



Close call for Leon Lorenz

P3

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

Your weekly source of news, views and entertainment

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## Valemount Christmas Market



On Dec. 13th, Three Ranges Brewing hosted a Christmas Night Market inspired by those held in Europe, featuring traditional German baked goods, Kinderpunsch, mulled wine, Bratwurst on a bun and several local art/craft/toy vendors. The evening drew a large crowd and set the stage for a larger European night market next year.

Lisa Feldmann and Amy Atzenberger dished out delicious goodies and non-alcoholic kinderpunsch (similar to mulled wine, made with juice and spices). The punch was a hit with kids and adults alike.

/LAURA KEIL

## Integris announces McBride credit union location

By ANDREA ARNOLD

After much anticipation, Integris Credit Union announced the location of their new branch in McBride on Tuesday, December 10th.

The branch will be located at 210 Main Street and will open for banking services in early February. In a follow-up announcement made on Monday, December 16th, Integris confirmed that an ATM will be loaned to

McBride from the Quesnel branch until a permanent arrangement can be made. Integris hopes to have the loaner ATM in place by mid-late January.

Staff from Integris have been working alongside members of the McBride community over the past year to establish a business case for community banking services, secure a location, and are now renovating it for business.

Integris has hired its three-person team for the new

branch, and these experienced individuals began training in Prince George on December 12th. One team member will serve as Branch Manager and the other two as Member Service Representatives.

The new branch will be able to provide clients with account opening, cash and deposit services, investments, borrowing, online banking support, ATM and night deposit. The projected hours

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# Integrus McBride...Cont'd from A1

of staffed operation will be Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Friday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Although some details are still being ironed out, a soft opening is planned for early February. At first, some of the branch features and services will be limited. Integrus says its goal is to help as many members as possible. In addition to personal banking needs, the staff will be able to connect individuals with experts for business and commercial needs.

Integrus is asking for feedback as to what members think is working, and what is needed for them to better serve the community including questions, comments and ideas about the new branch. They can be reached toll free at 1-866-554-3456.

To date, the community of and around McBride has exceeded a third of Integrus' target goal. This goal includes deposits, loans, mortgages and membership numbers. Details of the exact numbers have not been released but Integrus is pleased to see that over a third of the first quarter goal has been reached by those who have signed up to

bank with Integrus, without the physical doors being open.

As a financial cooperative, Integrus Credit Union is owned by members. Membership has multiple levels. 'A' Shares are held by individual members and businesses. Individuals must hold a minimum of \$5 in their account, while businesses have a minimum of \$25. 'C' Shares are also available. The maximum purchase amount of these shares is \$50,000 and provide a higher level of local ownership to the institution.

"We are hopeful that with our branch opening, we will see that increase to our membership target," Integrus stated in its press release.

"We want to say a big thank you for all your support. Integrus has a home in McBride because of the incredibly welcoming community, and we cannot wait to be the new kid on the block," said Alison Hoskins CEO.

In the meantime, those members who are needing cash and deposit services directly can contact Bridget (250-612-3413) or Dan (250-981-2703) and they will help facilitate during one of their upcoming community visits.

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*Through the Lens with  
Leon Lorenz*

I can only give a bit of an educated guess why the mother grizzly suddenly changed her mind from passing by me with her family to suddenly and unprovoked charge straight at me. Grizzly bears are unpredictable. Note the sod and grass being kicked up by her long claws. As I had mentioned earlier the bears had fed into my space and they were fully aware I was there for a number of minutes. Late fall berry patches for the bears is an important food source as they pack on the pounds for the upcoming hibernation which could make them defensive of. I was also unfortunately filming from a standing position which could be perceived as me wanting to be dominant and possibly threatening to her. For me generally being in a low crouched position has a number of clear filming advantages and I also must add a much less chance of shooting too high if I have to defend myself with repeated shots from my revolver on a fast approaching angry bear at close range. Unfortunately I had unstrapped my loaded 44 Magnum a few minutes earlier when I stopped to rest and eat my lunch so as I wheeled around to my right to grab at my holstered gun on the ground she wheeled to her left and with her cubs quickly took off. The speed of a charging grizzly is so crazy fast that words don't do justice to describe the reality of it. I probably had barely 2 seconds left before she would of reached me which wouldn't of been enough time to draw out the revolver, turn back around and fire a lethal shot. I praise God for the protection he gave me. I learned a valuable lesson to always keep my gun strapped on for quicker access. I can only remember one other time I didn't have my gun strapped on when filming a grizzly. I was on a remote river bank and had taken my clothes off and hung them up to dry when this grizzly came looking for spawned out Chinook salmon just below me. I managed to get some pretty good footage of the bear wearing just my birthday suit.

It's been 14 years since I was last charged by a mother grizzly at very close range when I had to fire my gun. If you haven't seen my film "Wildest of the Wild" to see this dramatic footage you can see the footage by Googling BC filmmaker attacked by grizzlies as CBC, National Post, The Globe and Mail, Daily Motion, Wilderness Survival among others that carried this story.

To further add to the drama the grizzlies gave me this past fall in the Muskwa-Kechika wilderness the fog rolled in so thick later in the afternoon that I had to literally watch my compass needle almost constantly to descend off the high mountain plateau in the correct direction to reach my camp before dark. /LEON LORENZ

VALEMOUNT COUNCIL NOTES

# Valemount Council: housing needs, Kinbasket dust, event attendance budget

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Valemount Council discussed housing in the village, collecting evidence of dust storms and the end of the proposed pump track at their regular meeting on December 10th.

### Industrial Park update

Council received a delegation from Andy Hubbell, the manager of Valemount Industrial Park and Tom Jamin, the president of the Industrial Park. The Industrial Park used to share a board of directors with the Valemount Community Forest, Jamin said, but recently assembled its own board, who first met in September.

Hubbell gave an update on the park and outlined its future plans. It currently has eight full-time employees, one part-time employee and two part-time contractors at the specialty mill, he said.

According to Hubbell, the Industrial Park has been purchasing local logs, which allows it to make higher-quality products while contributing to the local economy. The VIP has grown its inventory and roster of clients over the past few years, he added, and produces for clients as far as Japan.

Additionally, the sawmill has installed washrooms for employees with laundry and showers, where it previously only had

port-a-potties. The sawmill is also in the process of purchasing a dust-collection system which Hubbell hopes will improve the air quality surrounding the mill.

The park is in the process of updating its emergency preparation, including revising its maps for emergency support services to navigate the industrial park, Hubbell said.

It is also modifying its fire prevention plan.

Jamin thanked the Village for its continued support and collaboration.

Torgerson thanked Hubbell for his updates.

### Interim Housing Needs Report

Village staff produced an Interim Housing Needs Report in accordance with Bill 44, a piece of provincial legislation requiring municipalities to submit a report with the five and 20-year housing needs and a summary of what the municipality has done since submitting its last Housing Needs Report.

The report submitted to Council had an error in it, said Councillor Donnie MacLean. A section of the report focused on housing for seniors stated that the Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society received approval for funding the residential portion of a supportive living facility. According to MacLean, the Society's chair, the Society never applied for that funding.

CAO Anne Yanciw said amending the report would require re-contracting the

third party firm it hired to produce the report, Spirited Exchanges, because the firm used a software which the Village does not own when producing the report. As such, staff chose to leave the Housing Needs Report in its entirety, and append the Bill 44 requirements to the report.

Torgerson said the report could be corrected next year.

Council moved to adopt the report.

### Grant application for Village intern

Valemount has previously employed interns who help with policy writing and research, among other tasks, through funding from the Northern Development Initiative Trust's Local Government Internship Program. The Village's current intern was hired through this funding, according to the staff report on the grant.

Staff asked for Council's approval to apply for the program again. If the grant application is successful, it will allow the Village to hire a full-time intern for one year, which will help with a lack of capacity within the Economic Development department, according to the staff report.

Council approved staff to apply for the grant.

### Kinbasket Reservoir videos

Council passed a motion to hire a consultant who will assist in collecting and reviewing video and photo evidence of dust storms in the village. Additionally, the consultant will help monitor PM10

– small particulate matter which can reduce air quality – and collect data on silica dust, which can cause chronic lung problems if inhaled on a regular basis. For more details on Council's discussion of the motion, turn to P6.

### Village rentals policy

Council approved an amended version of the Rental of Village Facilities and Property Policy, which outlines the steps for renting equipment and facilities such as the Village's projector or the Community Hall, among others.

Staff updated the policy, which has not been reviewed since it was first adopted in 2013. The amendments include removing the fee schedule, directing renters to consult the Village's Fees and Charges Bylaw instead. Additionally, insurance and deposit requirements will now be set out in rental contracts, rather than in the policy itself. Two spaces that the Village no longer rents – the Community Services Building classroom and meeting room – were removed from the policy. Finally, the regulations for the Sports Plex and John Osadchuk Ball Diamond now allow for full-day rentals, rather than two-hour time slots.

### Council events policy

Currently, councillors and the mayor have to pass a Council resolution if they want to attend conferences, out-of-town meetings or other events. Then, payment

CONT'D ON P4

# Valemount Council... Cont'd from P3

for the event is drawn from a single account. According to a staff report on this policy, this can be a problem if events do not have sufficient notice to be approved at a Council meeting.

Staff recommended amending the policy to allocate an event attendance fund for each elected official. The amounts would be determined during the 2025 budget approval process.

Council defeated the amendment. "I have serious concerns with this," Pearson said. "There's no numbers involved to give us an idea of if it will be an equitable budget for us to attend events."

He added that the amended policy might force councillors to pick and choose which events they attend, which he said would be unfair to their constituents as the events provide an opportunity to represent and advocate for Valemount. Events also provide valuable learning opportunities for newer councillors, according to Pearson. He asked for the amendment to be brought back to Council with more specific numbers involved.

Blanchette echoed Pearson's concerns. Having to commit to attending an event well in advance may be difficult for councillors who work multiple jobs, she said.

"Some of us don't have control over our schedules. I need to see dates," she said. "I can't agree to something when I don't know what the date is."

Torgerson said councillors have already received a schedule with next year's important events, such as annual general meetings of the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Pearson added that many events – such

as the UBCM meeting – are held in Vancouver or Victoria, adding to travel expenses that councillors have no control over.

"I feel that the pressure is going to be on us to balance events: do I choose NCLGA or UBCM? Are those events equally important?" he said. "This will impact councillors that work full-time and put more restrictions on their ability to travel to events."

