



McBride RCMP outnumbered in snowball fight P15



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VARDA Executive Director Curtis Pawliuk (center) speaks with guests at the association's 20th anniversary dinner. The organization has grown from a snowmobiling club into a place for businesses, local government, and backcountry users to share their concerns and ideas, Pawliuk said. /ABIGAIL POPPLE

VARDA celebrates 20th anniversary

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) celebrated its 20th anniversary throughout the weekend of January 11th-12th. The celebrations included a Saturday morning snowmobile ride, as well as dinner and a party on Saturday evening.

What began as a snowmobiling club 20 years ago has snowballed into an organization supporting all the backcountry recreation opportunities Valemount has to offer, Executive Director Curtis Pawliuk told The Goat.

"We were very ambitious," Pawliuk said. "Instead of just sitting back and being a snowmobile club, I think VARDA looked at its mandate and its vision set back in the day and expanded on it."

A crucial part of this expansion was collaboration with local business owners and local government officials, Pawliuk added. These partners helped devise the land use plans that allowed the association to expand snowmobile trails in the Valemount area – the first big project of many. Since then, the association has given heli-ski companies, mountain bikers, tourism associations and other businesses a seat at the table, according to Pawliuk.

"Even though we don't manage all of the organizations or all those other activities, it's important that VARDA has been a central voice to talk about any potential issues, promotion or advocacy for backcountry public use while also protecting commercial rights," he said.

Some of the association's biggest success stories include the creation of Crystal Ridge – the world's first-ever snowmobile-assisted ski hill, according to Pawliuk – and the mountain bike park that the association began planning in 2014, Pawliuk said. Part of the association's goal with any project is to bring a boon to the local economy, he added.

"I think it's obvious what the mountain biking has done for the community over the last 10 years," Pawliuk said of the association's economic impacts. "It was really ingenious for a group of business owners, snowmobilers and public users to see the potential for mountain biking in Valemount and run full steam ahead."

Pawliuk hopes to carry the association's ambition and emphasis on sustainable land management into the future.

"We're just looking to continue developing public recreation activities in a sustainable way," Pawliuk said. "What's important is that there's no reason for us to exist except to enhance our community – both for public recreation and tourism."



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Valemount hits the brakes on pump track project

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) has shelved its plans for a pump track in Valemount after not being able to find land to lease.

VARDA received \$120,000 for the pump track from the Columbia Basin Trust's Resident-Directed Grant program in 2024. That money will be returned to the Trust and added to this year's ReDi grant pool, according to VARDA Executive Director Curtis Pawliuk. Additionally, the association has \$5,000 left over from pump track fundraisers. Pawliuk says Project Pump It Up – the VARDA committee which was spearheading the pump track efforts – will meet soon to determine what to do with these funds.

In a letter discussed during the December 10th Valemount Council meeting, Pawliuk wrote that the Village's proposed options for the land lease were not viable.

“Primary issues include non-negotiable costs, such as annual property taxes and surveying costs, on a non-revenue generating asset,” Pawliuk wrote. “The cost of insurance and planning for the asset management lifecycle are unfortunately significant barriers to success that we could not overcome.”

The association will retain the pump track design should an opportunity to revisit the plans arise in the future, Pawliuk added.

In an interview with The Goat, Pawliuk said the end of Pump It Up is unfortunate, but the project is not an entirely lost cause.

“We’re so proud of the community for stepping up and for the fundraising and work that was done,” Pawliuk said. “The plan still exists, so the money’s not all wasted. And if the Village, somebody else, or VARDA in the future finds the right place to put the pump track, it’s still possible.”

Likewise, Committee Chair Sean Kelly said he found it unfortunate that the association could not strike an agreement with the Village.

“It’s ultimately very disappointing that we couldn’t come to a land use agreement that would help benefit the community,” he told The Goat.

Additionally, Kelly said the committee reached out to several communities with pump tracks to explore their economic impacts, and felt it was feasible for the Village to take the pump track on as an asset.

During the March 26th, 2024 meeting of Valemount Council, staff submitted a report recommending that the Village decline the committee’s proposal to take the pump track on as an asset. Staff estimated that building the pump track would cost roughly \$1.6M – translating to an 8.4 per cent property tax increase. According to the report, taking the pump track on as a Village asset would have made the Village responsible for maintenance, insurance, and collecting an annual amortization cost which would fund replacement or removal of the infrastructure at the end of its life.

According to CAO Anne Yanciw, Village staff contacted eight to ten communities with pump tracks to inquire about maintenance requirements and costs. All of the communities had larger populations than Valemount – the smallest community had a population of 3,400, about three times larger than Valemount’s population of 1,052 – which Yanciw said made it difficult to estimate costs.

Only one community was used to estimate the cost of track maintenance: Kitimat, a community of about 8,600 people. According to Yanciw, Kitimat’s pump track was double the size of the one proposed for Valemount, so staff reduced costs proportionately to estimate the cost of maintaining a similar track.

“We understand VARDA’s concerns over taking on a significant asset such as this,” Yanciw added. “They are likely the same concerns the Village would have.”

Kelly said the Pump it Up committee’s findings were very different from what staff reported.

“We worked really hard to get good quality information to Council and to Village staff,” Kelly said. “It just wasn’t enough to show that this is a viable and important piece of infrastructure that would help build the community.”



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NOTICE OF MEETING

2025 Budget Deliberations

The Board of Directors start **2025 budget deliberations on Friday January 24, 2025 at 9 am**. The Committee of the Whole agenda with budget details will be on rdffg.ca by January 16. Individuals and organizations can comment on this budget by:

- addressing the Board of Directors at the January 24 meeting (register in advance at 250-960-4444 or 1-800-667-1959)
- emailing budget@rdffg.bc.ca

Registrations or emailed comments must be received by January 23 at 12 pm.

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Robson Valley snowpack inching closer to normal levels

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Upper Fraser East region – which stretches roughly from Valemount to Prince George – is hovering at 82 per cent of the normal snowpack after about three years of drought, according to the latest snow survey and water supply bulletin from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

While slightly below normal, the figure is a far cry from last January, when the region sat at 63 per cent of normal. Below normal snowpack may amplify drought in spring and summer, though weather conditions may change and bring more snow before then, the Ministry says.

The rest of the province is enjoying higher snowpack, too. Last year, the provincial average was 56 per cent of normal – this year, the province has an average of 87 per cent of normal snowpack.

Three to four months of snow remain, the bulletin says. During that time, B.C. may see the effects of La Niña – a term for the phenomenon where cooler than normal waters appear in the Pacific Ocean, as explained on the Environment and Climate Change Canada webpage on the topic. This typically translates to cooler temperatures and more precipitation in B.C., according to the Ministry.

However, the Ministry forecasts above normal temperatures for January through March. Still, the province may see above normal precipitation in that period, though precipitation forecasts are difficult to predict at a seasonal scale, the Ministry says.

The Ministry is set to release eight snow survey and water supply bulletins this year, from January through mid-June. While release dates are subject to change based on data variability, the next bulletin is scheduled for release on February 10th or 11th.

