit presentation. Torgerson said the reserve funds from water use were \$2.4M, and around \$4.1M for sewer funds.

## In-Camera

Torgerson adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Pursuant to section 90 (1)(d) & (e) of the Community Charter, Council moved to an in-camera session to discuss matters related to the security of the municipality’s property, and the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land.



**REGIONAL DISTRICT**  
of Fraser-Fort George

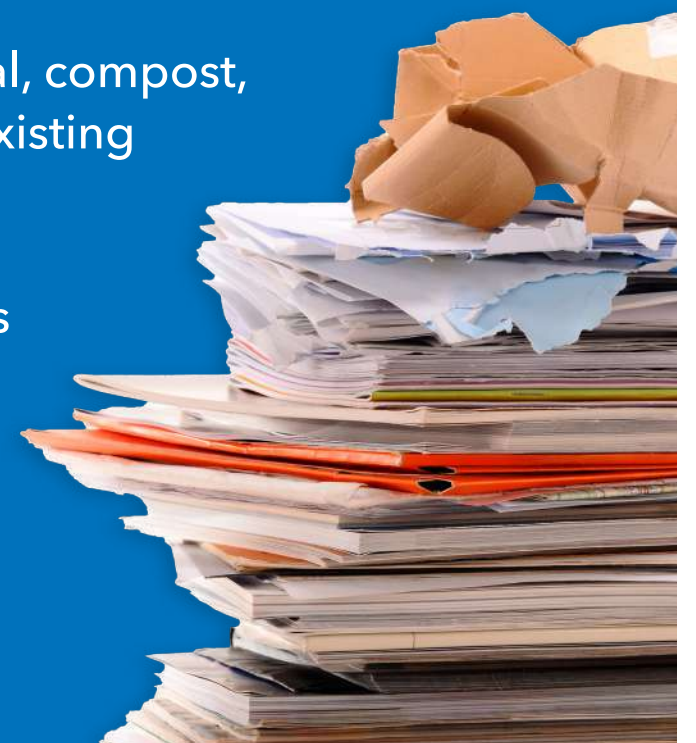
## Service Changes, Effective May 31

### PAPER AND PACKAGING RECYCLING COLLECTION IS TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE

Cardboard recycling will be unaffected as well as metal, compost, appliances, batteries, and oil will still be accepted at existing locations.

The Regional District is exploring other service options available through Recycle BC, the organization responsible for residential packaging and paper product recycling in BC.

**For more information, please visit [rdffg.ca](http://rdffg.ca)**



# Bluegrass ensemble coming to Valemount Legion

By SPENCER HALL

The Canadian bluegrass group known as Happy Trails, Prospector, are heading to Valemount to play a show at the Legion on Saturday, May 25th.

The group features Sarah Hamilton and Nathan Smith on twin fiddles, Miles Zurawell on the bluegrass style banjo, Patrick Hamilton on the rhythm guitar, and Nico Humby on upright bass. Every member of the group sings lead vocals and harmony throughout their performances, which the band says offers audience members a “diverse — yet cohesive — sound with tons of energy.”

Genre-wise, the band merges bluegrass, classic country, and old-time fiddle tunes.

Humby chatted with The Goat earlier this month and said the group first played together at a bluegrass camp held in Saskatchewan back in 2021.

“I don't think everyone knew each other, but the five of us ended up just hanging out all week and becoming friends,” Humby said.

He said at the end of the camp, there was a festival where they each had to play their individual sets and when siblings Patrick and Sarah Hamilton got up to perform, they invited Humby, Smith, and Zurawell to join them.

“So we did that, then afterwards we took a band photo, kind of just as a joke of the five of us,” Humby said. “We kind of already had a band name because there was a saying we were saying all week while leaving one jam to go join another jam. We would say Happy Trails, Prospector to the people before heading off.”

After posting the picture online for fun, Humby said a bluegrass festival on Vancouver Island reached out to the group wanting to hire them.

“We weren't actually a band, but we're like ‘Well, we're friends and we'd like to hang out more, so why don't we go do this festival?’” Humby recalled.

After playing a few more festivals together, the band decided to record an album, titled “The Good, The Bad, & The Dreadful,” at Sarah and Patrick's father's

studio in Whitehorse in January 2023. Humby said it took them five days of non-stop work to record the album in the dead of the Yukon winter.

“Every song on [the album], there's no originals. They're all covers. So it's basically just a selection of all our favourite tunes that fit our vibe. So a lot of funny subject matter and ripping fiddle tunes,” he said.