Mulyk also asked for more details, especially an estimate of what each councillor's event attendance budget would be.

"I see this as being a really good idea, but it needs some work," he said.

Torgerson asked to postpone the decision pending further information from staff. No motion was required, so Council moved on to its reading file.

## Rural Voices gatherings

Valemount local Rashmi Narayan organized several Rural Voices gatherings in Valemount, McBride and Dunster, plus one online session, from November 20th through the 27th. The gatherings were part of a province-wide event organized by the Rural Coordination Centre of British Columbia, a group that advocates for rural healthcare that is on par with urban parts of the province.

Narayan sent a summary of her gatherings to Valemount Council. According to her summary, participants agreed that having more transportation for medical services, more healthcare workers, and better coordination of available resources would benefit the Robson Valley, among other suggestions.

"I appreciate the work," Pearson said. He added that the information would be useful for the Community Collaborative

Table, a committee working to identify ways to improve health services in Valemount.

## Pump track not viable

After 14 months of planning and fundraising, the Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) board of directors has determined that building a pump track in Valemount is not viable. VARDA Executive Director Curtis Pawliuk wrote a letter to Council to inform them of the decision.

"While we were initially successful with community interest, fundraising dollars and initial grant funding, unfortunately over the past few months we have been unable to move forward with plans for a land lease," Pawliuk wrote.

Mulyk said the news was disappointing. "To be honest, I was quite dismayed to read this letter," he said. "We all agreed it's a good idea... I really hope we leave no stone unturned to find a solution that's equitable to everyone – the Village and VARDA."

## Public Comments

Resident Junior Osadchuk, who sits on the VIP board, commented on the Industrial Park updates that Hubbell and Jamin gave at the beginning of the meeting.

"I figured there'd be a little more info on the real meat and potatoes of how it's going," he said.

Osadchuk also commented on VARDA's announcement about the pump track project ending. Earlier this year, VARDA received \$120,000 for the pump track project from the Columbia Basin Trust's Resident-Directed (ReDi) Grant program. The Trust had about \$373K in funding available for Valemount-based applicants to the program, roughly a third of which went to VARDA.

"There were a lot of groups... that were

pretty disappointed that they didn't get any funding, because a lot of it went to that one group," Osadchuk said.

As The Goat reported in April, about \$150K in funding was left over from the 2024 ReDi program, which will be rolled over into this year's funds. Four organizations – the elementary school Parent Advisory Council, the Secondary School Parent Advisory Council, the Curling Club, and the Valemount Community Sports Day Association – were denied funding. At the time, Yanciw told The Goat that the grant adjudication committee felt these organizations' projects were the responsibility of the local government, making them ineligible to receive funding.

The money VARDA received from the ReDi program will be returned to the Trust and included in this year's ReDi pool, Torgerson told Osadchuk.

After Osadchuk ended his comments, Jamin spoke about the Clean Air Task Force and the lack of a weather station in Valemount. Jamin told Council he used to sit on the task force.

"We in Valemount sit between Blue River and McBride, and we do not have proper forecasting for Valemount," he said. "With our own weather station, we'd get proper reporting of what is happening in this valley."

According to Jamin, Valemount has very different weather from Blue River and slightly different weather from McBride. He believes the weather in Valemount may impact its air quality, and suggested Council should ask the Ministry of Environment for assistance in setting up a weather station in Valemount.

Torgerson thanked Jamin for his comments.

## In-Camera

Torgerson adjourned the open session of Council at 7:58 p.m. to enter an in-camera meeting.

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

### GARBAGE PICK-UP SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

If your regular day is:

**Wednesday** the 25<sup>th</sup>, pick-up will be on **Tuesday** the 24<sup>th</sup>

**Thursday** the 26<sup>th</sup>, pick-up will be on **Friday** the 27<sup>th</sup>

**Wednesday** the 1<sup>st</sup>, pick-up will be on **Tuesday** the 31<sup>st</sup>

Regular pick-up will resume on January 2<sup>nd</sup>

### CBT RESIDENT DIRECTED GRANTS

Are you ReDi? 2025 is almost upon us, and with it the next cycle of the CBT ReDi Grants! Funds available in this upcoming cycle will be nearly \$500,000 for projects to improve our community, so dream big and get involved. Application intake opens on January 6. Stay tuned for details on [valemount.ca/redi](http://valemount.ca/redi).

### ANIMAL AND BUSINESS LICENSES

All animal and business licenses are due for renewal by January 31, 2025. Please contact the Village Office in the new year.

### NOTICE OF DISPOSITION OF LAND

Pursuant to Sections 26 and 94 of the Community Charter, notice is hereby given that the Village of Valemount intends to lease the second-floor office and retail space situated at **Lot 1, District Lot 7354, Cariboo District Plan BCP33410** (735 Cranberry Lake Road) to **Tourism Valemount** for a term of 1 year (January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025), at a monthly rate of \$1694.83 including GST.

For more information please contact:  
Carleena Shepherd,  
CO, Village of Valemount  
735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0  
(T) 250.566.4435  
(E) [corporate@valemount.ca](mailto:corporate@valemount.ca)

### VALEMOUNT ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

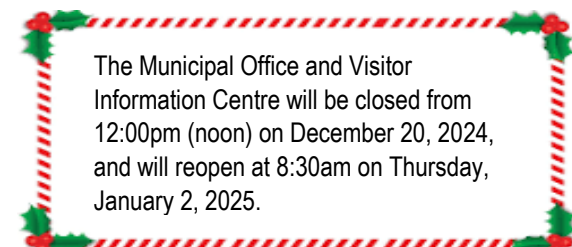
The Village of Valemount is seeking volunteers to fill a vacancy on the Accessibility Committee. The Committee member should be a person with disabilities or an individual who supports persons with disabilities. The successful applicant will be invited to sit on the committee for a two-year term. The role of this "Select Committee of Council" is to make recommendations to Council regarding accessibility-related matters, including identifying and preventing barriers to individuals in or interacting with the Village, and developing an accessibility plan.

If you are interested in being part of the committee, please submit a brief statement expressing your interest and relevant experience, as well as any pertinent background information.

Please ensure your statement of interest is received by, or emailed to, the Village Office no later than 4:00 pm, on December 20, 2024 and is addressed to:  
Krista Ety, Planner, at [planner@valemount.ca](mailto:planner@valemount.ca).

### ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY

Please help us learn what matters to the Valemount community to make it more accessible for everyone. Your feedback is invaluable in identifying areas of improvement to create an accessible Valemount. Please take the survey on the Village website, [valemount.ca](http://valemount.ca), under "Latest News & Events," or phone the Village office for assistance at 250-566-4435. Thank you for your participation!



The Municipal Office and Visitor Information Centre will be closed from 12:00pm (noon) on December 20, 2024, and will reopen at 8:30am on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

### 2024 PROPERTY TAX AND UTILITIES DEADLINE

Remember that 2024 taxes and utilities must be paid in full by December 31, 2024. Non-receipt of tax or utility notice does not excuse a property owner from payment. Utility accounts are transferred to tax accounts on January 1 and become taxes in arrears. Taxes in arrears begin accumulating interest as of January 1, 2025. If in doubt, please call the Village office to ensure your tax and utility accounts are up to date.

While the office is closed over the holiday season, payment can be made by online banking, third party credit card (allow for extra processing time), or e-transfers to [dof@valemount.ca](mailto:dof@valemount.ca).

### SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • January 14 & 28, 2025  | • July 8, 2025           |
| • February 11 & 25, 2025 | • August 12, 2025        |
| • March 11 & 25, 2025    | • September 9, 2025      |
| • April 8 & 22, 2025     | • October 14 & 28, 2025  |
| • May 27, 2025           | • November 12 & 25, 2025 |
| • June 10 & 24, 2025     | • December 9, 2025       |

### Meetings have not been scheduled for:

- May 13, 2025 – NCLGA Conference
  - July 22 and August 26, 2025 – Amended Summer Schedule
  - September 23, 2025 – UBCM Conference
  - December 23, 2025 - Christmas Office Closure
- The 1st meeting of November falls on Remembrance Day, so it has been rescheduled to Wednesday, November 12.

Meetings are at 7:00 pm at the Village of Valemount Council Chambers, 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount, BC.

The regular Council meeting schedule for 2025 will be posted at the entrance of the Municipal Office, and on the Village of Valemount website. Please note that Council may consider changing Council meeting dates and times. Changes will be posted on the front door of the Village Office and at [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca).



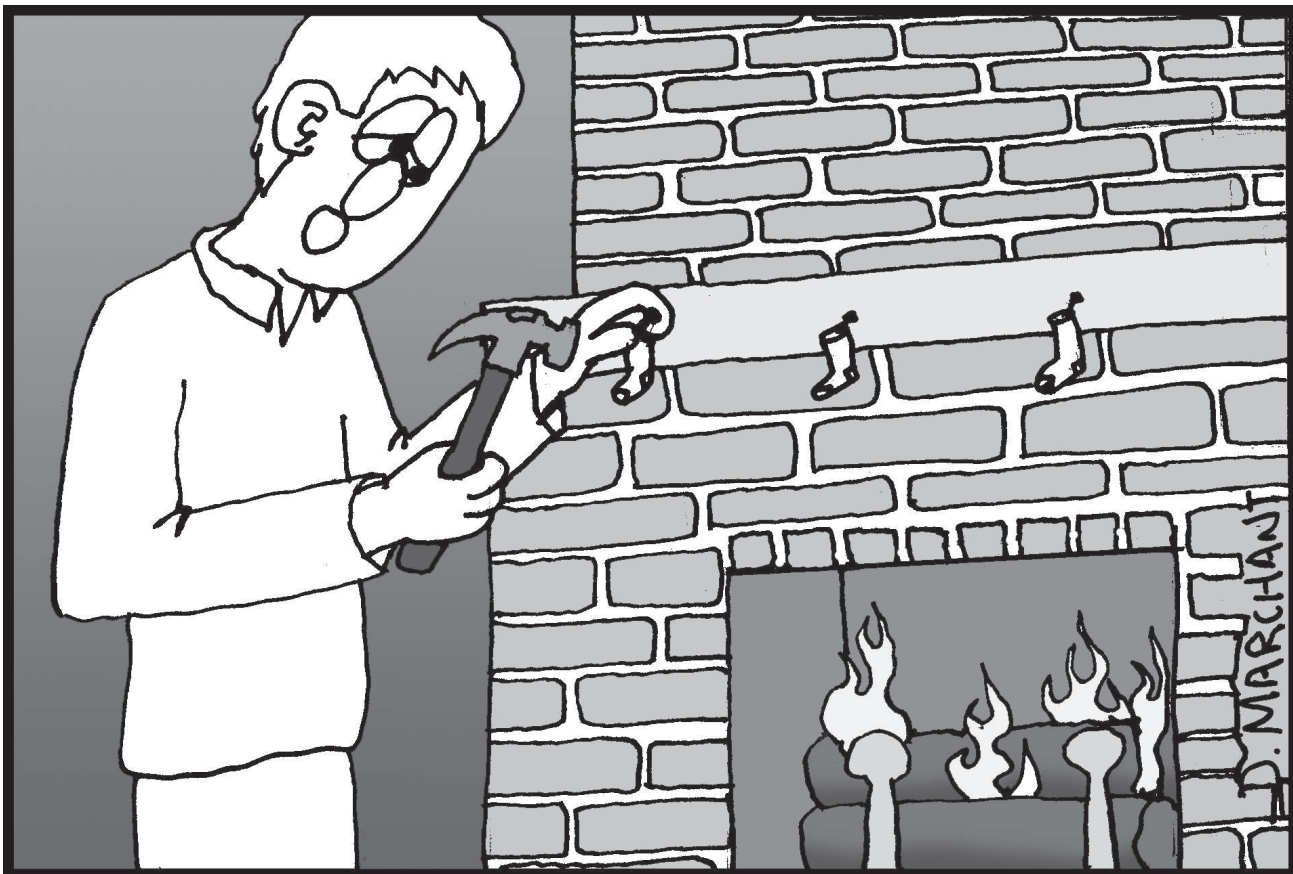
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## About Letters to the Editor