DEVELOPMENT OF A PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPLICATION NUMBER: FOR-N-PMP-2025-2030

Applicant:

Ministry of Forests, Range Branch
441 Columbia Street, Kamloops, B.C., V2C 2T3

Contact:

Email: invasive.plants@gov.bc.ca | Phone number: 250 219-3349

Members of the public are invited to comment on a multi-agency Pest Management Plan (PMP) for Northern B.C. The purpose of the proposed PMP is to manage invasive plants on provincial public land under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of Forests; Transportation and Transit; Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and Environment and Parks in Northern B.C. The proposed PMP applies to areas located in the Regional Districts of: Bulkley-Nechako, Fraser-Fort George, Kitimat-Stikine, North Coast (excluding Haida Gwaii), Peace River, Stikine and Northern Rockies Regional Municipality.

The pest management methods proposed for use within the area to which the PMP applies include mechanical and biological control, and the use of herbicides. The active ingredients and examples of trade names of the herbicides proposed for use under this plan include: aminocyclopyrachlor (Truvist, Navius VM); aminopyralid (Milestone, Restore II, Restore NXT, Clearview and Reclaim II A); chlorsulfuron (Truvist); clopyralid (Lontrel XC); dicamba (Dyvel, Vanquish, Banvel); diflufenzopyr (Overdrive); flazasulfuron (LongRun); flumioxazin and pyroxasulfone (Torpedo); fluroxypyr (Starane, Pulsar); glyphosate (Roundup WeatherPro, Vantage Plus Max/VPM II, Vantage XRT, Roundup Transorb HC); 2,4-D (2,4-D Amine 600, Reclaim II B, Restore B, Grazon XC); halosulfuron (Sanda WG); imazapyr (Arsenal, Arsenal-Powerline, Habitat); indaziflam (Esplanade SC); MCPA (DyVel); mecoprop-p (Dyvel DSp); metsulfuron-methyl (Escort, Clearview, Reclaim A, Navius VM); picloram (Tordon 22K, Grazon XC, Tordon 101); propyzamide (Kerb SC); floryprauxifen-benzyl (Rinskor, Milestone NXT, Restore NXT); rimsulfuron (Prism); and triclopyr (Garlon RTU, Garlon XRT, Triclopyr 480).

Herbicides will be applied using selective application methods such as wick/wipe-on, stem injection, ground vehicle mounted sprayers and backpack or handheld sprayers. Aerial application is not permitted under this PMP.

The proposed duration of the PMP is from May 12, 2025 - May 12, 2030.

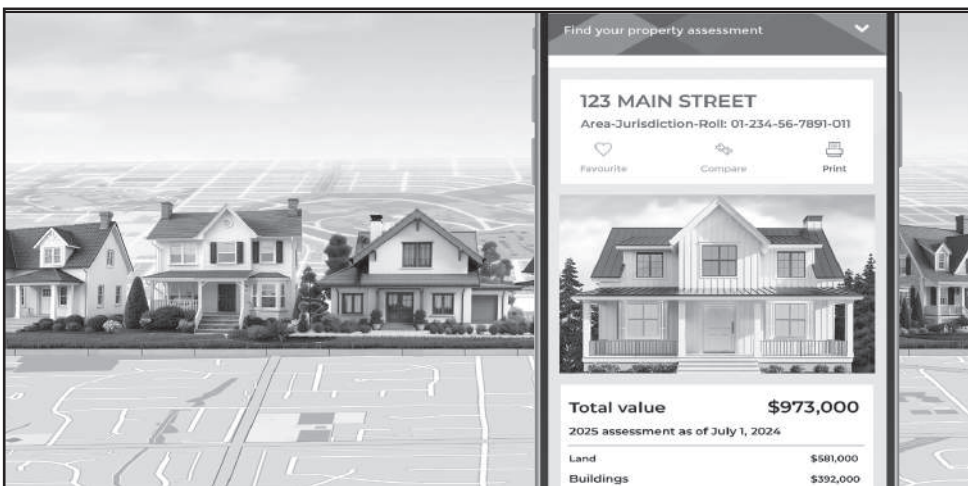
A draft copy of the proposed PMP is available at gov.bc.ca/invasive-species.

A person wishing to contribute information about a proposed treatment area, relevant to the development of the pest management plan, may send copies of the information to the applicant at the address or email address above within 30 days of the publication of this notice.



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BC Hydro Work Notification

Canadian Navigable Waters Act

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) hereby gives notice that a submission has been added to the Common Project Search online registry pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* described herein and its description.

Pursuant to paragraph 4.1 of said Act, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority has deposited with the Minister of Transport, on the on-line Common Project Search Registry (at cps.canada.ca) and under registry number 6629, a description of the following work:

Upgrade work to Northern Breakwater; wave attenuator and Southern Breakwater rubble mound.

In, on, over, under, through or across Kinbasket Reservoir at 52.67986 N – 119.0263 E at the Valemount Marina.

Posted at Valemount B.C. this 7th day of January, 2025.

Project Manager: Trish Joyce

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority



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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. Tom Vogel” (Our Robson Valley Vet)

To our veterinarian, Dr. Tom Vogel, on his retirement:

There, once was a vet, here, in our Robson Valley
 Dr. Tom Vogel was his name
 We brought all our animals to him, for him, to see
 Ever since, to this valley, he came

Whether it was for shots, pills or for surgery
 Dr. Vogel, there was, no better, a vet
 For helping us, all, more grateful, we could not be
 For the best care, he gave, to our pets

Chorus: Dr. Tom Vogel, Dr. Tom Vogel
 Thank you is all we can say
 Dr. Tom Vogel, Dr. Tom Vogel
 Now, enjoy your retirement day

Though, a great vet, also, a great farmer, was he
 Kept busy, raising his Dunster beef
 With his wife, Glory and his whole family
 From his labours, now, some sweet relief

Chorus: Dr. Tom Vogel, Dr. Tom Vogel
 Thank you is all we can say
 Dr. Tom Vogel, Dr. Tom Vogel
 Now, enjoy your retirement day

Thank you, Dr. Vogel, we say, thank you, again
 Your years of service, we'll never forget
 All the times we had with you, we'll remember back, when
 We brought you, or picked up our pets
 You're a vet, Doc, we'll never forget
 Our vet, Doc, you were the best

Chorus: Dr. Tom Vogel, Dr. Tom Vogel
 Thank you is all we can say
 Dr. Tom Vogel, Dr. Tom Vogel
 Now, enjoy your retirement day

Rod Reimer
 Dunster, B.C.

Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

Climate Feedbacks – Not in Front of the Children

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

“This does not mean the international +1.5C target has been broken, because that refers to a long-term average over decades.” If those carefully chosen words don't set your alarm bells ringing, you have not traveled much in the land of lawyers.

They were published on Friday in the annual report of Europe's Copernicus Climate Change Service, the EU's main climate science centre. Yet elsewhere in the same document it admitted that the world's average temperature did indeed exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius higher than the pre-industrial level (+1.5C) in 2024.

You'll find similar mantras on the websites of NASA and NOAA in the US, the Hadley Centre in the UK, the Potsdam Centre for Climate Impact Studies in Germany, and the Japan Meteorological Agency. None of them is actually lying. The more appropriate word is 'misrepresenting'.

The problem is that our scientists and politicians have been telling us for ten years that we must never exceed that 'aspirational' +1.5C target or very bad things would ensue (as indeed they will). Nobody listened, we have now passed that target, and some of that hell is breaking loose. Los Angeles is this week's example.

