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ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

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Rebecka Riddell-McKay, Principal of Valemount Elementary School, is excited to start the year by connecting with the children at the school, their families and the whole community. /ABIGAIL POPPLE

Valemount Elementary's new principal excited for upcoming school year

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

Returning to Valemount as the newly appointed Principal of the Valemount Elementary School, Rebecka Riddell-McKay is excited to be home.

Almost twenty years ago, Riddell-McKay lived in Valemount and commuted to her job at a school in Jasper for eight years. When she left Valemount, she moved into the Golden and Invermere area. She's worked in the education sector for 24 years, and over the past four years has held administrative positions.

Her first role gave her the opportunity to teach grade six and seven while serving as the vice principal.

"It was a good transition from being a classroom leader to being a school leader," she said.

From there she made the move to working as a principal at a kindergarten to grade three school.

When Riddell-McKay started her teaching career, she had planned to focus on the highschool ages. However, after her first job placed her in a kindergarten, she decided to continue her education and include a focus on how to teach language and she has branched out, including French immersion to her list of teaching skills.

This decision has served her well as a majority of her 24 years has been spent in younger aged classroom settings, but she says that she isn't done learning.

"I keep learning everywhere I go," she said. "I need to learn what the kids need from me, and what I can do for them."

Although Riddell-McKay has lived in Valemount before, she expects that getting to know the context of the community is going to be one of her challenges.

"It will take time to get to know the students, their families and the community," she said. "I want to listen, better understand the school culture and get involved in community events."

Riddell-McKay says that she values the complexity of her job. She sees the responsibility of providing not only the in classroom education, but opportunities for students to build social and emotional connections. She hopes to help facilitate connections that reach beyond the walls of the school and into the community.

"I have read about many intergenerational experiences and connection opportunities that are available in the community," she said. "I hope to influence, in a positive way, more of these connections."

On a personal note, Riddell-McKay is looking forward to having mountain bike trails at her fingertips, and she says she spends a lot of time outside, walking her dogs. In past locations, she has taken an interest in skiing, and anticipates cross-country skiing is in her future. As well, she is looking forward to expanding her dog walking route on snowshoes once the conditions are right.

As she is getting settled into the office at the Valemount Elementary School, she expects her days to be busy. However, in an effort to meet people and get to know the community, she said, "The door is always open. Make an appointment, and come have a chat."

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Blue River subjected to 20-hour power outage

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Residents of Blue River and the District of Clearwater were left without power for about 20 hours last week after BC Hydro disconnected their transmission line to repair a cracked utility pole.

The damaged pole was discovered around 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon, according to Susan Edgell, a spokesperson in Hydro's Community Relations department. Edgell informed local authorities – such as Thompson-Nicola Regional District Director Lee Onslow – of the planned outage at 3:28 p.m., about three and a half hours before the scheduled 7:00 p.m. outage.

Repairing the pole was urgent, Edgell told The Goat in an email.

"If we left the power on and left the faulty equipment as it was [on Wednesday], we could have seen the broken infrastructure on the pole collapse, taking down the high voltage live powerline with it," she wrote. "If this had happened, we could have started a major forest fire."

Edgell said she was told there was not enough time to send a planned outage notification to customers, so she prioritized alerting regional district directors and other local authorities.

In her initial email, Edgell sent an estimated outage time of six hours. Before arriving at the repair site, crews thought the site would be easily accessible, according to Edgell, but once they got there, they realized a road would have to be constructed to reach the pole. This work would be dangerous to do in the dark, meaning crews had to wait until the following morning to construct a road with bulldozers and then repair the pole.

Power was restored around 3:21 p.m. on Thursday afternoon, a full day after residents were notified of the outage. Hydro sent several predictions of how long the outage would last: after the initial 6-hour estimate, the company said it would be restored at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday at the earliest – about 14 hours after the outage began – then pushed this estimate back to 3:30 p.m. Some residents felt frustrated at the lack of direct communication and initial incorrect estimate of the outage length.

"They never did directly contact anybody – I'd seen it blasted across Facebook, that's how come I knew the power was going out," said Micky Humphrey, who rents cabins on her property just outside of Blue River. "It was going to be out for six hours... They get [to the job site], they realize they can't access it, but they already shut the damn power off."

Humphrey appreciates that the crew needed daylight to do their jobs safely, but wishes Hydro hadn't sent premature estimates of when power would be restored, she said. This outage was one of many this summer,

at a time where her business has already been hit by dwindling tourism in the area, Humphrey said.

In an email to The Goat, Edgell said Blue River had three outages earlier this summer, all lasting under five hours and all due to lightning strikes.

Lee Onslow, one of the regional district directors who Hydro informed of the outage, said it was unusual for the company not to contact customers directly – in her experience, Hydro typically sends an email notification before planned outages.

"It seemed to me, especially at the beginning of the power outage and the short notice, that it probably would have been useful for individuals in these communities... to actually hear directly from BC Hydro, because a lot of the information was coming from Facebook," Onslow told The Goat in an interview.

"I commend the BC Hydro workers for fixing this problem, but I also find it a bit frustrating when you're told the power outage will be six hours and then you're not notified until the morning that the power is still not on and it's going to take all day," she added. "I would have really appreciated BC Hydro knowing more about what the job looked like prior to saying that it was going to be a short outage."

Hospital unaffected

In an email statement to The Goat, Interior Health's Executive Director of Clinical Operations in Cariboo/South Cariboo Karen Cooper said the Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital in Clearwater was operational during the outage, largely due to the hospital's gas-powered generator.

"The hospital also didn't experience any water shortages and we have since made updates to the building's water connection which will give us easier access to alternative water sources should something similar happen in the future," Cooper added. "We were in close communication with the District of Clearwater, BC Hydro and other partners during the power outage."


McBride was unaffected by the outage, despite being on the same part of the transmission system as Blue River and Clearwater. Valemount had an outage for about an hour. Both McBride and Valemount were "islanded," a process where communities are moved to an Independent Power Producer's transmission system, according to Edgell.

No backups yet for Blue River

Onslow said she asked Hydro if the company could enter an agreement with an Independent Power Producer in Bone Creek. Edgell told The Goat that the company does not currently have an agreement with the Bone Creek producer, and could not confirm whether such an agreement is being considered by the company at this time.

Onslow and other directors have also asked Hydro if

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the transmission system could be extended to Prince George, which would provide a backup energy source for the Robson Valley. Edgell says this won't be a possibility for at least the next 10 years.

"Creating a loop from Prince George to Valemount has been looked at in the past, and that would be about a 275 km long extension on the transmission system," Edgell told The Goat. "Based on the current level of reliability and capacity, BC Hydro cannot justify including a second transmission supply to the area."

Edgell acknowledged that the window of time between her first email and the power outage was short, but emphasized that the repairs were necessary.




"Crews worked as quickly and diligently as they could to gain access to the site," Edgell said. "We want to thank all our customers for their patience and for having to endure the inconveniences this outage has caused."

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BC United proposes eliminating tax on first \$50K in income

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Early last week, BC United leader Kevin Falcon announced a proposed tax cut that would eliminate provincial income tax on the first \$50,000 earned by each B.C. resident. According to the party, this would result in residents saving \$2,050 annually, compared to how much they pay under the current tax plan. It would eliminate provincial income tax altogether for over 2.4 million B.C. residents who make less than \$50,000.

To find out more about how the plan would affect Robson Valley residents, The Goat spoke with Shirley Bond, MLA for Prince George-Valemount.

“It’s a tax cut that will be very simple to implement, because what we will do is increase the basic personal exemption,” Bond said. “It is ambitious. It’s the largest middle-class tax cut in B.C. history, and we think it will make a difference for struggling B.C. families.”

The party has not yet released the details of how the Province will make up for lost revenue if the cut is implemented, but these details will be published before the provincial election this fall, according to Bond. She said the government’s \$4B in contingency funds is one potential source of money, and a BC United government would look to reduce spending – though healthcare and education funds won’t be touched, according to her.

“We’re saying, ‘Leave more money in taxpayer pockets. Spend money more wisely in Victoria. Grow the economy.’ Those are important principles from our perspective,” she said. “It’s going to impact over two million British Columbians, including many in the Robson Valley region.”