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



## Dr Vogel bids farewell

After nearly sixty years of continuous veterinary work involving service to people in Nebraska, Iowa, Kamloops, the North Thompson, Alberta, the Greater Prince George area, Valemount, Dunster, and McBride, I am closing my practice effective January 1st (possibly temporarily).

A special thank you to the small animal owners who believed in my work and loyally supported me, often travelling great distances.

It has been so very special to share with you the happy and joyful experiences of pet ownership, and be there during the sad times also.

It has been an incredibly rewarding and stimulating journey! As Bob Hope would say, "Thanks for the memories!"

Tom Vogel  
Dunster B.C.

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# Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

## Superstitious Peasants



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

More than half the world's people (4.3 billion) own smart phones, and practically everybody has access to one. All the information in the world is available to everybody. Yet willful ignorance and superstition still flourish.

From Tiktok to YouTube, the web is currently seething with videos of smugly self-righteous people pouring milk down drains (or, in some cases, toilets). 'Can't fool me,' they say. 'We know you're trying to kill us, or control our minds, or something like that.'

The focus of all the fury is Bovaer, a new feed ingredient for cows and other ruminants (sheep and goats) that greatly reduces their methane emissions. Methane is a major contributor to global warming, and of all the proposed quick fixes for excess warming this would have the biggest impact.

The world urgently needs some fast-acting fixes, because in June of 2023 the average global temperature jumped by almost one-third of a degree. That is the total amount of warming that conventional climate models were predicting would happen by the mid-2030s.

The only greenhouse gas we can cut rapidly is methane, which on a day-to-day basis accounts for about a third of the current warming. (Carbon dioxide does more harm in the long run because it stays around for centuries, whereas a methane molecule does a huge quick hit and is

gone in ten years.)

The methane burped out by the world's one-and-a-half billion cows is a mere by-product of the chemistry by which cows process hard-to-digest grass in their specialised stomachs, but it accounts for about 30% of all the world's methane emissions. Its great virtue is that we can make it go away fast.

Bovaer does that job. It's certified safe for use in 58 countries and just a quarter-teaspoon per day per cow mixed with the cattle feed will cut a herd's methane emissions by 30% for dairy cows, and by 45% for beef cattle. Done worldwide, this would have about the same impact on warming as shutting down the global aviation industry – twice.

We are not going to shut down either industry, and there is no magic pill for aircraft. But Bovaer, developed in Belgium, could be rolled out everywhere in just a few years. What reason could there be to delay it?

One reason is cost: treating one cow for one year costs around US\$50, so many farmers will not use it without government subsidy and/or legal compulsion. That's easily done, but the other obstacle is bigger: the 'superstitious peasant' factor.

These metaphorical peasants are not actual farmers, who are usually well informed about agricultural matters and will do the right thing if they can afford to. The problem is the urban peasants

who live online and eagerly swallow any old rubbish that is put before them, especially if it has a conspiratorial, paranoid quality.

The claim that the Bovaer additive in cows' feed can end up in the milk is physically impossible. The digestive system in mammals is entirely separate from the lactation system (mammary glands) that produces milk. Nevertheless, the boycotts of supermarket milk alleged to contain Bovaer are proliferating.

Almost all medical and dietary innovations now get this treatment, from the false claim in 1998 that the MMR vaccine causes autism (one-quarter of American adults still believe it today), to the 22% who believe Covid vaccines caused thousands of deaths in 2021, to the people today who think Bill Gates is trying to kill them with poisoned milk.

Why Bill Gates and not Elon Musk? Because Gates is backing an Australian start-up called Rumin8 that is working on another dietary supplement that suppresses methane production in cows (and he's secretly trying to weed out the world's population leaving only the rich).

The willfully ignorant will always be with us, but they're usually a minority. Keep going anyway. It's just another cost of doing business.



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# McBride Council: OCP Engagement update, strategic planning & a development permit

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

Mayor Gene Runtz called the McBride Council meeting to order on December 10th, 2024 at 6:04 p.m. During the meeting, members discussed the Official Community Plan - Engagement Update report, strategic planning and a development permit.

## Reports

During the reports portion of the meeting, the Councillors discussed both the Village of McBride Official Community Plan Engagement Update report and the Village of McBride 2024 Council Meeting Comparison report.

The Engagement Update provided data collected from 115 responses to the web survey that was available between October 17th and November 10th. Prior to the survey, two open houses were held as well. During these sessions, lack of development, economic instability, out-migration of young people and lack of community vibrancy were some of the top concerns voiced.

Residents also brought up some exciting opportunities for McBride; affordable living and remote work, community events and tourism and underutilized assets.

Mayor Runtz pointed out that lack of employment was among one of the big concerns. Councillor Glen Frear pointed out that jobs are unfilled due to lack of housing for people. Mayor Runtz thinks this information may be useful when the Village approaching the government

In reference to the meeting comparison report, Mayor Runtz commented that they have held twice as many

meetings as Valemount, Clinton and Pouce Coupe. These communities were used for their locations and/or population sizes. CAO Jeanette McDougall commented that the number of meetings varies based on the issues facing the community. Mayor Runtz commented that he would like to see the number drop in 2025, and the other members of Council agreed.

## Strategic plan client services

Council approved CAO McDougall's request for \$12,000 - \$13,000 to have a strategic planning session early in the new year with Tyler Brown, a planner with McElhanney Associates. Brown has been working with the OCP and Zoning Bylaws for the Village of McBride. CAO McDougall said that Brown has experience as a planner as well as with municipal government so he is able to provide a broad scope of perspectives.

## Bylaw amendment

Council adopted the Village of McBride council Procedure Bylaw Amendment No. 823, 2024. The amended bylaw will allow for varying the annual Council meeting schedule to accommodate potential timing conflicts when government conference schedules create an issue.

## Development Permit

Council approved a Development Permit for 210 Main Street, subject to compliance with the Village of McBride's Development Permit guidelines. The request was to address the building's exterior to prevent the stone finish from falling on the sidewalk and to prevent

water leakage. The owner also plans to upgrade the roof.

## Staff training costs

Council approved an amendment to Policy HR 04 version 2 regarding staff training and policy around required payback. The new amended policy will state that following Village financed training, a staff member who stays on for three months or longer will not be required to pay back any of the cost. However, if a staff member leaves of their own choice before the three month period, they will be required to cover half of the cost of training.

## UBCM Local Government Approvals Grant - Development Bylaws and Procedures Review Project

Council approved directly awarding the project to McElhanney Associates as they are familiar with the community, local land administration, development issues and the bylaws and Council feels they will be efficient in completing the project as time will not be used to learn these things. McElhanney Associates will implement the UBCM Local Government Development Approvals Grant and the Village obtained, in the amount of \$92,029.20.

## In-camera

Council proceeded to an in-camera meeting for consideration of matters of the Community Charter related to Section 90 (1): (c) labour relations or other employee relations. The regular meeting was recessed at 6:40 p.m. to conduct the in-camera meeting.

**NEXT EDITION >>>> JAN 9TH, 2025**

**There will be NO EDITION Dec 26th or Jan 2nd to accommodate staff holidays. We will have reduced office hours during that time.**

**You can still contact us at 250-566-4606 or [ads@goatnewsmedia.com](mailto:ads@goatnewsmedia.com) / [goatnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:goatnewspaper@gmail.com)**

**Check our website [www.therockymountaingoat.com](http://www.therockymountaingoat.com) for important news updates over the holidays**

## Valemount to hire consultant to review air quality data

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

In the latest move to reduce dust storms in Valemount, Council passed a motion during their December 10th meeting to hire a consultant who will help collect and review evidence of dust being blown into the village from the Kinbasket Reservoir. Additionally, the Village will collect data on silica dust in Valemount – a type of particulate which can cause chronic lung problems, according to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

The Clean Air Task Force, a Council committee that makes recommendations to the Village on how to improve air quality in Valemount, recommended that the Village create a new email account to receive photos and videos of dust storms on the Kinbasket Reservoir. The email would be open for six months, and the committee would submit the evidence to BC Hydro as part of a request to measure and report Valemount's PM10 levels – fine particulate matter, such as dust. Currently, PM2.5 – less fine dust, which typically comes from wood smoke – is monitored on a daily basis, but PM10 is monitored for 24 hours once every six days.

In the report on the committee's recommendation, staff brought up several concerns with the recommendation. According to the report, compiling submissions and addressing follow-up questions would significantly increase staff workload. Staff would also have to review each submission to verify its authenticity, then cross-check the video evidence with data on weather and air quality monitoring, a task which the Village lacks expertise for, the report says. Finally, the report adds that PM10 is already monitored by the Ministry of Environment, and the resulting data is available in an Environmental Monitoring database.