So now they need to reassure us that it is still worth trying to hold the warming down (as indeed it is). This requires playing down the importance of passing +1.5C, which is why we have just had a coordinated effort by politicians and scientists telling us not to despair. How did things get so tangled?

The 'aspirational' +1.5C target was adopted by the 2015 climate conference partly because the hard target of 'never more than +2.0C or the heavens will fall' was seen as too far away to motivate people properly. The other reason was that a group of scientists centred around the Potsdam Institute had been working on 'feedbacks'.

The feedbacks are the real killers. Our emissions heat the planet, and then wildfires, floods and mudslides, hurricanes and cyclones, rising sea-levels and half a dozen other feedbacks wreak mayhem.

Some of these feedbacks are active already and almost all will be activated between +1.5C and +3.0C. Since we did not cause them directly, we can't shut them off. Only planetary cooling can do that, and how likely is that?

The scientists also knew that there were almost certainly other feedbacks lurking in wait for us that we didn't know about, so staying below +1.5C really did matter. However, it's gone now, and the bitter truth is that we probably won't see it again in this century (if ever).

Average global temperature for 2024 has been +1.55C, and the past three months have been +1.6C, so why are the Great and the Good telling us that we haven't 'really' passed +1.5C? What's all this nonsense about waiting a couple of decades to be sure?

The scientific custom of requiring a twenty-year run of data when calculating average global temperature made sense when temperatures fluctuated up and down in the familiar old way. It makes no sense to use that method, incorporating data from as long ago as 2005 when calculating the headline number for average global temperature, when the only way it has gone each year is up.

So why do they do it? Partly because they have always done it that way, but there is also a belief among both scientists and politicians that the public cannot be trusted with the brutal truth. They might riot in the streets demanding huge immediate emissions cuts – or, (more likely) they might retreat into paranoid fantasies and deny climate change exists.

It's pointless. Scientists can use the old method among themselves if they wish, but don't try to foist it on the public. It just undermines trust. Give them straight information in terms they can understand, and let the chips fall where they may.

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Mobile dental services available in McBride

BY ANDREA ARNOLD

Robson Valley residents finally have access to dental services for the first time since the Valemount Dental Clinic closed in 2022.

Primary Care Nurse Ashley Flavelle has been working tirelessly to secure a dentist and a hygienist that are willing to travel to serve remote communities. She has been granted travel cost coverage by the Northern Interior Rural Division of Family Practice and Northern Health has committed to covering lodging. Flavelle is now looking to “Spirit of the North” grant possibilities to help cover the cost of consumables. Through donor support, the Spirit of the North Foundation provides funding for vital equipment and projects, directly supporting Northern families and communities.

The McBride Community Health Services Centre began providing short-term clinic space to Dr. Johannes Yliruusi in December. During his first trip to McBride, Dr. Yliruusi provided dental services to 10 patients and Flavelle is hopeful that with some slight adjustments, that number can be increased during his next visit at the end of January.

Flavelle began the hunt for a mobile dental service provider after a local teacher approached her with concerns about students' dental health.

“Once a child is over the age of five, they no longer qualify for the Northern Health Authority’s Fluoride Dental Program,” said Flavelle. “Without dental care available locally, it becomes something that doesn’t get a lot of attention until it is too late.”

It isn’t just the immediate oral health that’s a concern. Flavelle said tooth decay is known to possibly lead to 57 chronic diseases, making it a serious health concern.

Dr. Yliruusi is based out of Mackenzie and has served many small rural communities in the past five years including Alert Bay, Daajing Giids, Fort St. James, Kitwanga, Witset First Nation, Smithers, Houston, Burns Lake, McLeod Lake as well as Prince George, his hometown. More recently, he is currently working one week per month in the First Nations communities of Tsilhqot’in and Xeni Gwet’in (Nemaiah Valley) in the Chilcotin area west of Williams Lake.

Aside from the dental chair that has been purchased and installed at the clinic, Dr. Yliruusi brings all of his own equipment allowing him to provide routine check-ups, scaling, polishing, assessments, x-rays, filings, root canals, simple and more complex extractions. Some procedures such as dentures are available, but will require multiple appointments.

Owner of The Travelling Hygienist, Jackie Tong, has set up a mobile clinic in a van and travels to where there is a need. Tong offers cleaning, exams, dental x-rays, polish, fluoride, whitening, mouthguards and many other services.

Flavelle is working with Tong to establish a schedule and hopes to see her first visit later in 2025. Her goal is to have a visit from one or the other each month, providing some form of dental service to the community 12 times a year.

The offset schedule would allow Tong to assess and complete diagnostic work as well as routine procedures, then Dr. Yliruusi could focus on the more complex needs during his visits.

In addition to working within the clinic, both Tong and Dr. Yliruusi provide services for those who are home or bed bound, and work wheelchair-side when asked. Tong has a dental van where she can treat patients, and Dr. Yliruusi is working on setting up an 18-wheeler all inclusive mobile dental clinic.

Flavelle said the medical facilities in the Robson Valley have on record 313 dental-related visits between Nov 1st, 2022 and Oct 21st, 2024, resulting in an estimated \$156,000 hit to the healthcare budget.

“Most of these visits were completed through the emergency room, and almost all of them ended with a prescription for antibiotics,” said Flavelle.

The financial impact is not the only concern. Northern B.C. residents logged 58 million kilometres for healthcare-related travel in 2023, according to Flavelle. A portion of this was dental related. However, even many of the clinics in the adjacent cities have a waitlist of six months or longer.

“We aim to address critical gaps in dental care and our initiative will expand access and equity by providing dental treatments to individuals who otherwise lack access, prioritizing low-income individuals, vulnerable seniors and those with mobility issues while still offering dental services to all community members,” said Flavelle.

Dr. Yliruusi is scheduled to return to McBride at the end of January. To book an appointment for January 29th or 30th, call 250-569-2251 ext. 2026. Payment is required the day of service, and during billing, any coverage an individual may have is included in the process.

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New Job Posting

An exciting employment opportunity has recently opened. *FireSmart Coordinator* is a part-time, temporary position with 19 flexible hours per week. The wage is \$30-32 per hour. Competition closes Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 4:00pm.

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

Notice Disposition of Land: Valemount Entertainment Society

Pursuant to Sections 26 and 94 of the Community Charter, notice is hereby given that the Village of Valemount intends to lease approximately 700 sq ft of leased space to the **Valemount Entertainment Society**, for a term of 1 year from January 1st, 2025 to December 31, 2025, at a monthly rate of \$452.64 plus GST. Comprised of second-floor office and studio space, the building is situated **at Lot 9, District Lot 7354, Cariboo District Plan 21237** (99 Gorse Street).

For more information please contact:

Carleena Shepherd
CO, Village of Valemount
735 Cranberry Lake Road
Valemount, BC V0E 2Z0
250.566.4435
corporate@valemount.ca

Municipal Office Hours

Open Mondays to Fridays
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CBT Resident Directed Grants

Are you ReDi? The 2025 cycle of the CBT ReDi Grants in Valemount is here and funds available are approximately \$493,000 for projects to improve our community, so dream big and get involved. The application window is now open. Visit www.valemount.ca/redi for more details, and contact the Grant Clerk, Taggart Wilson, to discuss your project ideas.