Policy Options, the digital magazine of the Institute for Research on Public Policy – an independent group of researchers that examines policies throughout Canada – published an analysis of the proposed tax cut which cast some uncertainty on the party’s claims. Using Statistics Canada’s Social Policy Simulation Database and Model, authors Lindsay Tedds and Gillian Petit investigated how the proposed tax cut would impact savings for B.C. residents. The model allows researchers to examine how tweaking personal taxation systems at the provincial or federal level would affect individual Canadians.

Tedds and Petit found that the proposal would equate to \$1,924 more savings per year, rather than the \$2,050 calculated by BC United. About 61 per cent of tax filers would pay zero dollars in provincial taxes, according to their analysis.

Additionally, BC United claimed that the province would see a decrease of \$5.4B in total taxes payable, but the Tedds and Petit analysis found that the decrease would be

around \$4.5B.

In an email to The Goat, BC United Deputy Campaign Manager Adam Wilson said Tedds and Petit’s analysis “is based on an overly-narrow reading of our news release, which rounds some numbers.”

He added that Tedds chaired a task force for the NDP government’s Medical Services Plan in 2017, which he said was a conflict of interest. The Goat reached out to Tedds for a response to Wilson’s comment but did not receive a response by presstime.

Wilson said the party’s calculations were based on Individual Tax Statistics by Area, a Canada Revenue database which presents data on personal income tax in each province.

“Someone earning \$50,000 in BC will pay no income tax when our plan is fully implemented in legislation, including all the technical details required to make that happen,” Wilson wrote.

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New Job Posting

An exciting employment opportunity has recently opened. *Deputy Director of Finance II* is a part-time, temporary position with 20 flexible hours per week. Depending on relevant experience and training, the wage will range from \$32.00 - \$38.00/hr. This competition closes on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

For more information, please visit the Village of Valemount website at www.valemount.ca/village-office/job-postings/

Outstanding Property Taxes

10% Tax Penalty

If your tax payment or Home Owner Grant was not received by the July 2, 2024 deadline, you have been assessed a 10% penalty. This penalty is a requirement of the Municipal Tax Regulation and the Village has no authority to waive it.

Delinquent Taxes

If you have Delinquent Taxes, your property may be auctioned for sale at a municipal tax sale on Monday, October 7, 2024. Please contact the Village Office to ensure payments are received.

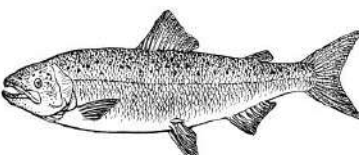
Call Out for Clean Air Task Force Volunteers

The Village of Valemount Council is currently seeking Expressions of Interest from community members who wish to serve on the Clean Air Task Force (CATF).


The CATF is a Select Committee of Council whose mandate is to explore all options to improve air quality in Valemount, and to make recommendations to authorities having jurisdiction to take positive actions to reduce negative influences on air quality in the valley.

The task force currently consists of Council members and resource persons from affected public sectors. The Village wishes to add up to two members from the public to provide input to the Committee.

To apply for a position on the CATF, please forward a brief letter outlining your relevant interest and experience by email to corporate@valemount.ca, or by mail to Village of Valemount. The deadline for applications is Friday, September 20 at 4:00 PM



Keep a lookout for the Chinook Salmon run!



Labour Day Closure

The Municipal Office and Visitor Information Centre will be closed Monday, September 2, for the Labour Day Statutory Holiday. The Museum will remain open.

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Mondays to Fridays: 8:30am to 4:30pm

Visitor Information Centre
Mondays to Fridays: 8:30am to 4:30pm

Valemount Museum
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Until the end of September

Fire Smart Tip

The best way to prevent a grass fire is simple; by mowing your lawn, you are reducing the amount of material to burn and reduce the impact that the wind will have on fire spread. Find more Fire Smart tips at: www.firesmartbc.ca.

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Valemount identifies new water source

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Valemount may be getting an additional water source soon, thanks to a water supply plan written by consulting firm Urban Systems and reviewed by Village Council at the beginning of August. The firm found a groundwater source through a test well which they drilled 17 metres east of Swift Creek.

As of now, Swift Creek is the village's sole water source. In the past, it has been threatened by natural disasters, such as flooding in 2012 and a landslide in 2021. These events, along with concerns about the creek's ability to accommodate population growth, prompted Council to contract Urban Systems to develop the water supply plan in 2021.

In the plan, Urban Systems recommends using the groundwater source it identified as an alternative to Swift Creek. The village would draw from the groundwater supply during spring and summer – when the creek flow is more rapid, kicking up debris and lowering water quality – and return to using Swift Creek in fall and winter.

The plan also recommends upgrading the Village's current water intake system by installing a concrete weir, adding backup power to the pump that draws water in for storage, and expanding the building with the pump station to twice its current size. These renovations, combined with the construction of a new well, would cost the Village an estimated \$3,224,000 if completed simultaneously.

Council approved staff to research grant options for these costs during their August 13th meeting.

In an interview with The Goat, sustainability expert Dr. Tara Lynne Clapp said having a protected water source is crucial. As Chair of UNBC's School of Planning and Sustainability, Clapp researches sustainability in rural communities, with a particular focus on water and housing.

"Surface water sources are vulnerable to climate change, and all the things associated with that: more landslides, more wildfires," Clapp said.

Groundwater can make a good water source for communities of Valemount's size, according to Clapp.

"Generally, groundwater is preferred over surface water because it has lower levels of microbial things, like Giardia [a parasite found in water] and E. coli," Clapp said. "Groundwater is usually only vulnerable from surface contamination for the top 40 feet (12 metres) [of soil]... and once you get down over 100 feet (30.48 metres), you're dealing with groundwater that's usually pretty safe from things happening on the surface, like gasoline spills."

At 27.89 metres (91.5 feet) deep, the test well drilled by Urban Systems likely found a high-quality water source, Clapp added.

According to the water supply plan, the water collected by the well met criteria in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, a set of parameters for appropriate levels of microbes and chemicals established by Health Canada. Additionally, the aquifer supplying the groundwater source is confined – meaning it is protected by an impenetrable layer of rock or clay – according to CAO Anne Yanciw.

"I am very excited about the results [the test well] has shown. I firmly believe this will make the municipal water system much more resilient to drought, seasonal fluctuations and climate change," Yanciw added.

Clapp said with a protected aquifer, Valemount is well-positioned to have a sustainable water source, despite both groundwater and surface water being vulnerable to drought.

"I'm really excited to hear that this is on the table for Valemount," Clapp said. "Developing a secondary water source is one of the most important investments communities that have that option can make."

As Village staff are in the midst of researching grant options, there is not yet a timeline for the installation of a well. Stay tuned to The Goat for future updates on this story.

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Global Thoughts

The Very Precious Life of Elon Musk

BY GWYNNE DYER

Elon Musk is heading for a crash. It's only a matter of time before one or another of his random enthusiasms brings him down. But if I had the power I would guarantee him at least two more years of solvency

Musk is so arrogant, so erratic and so wrong-headed in his politics that his downfall will give great pleasure to millions. And the downfall is almost certainly coming soon.

As professor Scott Galloway recently remarked: "No company with over \$1bn in revenue has ever lost 60% of its revenues in a 12-month period, in a non-war period.,.,Twitter is literally the worst-performing business in history." (Like many people, he's still reluctant to call it X.)

The whole X debacle demonstrates the rapid decline in Musk's business acumen. He offered far too much to buy Twitter, the delighted owners immediately accepted, Musk tried to back out, the courts forced him to go through with the deal, and he ended up owning a slowly declining business that gave him (so he imagined) a serious voice in US politics.

As any 10-year-old could have told him, if he effectively abandoned serious monitoring and opened Twitter/X to every hate-filled rant with some lies to peddle, the

advertisers who are the real source of his cash flow will take their distance from his site.

But Musk told the advertisers to "go fuck yourself" if they didn't want to advertise on his platform, so almost all his big accounts pulled out. Now, less than a year later, he is suing those same advertisers for not advertising on his platform. Good luck with that one.

In the meantime, Musk seems to be covering X's losses by pulling money out of his most successful business, Tesla. He's so rich that this can go on for a long time (unless Tesla's shareholders revolt), but it's definitely not good practice.

So why should we care what happens to Musk?

The world owes him some gratitude for pioneering electric cars when nobody else was really working at it, but if Tesla failed now other electric vehicle manufacturers would quickly fill the market gap. However, he still has another job to do, and if he's not available it may not happen at all.