He said audience members can expect a high-energy show that even folks who don't typically listen to bluegrass will enjoy.

“Some people see bluegrass and see old time [country], they shy away from it a bit, just because it's something they're not really interested in. I really think that people, even if they don't like listening to it on the radio, if they see a live performance, it's just like a whole different experience,” he said. “We're playing around a single mic, so there's a lot of movement on stage and it's just a great live performance experience that I think everyone should get to experience once in life.”

The band's performance at the Legion will be a part of their very first tour, which kicked off in Calgary on May 17th.

Catch Happy Trails, Prospector live at the Valemount Legion Saturday, May 25th. Doors open at 7pm and the show kicks off at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.



Happy Trails, Prospector's May 25th performance at the Valemount Legion will be a part of the band's very first tour, which kicked off in Calgary on May 17th. / SUBMITTED

## Celebration of Tourism



Executive Director of the Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association Curtis Pawliuk led attendees in a toast at last Saturday's Tourism Valemount event. Pawliuk's toast was followed by a brief speech from Mayor Owen Torgerson, MLA Shirley Bond, and Simpcw First Nation Chief George Lampreau.

Mayor Torgerson highlighted Valemount's easy access to outdoor recreation during his speech at the Tourism Valemount event. “Valemount is in the middle of everywhere,” he said. /ABIGAIL POPPLE



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Branch 266

**Regular Events:**

Friday Night Dinners w/ Weekly Special  
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Starting May 31st Friday Special will be BBQ'd burgers with regular menu. Watch for specials.

Sunday Pancake Breakfast 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Bingo- Second Thursday every month Doors at 6:00 p.m.

**Coming Events:**

May 25th Happy Trails, Prospector Bluegrass show  
Tickets available Infinity and the Legion

June 13th Bingo

June 23rd Big Train Acoustic Blues Duo. Tickets on sale at Infinity and the Legion

**General Meetings:**

Third Tuesday of each month @ 7 p.m.

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

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 266, 970 Main Street, Valemount

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# Freedom for the fry

## About 20,000 chinook salmon fry released into Swift Creek



Locklan was one of many local children who had the opportunity to release salmon fry back into their natal habitat of Swift Creek via water slide. /SPENCER HALL



The bridge at George Hicks Regional Park was a popular place among attendees to view the release, filling up well before the release began. According to Spruce City Wildlife Association, over 250 people attended the event. /SPENCER HALL



Left to Right: Marcie Down with Tourism Valemount, Dustin Snyder with Spruce City Wildlife, MLA Shirley Bond, Simpcw First Nation Chief George Lampreau, and Valemount Mayor Owen Torgerson stand in the George Hicks Regional Park parking lot shortly before the release kicked off. /SPENCER HALL



After being released into the creek, the fry quickly began searching for food. The fry favoured still, shadowy areas in the water, like the underside of this rock. /SPENCER HALL



Volunteers with the Salmon Support Team stand with the tank of chinook fry moments before releasing the fish into Swift Creek. Spruce City Wildlife Association said it was volunteers like these who "worked tirelessly over the last 10 months to ensure the healthy growth of this endangered species." /SPENCER HALL



The salmon fry weren't the only ones who were hungry. Hot dogs, chips, water, and juice boxes were provided by the Valemount IGA. Lenora Dunphy and Tanya Russell with Tourism Valemount stand by the grill ready to hand out hot dogs. /SPENCER HALL





Top right - Custon, Tom and Shelly Ryan riding towards the herd in preparation for the movement of the herd. / SANDRA JAMES  
 Top - Standing side by side it shows that Skully the Irish Wolfhound is almost the same size as the little painted foal. / SANDRA JAMES



# Simpcw Resources Group to open seasonal market

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Simpcw First Nation and Simpcw Resources Group are two of the recipients among the inaugural group of 64 organizations receiving funds from the Indigenous Food Security and Sovereignty Program. Simpcw First Nation will use the funds to develop plans to expand a community garden in Barriere, while Simpcw Resources Group will use them to fund a grocery store and establish a seasonal market.

Announced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in July of 2023, the program aims to foster a more sustainable, affordable food supply for Indigenous communities in rural and remote areas, according to a press release from the Ministry.

Simpcw First Nation did not respond to The Goat's request for comment.

In an email to The Goat, Director of Communications for Simpcw Resources Group Nicole Plato said the grocery store and market being funded by the grant will supply affordable, nutritious, locally-grown food, and support local producers.