Visitor Information Center Re-Opened

The Visitor Information Centre (VIC) is now open under new management, with Tourism Valemount delivering visitor information services. The upstairs entrance to the building will provide access through two separate doors - one for the Municipal Office and the other for the Visitor Information Centre and public restrooms.

Business Licensing Reminders

All businesses, including home businesses, are required to have a business license before January 31st, 2025. If you are providing any professional, personal or other service for gain or profit within village limits, you require a license. Applications can be obtained by visiting the Village Office or online at www.valemount.ca/business/business-licensing.

Enhanced Services Coming Soon: Office Closures for Training

The Village is installing new software that will allow for online permit applications and other useful functions. To accommodate staff training, the Village Office may close intermittently to the public (for up to two hours at a time) for the next few months. Closures will be posted on the website and social media. We appreciate your understanding as we work to serve you better.

Utility Notice Information

The 2025 utility notices have been mailed out. If you do not receive your bill by mid-February, please call the Village Office.

Any unpaid utility billings as of December 31, 2024 were applied to taxes in arrears on January 1, 2025, and are subject to interest charges.

If 2025 utility bills are paid by March 10, 2025, an 8% discount will be applied.

Payment methods accepted: Online & telephone banking, cash, debit, cheque, Third-Party Credit Card, or email transfer to dof@valemount.ca. Visit www.valemount.ca for information on all payment options.

Village of Valemount Accessibility Committee

The Village of Valemount is seeking volunteers to fill a vacancy on the Accessibility Committee for a two-year term. The committee member should be a person with disabilities or an individual who supports persons with disabilities. The role of this “Select Committee of Council” is to make recommendations to Council regarding accessibility 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 January 20, 2024, and is addressed to:

Krista Etty, Planner
planner@valemount.ca



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



Tourism Valemount director talks plans for Visitor Information Centre

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Executive Director of Tourism Valemount Marcie Down has big plans in mind for Valemount’s visitor information centre. In an interview with The Goat, she said she plans on making the centre a place where locals and visitors alike can learn about what Valemount has to offer.

Tourism Valemount recently took over management of the centre from the Village, which had been operating the centre since 2018. The handoff has been in the works since May 2024, when Down first suggested Tourism Valemount taking over the facility to Village staff. Now that the details of the transition have been worked out with the Village and Destination BC – the Crown corporation that supports B.C.’s tourism industry – the centre is officially under Tourism Valemount’s management.

Down hopes the new space will allow Tourism Valemount to increase its capacity. The centre is much larger than Tourism Valemount’s previous office, which will allow Down to hold meetings and conferences. Additionally, the centre’s operating hours will change: from February to April, it will be open Thursday to Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. From May through September, it will be open seven days a week, according to Down.

Valemount residents will benefit from the change, too, Down says. She plans on installing interactive displays in the centre, and changing them from season to season – that way, locals can visit the centre a few times a year, and hopefully learn something new each time. She’s working with the Valemount Museum to include displays from there as well, she added.

Advice from the previous manager of the centre, Wendy Dyson, has been invaluable, Down said. Down plans on restoring some of the programs Dyson ran when she was managing the centre.

“The biggest thing is having interpretive talks here again – having something going on throughout the year to bring visitors and community members and stakeholders in,” Down said. “Making it more of a community centre as well as a visitors’ centre.”

Additionally, Down will make the centre a site where locals can access SuperHost, a series of customer service courses administered by go2HR, the association for human resources and health and safety in B.C.’s tourism industry. While the courses do cost a small fee, Down hopes offering them in Valemount will make the program more accessible for local hotel staff.

These changes will take time, Down said, but she will update locals on her plans through the Tourism Valemount newsletter, website and Facebook page.

“We’re very excited about this endeavour,” Down said. “We’re looking forward to 2025 and all the opportunities there are.”

Executive Director of Tourism Valemount Marcie Down shows off brochures at the Visitor Information Centre. Previously managed by the Village, the centre is now under Tourism Valemount’s management. /ABIGAIL POPPLE



How fast did your eyes pick up the least weasel in the picture? Their coat is white in the winter and mostly brown in the summer which gives them excellent camouflage protection against other predators that might enjoy a weasel meal like the great horned owl. The least weasel is the smallest member of the weasel family with the wolverine being the largest in North America. It is in fact the smallest species of a true carnivore in the world with a weight that can range from only 45 - 100 grams. In all my years of wandering the wild I’ve actually seen a lot more wolverines than I have of weasels. /LEON LORENZ



An artificial ice climbing wall along Patricia Street in Jasper on Thursday, January 9th. /PETER SHOKEIR

Jasper's new 15-metre ice climbing wall has people looking up

BY PETER SHOKEIR, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

With Maligne Canyon and other areas closed due to the Jasper wildfire, the national park has fewer natural ice climbing opportunities this winter.

Rockaboo Mountain Adventures has made up for this loss by building a 15-metre-tall ice climbing wall in the heart of downtown Jasper.

“We’re always kind of thinking of new approaches or new ways to use our resources and our team,” said Max Darrah, who founded the local mountain guiding company. “Given the fact that we lost a couple of venues close to town that we use fairly commonly, we started talking about an artificial ice wall.”

Although artificial ice climbing walls are not unheard of in other communities, such as the 21-metre wall being built in Edmonton for the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup and YEG Ice Fest, Darrah noted there was no real handbook when it comes to these projects.

“The reality is we kind of started from the ground up, and we started to think about different materials, different approaches, different locations and thinking the whole time that somebody’s gonna shut this crazy idea down before it actually gets to running water through hoses,” he said. “But quite to our surprise and real delight ... we just kept running into people that thought it was a great idea.”

Supported by Travel Alberta, the ice climbing wall is meant not only to draw tourists into Jasper, but also benefit the local climbing community. Darrah noted they had settled on the 15-metre height because that was the international standard required to host the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup.

The structure consists of scaffolding with two walls for ice climbing, with the possibility of adding rock climbing walls in the future. It is designed to be temporary and will be taken down at the end of the season.

“This is an exciting asset for us, one that we really hope to share with Jasper, especially for this winter,” Darrah said. “This is a proof-of-concept winter.”

Ice farming is done with hoses spraying a fine mist or a low flow that slowly builds up ice on the walls. A proper ice wall can form in a relatively short amount of time depending on the temperature, meaning the ice can be regrown if Jasper goes through a brief thawing period this winter.

The walls are naturalistic in appearance. Darrah explained one of the skill sets of their team was they know what wild ice is supposed to look like.

The attraction caters to all experience levels, everyone from beginners seeking a new challenge to seasoned climbers looking to get some practice. The top of the wall also provides a unique aerial view of the townsite.

“We’re trying to create a structure and a facility that has something interesting to offer any level of climber,” Darrah said.

The anticipated opening date is Jan. 17. A launch party was held on Friday, Jan. 10, as part of Jasper in January.

The ice climbing wall may become a reoccurring seasonal attraction depending on the reception. Rockaboo will be exploring alternative sites where the scaffolding could remain standing.

Darrah emphasized how the new attraction was also meant to enrich the lives of locals on top of attracting winter tourists.

“We really wanted to do this for Jasper as well,” he said. “Please take advantage of this weird and wonderful structure that we have on our doorstep this winter. Come see us, and we’d love to show you what we’re doing.”

Rockaboo will be offering 90-minute sessions four times a day. Climbing equipment is included. Those interested can book online.