The fifth iteration of his giant 'Starship' heavy lift rocket will fly this month or next, and with every iteration it gets a bit closer to delivering the kind of performance that will transform space flight.

Every flight so far has crashed into the sea, but that's the



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

development method Musk uses: launch it, find out what made it fail, fix it, and launch again. It will probably take about another five flights before he gets it all right, so that's around a year. Then another year of many flawless launches and landings before it is certified for manned flight.

And then Musk ceases to be the indispensable man. Nobody else has had the will, the skill and the money to make this thing happen, but once it is certified anybody can manage the exploitation of the reusable Starship/heavy booster combination. That will open up the entire solar system for human beings.

Reducing the cost of getting a kilogram into orbit by 99%, which is the plausible claim he makes for Starship, is not an improvement. It's a revolution. But if Musk goes bankrupt and SpaceX also gets tied up in the courts for many years – as it is increasingly possible to imagine – then the whole thing could go down the drain.

If you don't care about the human race getting out into the universe, or at least into our own wider neighbourhood, then go ahead and hate Musk. But if you do care, then acknowledge that Musk needs two more years to make that future possible, and ask whatever gods may be to grant him that time.

The Underlying Struggle

BY GWYNNE DYER

When you start shouting at the television screen, you know it's time to take a break. I reached that point last week, watching Kamala Harris's acceptance speech in Chicago, and what I yelled at the screen was "the enemy is us!"

She was name-checking the "enduring struggle between democracy and tyranny" in a rhetorical way, with no visible sign that she saw it as anything more than a struggle against various Trumps and Putins. That's when I lost it.

I'm not denying that such a struggle exists, but we're looking at it through the wrong lens. The democracies are generally (though not always) less wicked than the tyrannies, but the real struggle goes much deeper than most people realise.

Human beings are primates, and our original social structure was almost certainly like that of our close evolutionary relatives like chimpanzees. Our ancestors lived in small groups of thirty to a hundred individuals, each ruled over by a violent, despotic 'monkey-king'.

There would have been a constant struggle between the adult males to seize the top spot, complete with alliances and betrayals, but nothing ever really changed. "Meet the new boss. Same as the old boss", as Pete Townshend once put it. To see this in action, watch a brilliant Netflix

mini-series called 'Chimp Empire'.

But our distant ancestors broke that ancient pattern. They were intelligent enough to see that the perpetual struggle for power wasn't worth it. Any individual's chance of winning the top job was very small, and the fate of the rest was to be bullied and beaten all their lives.

They also had language, so they could imagine a better future and they could plot and make alliances to create that future. At some point in our very distant past, there was a revolution. Most of the adult males banded together, overthrew the reigning boss – and adopted a new rule, rigorously enforced, of absolute equality.

How do we know this? Because that was the rule in every single hunter-gatherer group that the anthropologists encountered in the middle decades of the 20th century, when the first generation of anthropologists studied the last generation of genuine hunter-gatherers.

They were so strenuously egalitarian that they would "cut down the tall poppies": men giving themselves airs or claiming privileges would be first mocked, then ostracised if necessary, in extreme cases driven out of the band or killed.

So what went wrong? Mass civilisation happened. Societies of millions of people were far richer and more powerful than tiny hunter-gatherer bands, but it was impossible to run them by discussion and debate among

equals. The new, crop-growing mass societies had to be tyrannies, and they were so numerous and powerful that they drove the old, egalitarian values underground.

However, those values never actually died. Rebellions were constant, but always crushed. Ten thousand years of tyranny and oppression – and then early mass communications (just literacy, books and pamphlets) finally made it possible for large numbers of people to make decisions together as equals.

That opened the door to the American Revolution in 1776, the French Revolution in 1789, and two more centuries of struggle to recover our older, egalitarian values and rights. About a third of the world's people now live in countries where everybody really has equal rights before the law, and the other two-thirds live in countries that pretend to be like that.

So why did I yell "The enemy is us"? It comes from a long-dead American newspaper comic-strip called 'Pogo', in which the main character, a humble opossum, deliberately misquoted an American military hero who announced his victory by saying: "We have met the enemy and they are ours."

No, said Pogo. It should be "We have met the enemy, and he is us." It is two contradictory human heritages at war, and the right one is winning. Understand the context, and the world will start to make sense.



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Canada

Catnapping McBride cat owners be on the lookout

By ANDREA ARNOLD

Local domestic cats have been going missing from McBride with alarming regularity in recent years, and residents fear these incidents are becoming more common.

This past week, yet another cat was found approximately 14 kilometres outside the McBride village limits. Flower — a black-and-white long-haired male — was reunited with his owners after being rescued by other residents who spotted him.

Abi Ward lives close to what seems to be the popular dumping grounds for these catnapped felines.

“No idea who is taking them, but [it’s] presumably someone in town who hates cats,” she said. “Yesterday one of the two black cats that have been missing for a couple of weeks was found near death and starving at West Twin.”

In 2023, Ward was able to return Gina Gallacher’s cat to her, but not all stories get to have the happy ending. In another instance, she learned of yet another cat gone missing via Facebook posts. She saw the cat, but unfortunately was unable to catch it.

Ward’s neighbour Cassandra Johnson has also had her share of cats show up at her home. Johnson too has been able to help facilitate one happy reunion, and one lucky cat got to stay on the property and live the life of a barn cat. But not all have had a chance for a happy future.

“One had passed away at the end of the driveway, and one I couldn’t catch,” said Johnson.

Johnson says that it is not uncommon to see one or two each year, but that she thinks it’s become more frequent in the past couple years.

Both Ward and Johnson are glad they have been able to help in some instances, but they would like to see the occurrences stop completely.

“Maybe people with cameras in town need to start checking them,” said Ward. “Someone must know something.”

Regional District reviewing Blue River evacuation plans

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE
REPORTER, RMG

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) recently received \$30,000 from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to complete the review of evacuation plans that the district began in 2023. The Avola-Blue River region is one of the 11 plans being reviewed and updated.

The TNRD board of directors unanimously approved the application to the Ministry’s Community Emergency Preparedness Fund in April.

According to Colton Davies, Communications and Marketing Manager for the TNRD, the plans identify potential hazards and their frequency of occurring, populations at risk, evacuation routes and procedures, and the district’s communication methods, among other considerations. The review will ensure these aspects of the plan are current to the district’s needs.

“The TNRD covers more than 44,000 square kilometres of land, so being up to date on evacuation planning in all parts of our Electoral Areas at all times can be a challenge,” Davies wrote in a statement to The Goat. “Generally, our emergency staff are widely familiar with TNRD communities and main egress routes...

This planning will help close any gaps in organizational knowledge for emergency planning.”

The review of the Avola-Blue River plan will include identifying exit routes that may be at risk of being cut off during a natural disaster, Davies added.

“The communities of Avola and Blue River are well-situated for egress (exit) options during a potential evacuation due to their proximity to the Yellowhead Highway, but egress would be at higher risk in other locations within the plan boundaries, including recreational areas,” he said.

Lee Onslow, director for TNRD Electoral Area B, said she is glad the district is taking initiative to review its evacuation plans.

“I think it’s extremely important, based on the amount of times the emergency operations centre has been opened and people have had to evacuate their communities, to have some understanding of where the routes are within each community,” she said. “It’s a great step forward for sure.”

According to Davies, the plan review must be complete by July 2025 as part of the grant requirements. However, the district hopes to finish this work sooner, and will make the plans available on its evacuation plans webpage.

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*Through the Lens
with Leon Lorenz*



I managed to capture some high speed action of one of the parent red foxes bringing home a freshly caught young hoary marmot to the hungry waiting kits. As quick as a flash one of the youngsters took off with it into the brush where I could no longer film. There all the kits I'm sure had a grand time devouring their lunch. /LEON LORENZ

On Labour Day,
we celebrate the
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BC Parks launches survey on Berg Lake Corridor

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

In preparation for drafting a new visitor use management plan, BC Parks is circulating a survey on how visitors use the Berg Lake Corridor – which includes Berg Lake Trail, Mumm Basin, Whitehorn Mountain, Mount Robson, and Snowbird Pass. The plan will outline how many visitors can access the corridor and what kinds of activities it can support.