"Ultimately, this project represents a step towards sustainability and self-sufficiency, reducing reliance on external food sources and enhancing community resilience," Plato wrote. "The involvement of local producers also helps in retaining economic benefits within the community, creating jobs, and building capacity in agricultural skills among community members."

Plato could not disclose the exact amount of money Simpcw Resources Group received from the grant, but said it provides a good starting-off point to bolster food systems and entrepreneurship within Simpcw First Nation.

"Our strategy is to use the initial grant as a springboard to attract further support," she said.

The grocery store, located in Barriere, is already open. It sources its produce from local producers, ensuring that food is fresh and high-quality, according to Plato.

The seasonal market, called Teniye Local Market, will also serve as a community hub: it will include a general store with merchandise from local artists, a dog park, and food truck with local dishes, among other amenities.

"The Teniye Local Market in Barriere, B.C., has been thoughtfully designed to serve as a comprehensive community hub, offering a range of facilities that cater to diverse needs and preferences," Plato wrote. "Collectively, these facilities not only enhance the market's appeal but also foster a vibrant, inclusive atmosphere that supports local economic growth and promotes sustainable living."

The Barriere-located market will celebrate its grand opening on June 29th.




### Board of Directors - Call for Applications

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

The Valemount Community Forest (VCF) and the Valemount Industrial Park (VIP) support the community by maintaining local control over forest resources, creating local employment and economic diversity with the Village of Valemount.

#### Role of Directors

The Boards of Directors assist with decision making for the Valemount Community Forest and the Valemount Industrial Park, in the best interests of the Companies, and in accordance with the Business Corporations Act, the VCF/VIP articles of incorporation, and relevant policies.

The Board of Director's Regular Board Meetings are once a month at 3:00 p.m. Members will be notified in advance of changes to a meeting date and/or time. Directors are expected to attend all meetings of the board, participate in board discussions and vote on matters before the board.

Applications are available on the Village website [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca), and are to be submitted to the Village Office by 4:00 pm on June 17, 2024, referencing the following:


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

Applications can be submitted in person to:  
 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC.  
 Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, 1:30- 4:30pm  
 Or via email to [corporate@valemount.ca](mailto:corporate@valemount.ca)



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Valemount Community Forest Co. Ltd.  
and  
Valemount Industrial Park Co. Ltd.

### Annual General Meeting

- **Date: Tuesday June 4th**
- **Location: Valemount Community Hall, 201 Gorse St.**
- **Time: AGM starts at 6:00pm**
- **Refreshments provided**

### Tour the Valemount Specialty Mill

- **Before the AGM come for a tour at the sawmill**
- **Meet at the Community Hall at 4:00pm**
- **Personal vehicle convoy to 555 Cedarside Road**

# Regional District continues negotiations with RecycleBC

## Dunster will not qualify for recycling services

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is advocating for McBride to become a principal recycling depot, and trying to arrange alternative recycling services in Dunster, according to District General Manager of Environmental Services Laura Zapotichny.

The District is also going to institute tipping fees for users who generate a large amount of recyclables once the RecycleBC contract is in effect this fall.

Zapotichny presented updates on the District's recycling services to Valemount Council during its May 14th meeting.

The District has been negotiating a contract with RecycleBC since the board of directors accepted the company's offer for services at its April 18th meeting. Cascades – the contractor who previously provided recycling services for the District – is ending its contract on May 31st, after which recycling for products other than cardboard will be unavailable until RecycleBC services are established.

“There will be a period of no service, there's just no way of getting around that. We are working diligently to get our contract signed,” Zapotichny said. “Once we have the contract signed, RecycleBC has 90 days to implement their program. It is anticipated sometime in early fall ... my realistic guess is October 1st.”

RecycleBC has offered to make the transfer stations at Valemount, Mackenzie, and Quinn Street into principal depots. At these facilities, RecycleBC will be responsible for providing bins, hauling recyclables to the landfill, and processing and marketing all recyclables. McBride's recycling station will become a satellite depot, meaning the District will have to provide bins and the cost of hauling recyclables to the nearest principal depot.

The District hopes to negotiate the establishment of a principal depot at McBride, Zapotichny said.

“We're fighting hard for McBride to be considered a principal depot, to be perfectly blunt,” she told Valemount Council. “We feel that if you take the larger McBride area that is serviced by that depot, they should qualify (based on population).”

### Dunster “absolutely will never qualify” for services

Dunster will likely be hit the hardest by the lack of recycling services, according to Zapotichny. RecycleBC requires depots to have staff on-site and a way to keep bins secure when staff aren't present – criteria which Dunster lacks.

