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The sound of snow



This past Sunday with the perfectly clear sky made for a picturesque view of Kinney Lake and the surrounding mountains. During my short time there I heard about six small snow avalanches come roaring down off Mount Robson. /LEON LORENZ

Regional District begins budget deliberations

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George board of directors met last Friday, January 24th, to begin discussing the District's 2025 budget. Directors approved the budgets for region-wide services such as waste management and 9-1-1 response, and sub-regional services such as building

and fire inspection services in electoral areas.

District staff proposed a 5.58 per cent increase in tax requisitions to cover these services, which total roughly \$48.5M. Despite this, taxes may remain the same in McBride and possibly decrease in Valemount, according to a requisition analysis of the 2024 and 2025 budgets. This is because the assessed value of property in Valemount

has fallen an average of 1.35 per cent, and has only slightly increased in McBride at 6.03 per cent. However, property values in Electoral Area H have increased 21.03 per cent since last year.

CAO Chris Calder and General Manager of Financial Services Sarah White presented these numbers to the board and outlined the District's largest expenditures contributing to the

increase. A good deal of the increase can be attributed to inflation and increased operating costs, Calder said.

"There are a number of objectives that are utilized when determining requisition... having awareness of inflationary pressures, which have ebbed and flowed over the last few years, [and] being sensitive to the ongoing impacts

CONT'D ON P6

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Negotiations continue for McBride recycling services

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Nearly eight months after recycling services were paused throughout the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, McBride residents still do not have local recycling services.

The Regional District began negotiations with Recycle BC in February 2024 after Cascades – the contractor previously responsible for administering recycling services – announced it would end its contract with the District. Cascades held seven contracts with the District, and the board decided to tackle other solid waste management services first, General Manager of Environmental Services Laura Zapotichny told The Goat at the time. This led to a pause in recycling services starting on May 31st, until three recycling depots became operational in September after months of negotiation.

In an email to The Goat, Manager of Communications and Culture Hilary Erasmus said the Regional District is in the midst of negotiations with Recycle BC, the contractor hired to take over recycling services throughout the district in February.

The crux of negotiations lie in whether or not McBride will become a principal depot or satellite depot, Erasmus said. At principal depots, RecycleBC is responsible for providing bins, hauling recyclables to the landfill, and marketing recyclables. At satellite depots, the Regional District is responsible for covering these costs.

The Regional District is advocating for McBride to become a principal depot to help offset the costs of operating its waste diversion program, Erasmus said. Staff will update the Regional District board on the outcome of negotiations “in the coming months,” she added, but there is not yet a clear timeline for when recycling services will become operational in McBride.

In the meantime, the Regional District has recommended that residents haul their recyclables to the Valemount Transfer Station – where recycling services reopened on September 16th – or if possible, store their recyclables until McBride services are operational.

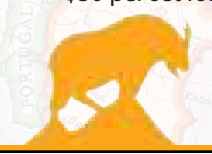
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Regional District to take over 9-1-1 services in 2026

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George announced last Wednesday that it will be taking over 9-1-1 call services in 2026.

Currently, 9-1-1 calls are administered by the Vancouver-based company Emergency Communications for BC Inc. (E-Comm). The Regional District has had a contract with E-Comm for 9-1-1 call services since 2014.

According to the press release on the change, once the Regional District takes over, 9-1-1 calls will be answered in Prince George at the Regional District's Public Safety Operations building. The Prince George call centre will also service the regional districts of Bulkley-Nechako, Cariboo and Kitimat-Stikine.

In an email to The Goat, Senior Manager of Public Safety Melanie Perrin said Prince George-based dispatchers will be more familiar with the needs of northern B.C.'s rural and remote communities than dispatchers in Vancouver.

"These factors will result in a more

comprehensive evaluation of the initial call and potentially a quicker processing and transfer of the call," Perrin wrote.