Parks Canada working to reduce wildfire risk in Jasper, Banff national parks

By PETER SHOKEIR, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Parks Canada assures it is actively preparing for the upcoming wildfire season through risk reduction work in Jasper and Banff national parks this winter. Natalie Fay, external relations manager for Banff National Park, said in a media briefing Parks Canada uses a variety of tools and strategies such as prescribed fires, mechanical logging and tree thinning as well as the creation of community fireguards to help reduce the impacts of wildfire and climate change.

“While we can never completely eliminate the risk of wildfire, Parks Canada is taking important steps to reduce that risk across the mountain national parks using safe and effective fire management,” Fay said.

“Parks Canada works year-round to reduce the risks of wildfire and to ensure we're prepared to respond in the event of a wildfire across the mountain national parks,” she added. “Our agency is taking action to create healthy fire-resilient landscapes and communities.”

In late July, the Jasper wildfire forced the evacuation of 25,000 people and destroyed nearly a third of the townsite. Parks Canada has since been accused of not doing enough to prevent the wildfire by many critics, including Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith.

In a December 14th radio interview, Smith accused the federal agency of showing no inclination to work with the provincial government to clear the deadwood on the west side of Jasper.

Fay noted Parks Canada employees in the Jasper and Banff field units live and work in these areas themselves. In addition, the agency strives to keep both residents and visitors aware of what they are doing to keep these communities safe.

In Jasper National Park, Parks Canada is finalizing a wildfire risk reduction strategy to guide these efforts over the next five years. This winter, the agency is focusing on vegetation management and fireguard enhancements.

To the west of Jasper, Parks Canada is clearing an additional 100 hectares of vegetation adjacent to the previously treated 360 hectares in the Pyramid Bench and the Community Fireguard areas.

David Argument, resource conservation manager for Jasper National Park, reported they were currently in the contracting phase and hoped to start clearing these 100 hectares by mid-February.

“Of course, we are confined by winter frozen-ground conditions, so we need to get that [work] underway as soon as possible before spring conditions return,” Argument said.

Although they were originally planning to extend the 360 hectares of treated area using prescribed fire as a tool, crews are moving back to mechanical removal to expedite the process.

Fire crews are working around the wastewater treatment plant and Pine Bungalows. Activities include felling trees, limbing branches and burning debris piles on-site to reduce wildfire fuel loads.

At Patricia Lake, Parks Canada will conduct additional fuel reduction work. This work will support the broader FireSmart initiative to create defensible spaces and improve emergency response access.

As for Banff National Park, work is underway to create a Lake Louise community fireguard. The fireguard will be about 165 hectares and run from the south slope of Mount St. Piran behind the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise to the parking lot and ski runs of Lake Louise Ski Hill on Whitehorn Mountain.

“This will help reduce fuel and the risk of wildfire to the Lake Louise community as well as the wider Bow Valley,” Fay said. “Mechanical tree removal has already started, and pile burning will continue as specific conditions are met throughout the winter.”

Fay estimated it would take two or three winters to complete the 165.4-hectare fireguard.

In the area of MD of Bighorn, Canmore and Kananaskis Country, a multi-year fireguard project began in late 2024 to better protect the region. Through several phases over the next three to five years, several areas such as Stoneworks Creek, Harvie Heights and the Banff east park gates will have about 200 hectares of forest removed. An additional 116 hectares of forest will be thinned in the area.

In Kananaskis Country near Kananaskis Village, the area of Ribbon Creek has ongoing fireguard work taking place. It is planned to burn about 260 hectares of forest and part of a larger 7,900-hectare prescribed fire plan that is broken into several phases. This is an Alberta Parks project.

Mechanical tree removal is taking place in the Tunnel Mountain area near the town of Banff over the next two winters. This work covers an area of 220 hectares and is expected to reduce the wildfire risk to the nearby communities of Banff, Canmore and Harvie Heights.

On top of this work, Parks Canada is currently in the planning phase of an additional 1,413 hectares of wildfire risk reduction work within a 15-kilometre radius of the town of Banff.

When it comes to FireSmartering the townsites themselves, Argument said Parks Canada works closely with municipal governments and residents within these communities. He noted new development guidelines for Jasper’s rebuild are directing more fire-resilient buildings.

The agency will also be working with municipalities to encourage the replacement of existing cedar shakes on roofs and is looking at upgrading its own infrastructure.

“Things like the Jasper Visitor Centre, which is an important heritage building in town, has cedar shakes, and we're assessing options there for removing that risk,” Argument added.

As for whether wildfire risk reduction work will impact the natural aesthetic of these mountain parks, Jane Park, fire management specialist for Banff National Park, noted they consider both the aesthetic and cultural values that Canadians and visitors have in mind for protected areas.

“I do think that over time, the public has gotten used to large carpets of mature forests,” Park said. “That is not really historically what our landscapes look like.”

She noted mountain areas often have open forests and grasslands, and Parks Canada needed to balance its wildfire risk reduction with restoring some of those open habitats while also getting the public used to seeing other native plant communities.



Crews work to create the Lake Louise community fireguard in Banff National Park on Tuesday, January 7th. /PETER SHOKEIR

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REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George

NOTICE OF
Public Consultation Meeting

Temporary Use Permit No. 290

Subject Property: Highway 5 North, east of Tete Jaune Cache

Purpose: continue Preliminary Resource Processing use for a three-year period

Next Steps: there is a public consultation meeting on Tuesday January 28, 2025 at 7:15 pm at Canoe Valley Recreation Centre, 100 Elm Street, Valemount

Consideration: the Regional District Board will consider issuing Temporary Use Permit No. 290 on Thursday February 20, 2025 at 1:30 pm at 155 George Street, Prince George

For more information visit
rdffg.ca/landuseapps

Tete Jaune Community Cemetery sees first interment

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Tete Jaune Community Cemetery saw its first interment this fall, after nearly two decades of residents advocating for a local cemetery. Located off of Carr Road, residents can pay \$120 for a full-body plot or \$40 to have their cremated remains preserved there. Non-residents can pay \$240 for full-body interment or \$80 for cremated remains.

The work began around 2006 when local Frank Kiyooka, a longtime member of the Tete Jaune Community Association, first asked the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George for information on starting a cemetery, according to fellow Association member Ainslie Jackman. What followed was years of consultation with other residents and staff at the Regional District.

“The Regional District said, “There’s a process. If you want the taxpayers to pay for it, you have to come up with the area of taxpayers that are in Tete Jaune,” Jackman told The Goat. “So they decided on an area and then we had to do surveys door-to-door, asking people if they were willing to pay taxes to support a cemetery.”

In the first round of surveys, those in favor of a cemetery won by a razor-thin margin – about 51 per cent to 49 per cent, Jackman said. According to her, the Regional District said that was not a solid enough majority, so the group decided to do another round of surveys.

The second time around, the win was more decisive: about 60-40, Jackman said. But the work didn’t end there. The Association had to find the money and manpower to clear a plot of land, plant grass, and build a fence.

According to Cindy Paton, Manager of Community Services for the Regional District, plans for the cemetery began to be set in stone in 2018. While Kiyooka passed away in 2017, just before his vision for a community cemetery came into fruition, Jackman credits him with rallying locals to get the work started.