“With Dunster not having staff, gates, fence (to secure its recycling bins), or hours (when staff are operating the service), Dunster absolutely will never qualify under the RecycleBC program,” she said. “We're looking at how we provide service for the community – it might not be part of the RecycleBC program, but how can you provide it in a different mechanism?”

According to Zapotichny, Dunster is not the only rural transfer station in the province that is unstaffed and unfenced. The District is looking at alternative recycling services, but will have to get creative, she said.

### Tipping fees to discourage large volume

Zapotichny's presentation included an overview of the District's new tipping fees for recyclables, which are imposed when the volume of waste being deposited is three cubic metres or greater. Tipping fees are increased each fall, according to Zapotichny – most recently, they came up to \$27, but this number may be revisited in October or November if the District decides it is too high a fee.

“The intention of this tipping fee was to apply to commercially-generated high amounts of waste coming into the transfer station – it was not intended to be applied to small residential loads,” said Zapotichny. “It is a significant cost to haul bins back to Prince George, where we deposit them in the landfill. And when we were having certain individuals coming into the site with enough (waste) to fill an entire transport bin, that's when we looked at how we could recover some of that cost.”

The District is continuing to work with transfer station attendants to communicate “I recognize that there has been some confusion and some frustration,” Zapotichny said. “We continue to try to work through this as best we can, and we're always available to talk to people and provide clarity.”

# BC Hydro expects a “challenging” summer

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Last summer's province-wide drought and this winter's low snowpack may make for a difficult summer in the Upper Columbia Basin, BC Hydro representatives say. Engineers, managers, and public relations employees of the corporation held an online meeting with residents of the Columbia Basin last week to discuss how Hydro's operations in the area may be impacted by drought conditions this summer.

“The bottom line is, we are in a drought. In large part, our BC Hydro reservoirs rely on nature to fill up,” said Southern Interior Community Relations Manager Dag Sharman. “It looks like another challenging year and it could be similar to last summer, but it's too early to know for certain.”

Sharman invited residents to contact Hydro's Community Relations team with any concerns, and to sign up for weekly Upper Columbia reservoir level forecasts through the “Columbia” page on bchydro.com.

Sharman's comments were followed by a presentation from Darren Sherbot, Manager of System Optimization.

According to Sherbot, in a typical year around 70 per cent of the Columbia system's inflow comes from melting snow – rain comprises another 20 per cent, and just 10 per cent comes from glacier melt. Given the low snowpack this year, that ratio may change, and it's possible the system will receive enough rain to support Hydro's operations throughout the summer.

“We already know, at the beginning of May, that it's going to be a challenging

year for the Columbia system,” said Sherbot. “But what drove the drought last year was the lack of precipitation that subsequently occurred across July, August, September, October.”

Together, the Columbia and Peace systems make up about 55 per cent of the province's energy, according to Sherbot. In past years, when one of these systems had low reservoir levels, Hydro could rely on the other to supplement it.

“Last year, we didn't have that flexibility because we were in a province-wide drought. This year is shaping up (similarly) with the snowpack being low in all basins,” Sherbot said. “In times of low inflow last year ... we ended up importing almost one fifth of our generation.”

This year, Columbia Basin reservoirs are sitting at average levels – at this time last year, they were below average, Sherbot added.

“It's only because of the power purchases that we had across last year that enabled us to hit average levels, which in terms of planning puts us in a better position to deal with what looks to be another dry year,” Sherbot said.

BC Hydro will be having another operations update in June, said Upper Columbia Stakeholder Engagement Advisor Susan Edgell.

“We're doing what we can to manage the system under these (dry) conditions, but we are anticipating that our reservoirs will be low again this year,” Edgell said. “So throughout this period, we'll continue to provide you with updates so that you have the information you need when you need it – hence the reason we'll be having more of these meetings in June.”

## RDFFG staff recognized for service



Regional District of Fraser-Fort George representative Kenna Jonkman (far left) and Administrative Lead for the recreation facilities in both McBride and Valemount, Wes Keim, (far right) presented three recreation centre staff members with recognition of years served. Marion Cousineau served five years at both the Robson Valley Recreation Centre and the Canoe Valley Recreation Centre and has now retired from her position. Loretta Simpson has served the RDFFG for 35 years in a variety of roles that also included time in both facilities. Rick Burnett has worked for 30 years at the McBride facility and he joked that it started as a part time job. Staff from both facilities were in attendance at the presentation as they were attending a combined two day training session.