The call centre comes with economic benefits for the region, too, Perrin said. The centre will be staffed by locals, and the Regional District estimates that 12 jobs will be created for the call centre.

Costs for the service will be more expensive than the contract with E-Comm for the first four years it is in place, according to Perrin. However, having the Regional District administer 9-1-1 call services is more cost effective in the long term, she said. Perrin did not provide specific numbers on the long-term cost modelling for the service, though she said it would be less costly than the E-Comm service after four years.

"The Board of Directors and the regional district partners did not take on this decision lightly. The decision is based upon years of work," Perrin added. "Our goal is to provide excellent public safety services to our residents. The new 9-1-1 call-answer service is an opportunity to further enhance the safety and well-being of the communities we serve."

Valemount Learning Centre offering financial literacy workshops

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Valemount Learning Centre, a local non-profit which offers courses on everything from occupational first aid to English as a second language, is now offering financial literacy workshops.

The workshops will walk participants through Money Matters, an introductory financial literacy program administered by ABC Life Literacy Canada, a charity that promotes adult literacy by developing and providing educational materials throughout the country. According to Regena Bergen, the Learning Centre's Literacy Coordinator, this is the first time the program has been offered over her three-year tenure at the centre.

The centre has had two workshops on the program so far: the first one went over how to create a spending plan, and the second one focused on the basics of banking. Bergen has seen good reception from locals, she said, and she hopes more will join the program.

"There are a lot of people that have trouble saving money, trouble spending too much money, and don't necessarily understand borrowing," Bergen added. "The Money Matters program will help them feel more confident about their finances."

The program is being funded through the Community Adult Literacy Program, a grant administered by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Bergen said.

Locals can register for the program by calling the Learning Centre at (250) 566-4601, Bergen said. They can also find more information on the program at abcmoneymatters.ca.

Bergen has previously worked in banking, and looks forward to applying those skills to benefit Valemount residents, she said.

"I'm excited to revisit financial matters and put my own spin on it," Bergen said. "It's never too late to learn more about looking after your finances."

District opens competitive bidding for scrap metal recycling

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George board of directors approved entering a competitive bid process for scrap metal recycling services during their January 23rd meeting.

The District's current contract, with ABC Recycling Ltd., expires on March 31st and does not have an option for further extensions.

Scrap metal has historically been responsible for the majority of revenue generated by recycling services, General Manager of Environmental Services




Laura Zapotichny told the board.


According to the request for proposals the Regional District published January 24th, an average 961 metric tonnes of scrap metal are collected from rural transfer stations annually over the past three years, and an annual average of 372 metric tonnes was collected from depots

in Prince George over the past three years.

The contract is set to begin on April 1st, 2025, and continue until midnight on March 31st, 2028 and can be renewed for up to two years after that. Bids are due on February 7th at 2:00 p.m.