To this end, the survey asks respondents about what they did during their most recent visit to the corridor, how often they visit, and how crowded the corridor was during their last visit, among other questions about their use of the corridor.

The current plan, adopted in 2000, expires in 2025. The new plan will also span a 25-year period, so it will be in place until 2050. In an email statement to The Goat, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change – which oversees BC Parks – said the new plan will be an update of the one adopted in 2000.

“In the last 25 years, we have seen some increased use [of the corridor] and want to refine the goals and strategies to focus more on current trends and use,” the statement reads. “Some of the major gaps in the original plan were around topics like climate change, climbing, and providing a more fulsome connection to traditional uses in the area.”

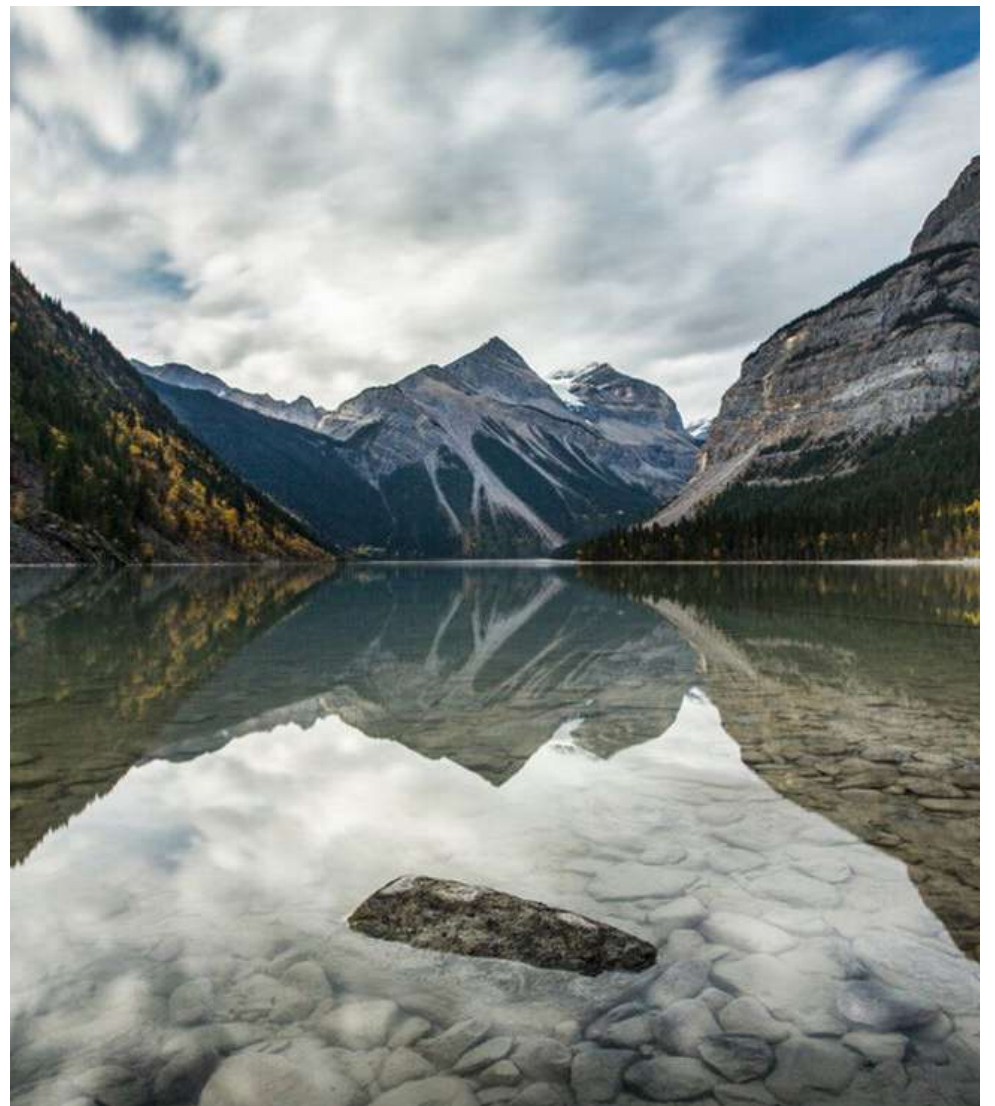
The previous plan did not address the topic of climate change, but the new plan will reference climate change, according to the Ministry’s statement. A flash flood in the summer of 2021 led to the destruction of infrastructure such as bridges, prompting the closure of the trail. The trail has since been partially reopened, but is still closed beyond the Whitehorn campground. New infrastructure is being built with climate resiliency in mind, and the entirety of the trail is expected to open in 2025, according to the BC Parks website.

It is too early in the drafting process to determine what climate resiliency strategies will be proposed, but the plan can be amended as needed after implementation, the statement says.

The plan is an important part of balancing BC Parks’ dual mandates of providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and conserving natural areas, the Ministry said. For example, the original plan established a reservation system for overnight hikers, helping to manage the number of people on trails each day.

“We hope that with thorough engagement we will be clear on what steps need to be taken to adequately and efficiently manage the Berg Lake Corridor,” the statement reads. “BC Parks would love to hear from all folks who have or would like to visit the Berg Lake Corridor.”

The survey is open until September 6th, and results will be used to inform the initial draft plan. BC Parks does not have an exact timeline for the plan, but updates will be posted throughout the next year on the BC Parks website.



Set to reopen in 2025, the Berg Lake Trail is a world-renowned backpacking trail in Mount Robson Provincial Park. The Visitor Use Management Plan will be based in part on survey responses from people who use the trail and other areas of the Berg Lake Corridor./BC PARKS

As the world burns: the art and science of responding to B.C. wildfires

By MATT SIMMONS, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

This story is part of In the Line of Fire, a series from The Narwhal digging into what is being done to prepare for — and survive — wildfires.

When dark thunderclouds build behind Dzilh Yez (Hudson Bay Mountain) in Smithers, B.C., local weather stations capture essential data.

An array of instruments record and transmit vital information to a small team of scientists who quickly interpret what it could mean for wildfires. Is the relative humidity low? Is the storm carrying rain? How hot is it? Are the winds off the mountain moving towards town?

If lightning strikes and thunder shudders through the valley, meteorologists with the BC Wildfire Service use the data to predict whether the storm is likely to spark a forest fire — and what that fire might look like on the ground.

Every morning during the months-long fire season, Matt MacDonald, lead fire weather forecaster with the BC Wildfire Service, examines conditions with his team and hundreds of frontline firefighters.

“We’re doing this whole analysis, essentially putting a story together that we deliver in the way of a fire weather briefing,” MacDonald explained. “We’re continuously updating the forecasts and making adjustments to how we think the weather is going to evolve, and then highlighting the areas of highest concern.”

The service operates 240 weather stations around the province, strategically placed in forests and on mountains — including one on an alpine ridge near Smithers. These meteorologists, known as fire weather forecasters, assess conditions daily and sometimes hourly by monitoring data from weather stations and Environment Canada. Their analysis informs which hotspots to watch and decisions about where and when firefighters are deployed.

As the size, frequency, duration and intensity of wildfires increases, it’s impossible to ignore how the burning forests around us shape our lives and impact our communities. Yet most of us know very little about what firefighters do on a daily basis or how decisions around wildfires — such as which homes to prioritize during firefighting response — are made.

“It’s kind of this secret world, in some ways, that people don’t know much about,” Kira Hoffman, a fire ecologist and researcher with the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, said. “I feel like we should know more about it. We should know how fires are fought.”

Why is it so challenging to fight wildfires in B.C.?

Last year was B.C.’s biggest wildfire season on record. Wildfires continue to escape our limited control, torching communities and displacing thousands, while reshaping vast parts of the province’s landscapes. Part of the challenge is B.C.’s vast and varied geography.

“We have complex topography, we have complex economies, we have complex cultures,” Hoffman said. “All of those need very specific place-based fire research and fire knowledge. We can’t expect what’s going to work in Vancouver to work in Hazelton.”

MacDonald echoed the sentiment, describing the province as the “epitome of complex terrain.” The province has six regional fire centres, which are each divided into fire zones. There are 33 zones across the province.

“Each of these fire centres, each of these zones, each of these localities has their own intrinsic local effects and local climatology. Our work as fire weather forecasters is to try and really dig into the details and produce the best, most accurate forecasts we can for that very specific spot.”