/ANDREA ARNOLD

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# PUZZLES



## CROSSWORD

Answers on P13

- Across**
- Unmatching
  - Move
  - Hitchhiker's aid
  - Itinerary word
  - Muscle quality
  - Hurricane's center
  - Do film work
  - Sandwich crawlers
  - Workout segment
  - Discover
  - Hair tonics
  - Seal, e.g. the deal (slang)
  - Deafening
  - Mailed boxes
  - Drink often served with sushi
  - "Look out...", 2 words
  - Warm feeling
  - In the worst way
  - Usually requires a driver
  - Sized up
  - In reserve, as money
  - Wear
  - Tale-teller
  - Directed
  - Pantry annoyance
- Down**
- President's office
  - Monopoly equipment
  - Computer information
  - Attitude
  - Large weight
  - Very involved with
  - Lacquer ingredient
  - Expected liberator
  - Nautical affirmative
  - Obedience school attendee
  - With opulence
  - Insurance claim particulars
  - Caribou kin
  - Downhill sport
  - Slangy assent
  - Drink selling establishment
  - "There it is!"

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	

- Gnawing mammals
- Remain
- Closed in on
- Cries out
- Call
- Woes of the world
- Hard to comprehend
- Nervously irritable
- Beatles "A \_\_\_ in the Life"
- "A Chorus Line" number
- Unreturnable serve

# HOROSCOPES

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

## Blooming Moon

In the physical world, the impact of a thing is based on what it physically is -- what it's composed of and what it does. The modern world is not an entirely physical world. In modernity, the human impact of things is often symbolic. What things represent can matter more than what they are. New relationships will blossom in this week of the flower moon. Early stages hint to the future. Effectiveness depends on understanding what things mean.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). It is your most sincere wish that your loved ones have an abiding sense of belonging. But what makes you an invaluable ally is that you don't stop at wishing. You consider the well-being of others to be, to some extent, your responsibility. It's a busy week for you, but you won't be sorry you made sure no one felt lonely in your presence.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). A distant goal is a wonderful way to brighten daily life. Anticipation does have a risk -- the risk of disappointment. But the energy it brings to your world is well worth it. Set your sites high. Invest. The planning you do this week will ramp up your excitement for months to come.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). If you don't follow your curiosities and drives, who will? You're the only one who can do it, so definitely do. This week, seize the opportunity to create something strictly for your own pleasure. You'll be surprised at how many others will derive joy from your creation.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Step 1: Hear what a person is proposing to you. Step 2: Hear what a person is REALLY proposing to you. You don't know what someone is saying until you know what they want. Seek to understand motivation. Listen to intention. Step 3: Figure out what's in it for you.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Some small dogs go bonkers with the barking when a large dog walks by. It doesn't matter how calm and well-behaved the larger dog is -- their size is the trigger. This is insecurity in action. Feeling vulnerable can cause a loss of grace. The metaphor will apply to a situation you handle with wisdom and turn into good fortune.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are gentle forces in your orbit, floating quiet as soap bubbles, watching, not intently but with the soft lens of impressionism, seeing the colors and contours that are the essence of your being. In other words, you have fans. Does knowing this make you want to perform a bit? Good. That will give you an edge.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You definitely have something to add to the conversation this week, but restraint will serve you well. Hold back. Quietly collect your assets. Observe. This is how you take control of your side of a game.

You'll know when it's time to share. Until then, better to ask another question and find out the agendas already in play.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). One thing leads to another and you're suddenly no longer simply exploring. Now you're in an actual relationship with the subject of your exploration. How do you know? Explorations are a javelin throw. Relationships are a volley. Explorations move ever-forward. Relationships twirl.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be enticed to dip your foot into the pool. You can get used to this. Take the steps to make it a part of your life. For the habit to stick, do it again and again and again. "As a single footstep will not make a path on earth, so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind." -- Henry David Thoreau

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you think in terms of "we," it changes everything. You make different moves for your group than you'd make for yourself as an individual. This week, you will so often act on behalf of your people that you may forget your personal agenda. Be sure to reconnect with it before the week is over.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Projects engage you in a range of ways this week. Sometimes your mind is a waffle, with little compartments ready to accept sweet information and keep it somewhat separated. Then there are spaghetti-like days when it all mixes, allowing you to integrate what you're learning into every aspect of life.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Giving love, acceptance, support, ease and the security of belonging is among the top generous gifts a human could contribute. Can you offer it to yourself? What could you do to make your life easier? If you had only yourself to consider, and unlimited resources, what would you make happen? To some smaller degree, you really can do this.

**THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:** This trip around the sun, promises are honored, potentials fulfilled. You'll find great treasures in the connections you nurture and the kindness you share. You'll be a savvy investor, and you'll often follow your instinct and double whatever currency you are dealing in. More highlights: You'll develop emotional muscle tone to the point of being an emotional bodybuilder, beautifully sculpted and able to lift people in any state. You stop caring about approval and do the thing you've been wanting to do for years.

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

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

Answers on P13

- Across**
- Resting place
  - Rd. intersector
  - PC rival
  - Outback birds
  - Insurer for military personnel
  - "Survivor" group
  - Green stuff
  - Demand from a broker
  - Some bills
  - Have the \_\_\_ for (get a crush on)
  - They may provide relief
  - Looker
  - Change, in a way
  - Market figure
  - Going public letters
  - Pricey
  - Hail, classically
  - Expression of delight
  - Arctic, for one
  - Shuteye
  - Angular head?
  - Little rascal
  - Hot car
  - Arouses interest in
  - Philharmonic instruments
  - Dean's e-mail address ender
  - Grotto sound
  - Money
  - Inexpensive investment option
  - Usual law school stint
  - Small dabbling duck
- Down**
- Religious offshoot
  - Actor Sharif
  - Combine
  - "Ain't It \_\_\_" (Fats Domino hit)
  - Put in a nutshell
  - Peter I & Paul I
  - It's a wrap!
  - Denali or Whitney, e.g.
  - Roman building features
  - "Ta-ta!"
  - Act your \_\_\_
  - Diner sandwich
  - Two-time U.S. Open champ
  - Gets revenge
  - Declare
  - "Sure"
  - Mazda \_\_\_
  - Painting style
  - Like very few games
  - Pieces
  - Tide type

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12			13		14
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62				63				64	
65				66				67	

- Lively Argentine export
- Not perfectly round
- Bank takebacks
- "Shoo!"
- Take up
- Unfortunate
- Quote
- Surprised gasps
- Glass receptacle
- Company that was the subject of the book "Power Failure"
- Skin abnormalities
- Letter, for short
- "What have we here?!"
- Like testimony, usually
- "We need to get a cat!"
- Second introduction?
- Eye, at the Eiffel Tower
- Newlyweds' car attachments
- Artist Paul
- Roush of baseball fame

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11	V	I	A	12	T	O	N	E	13	E	Y	E	
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37	E	Y	E	38	A	S	39	I	40	D	E		
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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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TOUGHIE ANSWERS

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11	E	M	U	S	12	U	S	A	13	A	14	T	R	I	15	B	E	
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ROBSON  
VALLEY

# Community Events

Send us your event to [ads@goatnewsmedia.com](mailto: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

FRIs **Family Place Drop-In** is moving to FRIDAYS from 9am-noon with Cat. 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) unless location otherwise stated. Registration not required. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

May 24 – Bouncy castle and tumble time

May 31 – Scavenger hunt at Centennial Park

### Ongoing Valemount Events

MON through FRIs The Valemount Seed Library is available in our lobby during business hours at RVCS Valemount (99 Gorse St). Office hours: Monday 10am-6pm and Tuesday to Thursday 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. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

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. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto: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 250-566-9107 or email [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org) for more info or to sign up.

TUES, WED, 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.

WED **Oldtimers band and music night** at the Golden Years Lodge 7pm. All welcome! Play music, listen or dance.

WED **Tech Cafe** @ The Valemount Learning Centre 10-noon Free compute, phone or tablet help. Drop in at #16 - 1295 Gordon Road. Any questions, contact Regena Bergen 250-566-4601.

TUES & FRI Drop-in soccer at Valemount Secondary. Age 12+. \$5 and waiver must be signed.

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 the CARE-A-VAN 778-915-8550 for a ride in the accessibility bus.

THURS from MAY 23-JUNE 13 12:30-2pm join RVCS and families for Sprouting Memories with our Families. We meet at the Valemount Community Garden (behind the secondary

school on 201 Ash St) for social interactions and sensory exploration while planting a garden and watching it grow. This program is free, and is for ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Registration is preferred: 1-844-324-2004 or [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

SAT 10am-11:15am **Creative writing group**. Join us for writing and friendly conversation at the Rocky Mountain Goat office. Everyone welcome. Contact Laura for more info at [laurashere@gmail.com](mailto:laurashere@gmail.com) / 250-566-5135.

SUN 1-3 pm **Crafty Stitchers meet** downstairs at the Valemount Public Library, all welcome! Call 250-566-4367.