www.valemount.ca

<p style="text-align: center;">VCF and VIP Updates</p> <p>The Village has successfully recruited community members willing to serve on the boards of the Valemount Community Forest (VCF) and the Valemount Industrial Park (VIP) boards.</p> <p>Appointed to the VCF Board are Ainslie Jackman, Jerry Piper, Zac Ruttiman, Ray Mikolash, Dylan Savoie, and Councillor Donnie MacLean as the Council representative.</p> <p>Appointed to the VIP Board are Tom Jamin, Gordon Carson, Gerhardt Oberauer, Jeremy Mercy-Ross, Jason Van der Wilk, and Councillor Pete Pearson as the Council representative.</p> <p>The Village deeply appreciates the citizens who generously volunteer their time and expertise to serve on our boards.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2025 Columbia Basin Trust ReDi Grants Adjudication Committee Meeting Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ January 30, 2025 ➤ February 20, 2025 ➤ March 13, 2025 ➤ April 10, 2025 <p>Meetings are at 6:30pm at the Village of Valemount Council Chambers, 735 Cranberry Lake Road. The Columbia Basin Trust ReDi Grants Adjudication Committee Meeting schedule for 2025 is posted at the entrance of the Municipal Office, and on the Village of Valemount website. Please note that meeting dates and times may change. Approved changes will be posted on the front door of the Village Office and at www.valemount.ca.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; font-size: small;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>RESIDENT DIRECTED</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>A PROGRAM OF</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>DELIVERED BY</p>  </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities To Get Involved!</p> <p>Council currently has vacancies on the following boards and committees:</p> <p>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 role of this "Select Committee of Council" is to make recommendations to Council regarding accessibility-related matters and developing an accessibility plan. Please submit your application form in-person, by email to planner@valemount.ca, or by mail to Village of Valemount, Attention: Planner, PO Box 168, Valemount BC, V0E 2Z0, no later than 4:00 pm, on February 9, 2025.</p> <p>The Clean Air Task Force is a Select Committee of Council whose mandate is to explore all options to improve air quality in the village. For more information, visit the village website at www.valemount.ca. Look for the Clean Air Website link in the upper right-hand corner.</p> <p>The Community Foundation Board will administer a Community Foundation grant program. The Foundation will support a wide range of causes based on the greatest needs and priorities in the community. Get involved to make a difference!</p> <p>The Village is also seeking community volunteers to sit on a Council Remuneration Panel; this is a short-term project of evaluating and recommending Council compensation.</p> <p>The deadline for applications to the Clean Air Task Force, the Community Foundation Board, and the Council Remuneration Panel is 4 pm, Sunday, March 2, 2025. Please submit your application form in-person, by email to corporate@valemount.ca, or by mail to Village of Valemount, Attention: Corporate, PO Box 168, Valemount BC, V0E 2Z0.</p> <p>To learn more about each of these unique opportunities, and to access the Board/Committee Application Form, please see the Latest News & Events banners on the Village of Valemount homepage: www.valemount.ca.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clear Village Easements - Snow Removal Policy</p> <p>The village efficiently uses easements and boulevards in all residential areas for snow clearing operations throughout the winter. To ensure smooth operations, we kindly ask that residents avoid storing vehicles of any kind (including RV's, boats, utility trailers, etc.) or materials, such as dirt, gravel, firewood, etc., on village easements. Doing so helps us maintain safety and accessibility for everyone. Please note that bylaw violations may result in fines or towing at the vehicle owner's expense if they continue to obstruct snow removal efforts. Thank you for your cooperation!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2025 Animal Licenses</p> <p>When you license your dog or cat with the Village, you receive a tag which identifies your pet and allows for a speedy return if they end up in our care. All dogs over the age of 3 months require an animal license. Cat licenses are free, and not mandatory, but we encourage every cat owner to license their cat.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Water Shut Off / On</p> <p>When planning for a water shut off for repairs or winterizing, please give the village a minimum of three (3) days' notice. Locating valves in winter can be difficult and it can take some time to get through the snow and frozen ground.</p> <p>If it is an emergency, we will do everything we can to shut the water off as quick as possible but again, this can take some time.</p> <p>If winterizing for the season, please make plans with the office ahead of time before you call your plumber.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Municipal Office Hours</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open Mondays to Fridays 8:30am to 12:30pm & 1:30pm to 4:30pm</p>
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Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER



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

Trump Can't Hurt Climate Much

"Drill, baby, drill", exulted the new President of the World (American branch), but he will find that the oil and gas industry isn't listening. As Darren Woods, CEO of ExxonMobil, tactfully put it in November: "I'm not sure how 'drill, baby, drill' translates into policy."

For those who prefer plainer speaking, here's Peter McNally, analyst at oil industry research firm Third Bridge, on the same topic. "Nobody's got crazy plans to be drilling at accelerated rates. The futures curve doesn't actually inspire your typical oil producer in west Texas or Oklahoma to do it."