Councillor Pete Pearson said while the recommendation is a good idea, he wonders whether the email inbox will get overwhelmed with submissions. Councillor Hollie Blanchette said having an email address dedicated to dust storm evidence could prevent staff from becoming overwhelmed. Blanchette also thanked Corporate Officer Carleena Shepherd for her work on the committee.

Pearson said Village email addresses do not receive mail from free email accounts such as Gmail or Hotmail. Torgerson thanked Pearson for his point and added that inbox storage may run out quickly if the email address consistently receives videos and photos.

Blanchette asked if the Village could request tech support to compress video and photo files sent to the dust storm email. CAO Anne Yanciw said that would not be possible, as files must be compressed by the sender of an email. She suggested considering the three alternatives listed in the staff report: 1) hiring a consultant to review and compile the videos; 2) developing and circulating educational materials on how to report observations of dust to BC Hydro or other appropriate authorities; and 3) collecting air quality samples during dust events, and samples of sand from the Kinbasket Reservoir, to test for silica dust, a type of particle that has adverse health impacts.

Councillor Donnie MacLean suggested following option three. She said the Village could consider using a normal Gmail account for the email, and her own email address has not run out of storage since she began collecting evidence in July.

"I would be hesitant to do that," Yanciw said. "There might be security risks. I'm not tech-y enough to say that with confidence, it just might worry me. I would have to verify that that would be a safe process."

MacLean added that this year may have less dust

storms than last year if there is more precipitation preventing dust from getting kicked up from the Kinbasket Reservoir.

"2024 and 2023 were certainly anomaly years," Torgerson said. "With low snow loads here in the valley... the [reservoir] drawdown was particularly long this year," leaving more exposed sand that could contribute to dust storms.

MacLean agreed, and reiterated that she prefers the third option. The first option may negatively impact the Village's budget, and the second option may strain the Village's relationship with BC Hydro, she said. Torgerson asked MacLean if she was amending the motion to include the third option, alongside the creation of an email to collect video evidence. MacLean agreed to put forward the amendment.

Yanciw said if the Village chooses to move forward with collecting evidence, hiring a consultant would be necessary.

"Your staff is pretty fully loaded," she told Council. "I don't know where we would find the time to do this."

Torgerson thanked Yanciw for her feedback.

Blanchette suggested consulting with the Ministry of Environment to see if the Province could identify ways to review dust storm evidence without putting further strain on Village staff.

Councillor Pete Pearson asked if the recommendation could be amended to direct staff to find a consultant who could review dust storm evidence, so that responsibility does not fall to Village staff.

Yanciw said Council cannot amend an amendment; instead, Council would have to pass an amended motion and follow it with a second motion, or defeat MacLean's original amendment and use Pearson's amendment instead.

Torgerson suggested defeating

CONT'D ON P18



# Merry Christmas / Happy Holidays!

## Christmas Church Services

### McBride

#### Anglican United Church

Dec 19th Blue Christmas for those grieving or having a hard time.

Dec 24th Christmas Eve Service at 2:00 p.m.

#### Evangelical Free Church

Dec 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.

### St. Patrick's

Christmas Day Mass at 11:00 a.m.

### Valemount

#### Anglican United Church

Dec 24th Christmas Eve Service at 10:00 a.m.

#### New Life Centre

Christmas Church Services Dec 22nd at 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service Dec 24 at 6 p.m.

### Good Shepherd

Dec 24th Caroling at 4:30 p.m.

Dec 24th Christmas Mass 5:00 p.m., followed by Potluck

(everyone welcome)

### Blue River

#### Our Lady of the Snow

Christmas Day Mass at 9:00 a.m.

## Books of the week!

SCI-FI

### DUNE

Set on the desert planet Arrakis, Dune is the story of Paul Atrides—who would become known as Muad'Dib—and of a great family's ambition to bring to fruition mankind's most ancient and unattainable dream. A stunning blend of adventure and mysticism, environmentalism and politics, Dune won the first Nebula Award, shared the Hugo Award, and formed the basis of what is undoubtedly the grandest epic in science fiction.



THRILLER

### BIRNAM WOOD

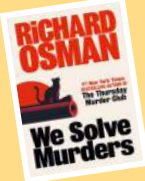
From the Booker Prize-winning author of The Luminaries comes an electrifying thriller about ambition, greed, environmental collapse, and how even our best intentions can lead to deadly consequences.



MYSTERY

### WE SOLVE MURDERS

Amy Wheeler thinks adrenaline is good for the soul. Working in private security, every day is dangerous. She's currently on a remote island protecting mega-bestselling author Rosie D'Antonio, until a dead body and a bag of money mean trouble in paradise. So she sends an SOS to the only person she trusts; Her retired father-in law and fellow sleuth, Steve Wheeler.



HISTORICAL FICTION

### THE NIGHTINGALE

With courage, grace, and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of World War II and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. The Nightingale tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied France.



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Pick one up at local stores.  
Look for posters at participating businesses.

### Shop Local & Collect Stamps

From Dec 6 – Jan 16, earn a stamp per purchase at participating businesses.

### Enter to Win Prizes

Snap a pic of your completed passport and send it to @tourismvalemount on Instagram Messenger to win.

More completed passports = more chances to win!

Follow our social media for more details!





# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

**2025**  
**Leite Jaune LODGE**  
 May each day of the New Year glow with Good Cheer and Happiness for you and your family  
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**ROMAN CATHOLIC NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULES**

**2025 Wednesday, Jan 1st**

**McBride**  
 (St. Patrick's)  
 New Year's Day  
 Lay Led 11:00 AM

**Valemount**  
 (Good Shepherd)  
 1378 - 3rd Avenue, Valemount BC

**Blue River**  
 (Our Lady of the Snow)  
 Mass or Lay Led to be Announced

For more information please call Eugene or Monique 250 - 566 - 4493

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**Tim Hortons**  
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**EMIL ANDERSON**  
 MAINTENANCE | ROBSON

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**Cheers to a wonderful year ahead!**

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**From the whole team**

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## WISHING YOU EVERY HAPPINESS IN 2025!