“We embarked on this project thanks to Frank,” Jackman said, adding that Kiyooka thought Tete Jaune locals should have the option of being buried close to home, rather than in the Valemount Cemetery.

After some delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the cemetery was licensed in 2021, according to Paton. She added that other steps in the process to establish a cemetery included finding suitable land, then applying to use land from the Agricultural Land Reserve, and performing an archaeological assessment on the property.

While some people may find cemeteries eerie, Jackman hopes residents will recognize the importance of being able to visit loved ones after they pass.

“When my mother died, we had a cottage [in Vancouver] and we buried her under a tree. Of course, eventually the cottage got sold,” Jackman said. “I always felt the loss of the ability to go and physically visit her.”

For those who had their remains scattered or were buried elsewhere before the cemetery opened, a plaque can be placed on a memorial wall that will be added to the cemetery, Jackman added.

“Memorial walls and cemeteries are places to visit our loved ones,” Jackman said. “I think that’s important.”



Thin Ice

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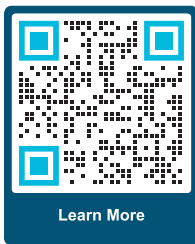
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REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George

NOTICE OF
Public Consultation Meeting

Temporary Use Permit No. 289
Subject Property: 2335 Highway 5 South, 600 m south of Valemount
Purpose: permit Campground Use for a three year period
Next Steps: there is a public consultation meeting on Tuesday January 28, 2025 at 6:30 pm at Canoe Valley Recreation Centre, 100 Elm Street, Valemount
Consideration: the Regional District Board will consider issuing Temporary Use Permit No. 289 on Thursday February 20, 2025 at 1:30 pm at 155 George Street, Prince George

For more information visit rdffg.ca/landuseapps





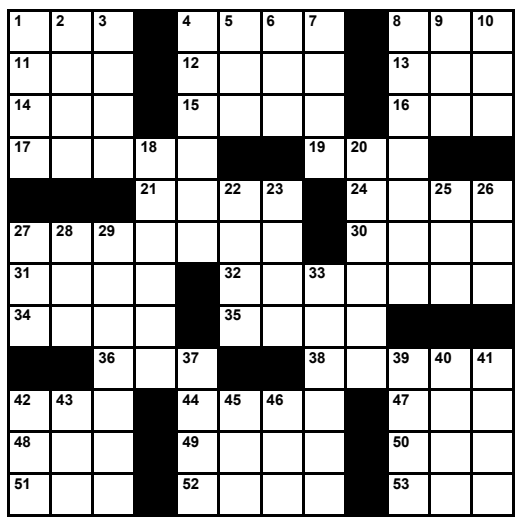

PUZZLES




CROSSWORD

Answers on P13

- Across**
- I problem
 - Well-informed about, 2 words
 - ___ insult to injury
 - Nail site
 - Zero
 - Sloth, for example
 - Hurting
 - Be in a funk
 - Workout haven
 - Social class in India
 - Coral, for one
 - Heightener
 - "Darn it!"
 - What's left
 - Hilarity
 - The ___ Curtain
 - Type of environment where a species usually occurs
 - Card collection
 - Out-of-doors
 - "Shoot"
 - Strange
 - Mouse catcher
 - Squirrel's home
 - Inimical
 - Someone to hang with
- Down**
- Morally bad
 - Defendant called John
 - Grate on one's nerves
 - "As you ___"
 - Final chapter
 - Sweeping
 - Charity festivity
 - Hooting experts
 - Invisible
 - Boiling equipment
 - Early afternoon
 - It might be late-breaking
 - Onslaught
 - Hors d'oeuvre item
 - Kind of test, abbr.
 - Gratitude
 - It may purr or roar
 - Cave sound
 - Axel, e.g.
 - Content of some bags
 - Inlaid
 - Raise one's hand, perhaps
 - Billy Joel "Just the



- Way You ___**
- In the immediate area
 - Classic Volkswagen
 - Sensed
 - Travel
 - Elvis, e.g.
 - Studied
 - Make a choice
 - Battle
 - Adam's partner
 - Brit. title



BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Wolf Moon Week

The wolf howl famously can be heard for miles and used for a variety of reasons: to locate the fellow pack members; establish territory; to warn of danger or feeding opportunity; to find or show affection to a mate; or, it seems, a wolf howls simply because it can. The full moon this week calls the wild hearts to be heard so they can find one another and leave none behind. The strength of the wolf is the pack.

Knowing that personal growth is an inevitable outcome, you welcome the bit of awkwardness that comes with new experiences. Your impressive confidence will net you an opportunity.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Because you are so creative, your mind whirs with possibilities. Because you're decisive, you quickly narrow down your options to the one or two that make the most sense. Because you're a leader, your confident choices will be mimicked by others. Because you're open, you'll forge ahead, gathering strength in numbers as you go.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). And while it's fun to imagine big, exciting experiences, when it comes to actually having an experience, small moments of joy are often your favorite. This week's thrills come from your sense that change is coming. Indications of progress will bring a surge of satisfaction. It's good to know that you make a difference.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's an ambitious time. Cheer yourself on. Words can be like a spell, compelling you toward the goal. For now, keep the energy to yourself. Private plans are powerful. Your own ambition is a pure source of fuel, but the ambition of others gives you unnecessary rules, making things harder than they need to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What you're doing is far more special than it seems to you, only because you're too close to your work to see how it fits into the big picture. This week, someone will give you the perspective that helps you understand it differently. This is the game changer that allows you to level up and concentrate your efforts where they'll count the most.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Attempt things without wondering if you'll be good at them because the only thing that matters is that you experience as much as possible. Besides, being skilled is far less important than enjoying a process. Learning is a pleasure -- like a massage for the mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have a host of reasons for diving into an endeavor, and the money involved is the least influential factor. You want to know you've brought more joy into the world. One way to be sure of this is to do what brings you enjoyment. If it works for you, chances are it will work for others, too.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you're happy, other people will be happy, too. Every time you learn something new, treat yourself, seek your own delight and take good care of yourself, you are building all your other relationships at the same time because your relationship with yourself is the cornerstone for every other connection.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have plenty of interests and passions, and there's much you want to accomplish, so it makes sense that you're resistant to jumping into another person's grand vision. However, it will be lucky to participate in someone else's dream in a limited way. New skills and friends are coming your way this week.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll sort out complications because you're so excellent at seeing the natural state of things. You notice how things work. It's easy for you to understand how things really are and to separate fact from fiction and artifice from the essence. You'll use this gift to improve life for more than just you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've overcome so much already and you're still dreaming and hoping. That's extraordinary. Sometimes you feel invisible, but your efforts, your dreams, your troubles -- they matter. Help will show up. In the meantime, your resilience is legendary and your ability to find a way forward will be a source of pride, confidence and, ultimately, success.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you need something, it's normal to reach out to the people who are closest to you, though they are not always the ones who are able to provide what you need. For instance, sometimes you just need a moment of escape, joy, fun and connection, and what you're given is unsolicited solutions that don't apply to your scene.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you feel out of place, it's a good sign -- a reminder that you're the kind of person who puts yourself in unfamiliar situations.