“We’re all trained meteorologists, but we look at weather through a somewhat different lens than your standard meteorologists,” he said.

What does humidity have to do with B.C. wildfires?

MacDonald described humidity as a key driver of how the fuels that feed a fire evolve over time.

“Once we have fire in the landscape [humidity] really dictates how intensely a fire will burn,” he explained.

Relative humidity is a measure of the amount of water vapour in the air, which affects fire dynamics on the landscape. For example, low relative humidity sucks

moisture out of potential fuels, making them more flammable. This especially affects finer fuels like grass and pine needles, where many wildfires begin.

The fire weather forecasters monitor moisture levels in both the materials above ground, which are called fine fuels, and the duff, the organic materials that make up the top 10 to 15 centimetres of the forest floor. Each is given a moisture code, informing analysis of how fire will interact with the landscape. The higher the code, the greater the risk.

“We’ll typically look at the duff moisture code as an indicator of the potential for ignition from lightning,” he said. “So if we’re forecasting lightning and it’s falling into a place that’s had a lot of rain, there’s less concern.”

If the duff moisture codes are more elevated and lightning is forecasted, MacDonald said there’s potential for either immediate ignition or what the wildfire service calls holdover fires.

“Lightning likes to strike ridge tops, or tree tops, and then it’ll smoulder, actually, through the root ball and that duff layer,” he explained. “It can actually smoulder for upwards of two weeks. And then if the fuel is dry and we get a little bit of wind, these fires can flare up.”

What are ‘holdover’ wildfires?

Holdover fires can burn through winter, flaring up again in the spring. They’ve sometimes been described as “zombie fires,” a term many firefighters dislike.

“It’s just kind of alarmist, right?” Jeff Walsh, a wildfire officer based in the Bulkley fire zone near Smithers, B.C., told The Narwhal. “It’s just not a factual term that we use. Zombies have to die and come back to life. Holdover fires never died. Essentially, they just burrow underground so it’s just a carryover between seasons — and they’re not as rare as one would expect.”

Drought makes holdover fires more prevalent; as the water table drops, fires can burrow deeper underground. In B.C.’s northeast, multiple years of drought have made fighting those fires more hazardous. Walsh said most of this year’s fires in the region, like the 145,000-hectare Patry Creek wildfire near Fort Nelson on Treaty 8 territory, are holdovers from the 2023 fire season.

“Because the water table is typically higher in that marshy, ‘skeggy country, like the Northern Rockies and North Peace, the spruce trees and deciduous [trees] are pretty shallow rooted,” he said. When land isn’t so parched, fire skims through those landscapes, burning the trees without scorching the wet root systems. “But because of the drought, the water table’s lower and they dig in and actually burn — like completely consume all the roots of the trees.”

Getting into an area to clean up after that kind of fire moves through isn’t easy.

“There’s crews digging down six, seven feet,” he said. “There’s pictures of crews chasing smoke, digging holes, standing in these holes that are up to their chests at least.”

And because the fires are burning tree roots, he said massive sections of burnt forest are being blown down after the fire moves through.

“It just looks like a tornado went through there in terms of everything’s on the ground,” he said. “What we’re finding in that country, with the deep burning in the whole root systems, is basically the whole stand is compromised.”

The BC Wildfire Service has strict safety protocols to protect its crews from falling trees. It means crews sometimes can’t safely go into areas to clean up after a fire, which in turn increases the likelihood of fires left burning underground, ready to flare up again in dry winds and high temperatures.

Why are wildfires so big now?

While there have always been wildfires on the landscape, they are becoming bigger and more destructive.

In 2021, the town of Lytton, B.C., burned and has yet to be rebuilt. Last year, fires swept through Scotch Creek, B.C., leaving a wake of devastation; this year, a wildfire razed about a third of the Jasper, Alta., townsite and scorched vast tracts of the national park’s iconic forests.

MacDonald, who worked as an Environment Canada meteorologist for 18 years before joining the BC Wildfire Service in 2020, said he’s witnessed underlying climatic conditions intensify over the past two decades.

“Instead of getting these ridges of high pressure that last three or four or five days, we get these really intense ridges — the recent one in July lasted 20 days and delivered excessive heat for prolonged periods of time.”

In forests, those high pressure ridges are causing unprecedented conditions.

“When you hear guys who have 30 to 35 years under their belt say, ‘I’ve never seen fire behave this way, I’ve never seen fire burn with that much intensity,’ that’s worth a lot in my books,” he added.

The BC Wildfire Service has a long track record of protecting lives and preventing fires from destroying communities, but scientists expect wildfires will burn through more towns and villages — and even cities. Until recently, forest management focused on suppression — putting fires out as quickly as possible — which left combustible materials like dead trees and dry needles and branches to accumulate for decades, increasing the risk today. Along with the prohibition of Indigenous fire stewardship and the pervasive effects of climate change, experts say we’re on a trajectory that can’t be reversed overnight.

But there are ways we can adapt and prepare.

What steps can I take to protect my home from B.C. wildfires?

Hannah Swift leads FireSmart BC, an organization that works to educate and provide support for wildfire preparedness, prevention and mitigation. She told The Narwhal it’s important people understand they have some agency over what happens when a fire burns through their community.

“Previously, there was sort of a misunderstanding that if a wildfire gets into a community, there’s nothing you can do,” she said, noting there are numerous steps homeowners can take to protect their properties.

“When we see wildfires move into communities, the majority of homes that are destroyed actually burn from the inside out, not the outside in,” she said. A good place to start protecting properties is by installing “metal mesh covers over vents or openings

CONT’D ON P10

When social media blocks your access to the news, turn to your local newspaper.

Nourish your body, fuel your life

By AMY PAWLIUK

Are you looking for more energy and a more stable mood throughout the day?

The chaos of summer can get to us all. Now that September is coming it feels like a natural time to get back into the habits that support your wellbeing.

A great place to start with your healthy habits is breakfast! Research shows that people who eat breakfast regularly are more likely to have better concentration and problem-solving skills, more stable energy and less irritability than those who do not.

Not just any breakfast though. A bad breakfast will impact the whole day in a negative way. If breakfast consists of a big ol' bowl of cereal, a bagel, pastry, or just coffee that is not setting anyone up for success.

The breakfast goal? Protein. By building breakfast around protein we support more stable energy and mood throughout the whole day.

When we begin the day with a breakfast based on protein instead of carbs, blood sugar levels are more stable because the protein slows down the blood sugar increase that occurs after a meal preventing a spike in your blood sugar.

This matters because when you begin the day with a blood sugar spike you will be chasing the spike and crash roller coaster all day. This means, mood swings, energy

crashes, cravings, getting hangry... all the 'fun' things that come along with blood sugar spikes and crashes. This is for all of us, not just diabetics or people who have been warned to watch your blood sugar levels.

Protein also helps you to stay feeling full for longer. When a meal has adequate protein it helps you to feel satiated and to tide you over until your next meal. This helps to avoid that mid morning crash and the feeling of needing something sweet to tide you over to lunch.

More than just the time between breakfast and lunch, a high protein breakfast can help to regulate your appetite all day long. In fact people who eat a high protein breakfasts are far less likely to reach for poor food choices throughout the day and are less likely to binge in the evenings!

If you need some recipe inspiration I am here to help! I currently have a recipe bundle of family friendly recipes I am offering as a thank you for anyone who takes the time to complete a survey for me! Totally free, just takes a few mins of your time. The link to the survey can be found on my website at www.wildwellnessholisticnutrition.com and when you're done I will send you your recipe bundle! Alternatively I have many recipes on my website available to use at any time, go check them out!

As always I would love to hear from you, let me know if there is a topic you would like to cover!



Amy Pawliuk is a registered nutritional therapist residing in Valemount. You can find her on Instagram and Facebook @wildwellnessholisticnutrition. /FILE PHOTO

B.C. Wildfires Cont'd from P9

in homes," she explained.

"What we see is when embers come into a community, it's the embers that damage the home," she said. "When you have an ember shower coming over structures, generally those are brought through communities by wind. If there's an open gable in the attic, then embers actually get into the interior of the house, and they light up curtains or carpets. That's when the home burns from the inside out."