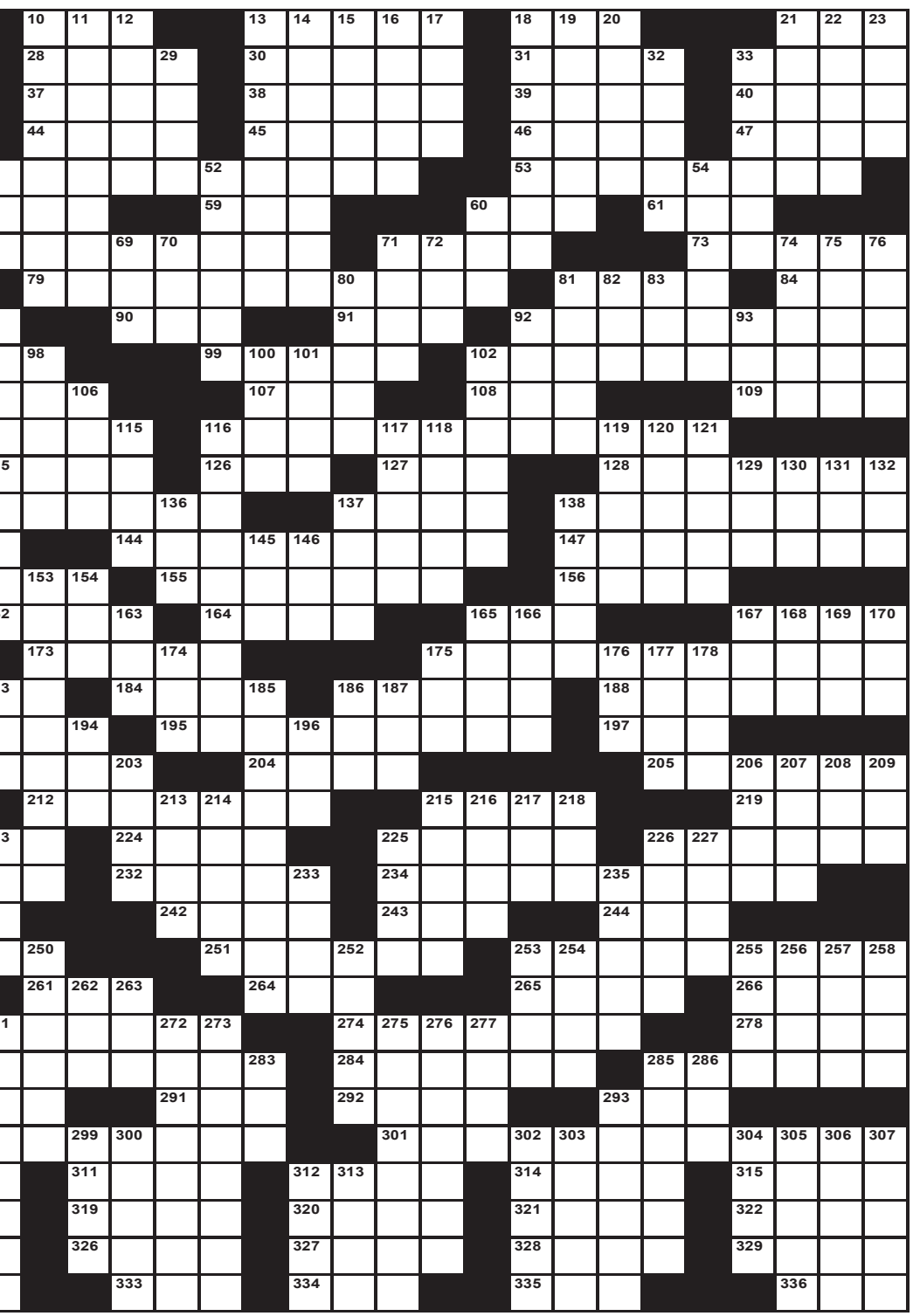
- FROM THE GOAT TEAM

**Across**

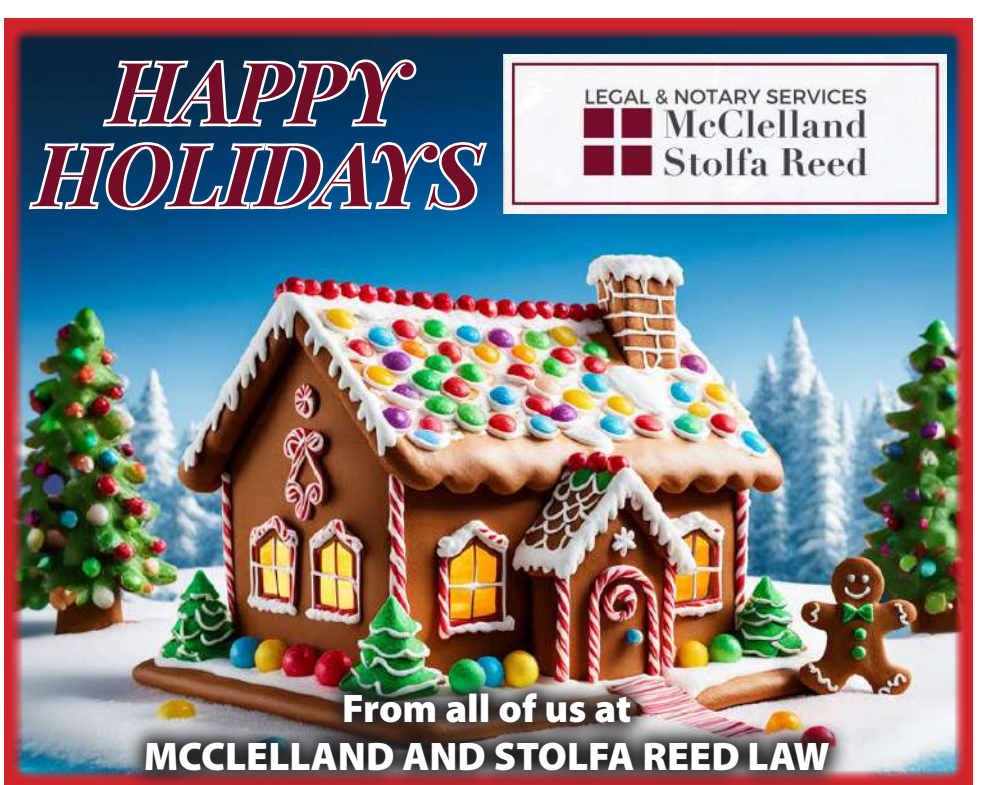
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- 30 Accountant
- 31 Park City locale
- 33 End-of-a-round sound
- 34 Kind of loser
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- 37 Voluminous do
- 38 Hip bone related
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- 59 It's next to nothing
- 60 \_\_\_ welder
- 61 Not a flier!
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- 66 Lounging site
- 68 Recoils
- 71 Nincompoop
- 73 Darkest part of a shadow
- 77 Major or Minor in the sky?
- 78 Whirlybird
- 79 In control
- 81 Dec. holiday
- 84 Sought office
- 85 Foreboding
- 86 Scale marking, perhaps
- 87 World Baseball Classic team
- 90 Initial follower
- 91 Cenobite
- 92 Getting back into business
- 94 Develop
- 96 Retires from the R.A.F.
- 99 Run off
- 102 Loose coats
- 103 Catch
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- 105 Beauty shop employee
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- 108 Expire
- 109 Red vegetable
- 110 An era
- 114 Sonar apparatus
- 116 Economic term re expenses
- 122 Assumed name
- 124 A great find
- 125 Window frame
- 126 "A Kiss before Dying" author Levin
- 127 "The Da Vinci Code" author Brown
- 128 Hot and dry
- 133 Chowderhead
- 134 Vaulted recess
- 135 Ford's luxury brand
- 137 Letter opener
- 138 He made his horse a senator
- 139 Last word of the French version of "O Canada"
- 142 Canadian bird
- 144 New Brunswick town on the St. John river
- 147 Canadian wine region
- 148 Clod
- 150 More like a larger bushier plant
- 155 Cheerleading event
- 156 Earned
- 157 One of the Leeward Islands
- 161 Turban cloths
- 162 Leafstalk angle

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  - 175 Noisy spook
  - 179 Falls
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  - 186 Intestinal threat
  - 188 Oft repeated phrases
  - 189 "Show Boat" composer
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  - 195 Metallic element
  - 197 What Madness, No Doubt and Sublime infused
  - 198 Prayer at Mass
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  - 205 Morality
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  - 219 Blade side
  - 220 Article afterthought
  - 221 IBM system
  - 222 Humorous use of words
  - 224 Dentist's directive
  - 225 Oak beginning
  - 226 Type of magazine
  - 228 Northern Saskatchewan biome
  - 232 Name of a Canadian holiday
  - 234 Canada's driest city
  - 236 Picnic scavengers
  - 240 Fish eggs collectively
  - 241 "It's no \_\_\_!"
  - 242 Snug
  - 243 Catch-22 character (1970 film)
  - 244 "Long, long time \_\_\_"
  - 245 Late
  - 249 Goes with fauna
  - 251 Get cozy
  - 253 Yellow metallic element
  - 259 Member of a Himalayan principality
  - 260 Opponent
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  - 264 Farm structure
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  - 291 Has to be boosted sometimes
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  - 294 \_\_\_ Lakes National Park
  - 297 Canadian town famous for the Flavour Trail
  - 301 Animals that can be seen in the Jasper National Park
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  - 309 Take home
  - 310 Step heavily
  - 311 Suffers
  - 312 Say hi to
  - 314 Of a waste product
  - 315 Earthenware pot
  - 316 Sea eagle
  - 317 Common Greek art pose
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  - 320 Monster
  - 321 Turn over
  - 322 Observe
  - 323 Dry-as-dust
  - 324 King Kong, and others
  - 325 "Lulu," "Louise," "Norma," or "Carmen"
  - 326 Bigfoot's cousin
  - 327 Cheated
  - 328 Appraiser
  - 329 Italian magistrate
  - 330 Rug
  - 331 Extreme suffix
  - 332 Race with batons
  - 333 Instant
  - 334 Dangerous drug
  - 335 Cat's hunting target
  - 336 Track arrangement
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  - 2 Head
  - 3 Rich dessert
  - 4 Between the shins and the feet
  - 5 Mug
  - 6 Bookstore section
  - 7 Buy
  - 8 Chemical in fertilizer
  - 9 Drags
  - 10 California seafood treats
  - 11 Fortified position offering protection from enemy fire
  - 12 Get sidetracked
  - 13 Hindquarters
  - 14 Motionlessness
  - 15 Farewell
  - 16 Ready for battle again
  - 17 Circle segments
  - 18 Backing
  - 19 Characterized by slanting letters
  - 20 Yuletide melody
  - 21 New Testament king
  - 22 Spreads
  - 23 Surveyor's work
  - 25 Arrogant person
  - 26 Magazine distributor
  - 27 Vanity project
  - 29 \_\_\_ apple
  - 32 Hole in an anchor passes through
  - 33 Popularized the circus
  - 49 Sandwich part
  - 50 Acquire
  - 51 Spoil, as a view
  - 52 Give as a gift
  - 54 Thought it funny
  - 57 Immunity solution



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| 62 The magic dragon in the Peter, Paul and Mary song | 130 Carpet                            | 200 Bygone days, once          | 272 Relating to a small circular area on the body |
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| 76 Anxiety   | 146 Boy child                         | 217 Computer screen, to a tech | 293 Fireplace accessory                           |
| 78 Box   | 149 J.F.K. regulators                 | 218 Ending for acetyl          | 294 Vex   |
| 80 Unfasten  | 150 Snack                             | 222 Muchacha's money           | 295 Membranous sacs                               |
| 81 Small three-masted vessel                         | 151 Make miserable                    | 223 Consumer                   | 296 Brownish-grey                                 |
| 82 New Zealand bird                                  | 152 Single-stranded molecules         | 225 No-no military leave       | 297 ___ myrtle (showy shrub)                      |
| 83 After Mar.  | 153 Capital                           | 226 Russian writer             | 298 Neighbourhood eyesore                         |
| 86 Flash of light                                    | 154 River (Spanish)                   | 227 "Pumping ___"              | 299 Simple  |
| 88 Fountain treat                                    | 157 Basis of some divisions           | 229 Demolish                   | 300 Sinful habits                                 |
| 89 Whence some cats                                  | 158 Kernel                            | 230 Top-drawer                 | 302 More monstrous                                |
| 92 Track   | 159 Typewriter key                    | 231 T-square, for example      | 303 Indic language                                |
| 93 Penpoint  | 160 Drivers licenses, etc.            | 233 Skin problem               | 304 Tough   |
| 95 "___ Betty" show                                  | 163 Caustic potash                    | 235 Wives in the family        | 305 Joint   |
| 96 Plane must, in the winter                         | 165 Medicinal tree                    | 236 Clergymen                  | 306 Thomas Gray work                              |
| 97 A shot  | 166 Negligible                        | 237 Great Indian politician    | 307 Check cashier                                 |
| 98 4 door car  | 167 Confronted                        | 238 Henchmen                   | 308 Drop from Niobe                               |
| 100 Executive jet                                    | 168 Broadcast on TV                   | 239 Pose                       | 310 2011 superhero film starring Chris Hemsworth  |
| 101 Mallow   | 169 Fed. purchasing group, in the USA | 246 Indigenous                 | 312 Hood's honey                                  |
| 102 Birthplace of Solidarity                         | 170 "___ true!"                       | 247 Satellite ___              | 313 Breastplate                                   |
| 104 Many   | 172 Bringer of bad luck               | 248 Enclose                    |   |
| 106 Computer processor (abbr.)                       | 174 Use a crowbar                     | 249 Centers of attraction      |   |
| 110 Water sport                                      | 175 Root dish                         | 250 Brutish sort               |   |
| 111 Not in favor of                                  | 176 Type size squares                 | 252 Connecting                 |   |
| 112 Tuber also known as a New Zealand yam            | 177 Yard neatener's tool              | 253 Sensation                  |   |
| 113 Nuke   | 178 Mosquito                          | 254 Thing to do                |   |
| 115 Eats   | 181 Education station                 | 255 Spanish snack              |   |
| 116 In bridge, diamonds or clubs                     | 182 Carney of "The Honeyymooners"     | 256 Computer symbol            |   |
| 117 Bonehead   | 183 Furthermore                       | 257 Bring to ruin              |   |
| 118 Officers   | 185 Make forever famous               | 258 Mare's-nest                |   |
| 119 Honshu port                                      | 186 Make a goof                       | 260 Kind of paper              |   |
| 120 Greens   | 187 "60 Minutes" network              | 262 Winter coat                |   |
| 121 Yours  | 189 Grill grub                        | 263 Cover                      |   |
| 122 Do sums  | 190 A Muse                            | 269 Idled                      |   |
| 123 "___ any drop to drink": Coleridge               | 191 Stair part                        | 270 Privately                  |   |
|  | 192 Mocking imitation                 |                                |   |
|  | 193 Middle of the body                |                                |   |
|  | 194 Sample                            |                                |   |
|  | 196 The 60's was a protest ___        |                                |   |
|  | 198 Any expert                        |                                |   |