SAT 10am-1pm the Valemount United Anglican Church has a **thrift store** at 7th and Cedar!

SUN **Pancake breakfast at the Valemount Legion** Sundays 8 to 10:30 am. By donation!.

MON through FRI the **Valemount Seed Library** is available in our lobby during business hours at RVCS Valemount (99 Gorse St). Office hours: Monday 10am-6pm and Tuesday to Thursday 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](mailto: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 250-566-9107 or email [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org) for more info or to sign up.

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## MCBRIDE

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, unless otherwise stated. For more information call 1-844-324-2004 or email: [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org). Upcoming themes:

May 27 – Bouncy castle fun at the RVCS play yard

WED MAY 29 - It's that time of year again! From 10:30am-12pm come join RVCS for Donkey, Donuts & Grandparents at the backyard of RVCS (942 3rd Ave). This special time is designed for elders and the animals to connect and mutually benefit from each other's company. Adults only. Brought to you by the Adult Literacy and Better at Home Seniors programs. There may be an appearance from a bunny and goats also. More info: 1-844-324-2004 / [events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

FRI June 14 **McBride 2&5km Color Fun Run/Walk/Wheel** @ 1pm at the Elementary School. 8 week training begins April 22 Contact Jodie Lukow for more information 250-230-8035.

### Ongoing McBride Events

MONs **ASL Club** meet weekly at the EFree church McBride. 12:30pm - 1:30pm. Beginners welcome! Contact Lonnie Lorenz if you have questions 250.569.7657

MON through THURS, McBride RVCS (942 3rd Ave) 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.

TUES **Tuesday Night Jam** 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.

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

WED **Free Drop-in Pickleball** 7:30-9pm @ the McBride Hightschool. Everyone welcome (grade 8 and older) Bring clean gym shoes. Equipment and basic instruction provided. No experience, or high level of fitness required.

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

MON & WED 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.

THURS – every first Thursday of each month join members for another Men's Shed McBride meeting at 942 3rd Ave at 3pm. Men's Shed aims to improve members' physical and mental health through a safe and friendly environment where men can work on meaningful projects, at their own pace and in the company of other men. We welcome a diverse and inclusive community! Email [mcbriedemenshed@gmail.com](mailto:mcbriedemenshed@gmail.com) for more info.

## BLUE RIVER

May 1st-31st It's **"May Madness"** in Blue River -- residents will be holding yard sales throughout the month! Items for sale will include furniture, antiques, and some vehicles. Call Norma at 250 673-8230 for more information.

## DUNSTER

SAT June 29 Annual ice cream social @ Dunster Community Hall.

SAT from JULY 6-SEPT 28 Saturday Farmers' Markets @ Dunster Community Hall.

## HAVE AN EVENT?

Let us know!

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EMAIL: [ads@goatnewsmedia.com](mailto:ads@goatnewsmedia.com)

# Remembering Rose Lorenz

Oct 21, 1933 - May 12, 2024

In honour of our mom (Rose Lorenz) who passed away on Mother's Day I would like to share this nature poem I wrote. Mom was always my biggest fan throughout my wildlife filming career. She not only loved God's creation very much but she gave me so much encouragement and had a near constant string of prayers going up to God for my protection during my many backcountry filming trips. She even encouraged me more than 25 years ago to purchase a revolver and get the license to carry it in case an angry bear or whatever would try to do me in. In 2010 a very angry mother grizzly did try to do just that and I'm thankful I was able to stop the bear's close range attack with the handgun. Mother was very close and dear to me and I can't wait to see her again when Jesus comes back to take all His redeemed ones to heaven with Him.



## Seasons of Nature

By Leon Lorenz

It's springtime in the Valley, the renewal of life is all around.

Take a deep breath and smell the fresh air and see what God has done,

The bears have left their dens with the cubs playing in the sun.

Songbirds are back, butterflies flutter here and there, A fragrant flower, a baby bear, it's all so wonderful and fair.

The cry of a loon, the call of a wolf is music to my ear, Nibbling on new grass the deer run and play and show little fear.

Climb high till you reach the mountaintop, you're in goat country.

Look across the valley, a golden eagle soars wild and free,

A shrill whistle pierces the silence, a sharp-eyed marmot the champion of all whistlers has spotted me.

There on a mountainside is a grizzly bear and is given respect by one and all,

The young goats are chasing each other on the cliffs but are careful not to fall.

The hot summer is here, the young grow stronger every day,

Baby birds learn to fly and leave the nest as they no longer want to stay.