Even urban areas like Vancouver are not immune. In early August, underlying hot, dry conditions stoked the flames of a fire that consumed a half-built condominium in the city and sent flaming debris hurtling over the neighbourhood. As John Vaillant, author of *Fire Weather*, wrote for the *Globe and Mail*, "embers were landing blocks away ... where they had to be chased down and extinguished by additional personnel. It's dry here in August; just imagine if one of those had gotten away."

"We're always going to see these events," Swift said. "But we can fire smart to a level where a fire can move through a community without any way of igniting the structures — by removing the fuels within that immediate zone of the home." Fuels include debris on roofs and leaves in gutters, she said.

Swift said many communities in B.C. have programs in place through FireSmart BC that provide free assessments for property owners. With an assessment in hand, homeowners can look into rebates from local governments to cover the mitigation work, or do it themselves. Once a property is certified through a FireSmart program, owners can also talk to their insurance companies about discounts on premiums.

"There are insurers starting to partner with us, where they will offer either a rebate or a discount on yearly insurance rates to those homeowners who have taken action and completed all of those recommended steps to mitigate their home," she said.

How do firefighters decide which homes to save?

Swift said the members of the BC Wildfire Service are highly skilled at protecting structures and will implement protection measures like rooftop sprinklers during what's called an "interface fire," which has the potential to simultaneously burn buildings and forest fuel or vegetation. But they only have so much capacity, she said, noting firefighters on the ground have to make tough decisions about which homes to prioritize saving.

"The sprinklers are the cherry on top of mitigation work that's already taken place," she said, choosing her words carefully as she explained the process. "But if a property hasn't been mitigated — well, sprinklers are going to be less effective."

She said firefighters will focus their efforts on protecting properties most likely to survive, which tend to be homes that have already applied FireSmart principles.

That doesn't mean the crews on the ground and behind the scenes aren't doing everything they possibly can to protect all homes in communities. MacDonald said his team receives specific fire weather forecast requests whenever a wildfire gets close to where people live.

"Whenever these fires pose a threat to values, like community infrastructure values or sometimes Indigenous values, cultural values, we'll get a spot request," he said. Values can refer to things like bridges, homes, businesses, sacred sites and important hunting or trapping areas.

"This is a very detailed, comprehensive look at the area, and very detailed forecasts of all those weather elements, like the temperatures, the wind, precipitation and chance

of lightning, and how that's all going to evolve over the next 72 hours. So it enables the team who's been deployed to that fire to really assess and strategize how they're going to respond and attack this fire."

Walsh said the BC Wildfire Service has people throughout the province "thinking about and looking at every fire start that happens, whether it's on site or in an office, making assessments around potential impacts and then making tough decisions around where resources go."

"We have the same tensions as everybody in the community — we want to see your community safe."

What steps are taken to keep firefighters safe?

Last year, four firefighters were killed during wildfire response across Canada and an additional four died in a car accident while returning from a shift on the B.C. fireline. This year, a 24-year-old firefighter with the Alberta Wildfire service died while responding to the Jasper fire. These tragic losses of lives are rare. Within the world of wildfire response, safety protocols include specialized fire weather forecasts from people like MacDonald and his team.

MacDonald said the ever-changing dynamics around wildfire response means there's a constant back and forth between his team of forecasters and the crews on the ground — and his team regularly provides specific safety forecasts to support firefighters on the front lines through radio communications.

"For our firefighters who are out there, we will issue two types of weather warnings," he said.

The first is a wind warning — and the wildfire service's definition of strong winds is considerably lower than Environment Canada's criteria. "In the forest environment, sustained winds of 30 kilometres an hour can actually be enough to start pushing over trees, particularly drought-stricken trees." The second is for thunderstorms, as lightning strikes can exacerbate an already-raging fire.

What type of support do firefighters need?

Hoffman, a former firefighter with the BC Wildfire Service who now supports Indigenous communities in revitalizing cultural burning practices, said it's easy to forget most people don't know what it's like to be on a fire line. Fighting fire has been such a big part of her life — but increasingly, wildfires are a part of everyone else's reality, too.

"There will be more Jaspers, there will be more Lyttons — there's no way we can live in this province and not have that happen," she said.

As wildfires impact more communities every year, frontline firefighters are facing increasing pressures. As *The Narwhal* reported last year, the firefighter turnover rate in B.C. and Alberta is around 50 per cent or higher.

"I think we need to spend more time appreciating the people who are doing this," Hoffman added. "Because if we don't value the people, we're going to get into more mental health situations, more issues where there's just not enough support for those first responders."

Firefighters are doing the best they can, she said.

"I think that we just need more respect for that."

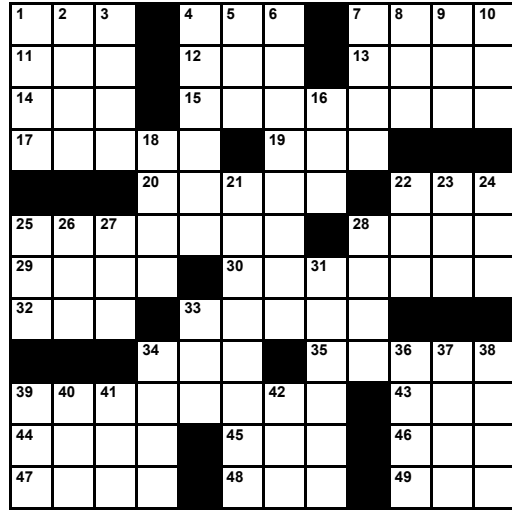
PUZZLES



CROSSWORD

Answers on P13

- Across**
- Masseur's workplace, maybe
 - Lady described
 - Tin foil, e.g.
 - Road cover
 - Tax that led to a party in Boston
 - Air
 - Bass, e.g.
 - Adjusted properly
 - Monster
 - Struck a match
 - Damp
 - Opinion
 - Divine
 - Ready to eat
 - Outstanding
 - Souvenir stand items
 - Terminus
 - Old
 - Law enforcer
 - Structural supports
 - Proclaimer of the gospel
 - Purchased
 - "Darn it all!"
 - Mineral in a mine
 - Day before a big day
 - Fairy tale starter
- Down**
- Shot
 - Chalky
 - Acres
 - Prestige
 - Lady talked about
 - First in time
 - Covet
 - Prayer
 - Make, in arithmetic
 - Soft protection
 - Give a hand
 - Mower storage
 - Figure of speech
 - Anthony Hopkins' title
 - Clever
 - "Absolutely!"
 - Hatfield to a McCoy
 - Oprah's network
 - Ruby colour
 - Tease mercilessly
 - Dead Sea Scrolls language
 - "What's up, ___?"
 - Winery buy



- Got on
- Shift
- One-pot beef dish
- Member of the PGA
- Went helter-skelter
- Mail Boxes
- Chapter in history

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mercury Retrograde Ends

The end of a Mercury retrograde is a reminder that the law of reciprocity is more than an idealist's dream about putting good in the world and getting it back. It's more like a physical reality, represented this week like a pendulum that cannot help but distribute weight and force with symmetry. All will be balanced emotionally, physically and poetically in the bounty and justice served up.