Answers on P18

**ROBSON VALLEY DRYWALL SERVICES** Adam Krajewski  
778-201-7114  
@robsonvalleydrywallservices

# SHOP LOCAL GIFT GUIDE

## GIFT PLAY



### LEGO

For everyone! Find it at Valemount IDA

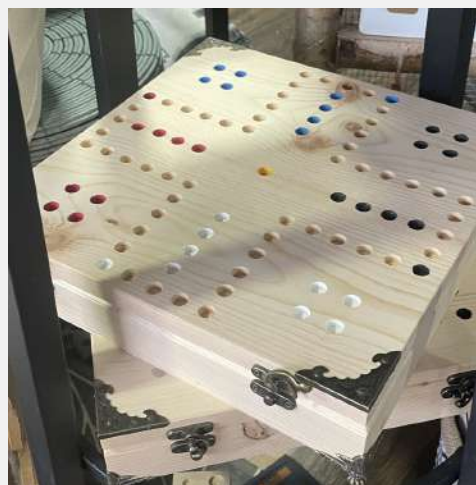
**\$25.99-129.99**



### CROCHETED STUFFY

Handmade crocheted animals from highland cows to triceratops. Find at amythecoda.com

**\$45-80**



### HANDMADE AGGRAVATION BOARD

Buy it at Mountainview Boutique.

**\$60**

## GIFT OUT OF THE BOX

Leafy Greens subscription from Village Greens

**\$40** For 1 month

Rocky Mountain Goat Newspaper Subscription

**\$76.65** 1 year mail-out

## GIFT ADVENTURE!

### ROBSON HELIMAGIC VALLEY BUZZ

12 minute Heli ride around Valemount and Mt. Terry Fox. Other tour options available. Purchase at Robsonhelimagic.com

**\$500** For up to 4 people

### INTRODUCTION TO KAYAKING

3 hour group lesson on the lake with Stellar Descents next summer. Or gift white-water rafting or standup paddleboarding. Purchase at StellarDescents.ca

**\$115** per person (group lesson)

### CLIMBING CLUB MEMBERSHIP

They also have day passes, week or multi-month options for all ages. Find them at valemountclimbingclub.org/

**\$55** adult, 1 month

### MORE ADVENTURES:

Rockaboo Mountain Adventures - rockaboo.ca

Cowgirl Up Adventures - cowgirlupadventures.com

Alpine Rentals - Valemount

Robson Backcountry Adventures - jasperhikesandtours.ca/robsonbackcountryadventures

Cold Fire Creek Dogsledding - dogsleddinginjasper.com/



### NORTHBOUND TUMBLER

Back Country 40oz mug. Purchase Back Country tumblers, toques and hoodies at McBride TGP, Mountainview Boutique, the Visitor centre or online: mybackcountry.ca/shop

**\$34.29**

## GIFT COZINESS



### ALPACA MITTENS

Handmade by Robson Valley Alpaca Works. Purchase at Infinity or Mountainview Boutique.

**\$50**

### HEAT HOLDERS MEN AND WOMEN'S SOCKS

Find these at McBride Home Hardware

**\$17.99 - 18.99**

### ELIE & ANDREW MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PYJAMAS

Find these at McBride IDA

**\$24.99 - 33.99**

## GIFT SELF-CARE

Spa Packages - Emerald Earth

Hair, esthetics and massage - Unique Boutique

Hair and esthetics- Sass studios

Hair and esthetics - A Cut Above

Hair, brows and lashes - Trade Studio Co.

Physiotherapy and massage - Peak Physio

### PRIVATE AROMATHERAPY SESSION

And custom blend by Robson Valley Aromatherapy. Purchase at rv-aromatherapy.ca

**\$120 - 220**



### SPA GIFT BOX

Farmstead Naturals Deluxe Bath Bomb, Vanilla Body Butter (2oz), Handcrafted Soap, Vanilla Lip Balm. Purchase at the Whistle Stop Gallery or farmsteadnaturals.ca

**\$35**

## GIFT ARTS AND CRAFTS



### "MAGNUS"

Original, 24x36inches, acrylic on balsam wood canvas. Purchase at artbykarly.com

**\$1,296**

### ORIGINAL ART, PRINTS AND CARDS

Various local artists. Find them at the Whistlestop Gallery and Mountainview Boutique in McBride, the Info Centre, Mountain Driftwood Gallery & Gift, amythecoda.com, venuto.ca

### FELTED ORNAMENTS

Handmade by Donna Hamilton. Find her felted creations at The Whistlestop Gallery in McBride

**\$20**



### HANDMADE GNOME

Find ornaments and knitted crafts from Riverside Crafts Co. at Mountainview Boutique and on Facebook and Instagram.

**\$20-35**



**\$35**

## GIFT GASTRONOMY



### VALE COFFEE

Small batch, sustainably sourced, hand crafted blends. Buy it at IGA, Infinity or Vale Coffee.

**\$19.50-20.50**

### THE OUTDOOR LOVER'S ESSENTIALS

Wildways Botanicals Gift Set - Butcher's Salt, Hunter's Spice and Fisherman's Spice. Find it and other blends at Infinity and wildwaysbotanicals.com

**\$35**

### MR ROTH'S FAMOUS POPCORN

The perfect stocking stuffer! Or wild salmon jerky, or Really Pure creams and salves! Find it at Uncle Mark's in McBride.

**\$1.90 - 7.60**

### GASTRO GIFT CARDS

#### Restaurants

Kilin Restaurant  
Heartland Restaurant  
Welcome Home  
Beanery 2  
Main Street Pizza  
Country Style  
Gigglin Grizzly Pub  
Lucky House  
Caribou Grill  
BoShay's Bistro  
Three Ranges Brewery  
Glacier Fire Pizzeria  
K-DDUK  
Dduk Bae Kie  
The Moose Pub  
Summit Grill  
Valemount Bakery  
Vale Coffee  
McLennan Car/Truck Stop  
The Grill (Blue River)  
Grizzly Food Shack

#### Grocery Stores

McBride AG  
McBride TGP  
Valemount IGA  
Uncle Mark's

### LEATHER COFFEE COZY

For the hardcore sledder in your life. Handmade by Harold. Find it at Mountainview Boutique in McBride



### FIND YOUR INNER ZEN PACKAGE

Emerald Earth Natural Skin Care products - Alpine Forest Bath Soak (300g), Cedar + Sage Botanical Body Oil (120ml), Detox Green Clay Face Mask (60 g), Peppermint Lip Balm

**\$129**



### BALMS AND SALVES

The Boreal Emporium. Find them at Mountainview Boutique.

## GIFT GETUP



### DYENOMITE MULTI-COLOR SPIRAL SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT

Robson Valley Cannabis Co.

**\$36.83**

### THREE RANGES TOQUE

Get it at Three Ranges Brewery in Valemount

**\$28**

### BAMBU JEWELRY

Earrings, rings and necklaces by a Canadian jewelry designer. Get it at Unique Boutique!

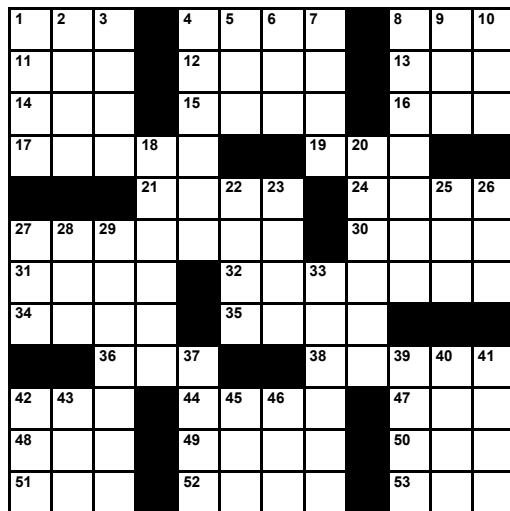
# PUZZLES



## CROSSWORD

Answers on P17

- Across**
1. Wheel centre
  4. At the summit of
  8. Hoedown participant
  11. Practice
  12. Close by
  13. In a previous time
  14. Fishing equipment
  15. Playground provocation
  16. Journey part
  17. Vineyard fruit
  19. Blood brother, e.g.
  21. "Mighty" trees
  24. Olympic rings, e.g.
  27. Fly's feeler
  30. Over again
  31. Links rental
  32. Supervise
  34. Asian cuisine
  35. Agreement point
  36. Inhospitably cold
  38. Japanese, e.g.
  42. Pussycat's partner
  44. Snacks on
  47. Expected
  48. Retainer
  49. Pine (for)
  50. Raw metal
  51. Satiated
- Down**
1. Incomplete jury
  2. Software customer
  3. Early software version
  4. Relating to a mountainous range in South America
  5. Darjeeling or oolong
  6. Propulsion blade
  7. Get ready for a test
  8. Milk measures
  9. Paleontologist's estimate
  10. Daybook
  18. Lyrical
  20. Warnings
  22. Complicated problem
  23. Except for
  25. Square dance call
  26. Be obligated
  27. Perform
  28. Nope
  29. Followed
  33. Cleared



37. Casual affirmation
39. Pagan symbol
40. Distinctive air
41. Essential item
42. Not on
43. Itty-bitty
45. Trick taker, often
46. Sentence starter

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

## Warming Up the Cold Moon

This week that begins with the Cold Moon will be warmed with opportunities for togetherness. The table of life will give its goodness in the manner of family-style dining. There's plenty of bounty to go around, though don't expect to be served. Get in there and serve yourself. You don't have to take whatever is offered either. What you put on your plate is up to you; you can take two scoops of some and none of others -- as long as you do it with a smile, no one is judging.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have your heart set on a destination. See it in your mind's eye, articulate its features, and give into its magnetism. You'll also need more momentum. It always helps to be positioned at the top of a downhill slope. What can you do to clear obstacles, reduce resistance and illuminate friction? The smoother the path, the faster you'll go.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Life's ups and downs are best shared with true friends who are there through it all. You know you're with people who are good for you when you feel free to be exactly as you are -- no need to pretend you're feeling better or worse than you do. Their presence softens hard situations and makes wonderful experiences more vivid.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The problems were not all yours, but you had to solve them anyway because life is, among other things, unfair. At least taking on those responsibilities gave you something, including skill, knowledge and strength. Now you can focus on your most important relationship -- the one you have with yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're attracted to the people who can most help you. The best part is, you don't need to know much about them for this to be the case. It's completely intuitive. People you like will like you back and be good for you, too. As a river flows to the sea, a match of values will flow naturally to a confluence of interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Though there's much that's working in your life, you're planning an escape from one particular scene. You're well aware of the need for change. At times you feel it in your bones. Planning an escape doesn't mean abandoning everything; it could be as simple as carving out small sanctuaries in your day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A little good fortune becomes a lot when you lean into the momentum. It all starts with an alignment of what you want to do and what you have to do. The work is easy and fun, so all you have to do is keep it up because it's the repetition that will matter most, bringing results that multiply into something remarkable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may feel a little stuck in the current chapter, but that feeling is not going to last forever. Even as you meet your responsibilities, you're laying the groundwork for something bigger. Think of this as your preparation time. Keep that vision of freedom alive; it's your compass.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Stay aware of the qualities you bring to the table of life. If your No. 1 fan is you, you're in a good position. If you're concerned about sounding conceited, just keep your self-care, admiration and celebration private. The key here is not to bother fitting in. Trust that the ways you are different will benefit others and elevate the scene.