Through sunshine and rain they live for today and worry not what tomorrow may bring,

I believe this to be true as when I go out in nature I hear the birds sing.

The days are getting shorter, the nights cooler, Some leaves have already turned crimson colour. Chinook salmon have reached their journeys end to spawn and die,

Bald eagles are watching this event as they circle in the sky.

Bears are highly skilled and grab the unwary with their jaws,

They roam and catch at will for they have no fishing laws.

Every animal and bird is preparing for winter in nature's own way,

Most birds have left as only full time residents stay. The leaves have all turned colour now, strong winds blow and they are torn away,

It's now easy to spot nests where families were raised back in May.

High overhead a large flock of geese wing southward, their cries come floating down on the still morning air.

Take a walk late in the evening, you just might hear the hooting of a great horned owl, or spot it on a branch, a silhouette against the sky,

Or watch quietly at a beaver pond, these hard workers are piling their food supply high.

One evening it starts to snow, birds and animals find shelter and lay low.

Morning dawns clear and bright,

The countryside has been transformed into a spectacular sight.

The tress no longer reaching for the sky stark and bare,

With snow covering every branch tells me that God does care.

What a great time to see what nature has written in the snow,

A grouse explodes from its snowy bed, but it need not worry I'm not its foe.

Further ahead a moose browses on brush, I stop and watch as I'm not in a rush.

Offset tracks tell me a marten had come this way in search of a meal,

If it caught a squirrel, to him it wouldn't be a big deal. Studying the signs in the snow is an open nature book,

So strap on snowshoes and take a closer look. You just never know what you'll see,

But patience and perseverance is the key.

## Thank you

A special thank you to the ambulance attendants, doctors, nurses, and all the staff at the McBride Hospital who took such good care of our mom, Rozan Lorenz, and extended such understanding and compassion to our family while we said goodbye to our dear mom.

Your special care was greatly appreciated.

Thank you again,

The Lorenz Family

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TEL: 1-250-566-1022  
EMAIL: [sherrimalone@royallepage.ca](mailto:sherrimalone@royallepage.ca)  
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**SHERRI MALONE**

REALTOR AT  
ROYAL LEPAGE  
ASPIRE REALTY

**1485 CRANBERRY LAKE RD**

**\$999,900**



**NEW LISTING!**

Countryside paradise has arrived! Whether you're inside your newly renovated home or outside on your picturesque acreage you're living your best life! The house had extensive renovations in 2022 & 2023. All windows were upgraded, the entire main floor was updated with paint, flooring, brand new kitchen and bathrooms. All kitchen appliances, woodstove and water tank were replaced as well. There are many smaller outbuildings, a 20x40 steel frame building, a 60ft round pen and some fencing. Needing a mortgage helper? No problem as downstairs has been run as a 3 bed B&B for many years. Location could not get any better as you are literally a two-minute drive from town. Come for a tour and see how perfect the countryside paradise really is!

**12870 E HWY 16**

**\$325,000**



**NEW LISTING!**

Your 14-acre oasis of serenity is here! Imagine the sunlight warming your face as you gaze at the stunning mountain view, listening to the birds singing their melodies and your year-round creek flowing over the rock bed. Located less than 20 minutes NW of Valemount right off Hwy 16. The 3 cleared areas on site, road to the back of the property, the powerhouse just needs hooked up to Hydro, 2 brand new 10x10 sheds and a mini gravel pit all contribute to an advantageous head start to your building plans. Water is taken care of as rights to the creek are attainable. Back of the property borders Crown Land giving you endless country to explore.

**1355 KING RD**

**\$399,500**



**NEW LISTING!**

Calling all hobby farmers! This property is for you! Conveniently located only a few minutes out of town, this 2.2 acre property has a little something for everyone. The house is an older manufactured home with an addition that's been well looked after. The spacious 28x28 garage gives you plenty of space for a workshop and for storing your vehicles and toys in. The back part of the property is fenced into two pastures for your animals. If you're not sold yet, you will be when you see the stunning 360 degree mountain views from this property!

**935 BEAVEN CRESCENT**

**489,500**



**NEW LISTING!**

Your home sweet home has arrived! The 3 bed, 2 bath home has been well maintained and has the perfect layout for your family. The spacious deck off the dining room gives you a perfect view of your beautiful landscaped backyard and of the local mountains. The wood boiler system is an efficient heat source for the cooler winter months and the double car garage has a 200 amp service giving you plenty of power and options. This property really leaves you not wanting or needing anything else. Come for a tour today and see how perfect it really is!



**ROYAL LEPAGE**  
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