easily, you will certainly succeed. Believe in your vision and step into it. Attracted by your courage, others will follow your daring lead. Your influence will grow in the weeks to come, and as it does, you'll discover more inner resources than you knew were there.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's hard work involved in your next venture, and it's not something you're particularly looking forward to. However, you know you'll have a sense of accomplishment at the end of it, which is something you'll carry long after the work has been done. You'll also have a lasting nugget of self-esteem giving you energy and new ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Words can be powerful tools, but it's through deeds that true intentions are revealed. Whatever it was people wanted to say, they will do it instead. Action will move the plot, forge the characters, define the times. In the silence of action, the most profound statements are made.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you feel you can't express the whole of who you are in one relationship, this is a normal circumstance, as relationships are bound by roles and their accompanying rules. In general, you need more room to grow what it means to be you. This will involve meeting new people and participating in different communities and activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Fun takes courage. Excitement only sparks when there's an element of risk. You're not always in the mood to dance on the edge, but there are certain people who inspire you to be more daring. You'll be around them this week and cherish the moments you create together.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People choose wrong. It happens all the time. Usually, there are more chances. So, if you don't love how a recent decision worked out, just remember your decisions may be important but they don't define you. You're the chooser, not the choice. A touch of detachment is like a best friend this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Good fortune will spring from celebrating the stable, dependable parts of life we might normally take for granted, not because we are ungrateful but because our focus is usually better applied to managing life's uncertainties. It takes a special effort, or a loss of grounding, to appreciate the security of reliable things.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This week offers mystery and spontaneity. You'll appreciate a story that doesn't spell out every last detail. The magic lies in the gaps. Also, relationships leave room for a bit of freestyling, which suits you beautifully. You're at your creative best this week. By dancing to the rhythms you hear, you find out who else hears them, too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's said that lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place, but the Empire State Building gets several strikes a year, sometimes multiple times in the same storm. The architectural beauty is built to withstand the electrical charge, and so are you. Whatever energy comes your way this week, you'll direct it to its best use.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Given the billions of people in the world, worrying about the approval of any particular person may seem pretty silly indeed, though it certainly doesn't feel that way when passionate emotions are engaged. There are moments in which your very existence seems to tilt on the axis of one person's approval, which is only human.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Courage is like a conditioner that coats every surface and makes things glide into position. Be strong and courageous. The thing you dread will be a nonissue once you get face-to-face with it. It's the anticipation that's got you emotionally knotted, but all knots will unravel without effort once you get into the mix.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Relationships with a touch of ambiguity in their rules will be more interesting to you now. The uncertain territory will have you focused more on the journey than the destination. You'll savor the unscripted moments and develop a new relationship with the unknown.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: To be internally measured and calm is to align with the workings of the world. You master this powerful mode of being, slipping into it with grace and ease. It's your year to shine a beacon of tranquility and wisdom from your heart into the hearts of those who need you and learn from you. Your inner calm will guide you through 12 months of joy, growth and boundless opportunities. More highlights: two big sales, an investment that doubles and three memorable excursions to new places.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Although you might not succeed

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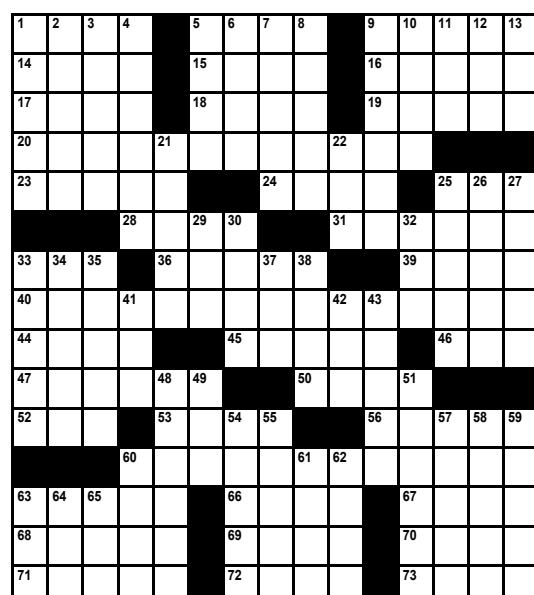
Answers on P13

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.



- worker
- "___ was saying"
- Former Fords
- Suffix for a believer
- Electronically charged atom
- Blowing away
- Cancels
- Pfc. superior
- Depart abruptly
- Handy
- Night flier
- Bridal veil material
- Conspicuous success
- Make a figure eight
- Distort
- "Sesame Street" shopkeeper
- Wall Street Journal subj.
- University conferral
- "___ the ramparts ..."
- Taoism founder, ___-tzu

The Toughie

Answers on P13

- Across**
- Hotel amenities
 - Slant
 - Inexpensive wine choice
 - This might be red
 - Result of overexercise
 - Loathe
 - Hand cream ingredient
 - Whirl
 - Literature Nobelist Hermann
 - Beef Wellington is one of his famous dishes
 - Declivitous
 - Way
 - Peony pollinator
 - On Soc. Sec., maybe
 - Bottled water brand
 - Civil War side, abbr.
 - Country
 - Kind of carpet
 - Ossobuco alla Milanese was one of her favorite dishes
 - Subject of some treaties
 - Black, in the insect world
 - Court fig.
 - Pacific Northwest airport nickname
 - Sassy one
 - Cygnets' mother
 - Lodge letters
 - Speech outline
 - Smoked salmon pizza is one of his famous dishes
 - Arctic
- Down**
- Nasty
 - Earthen water pot
 - "Barracuda" band
 - Ross and Java
 - Tire problem
 - Eye washes
 - Shore soarer
 - Big bash
 - Some deer
 - Stove light
 - Really like
 - Farmer, at times
 - Shade of red
 - Cake finisher
 - Tons
 - Alabama civil rights city
 - "That's funny!"
 - Follow
 - Hesitant sounds
 - Shipwreck signal
 - Poetic preposition
 - Met offering
 - Basic version, abbr.
 - State of Brazil
 - Make law
 - Black billiard ball
 - Place to unwind
 - Ring result
 - Nine-digit ID
 - Catch
 - Yes or no follower
 - Madison Avenue

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1	S	P	A	4	S	H	E	7	W	R	P	A	10	P
11	T	A	R	12	T	E	A	13	A	U	R	A		
14	A	L	E	15	A	R	R	16	A	N	G	E	D	
17	B	E	A	18	S	T	19	L	I	T				
20	H	U	M	21	I	D	22	S	23	A	24	Y		
25	F	O	R	26	E	S	E	27	R	I	P	E		
28	O	W	E	29	D	30	T	S	31	H	I	R	T	S
32	E	N	D	33	D	A	T	E	D					
34	C	O	P	35	B	E	36	A	37	M	38	S		
39	P	R	E	40	A	C	H	41	E	R	42	G	O	T
43	R	A	T	44	S	O	R	45	E	46	V	E		
47	O	N	C	48	R	A	49	W	50	D	E	W		

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

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	S	P	A	5	B	I	A	8	H	O	U	12	S	13			
14	T	I	D	15	A	C	H	E	16	A	B	H	O	R			
17	A	L	O	E	18	R	E	E	L	19	H	E	S	S	E		
20	G	O	R	D	21	N	R	A	M	22	S	A	Y				
23	S	T	E	E	P	24	P	A	T	H	25	B	E	26	E		
27	R	E	28	T	29	D	30	D	A	31	S	A	N	I			
32	C	33	S	34	R	U	R	35	A	36	L	37	S	H	A	G	
38	L	I	D	39	I	A	B	A	S	40	T	41	A	N	I	C	H
42	A	R	M	S	43	W	I	D	O	W	44	A	T	T			
45	S	E	A	T	46	A	C	47	S	N	I	48	P				
49	P	E	N	50	B	P	O	E	51	N	O	52	E	S			
53	W	O	L	F	G	54	A	55	N	G	P	U	C	K			
56	P	O	L	A	R	57	U	G	L	58	Y	59	O	L	L	A	
60	H	E	A	R	T	61	S	E	A	S	62	F	L	A	T		
63	D	R	O	P	S	64	E	R	N	E	65	F	E	T	E		

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Community Events

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Family & Youth

Infant Massage - Valemount

Come learn about the benefits and techniques for infant massage at 99 Gorse Street, RVCS on Wednesdays starting August 28 from 10:30-11:30am. This program is subject to date changes. Registration is required as there are limited spaces available. Ages 0-12 months with an adult only (no siblings). Brought to you by the RVCS Infant Development Program. To register, please contact the office at events@rvcsbc.org 250-566-9107 (Valemount) 250-569-2266 (McBride).

Puzzle Piece Pioneers – McBride

August 29 Come do a puzzle of the world and brush up on your world geography at 942 3rd Avenue, McBride from 1-3pm. Everyone is welcome. Drop in event. Bring your questions or technology you need support with also. 250-569-2266 / events@rvcsbc.org for more info.

Ongoing family & youth

Family Place Drop In Program - Valemount & McBride

If you have questions, are looking for parenting resources, or just need to chat, you can join us in person 9am-noon every Monday in McBride or Friday in Valemount. Our weekly targeted programming is a great way for kids ages 0-6 (with their caregivers) to play, connect, explore, and learn!

McBride on Mondays

September 2- No drop-in; Statutory Holiday
September 9 – No Drop-in; RVCS Office Closed
September 11- Play at RVCS in lieu of September 9th

Valemount on Fridays

August 30- Lets get ready for kindergarten at Centennial Park!
September 6- Dino day at Centennial Park!
September 13- Play dough fun at Centennial Park for National Play Dough day

Dungeons & Dragons - McBride Library

For ages 12-18, the classic fantasy storytelling game. Join us on Tuesdays from 3.30-5.00pm at the McBride Library. Bring D&D dice if you have them!