It's been all Trump all the time for more than a week already, as the great showman hijacks the world's media with the shocking news that he's still going to do exactly what he has been saying he will do for months or, in many cases, years. Much ado about almost nothing new, but the media are lazy, it's cheap and easy, why not?

However, most of his actions will directly affect only Americans. Let's focus instead on the Trump policy that is most likely to hurt the interests of the rest of the human race: climate change.

He is pathologically hostile to any attempt to stop or slow global warming, regarding it as a scam and a 'Chinese plot'. He is pulling the United States out of the Paris climate treaty (again) and ending federal government subsidies for electric vehicle sales.

Above all, he has declared a 'national energy emergency'. Exactly what that means is unclear, but the remedy will theoretically involve a lot more drilling for oil and gas in the United States. This causes alarm elsewhere, because the US still accounts for 27% of the global economy.

Most people in other countries see the effort to contain global warming as a high priority requiring a concerted international response, and a second US defection from the task feels like a betrayal. But while it is regrettable, it is not all that big a deal in practice.

For almost any purpose except transportation, non-fossil energy (solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, nuclear) is cheaper than oil or gas. Almost two-thirds of all oil goes into vehicles of various sorts (mostly cars and trucks, but also aircraft and ships) – but that is a sector where overall demand for oil is not growing.

It's still huge in the United States, where fewer than one-tenth of new cars are electric, but in China, now a bigger market in terms of sales, ownership and production, market share for electric vehicles is already half and rising fast. Unsurprisingly, Chinese demand for oil suddenly stalled last year. Most of the rest of Asia will follow, as will Europe.

So regardless of Trump's rhetoric, US oil companies have no motivation to drill for more oil. On the contrary, they are restricting production and shutting down

higher-cost wells in order to keep oil prices and their own profits up. 'Excess capacity' is just a kinder way of saying 'stranded assets'.

Indeed, there's a good chance that by the end of Donald Trump's second term in 2029 the United States will be the only major producer still making millions of fossil-fuel cars, and Americans the only people buying them in the millions. The only threat here is commercial suicide for the US car industry, not sabotage of the global trend away from fossil fuels.

Most of the damage Trump does will be domestic, but he may trigger trade wars with China, Mexico and Canada. He might even invade Greenland, which would probably wreck both NATO and the United Nations.