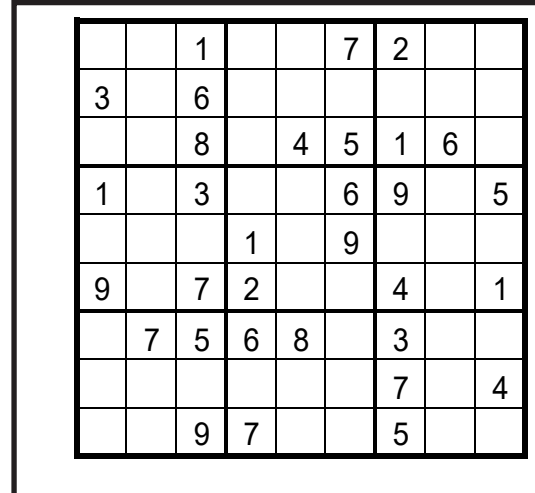
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There was a time you wouldn't have been able to express your thoughts and wishes with the clarity you achieve now. Such an indicator, though subtle, is a testament to the growth that matters most to you. Don't wait until you hit the obvious markers to celebrate your progress.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Our attractions often have something to do with unfinished business. If we were hurt in a particular way, it is normal to be drawn in by the chance to learn how to avoid, conquer or tolerate that dynamic so it's no longer an impediment to our progress. This week, it's all about learning lessons and processing unresolved emotion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your motivations change, and it's good to know where they currently stand so you can find the best ways to incentivize yourself. Trying new things will be worthwhile. Free trials are the best, but small investments are also favored because maybe the thing that most helps you stay on track with your goals costs money. You never know until you try.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Every day, in some small way, you are new. The people around you who know you in a certain role will be slow to adapt to your current iteration. They only see who you were when the relationship was being established. Adding new people to your social world enforces your growth into the person you want to be.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: This year, you lose the fears of the past. Worries will be debunked. Old, anxious patterns will be undone and replaced by truly effective methods of keeping your internal weather beautiful, peaceful and fair. You'll notice that people look up to you more than ever, and the attention you lavish on others will make a difference in the world. You'll constantly be issuing invitations and praise, impacting others to a degree you wouldn't have imagined. More highlights: three extra cash bonuses, and you'll travel in style.



# SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY Answers on P17

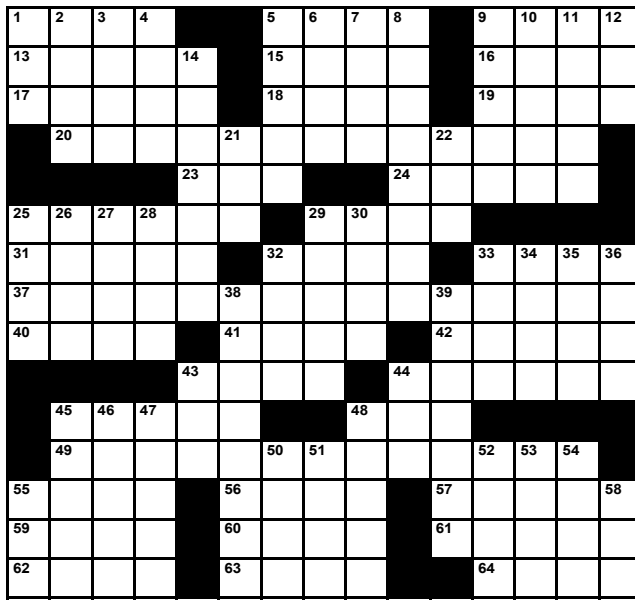
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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 P17

- Across**
1. Hillesum, author of diaries during the Nazi occupation of Holland
  5. School orgs.
  9. Argyle, for one
  13. Quivered
  15. Carpentry tool
  16. Slow gait
  17. Short-legged dog
  18. \_\_\_-aging cream
  19. Goals
  20. It's part of Europe
  23. Corp. exec.
  24. Prudential competitor
  25. Grass cutting implement
  29. On the ground
  31. Stopped sitting
  32. Summoned
  33. Gala gathering
  37. South American countries
  40. Scent
  41. Diner orders
  42. Land measures
  43. \_\_\_ ranch
  44. John Travolta dance movie
  45. Was gloomy
  48. Four quarters
  49. Home to Bohemia
  55. Austrian painter Schiele
  56. Versatile
  57. Type of Greek architecture
  59. Ward (off)
  60. "Très \_\_\_!"
  61. Kind of fairy
  62. Imagines
  63. Systems
- Down**
1. PC user's bailout key
  2. Pronoun
  3. Severed
  4. Boo Boo's mentor
  5. Madrid park
  6. Where the gas goes
  7. Goes with Spumanti
  8. What a spider will do
  9. Munchen, e.g.
  10. Night sky feature
  11. Pause
  12. Gold units, abbr.
  14. Cook's tour stop
  21. French summer
  22. Mil. bigwig
  25. Food thickener
  26. Grime
  27. It comes easily to hand
  28. Bygone spot
  29. "Divine Comedy" writer
  30. Reno calculation
  32. Undisguised
  33. Stand up to
  34. Cornell of Cornell University



35. Links
36. Ultimatum ender
38. Gulf emirate
39. Dish served on toast
43. End of the year month, for short
44. Horned grazer
45. Janis Joplin's "Me and Bobby \_\_\_"
46. Air purifiers use it
47. Dangles
48. Starts, for business purposes
50. Diamond stats
51. Gr. 1-6
52. Try to spot, with "for"
53. Privy to
54. Give as an example
55. Flunking letters
58. Cuban revolutionary

**ROBSON VALLEY & AREA**

# 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

**Wed Dec 18th** The Valemount Secondary School Drama 10-12 class invites you to world **premiere of The Museum of Human History**. Doors at 6pm, show at 6:30pm at the Valemount Community Theatre. In this collective creation, a man wrestles with his regrets as he's forced to re-live the worst memories of his life.

**Fri Dec. 20th Christmas Carol/Holiday song Karaoke** at the Valemount Legion. Music starts at 7pm following the regular Friday night dinner at 5:30.

**Sat. Dec 21st Valemount Curling Club Xmas Turkey/Ham Shoot**. Noon. \$2 per shot. Come down for some lunch and a chance to win ham, turkey and chocolates. Lounge will be open. Cash only.

**Sat-Sun Jan 11-12th** Come celebrate **VARDA's 20th Anniversary!** We're kicking off this celebration with what started it all: the winter snowmobile season. VARDA will be hosting a weekend-long celebration featuring free trail passes for everyone throughout the two days and an evening banquet/celebration on Saturday evening. More details TBA.

## Ongoing Valemount

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

**Cribbage - Mondays**  
Join us every Monday at the Golden Years Lodge for a game of cribbage! 1pm. Everyone welcome.

**Drop-in pickleball - Sun, Mon, Tues, Thurs**  
Drop-in pickleball at the Community Hall at noon Sundays, and 8:30am Tuesdays and Thursday. Also 6-8pm Mondays and Thursdays at the high school.

**Crafty Stitchers - Sundays in December**  
Sundays 1-3 pm Crafty Stitchers meet downstairs at the Valemount Public Library, all welcome! Call 250-566-4367. Library closed for the holidays Dec. 24-Jan 2nd.

**Oldtimers drop-in adult hockey -Sun & Wed**  
Co-ed drop-in hockey 6:30-9pm. Cost is \$20 per game. Seasonal rate available. Sundays 6:30pm and Wednesdays 8pm.

**Personal Tech Help - by appointment**  
Hosted by the Learning Centre Need help with your ipad, tablet, phone or computer? Schedule your one-on-one

appointment 250-566-4601 or email [learn@valemountlearningcentre.org](mailto:learn@valemountlearningcentre.org)

**Old-time Music - Wednesdays**  
Oldtimers band and music night at the Golden Years Lodge in Valemount 7pm every Wednesday. All welcome! Play music, listen or dance.

**Astronomy Course - Wednesdays**  
Drop in and learn about astronomy through the Valemount Library's ongoing astronomy series! 7-8:30 every Wednesday. Library closed for the holidays Dec. 24-Jan 2nd.

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

**Drop-in curling Wednesday & Friday nights**  
7pm at the Valemount Curling Club. \$10 drop-in fee after \$10 membership. Brooms provided, just bring clean shoes!

**Tween Scene Book Club - Every 3rd Friday**  
Free book club for kids 9-12yrs. Sign up in library or give us a call 250-566-436.

**Legion dinner and music nights - Fridays**  
Dinner at the Valemount Legion 5:30 followed by music at 7pm every Friday. Music varies by week and includes open mic, karaoke, jam sessions and special events. Check under the Valemount events list at right or the Legion facebook page for details about specific dates. No music Dec 27th this month.

**Family Place Drop In Program - Fridays**  
If you have questions, are looking for parenting resources, or just need to chat, you can join us in person 9am-noon every Friday in Valemount at 1444 5th Ave. Our weekly targeted programming is a great way for kids ages 0-6 (with their caregivers) to play, connect, explore, and learn!  
Dec 20 – Holiday Baking with the family  
Dec 27 – RVCS winter closure –No FPDI

## McBride

**Thurs Dec 19th Join us for a Festive Social event** at the McBride RVCS office for a cozy and cheerful gathering. Enjoy a warm cup of coffee/tea and indulge in delicious home baked cookies. It's the perfect way to celebrate the season with friends and neighbors! No registration is required, for more info call 250-569-2266 or email:

[events@rvcsbc.org](mailto:events@rvcsbc.org).