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

SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY Answers on P13

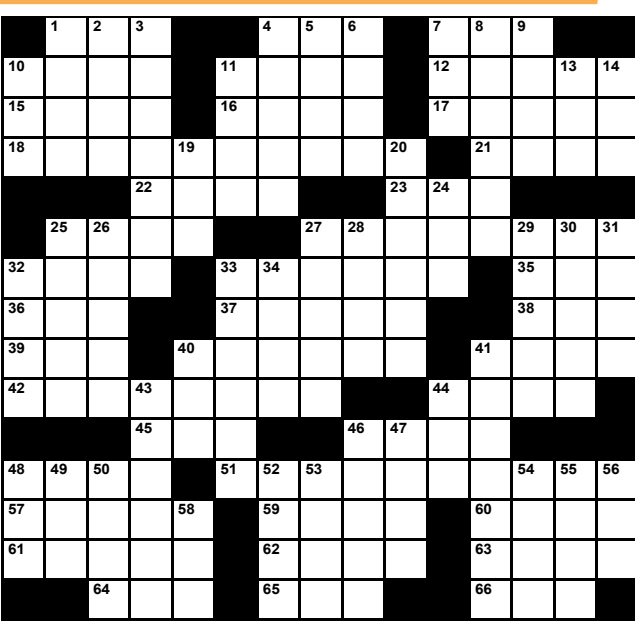
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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

The Toughie

Answers on P13

- Across**
- Grasped
 - "Nova" network
 - She played Emma in "The Avengers"
 - First name in espionage
 - "Whoopee!"
 - It's a wrap
 - Famed lab assistant
 - 60 minutos
 - Wife-to-be
 - In a very bright and awesome manner
 - Charlie Parker's music
 - Leak
 - Rock music style
 - Granny
 - Promoted
 - Folder
 - Groups of bees
 - Third in the family
 - Old Olds
 - Lunch slice
 - Private, not-for-profit bus.
 - Prankish imaginary being
 - Pain in the toe
 - Cries of aversion
 - "Really?"
 - Tight tangle
 - Sun Devils' sch.
 - Guardianship
 - Gossip
 - Pizza topping
 - Japanese cartoon art
 - Injure
 - On ___ with
 - Ceremonial gowns
- Down**
- Designer Klein
 - People in charge, abbr.
 - A Cadillac
 - Bar staple
 - Easy mark
 - "The Forsyte ___" (Galsworthy)
 - The gamut
 - Area of conflict
 - Ring
 - Chip off the old ice block
 - Stamp
 - Kind of port
 - Gortner of "Falcon Crest"
 - Song for Carmen
 - Start for east, west or wife
 - Ace
 - Sharp tool
 - Pince-___
 - Extended time away from wk.
 - Sycophant
 - High points, abbr.
 - Nobelism Bohr
 - Skyward
 - Golf course architect, Tom



- Pasta grains
- One of the Beatles
- Figure of ___
- Spanish for God
- Having no cost, in Cologne
- Phlegm
- Pulls it off
- ___-relief
- Takes out clothing stitches
- Trucking specialty
- White wine aperitif
- Web mag
- Courageous
- Be up
- A, in Acapulco
- Turns sharply
- Actor Sharif
- Wacky
- Org. for Nancy Lopez
- Light
- Borghese's obsession
- Slalom maneuver

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1	E	G	O	4	U	P	O	N	8	A	D	10	D		
11	P	A	W	12	N	O	N	E	13	S	I	N			
14	I	L	L	15	S	T	E	W	16	S	P	A			
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25	B	A	26	L	27	A	N	28	C	E	29	G	L	E	E
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51	T	R	Y	52	W	E	R	E	53	E	N	D			

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

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15	I	G	O	R	16	H	O	R	A	17	B	R	I	D	E	
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Community Events

Send us your event to ads@goatnewsmedia.com or call 250-566-4606. Use 40 WORDS or less and we will publish it FREE up to a month before

Valemount

THUR Jan 16th Men in the community are invited to join us for A Men's Games Night at the new RVCS office in Valemount 1444 5th avenue from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM for an evening of games, laughter and connection. Pick your favourite games and make it a night to remember! No registration required, please contact the office at 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more information.

SAT-SUN Jan 18-19th Mask Making Workshop! Sat 1 PM-5 PM, Sun 10 AM-4 PM at the Gathering Tree Wellness Therapies. Cost:\$70 (includes materials & Sunday lunch). Phone Sharon at 566-4142 or text Sherral at 566-1175 to secure a spot!

FRI-SUN Jan 24 - 26th U11 Valemount Minor Hockey Tournament, held at the Canoe Valley Rec Centre. Come cheer on our under-11 age players! Game schedule TBA.

TUES Jan 28th Do you have a legal question you need answered? Connect with barrister, Jesse Stamm, at the Valemount Public Library The next Legal Advice Zoom session is scheduled for January 28, 2025 at 6 PM. Call the library at 250-566-4367 to register for the event. There are 2 spots available. No cost.

Money Matters Workshops on Tuesdays Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Valemount Learning Centre. Call 250-566-4601 to register or for more info.

FRI Feb 7-9th U11 hockey tournament held at the Canoe Valley Rec Centre. Come cheer on our under-11 age players! Game schedule TBA.

FRI Feb 21st VACS presents Dunster's own Dream Heavy. "Fearless, epic, melodic, progressive metal with influences in latin, celtic, and other world music, Dream Heavy is a heavy hitter on all fronts." 7:30-10 PM p.m. at the Community Theatre (high school). Tickets available at valemountarts.org

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! 1 PM. Everyone welcome.

Drop-in pickleball - Sun, Mon, Tues, Thurs
Drop-in pickleball at the Community Hall at noon Sundays, and 8:30 AM Tuesdays and Thursday. Also 6-8 PM 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 6:30-9 PM. Cost is \$20 per game. Seasonal rate available. Sundays 6:30 PM and Wednesdays 8 PM.

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

Mother Goose - Wednesdays
WED's Starting January 29th Infants ages 0-12 months and their adult caregivers are invited to join us for Mother Goose. This Parent-Child Mother Goose Program is a group experience

for parents and their babies and young children. The program introduces adults and children to the pleasure of using rhymes, songs, and stories together. Parents gain skills and confidence which can enable them to create positive family patterns during their children's crucial early years. Children benefit from enjoyable, healthy early experiences with language and communication. The program starts at 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM and runs for 10 week program at the Valemount Public Library 1090A Main Street. This program is brought to you by the Infant Development Program. Registration is require; please contact the office to sign up 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more information.

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

Choose to Move - Thursdays
Starting Jan 22nd anyone over 55 is invited to our 12 week activation program. Join us each Wednesday from 1-3 PM for a free flexible program that is designed to give you the support and motivation to get moving. You will get a personalized plan from trained activity coaches, a chance to meet new friends while becoming more active and given tools to help build healthy habits that last. No matter your ability Choose to Move helps you make small changes to have a big impact on your health and well-being. Registration is require please contact the office to sign up 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more information.

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
7 PM 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 7 PM 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 9 AM-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!

January 17 – Indoor Scavenger Hunt
January 24 – New Years Dance Party
January 31 – Let's Make Soup!

McBride

WED Jan. 15th Dealing with Difficult

People workshop 1:00-3:00 at the McBride library about how to stay stay in conversation with difficult people using non-violent communication and mediation strategies. This event is hosted by Elizabeth Surrudge and takes place in the meeting room. RVSP to egrace@telus.net.