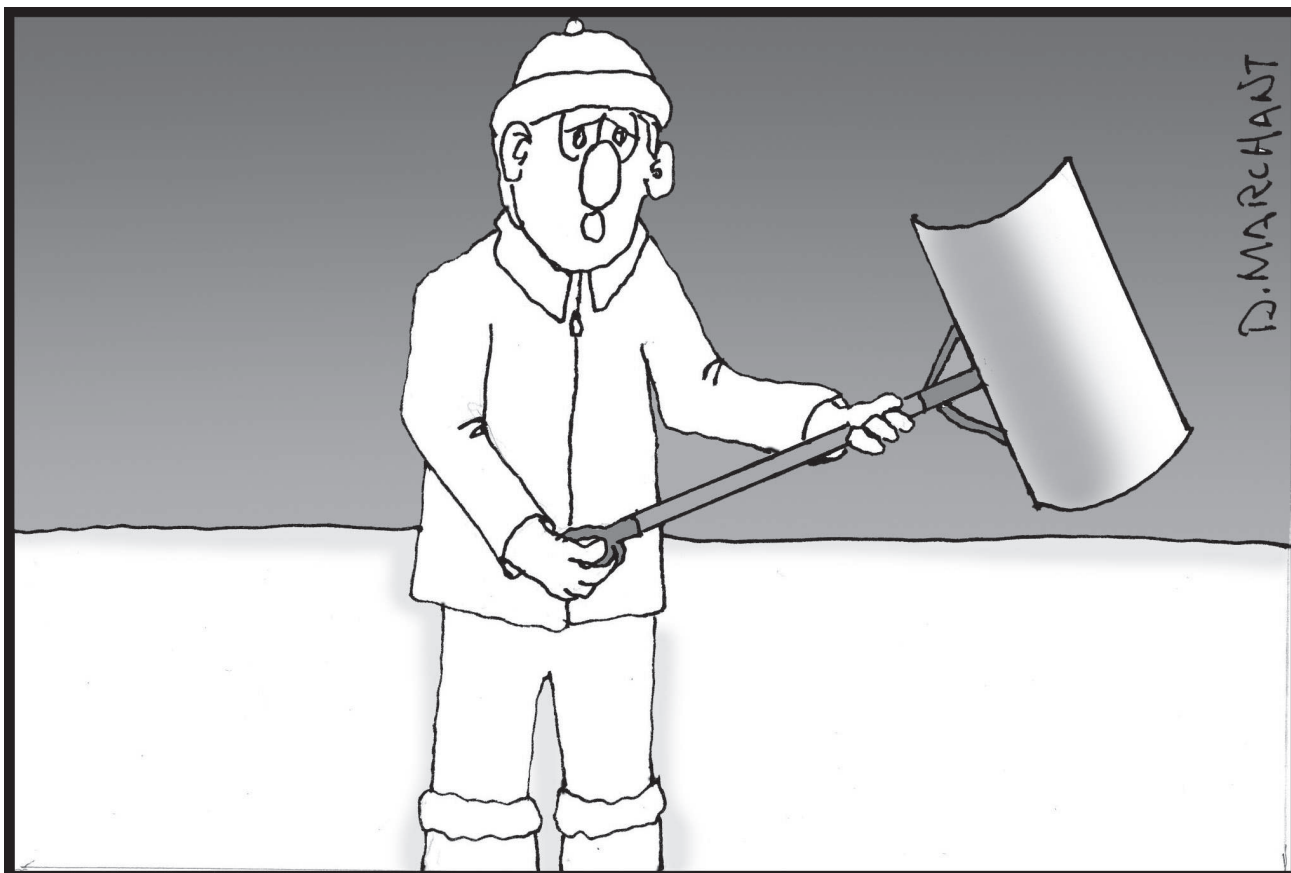
However, he didn't manage to sabotage the global response to climate change (feeble though it was) in his first term, and he won't do it this time either. He simply doesn't have the leverage.

Of course, the rest of the world could still screw up on the climate front even without his help.

Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Intervention Earth: Life-Saving Ideas from the World's Climate Engineers'. The latest previous book, 'The Shortest History of War', is also still available.

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Report highlights need for tailored supports for local business

BY RACHEL FRASER

A report released by Community Futures Fraser-Fort George shows that solutions tailored to the local economies, including an urgent need for more and better financial supports, are necessary for the continued success of businesses in the Fraser-Fort George (FFG) region.

The report is an overview of the findings of Community Futures' Regional Business Liaison Program, which conducted 210 interviews with businesses across the region between July 2023 to July 2024. The program was funded by Northern Development Initiative Trust's Regional Business Liaison Grant to understand the opportunities and challenges faced by businesses in Fraser-Fort George from recent forestry policy changes and the economic downturn. The project divides the region into three subregions: Mackenzie, Prince George and Robson Valley-Canoe.

It's a follow-up to a report on a similar project during the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020-2021, and provides some comparative analysis between the two periods. This reporting period did not include the aftermath of the Jasper fires and resulting highway closures.

The full report is available at www.cfdc.bc.ca/regional-business-liaison.

Findings
"Established and family-run businesses, handed down through generations, form the backbone of the Robson Valley-Canoe community, alongside self-employed individuals pursuing their passions and creating a niche for themselves," according to the report.

87 per cent of businesses in the Robson Valley are classified as microbusinesses – five or fewer employees – and 30 per cent of the businesses have been in operation for over 20 years.