Wacky Wednesdays - McBride Library

Wacky Wednesdays is our old "Fun Fridays" summer program for kids, but on a different day! Kids aged 5-8 are invited to join us on Wednesdays from 1-2pm, and kids aged 9-13 are invited to come along from 3-4pm. We have three special Science Camp sessions that will be a combined group (starting at 1pm). Please contact us for more details or to register your child. Starts July 3rd! (see Wacky Wednesday Science Specials below for these special events which interrupt regular programming).

Sunshine Stories - McBride Library

10:30-11am. An early literacy program for children ages 0-5 and caregivers. Songs, rhymes, stories and fun! In partnership with Decoda Literacy. Runs each Thursday until September 5th!

Board Teens - McBride Library

Board Teens is a new program aimed at teens (ages 12-18), who are invited to come play some of the library's many board games every Thursday from 3-5pm. Have a favourite game you like to play? Bring it with you!

Community Garden Harvest - Valemount

Thursdays August 29th - September 12th Caregivers and their children ages 0-5 years are invited to come our Harvest Sessions from 12:30pm-2:00pm at the Community Gardens 201 Ash Street (behind the VSS field, access just to the right). Registration is preferred call 1-844-324-2004 or email events@rvcsbc.org.

Summer Reading Club - Valemount Library

At the Valemount Public Library Ages 6-12. Join us at the library every Wednesday at 1:00pm for crafts & activities during the months of July & August. Start date July 3. To register, call 250-566-4367.

Summer Weekly Challenges - Valemount Library

Complete weekly challenges and enter to win prizes at the Valemount Library! Fun for the whole family to do together.

Week 1 - Play outdoor games in library yard

Week 2 - Have a picnic

Week 3 - Decorate sidewalks with chalk

Week 4 - Go on a bike ride

Week 5 - Build a sandcastle

Week 6 - Go on a nature walk

Week 7 - Look for constellations on a clear night

Week 8 - Find a new recipe and cook it together with your family

Read to Me Club - Valemount Library

Ages 0-5. Come to the Valemount library during the months July and August and receive a reading log. Keep track of your weekly reading for a chance to win prizes.

Teen Summer Reading Bingo - Valemount Library

Ages 13-18 Come to the Valemount Library during the months July and August and receive a bingo sheet. Keep track of your reading for a chance to win prizes.

Summer Reading Club McBride & Valemount

Valemount Library - join us at the library every Wednesday at 1pm for crafts and activities at the Valemount Library. Ages 6-12. Register at the library. You will also receive a reading log to Keep track of your reading this summer and enter to win prizes.

McBride Library - Reading logs, stickers and bookmarks are available for kids at the library now, and this year all the family can join in, with a series of weekly challenges! Each participant will be in one of four houses: House of Unicorn, dragon, mer or griffin. Completing your reading logs and weekly challenges will earn house points, and the winning house at the end of the summer will have the medal ceremony party decorated in their honour! Call in at the library for more details.

Pancake Breakfast - Valemount

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

Old time Music & Dancing -Valemount

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

Senior/Adult

Pine Needle Baskets workshop - Dunster

September 22 10-4pm Pine Needle Baskets with Heather Zahn (\$20). Limited space. Participants must be 13 years old and older. To register email dunsterstationmuseum@gmail.com

Valemount Seed Library

Mon- Thurs 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.

Free Food Pantry - McBride

Mon-Thurs McBride RVCS (942 3rd Ave) has a FREE FOOD PANTRY that's available to all! Emergency top-up food is accessible to our clients, Family Place Drop In program and anyone who walks through the door. We share and accept donated foods that are safe and fresh for use, this project is made possible thanks to grant funding from United Way of BC, and the residents of the Robson Valley! Contact RVCS at 1-844-324-2004 or email foodsecurity@rvcsbc.org. The local Food Bank is also available: 250-569-3186.

Free Food Farm Stand and Pantry -Valemount

Open Mon- Fri, 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.

Ongoing adult/all-age

Coffee House - Valemount

Free Drop-In/Coffee House at the Golden Years Lodge the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month 10 am -2 pm. It's open to everyone regardless of your age. If you currently have mobility issues, call CARE-A-VAN 778-915-8550 for a ride in the accessibility bus.

Fibre Artists - McBride

On Wednesdays the McBride Library host the Fibre Artists' group 10am-12pm: come knit, sew or crochet with us! Beginners welcome. Online option available for anyone who would like to join us that way – call the library for info on 250 569 2411.

Crafty Stitchers - McBride

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

German Conversation Club - McBride

Join us on Wednesday mornings at the McBride Library for a fun German language conversational class with Lilly. All levels and abilities welcome, from beginners to advanced. For further details, call the library on 250 569 2411.

McBride Library Writing Group

Our Writing Group for adults meets every Friday afternoon 1:30-3pm. We tend to chat for the first 30 minutes about what we are working on, then we sit silently for an hour to write. Our writers are working on a range of things – novels, memoirs, poems, short stories, dissertations. Writing something? Come join us!

Tuesday Night Jam - McBride

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.

Adult Summer Reading Bingo - Valemount Library

Come to the Valemount library during the months July and August and receive a bingo sheet. Keep track of your reading for a chance to win prizes.

Farmer's Markets

Valemount Farmers Market

Thursdays at the Visitor Info Centre 4-7pm.

McBride Farmers Market

Fridays 11am-2pm. at the Pavilion in Steve Kolida Park. Make it Bake it Grow it or gently used items. Table space \$10.00/ wk Children under 12 \$2.00/wk. For further information contact Jackie Edwards 250 569 7101

Dunster Farmer's Market

Saturdays at the Dunster Community Hall 11:00 to 1:00. Vendors welcome - no charge for table. Burger Concession. Bedding plants, baking, crafts, odds and ends, etc.. From JULY 6-SEPT 28.

This Month

Valemount Marina Fishing Derby

Aug 31-Sept 1st 2024 Valemount Marina Association Annual Fishing Derby. Camping available at Griffin Sawmill, Yellowjacket and Horsey Creek.

Next Month(s)

Fall Bike Fest - Valemount

Sept.13-15 A celebration of all things mountain biking. Shuttles, mini contests and social events. Please watch for the Valemount Bike Facebook page for a release of more information and ticket sales.

Mushroom Festival - Dunster

Sept 27-29th 2024 Robson Valley Mushroom Festival at the Dunster Schoolhouse. Workshops, vendors, mushroom arts and more. Visit www.robsonvalleymushroomfestival.com for more info.



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Picturesque Mountain Views! 12 acre parcel has stunning views, a good set up for horses, and a creek running alongside the property. Comfortable 4 bdrm 2 bath home with big bright windows allowing you to enjoy the views all day long. Great workshop/ storage shed.

4575 Stone Rd

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This "Hidden Gem" could be the cabin in the mountains you have been waiting for. Over 1500 sq ft, loft bedrooms, cozy floor plan on main floor. Over 4.5 acres of privacy at the end of a quiet road. Big yard, fire pit area, storage shed and lots of surrounding trees. Check it out!

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REDUCED



\$369,900

Drastically Reduced! Vacant and move in ready. 20 year warranty on this 3 bdrm 2 bath home. Modern open concept, lots of cupboards, high end stainless appliances, large island. Huge deck finishes this brand new home. Make your offer today.

1250 Fowler Place



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Gorgeous Chalet style Home! Stunning 3 bdrm, 2 bath, open concept kitchen/ living room with vaulted ceilings. Huge bright windows, cozy covered deck all on a half acre lot. Very desirable area and vacation rental ready! Start making money now.

3315 Sawyer Rd

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\$895,000

Your Dream Log Home on 5 acres of private land. Stunning 4 bdrm/3bath custom built log home. Beautiful new kitchen with large island leading into a generously sized living rm with high vaulted ceilings and big bright windows! Bonus guest suite, new deck, new metal roof & more. Incredible price for this home.

1471 8th Place

REDUCED



\$359,900

Make an offer on the brand new modular home! 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 3rd den/bdrm. Open concept, bright white upper cabinets with darker lower ones. Large island, cozy covered deck with mountain views. Quiet street near the end of a cul-de-sac. Try your offer!

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

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