FRI Jan 17th Trivia Night at the McBride Library 6:30-7:30. Fun, Laughter, and Brainiac Moments Guaranteed! All ages wanted and needed for this team based events. Bring your own crew, or join a team at the start of the night. Prizes! This event is sponsored by Decoda Literacy.

SAT Jan 25th Miniature Painting at the McBride Library 1:30-3:30. Ages 10+. Anyone is welcome to join this drop in workshop facilitated by Jeff Nadwdny.

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 9 AM-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!

January 20 – Painting fun
January 27 – Snowman Sensory Bin

ASL Sign Language Club
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
On Wednesdays the McBride Library host the Fibre Artists' group 10 AM-12 PM: 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
The McBride Library holds two monthly book discussion clubs for adults Thursday afternoons 1:30 PM. Call 250 569 2411 for info.

Dungeons & Dragons
For ages 12-18, the classic fantasy storytelling g Ame. Join us on Tuesdays from 3:30-6 PM at the McBride Library. Bring D&D dice if you have them!

Rolling with ADHD - Wednesdays
WED's starting Jan 15th through to Feb 5th Our Family Support Program is hosting a **Rolling with ADHD** program, this is an 8 module series that covers practical strategies and tools for families. Do you support a child with suspected or diagnosed ADHD? Our Family Support program is hosting Rolling with ADHD. Whether you're looking to relearn skills or develop new ones, we welcome you to register for this informative and engaging eight module series where we learn about the dynamics of ADHD and executive functioning skills. Communication and building connection is key! We will be running afternoon 12-1 PM and evening 7-8 PM options. Please contact the office 250-569-2266 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more information and to register.

Sunshine Stories
10:30-11 AM 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, 6:15-8:30 PM. 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 1:30-3 PM. 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

Community Potluck Lunches hosted by the Dunster Community Association again this winter at the Dunster Community Hall. The first one will be on Saturday, January 18th. Then they will be on the first and third Saturday of February and March.(February 1st and 115th and March 1st and 15th – Mark them on your calendar!) The Doors open at 11:30 AM and Lunch will be at 12:00 noon Sharp. **The Annual General Meeting of the Dunster Community Association will be held at 1:30 PM after the pot-luck on Jan 18th** You can purchase your 2024 DCA Memberships then. For more information contact Pete Amyoony 250-968-4334 or Loretta Simpson 250-968-4453.

Fibre Arts Meet Up Thursdays at the Dunster Schoolhouse!! Starting Thursday Jan 9th. Drop in with whatever you are working on, anytime between 10:00 AM -2:00 PM.

Schoolhouse Cafe will be starting up with hot soup and treats starting Wednesday January 15th from 11:00 AM -1:30 PM.

Seniors for Climate Action get together on Wednesday, Jan 22 from 10 AM-2 PM at the Dunster Schoolhouse. More info coming soon.

Poetry Workshop, Wednesday, Jan 29th at the Dunster Schoolhouse from 10:30 AM -12:30 PM. A workshop designed to read, write, speak, and discuss poetry. All ages welcome.

Blue River & Tete Jaune

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Snow Fun

After a crushing defeat earlier this year, Corporal Kelly Barrie (far left) and Constable Nataline Cook (right) called in reinforcements to take on some of the neighbourhood kids in a snowball fight rematch. The kids also called for backup and the adults were still outnumbered. It's unclear who won the battle, but what is clear is that everyone had fun. /ANDREA ARNOLD



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Valemount Eatery Hours Guide



BoShay's Bistro
M-F 8am-3pm & M,W,Th 5-9pm
250-566-0154



Caribou Grill
Open 4:30-9pm. Closed Tue, Wed
1002 5th Ave / 250-566-8244



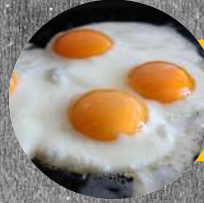
Summit Grill
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Located in Best Western Plus Valemount



Valemount Legion Branch 266
Friday dinner 5-8, music 7-10
Sunday pancake breakfast 8-10:30
970 Main Street / 250-566-4343



Glacier Fire Pizzeria
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Abernathy's
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VALEMOUNT

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to be fenced and put to use. With 360 degree views of the valley's three ranges, you'll have views no matter where you build.

Lot 2 Small River FSR

TETE JAUNE

\$110,000



What a great location for your rural dream. Part of a 7-lot subdivision, this 4.25 acre property is relatively level, in mostly natural state and ripe for development. With a water easement and use

agreement in place, you're one step ahead. This is a unique bare land strata development, with only the roadway in as common property.

#BuyHereBuildHere



11328 Hwy 16 E

CROYDON

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This mid-sized acreage presents good opportunities for that rural lifestyle you've been looking for. Dissected by the highway, you have a natural separation between the southwestern portion that has been logged and cleared and the northeastern portion that is in mostly natural state but once had a homesite in place.



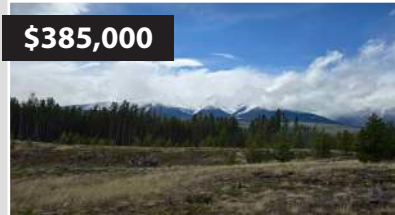
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Lot 1 & 2 Hwy 5 N

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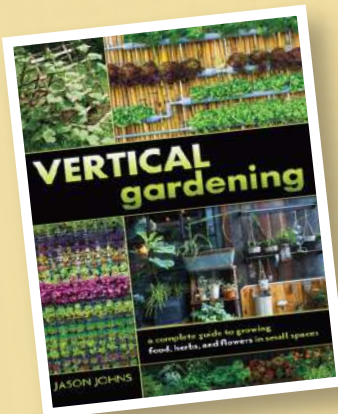


THE OBSERVER

When Julia arrives in Medway, accompanying her beloved Hardy on his first posting as an RCMP constable, she tries to explain her new life to old friends from the city, but can find no shared vocabulary to convey this rural reality, let alone police life. As Hardy disappears into long days at work, Julia takes a job as editor of the local newspaper. At first this new life together is an adventure, but as in all the best stories, time darkens and deepens it.

BY **MARINA ENDICOTT**

FICTION



VERTICAL GARDENING

Gardening expert Jason Johns offers examples of many types of vertical gardens and gives suggestions for the most appropriate plants to grow vertically. He also gives tips for how to plan a vertical garden to take advantage of sunlight, allow for easy watering and care, and provide protection from wind and insect damage.

BY **JASON JOHNS**

GARDENING



PRAIRIE EDGE

Meet Isidore "Ezzy" Desjarlais and Grey Ginther: two distant Métis cousins making the most of Grey's uncle's old trailer, passing their days playing endless games of cribbage and cracking cans of cheap beer in between. Grey, once a passionate advocate for change, has been hardened and turned cynical by an activist culture she thinks has turned performative and lazy. One night, though, she has a revelation, and enlists Ezzy, who is hopelessly devoted to her but eager to avoid the authorities after a life in and out of the group home system and jail, for a bold yet dangerous political mission: capture a herd of bison from a national park and set them free in downtown Edmonton, disrupting the churn of settler routine. But as Grey becomes increasingly single-minded in her newfound calling, their act of protest puts the pair and those close to them in peril, with devastating and sometimes fatal consequences.

Located at 1170 5th Avenue, Valemount, B.C. (ACROSS FROM THE IGA DOWNTOWN)