The report identifies common challenges across the FFG region, such as economic instability, staffing challenges and the need for diversification.

In the Robson Valley-Canoe subregion specifically, key challenges include supply chain issues with delays and increased costs, struggles with effective marketing strategies, and the twin challenges of finding skilled workers and employee retention. As a result of staffing shortages locally, there is a high reliance on business owners, which can affect operations in the case of illness, and creates a risk of burnout.

Because the Robson Valley-Canoe economy is so reliant on forestry, tourism and agriculture, diversification is highlighted as a key factor in creating economic stability.

Financial Supports

Only 24 per cent of businesses in the Robson Valley-Canoe region reported that they are flourishing.

According to the report, "A critical need for financial assistance was evident in both projects (this report and the one that was conducted post-COVID 19). Streamlined loan processes, access to grants, and diverse financial instruments were consistently identified as essential support mechanisms, particularly if targeted to microbusinesses."

Community Collaboration

Community collaboration was repeatedly identified as a key component of business success and economic resilience in the Valley. According to Shona Thorne, Lead Regional Business Liaison & Agriculture Coordinator for Community Futures FFG, this could be things like businesses collaborating on shared promotional campaigns or offering joint packages to attract visitors and increase revenue, as well as cost saving collaborations such as sharing resources like warehouse space and training programs, and shared bulk ordering.

"On February 14-15, Community Futures will be hosting the first B2B Expo (<https://cfcd.bc.ca/b2bexpo/>) in Prince George, providing a platform for businesses to connect, collaborate, and develop stronger relationships—an initiative inspired by findings from the RBL project," Thorne said in an email.

Digital Marketing and E-commerce
According to the report, FFG businesses serve hyperlocal markets, and see digital marketing training as a priority to extend their reach. Thorne said this would allow them to attract visitors and online customers from outside the region and increase their visibility to passing tourists and anyone looking for services in the area. E-commerce allows for online sales but also allows service providers to use digital platforms for booking, customer engagement, and service expansion, she said.

When asked whether the businesses they surveyed were open to training, or felt outsourcing to a marketing professional was a better return on investment, Thorne said that there was a strong interest, but business owners also face time and resource constraints. There are cost and other benefits to keeping it in-house, such as control over the brand and customer engagement, but each business's needs will be a little different and require a customized approach.

"What they've come up with for digital marketing and e-commerce, I think that's a great idea," said Jen Applebaum, a Valemount microbusiness owner

offering property and rental management from her home office. "I think that would be a good return on investment because [Valemount is] tiny. Anything we can do to spread information about the services and products we offer here to the greater international community is only positive."

Danielle Alan, Director for Area H (Robson Valley-Canoe) at the Regional District of FFG emphasized that high-speed internet infrastructure is key to diversifying and economic growth such as attracting high-tech microbusinesses. "If people have access to high-speed internet, then it doesn't matter where they live. They can grow their business," she said.

What now?

Alan said that the Regional District, like a municipal government, has a very limited ability to influence the factors affecting businesses. "We have a small economic development budget that is entirely grant funded."

Alan and Valemount CAO Anne Yanciw both pointed to Invest in the Robson Valley Region (<https://investrvr.ca/>), a joint marketing initiative between RDEFG, Valemount and McBride to attract industry, business and new residents to the valley as a key component of their marketing strategy.

"Robson Valley Region can use information like this to help shape marketing direction," Yanciw said.

Valemount mayor Owen Torgerson is anticipating a domestic and international tourism spike in the region in 2025, due to the struggling Canadian dollar, the easing of inflationary pressures and the reestablishment of global supply chains.

"The visitor attraction strategy is

something that is very much in Tourism Valemount's wheelhouse," said Torgerson, and that the Village's Resort Development Strategy is being endorsed by them.

Torgerson also said the Village will be embarking on an Economic Development Strategy later in 2025 or early 2026, and that the report would also be helpful in drafting the RDEFG Area H Official Community Plan in 2025 or 2026.