**Wed Dec 25th Free Community Christmas Dinner!** McBride churches and community members are offering Christmas dinner for those who would like to share a meal with other community members at McBride Evangelical Free Church. We need volunteers to help Dec 24 and Dec 25 for one, two or more hours for different tasks (such as preparing vegetables, serving, and clean up). We're also looking for donations of desserts. For more info or to volunteer, contact Pete Amyoony at 250-968-4334 / [peteam@telus.net](mailto:peteam@telus.net)

## Ongoing McBride

**Family Place Drop In Program** 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!  
December 23 & 30 – RVCS winter closure so no family-place.

**ASL Sign Language Club - McBride**  
Tuesday's 3:00-3:30 Basics & 3:30-4:30 Beyond Basics @ the McBride E-Free Church. Great for families, friends and cognitive brain stimulation. Contact Lonnie 250-569-7657

**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 – call the library for info on 250 569 2411.

**Book Clubs for Adults - McBride**  
The McBride Library holds two monthly book discussion clubs for adults Thursday afternoons 1:30pm. Call 250 569 2411 for info.

**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!

**Sunshine Stories - McBride Library**  
10:30-11am Thursdays. An early literacy program for children ages 0-5 and caregivers. Songs, rhymes, stories and fun! In partnership with Decoda Literacy.

**Tuesday Night Jam - McBride**  
Now playing in the CN Station Lobby, 6:15-8:30pm. It is an open jam; musicians, singers, and onlookers welcome. For more

information call David at (250) 569-2569.

**German Conversation Club - McBride**  
Join us on Wednesday 11:30 - 1:00 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.

**Writing Group - Fridays**  
Our Writing Group for adults meets every Friday afternoon at the McBride library 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? Join us!

## Dunster

**Sat. Dec. 21st & Sun Dec 22nd: Dunster Schoolhouse Christmas Concert and Cabaret.** Saturday show at 7pm includes cash bar and snacks; Sunday seniors show and luncheon at 12:30pm. Featuring music and holiday comedy sketches. Tickets \$20. Bus transport for seniors show available from McBride and Valemount. To book tickets/make inquiries phone Donna 250-569-4026 or email [dunsterfass@gmail.com](mailto:dunsterfass@gmail.com).

## Blue River

Send us your events!

## Tete Jaune

**Wed Dec 25** Want to give your body the gift of movement before eating a hundred cookies with your family? I will be hosting a **gentle, beginner friendly yoga and breathing session** on Christmas Day at the Tete Jaune Community Hall 11am. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one - we have a couple extras if you don't. By donation.

Sat Jan 11th Tete Jaune "Malanka" (Ukrainian New Year) at the Tete Jaune Community Hall 5:30pm. Advance tickets only available at Infinity Office and Health. Meal includes perogies, cabbage rolls, sausage, borscht, bun and dessert. Adults \$30, Seniors \$25, Children \$18.

**HAVE AN EVENT?**

Let us know!

CALL: 250-566-4606

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

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Print your event poster here for just \$25!

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Call Laura 250-566-5135

# LOCAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

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## Accounting



**CAMPBELL & SCHREURS**  
Chartered Professional Accountants Inc.

ACCOUNTING • TAX • ADVISORY  
Call or email to book an appointment  
tf: 1-800-846-9190  
e: ca@campbellco.ca  
KAMLOOPS • BARRIERE • VALEMOUNT

## Drywall



**ROBSON VALLEY**  
**DRYWALL SERVICES**

call or text 7782017114  
@robsonvalleydrywallservices

## Lawyer

**New Valemount location!**  
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**(H&R Block building - access from Dogwood)**

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1	H	U	B	4	A	T	O	P	8	G	A	L	
11	U	S	E	12	N	E	A	R	13	A	G	O	
14	N	E	T	15	D	A	R	E	16	L	E	G	
17	G	R	A	18	P	E	19	P	20	A	L		
21	O	A	22	K	23	S	24	L	25	O	26	D	
27	A	N	28	T	E	N	N	A	29	A	N	E	W
31	C	A	R	T	32	O	V	33	E	R	S	E	E
34	T	H	A	I	35	T	E	R	M				
37	I	C	37	Y	38	A	S	39	I	40	A	41	N
42	O	W	L	43	A	T	S	44	D	U	E		
46	F	E	E	47	A	C	H	E	48	O	R	E	
49	F	E	D	50	H	E	E	D	51	L	A	D	

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### SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

### TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	E	T	T	Y	6	P	T	A	S	8	S	O	13	C	16	K
17	S	H	O	18	K	19	R	A	S	20	P	21	T	R	O	T
22	C	O	R	G	I	23	A	N	T	I	24	A	I	M	S	
25	U	N	I	T	26	E	D	K	I	N	27	G	D	O	M	
28	M	29	C	T	O	30	A	E	T	N	A					
31	S	C	Y	32	T	H	E	33	D	O	W	N				
34	A	R	O	S	E	35	B	A	D	E	36	F	E	T	E	
37	G	U	Y	A	N	38	A	A	N	D	B	R	A	Z	I	L
39	O	D	O	R	40	B	L	T	S	41	A	C	R	E	S	
42	D	U	E	43	G	R	E	A	S	E						
44	M	45	O	P	E	D	46	O	N	E						
47	C	Z	E	C	H	48	R	E	P	U	B	L	49	I	C	
50	E	G	O	N	51	A	B	L	E	52	I	O	N	I	53	C
54	F	E	N	D	55	B	I	E	N	56	T	O	O	T	H	
57	S	E	E	S	58	I	S	M	S	59	K	N	E	E		

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The Robson Valley Piecemakers have been hard at work on their year end projects for 2024. They have created 15 bags and filled them with women's toiletry items such as shampoo and conditioner, comb, razor, hygiene items, chapstick and even socks. The completed bags will be distributed to those who need them by a local social worker. /ANDREA ARNOLD

# Warm Wishes from the Piecemakers



Deb Alexander, Heather Callaghan, Anita Jones and Barb Brabant show off four of the 14 baby quilts the group has created. These quilts will be given to new babies by the public health nurse when they do their first home visit. The ladies say they would like to do more for the community but they are a small group. They invite any interested residents to join them. /ANDREA ARNOLD

## GET THE WORD OUT!

Contact us at  
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# Valemount Eatery Hours Guide

**Plus Holiday Hours!**



**BoShay's Bistro**  
M-F 8am-3pm & M,W,Th 5-9pm  
Closed Dec 23-27 & Jan 1.



**Caribou Grill**  
Open 4:30-9pm Closed Tues & Weds, but open New Years Eve!



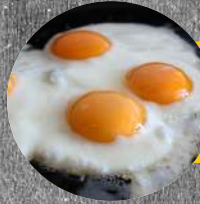
**Summit Grill**  
Open 7 days a week 4-9pm  
Open throughout the holidays!



**Valemount Legion Branch 266**  
Friday dinner 5-8, music 7-10  
Sunday pancake breakfast 8-10:30  
Closed Dec 21-Jan 2. Reopens Jan 3



**Glacier Fire Pizzeria**  
Tues-Sat 4pm-8:30pm  
Holiday hours: Closed Dec 22-26



**Abernathy's**  
Open 6am-1pm 7 days a week  
Closed Dec 24-27. Open Jan 1.



**Vale Coffee**  
Reg Hours: Th 9-2, Fri-Sun 7-2  
Holiday Hours: Closed Dec 26  
Open Dec 27-29 8am-1pm



**IGA Deli**  
Mon-Sat 8am-8pm, Sun 9am-5pm  
Closed Dec 25-26, and Jan 1.  
Open 9-5 Dec 24 and 31.



**Valemount Vacation Inn Dine & Lounge**  
Re-opens Dec 26 for Boxing Day!  
Reg Hours: Fri-Mon 4-9pm



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## Feature Eatery

*Christmas Dinner*  
At the Summit Grill

December 24 and 25  
3 course dinner  
Dine in or take out

1950 Hwy 5 South  
Valemount, BC

Check out the menu

\*\*Some eateries opted not to take part in this feature

Visit my website to see all of my featured listings: [www.valemountmbridelistings.com](http://www.valemountmbridelistings.com). A great resource for your property search in the valley.

# 2024 in Review. From **SALE** to **SOLD**

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OFFICE: 1275 5th Ave, Valemount BC V0E 2Z0

### 19345 S HWY 5



**\$1,485,000**

Rare glacier view riverfront resort opportunity in the heart of the Rocky Mountains! This beautiful traditional built log lodge plus 2 private residences and 40 mature campsites sit on 39

pristine acres that back onto the glacier fed Camp Creek. The combination of unobstructed views of Albretha Glacier and Camp Creek meandering throughout the property create the ultimate summer and winter outdoor setting. Location is unbeatable with 1 km of Hwy 5 S frontage. Outdoor enthusiasts travel from all over the world to explore Valemounts unspoiled backcountry and experience world class snowmobiling, mountain biking and white water rafting. The options are truly endless with this unique property, it's time to put your dreams into fruition! Sellers are motivated.

### 1036 7TH AVE



**\$245,000**

Cutest tiny home on the block has just hit the market! Convenient living at its finest in this super cozy 2 bed, 1 bath rancher. The backyard is the complete opposite to the home being enormous! There is so much room for you and your family to play with while soaking up the mountain views! Location does not get any better than this being just a short stroll to all the shops and a quick bike ride up to our bike park. Act quick because at this price point this home on this huge lot is not going to be on the market for long!

### 1355 KING RD



**\$375,500**

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!

### 4590 STONE RD



**\$675,000**

This gorgeous acreage that consists of two titles needs new owners! It is conveniently located only 5 minutes north of Valemount. The diversity of mature trees on the property

allow the white snow capped mountains to peek through is a view that feels like "home sweet home!" The house has been very well maintained and has a layout of 3 bed, 2 bath that will work for many. Outside the beautiful matured landscaped yard you will find that the majority of the property is fenced into pastures, a detached double garage, 2 animal shelters, a chicken coop, 2 greenhouses and a sea can for storage. Each titled property consists of a newly drilled well making for a great asset if you are thinking of selling either of the



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