Other than that, Alan said, her focus is on creating the kind of community people want to live in, and supporting the champions who are doing good things, like the bike park and the very successful mushroom festival that was put on in Dunster.

Applebaum pointed out that when it comes to community-led economic development such as the Valemount Chamber of Commerce, which is currently dormant due to lack of participation, there is a very small and over-leveraged pool of participants to draw from.

"There are six people that live here, and we've got volunteer burnout, right?"

The Goat reached out to the McBride and Area Chamber of Commerce, but did not hear back by press time.

One business owner, who requested to remain anonymous, said she had participated in the interview, and felt the report reflected the experiences of local business, but would have preferred to see a more concrete plan.

"It was unclear to me what Community Futures intends to do with this data. I'd like to know how they plan to use this information and what new programs or support might be available," she said.

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.

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

Project Manager: Trish Joyce

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THURS 9:30am-4:30pm
FRI 9:30am - 4:30pm

After two months, no new ministerial leads for Jasper's recovery

By PETER SHOKEIR, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, JASPER FITZHUGH

The federal government is still mum on who will be the next person to lead its efforts to rebuild Jasper following the devastating wildfire.

Oliver Anderson, director of communications for the office of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, confirmed in an email on Thursday (Jan. 23) that they had no information to share about a new ministerial lead at this time. Last summer, nearly a third of the mountain town was destroyed, including 820 residential units, further exacerbating Jasper's chronic housing shortage.

In October, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau appointed Employment Minister Randy Boissonnault, an Edmonton Member of Parliament, to lead the federal government's work to support residents and businesses in Jasper while helping the town rebuild. Boissonnault had visited Jasper several times for various announcements – such as business grants and Parks Canada foregoing rent – before he left the Liberal cabinet in late November over questions around his shifting



Federal Employment Minister Randy Boissonnault announces funding for Jasper small businesses in Jasper, Alta. on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024.
Peter Shokeir, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

claims of Indigenous identity and his business dealings.

Since then, the federal government has made no announcement about who will be replacing Boissonnault as ministerial lead for Jasper.

"We recognize the importance of having a federal ministerial lead to

support Jasper's recovery efforts," said Jasper Mayor Richard Ireland in a statement. "Strong federal leadership is critical to addressing our community's ongoing challenges, and we look forward to the appointment of a new ministerial lead to continue this vital work."

Mike Day, owner of Evil Dave's Grill in Jasper, said losing Minister Boissonnault on the Jasper file was "a critical blow" for the community's ability to get into the ear of the Prime Minister's office.

"Obviously, now that the prime minister has announced that he's essentially retiring from politics, I can understand why the party would have other things on their mind, and it doesn't seem like we're top of mind right now," Day said. Day did highlight the efforts of PrairiesCan when it came to supporting Jasper businesses, such as the business grant program that the federal department was providing in partnership with Community Futures West Yellowhead.

Paul Butler, executive director of the Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce, acknowledged there was a concern with the change in ministerial leadership and the upcoming election.

"I am concerned that Jasper could sort of fall off the agenda to some extent, so the Chamber of Commerce is working actively to reach out to federal departments and make sure that Jasper is still part of the conversation," Butler said.



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Budget Cont'd from A1

of economic uncertainty and recessionary pressures," Calder said. "We're keenly aware of how that could impact us and the amount things cost. We want to make sure we do not create an unsustainable structural deficit."

However, much of the increased cost is also due to projects set to be completed this year, according to White. For example, the Dore River Erosion Mitigation project began construction this month – while the project is being funded through grants and does not affect requisition, its over \$2M cost was included in total expenditures.

White added that the proposed 2 per cent increase in staff remuneration and a remuneration review for directors in December 2026 also contributed to expenditures. Additionally, the 2025 budget proposal includes a net addition of six full-time positions, and the District anticipates hiring three more full-time positions in 2026 and one more in 2027.

According to Calder and White, staff took steps to avoid requisition increases while preparing the proposed budget.

"There are ways to offset requisitions... that includes things like grant funding, tipping fees and other user fee increases, reserve usage, and any potential cost savings," Calder said.

Some directors were concerned about the prospect of raising taxes for their constituents. Electoral Area H Director Dannielle Alan said she has seen taxes steadily rise over the past few years.

"Regardless of the political situation, we're going to see increasing costs due to climate change, global unrest, supply chain shortages and disruptions, et cetera," Alan said. "I'm fully in support of staffing up and fully in support of that little bit of a growth period this year. But what are we doing to future-proof those requests?"

Alan added that requisition increases will disproportionately impact seniors and other people with fixed incomes.

"The work continues to combat those increases," Calder said. "Our plan going on five, six years is to have similar increases to this year. However, there's work that can be done to try to mitigate that. We do think that's very possible."

Next month, directors will discuss budgets for local services such as water supply in certain parts of the district. The board will adopt the District's five-year financial plan bylaw in March.

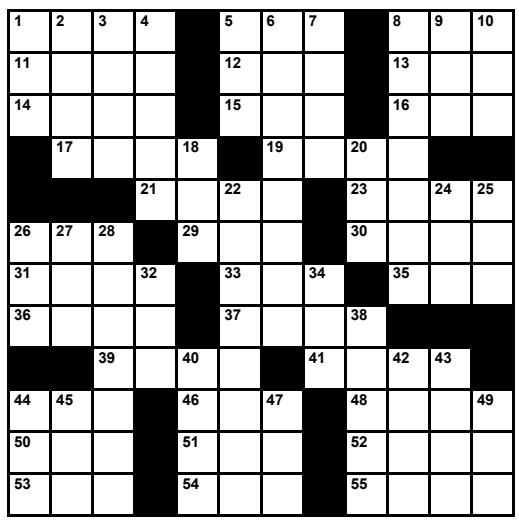
PUZZLES



CROSSWORD

Answers on P09

- Across**
- Way off
 - Excess around the middle
 - Dent
 - Warsaw native
 - Dangerous, as a winter road
 - Prospector's find
 - Encouragement
 - Request money from
 - Small bill
 - City thoroughway
 - Knock down
 - Home run hitter Ruth
 - Points at
 - Interval
 - Silent
 - Bargain
 - Self-images
 - Edge
 - Get data
 - Stole
 - Installed, as carpet
 - Half of it is a nickel
 - Dress
 - Fishing-line float
 - ___ too much
- Down**
- "Angry Birds," e.g.
 - Afternoon hour
 - "Not to mention . . ."
 - Doctor's order
 - In shape
 - Interests of a college
 - Ilk
 - Beginners
 - Java vessel
 - Where a drive might start
 - Farm mother
 - Lowlife
 - News flash
 - Shows where to go
 - On the ___



- Umpire's shout
- In the past
- "Farewell!"
- Go downhill fast
- County fair animal
- "50 first ___" movie
- Gentle
- Get
- Operations center
- Victoria's Secret item
- Galley need
- Davy Jones's locker, with "the"
- Stop signal colour



Snakes and Scorpions

The new moon in Aquarius heralds the Lunar New Year, ushering in the Year of the Snake in Chinese astrology -- a sign whose energy shares a notable similarity with Scorpio in Western astrology. Both the snake and Scorpio embody mystery, intuition, transformation and depth, symbolizing resilience and a magnetic presence. While these systems differ, their archetypes align in exploring hidden truths, navigating life with strategic precision and exuding a compelling sensuality that draws others into their enigmatic worlds.

playful or informative, you're not doing it to draw attention to yourself, as some would. Your ego doesn't need it. Instead, you're intent on a higher purpose to lighten the atmosphere. You'll serve a secret agenda this week -- to deliver novelty and delight to others. As a side effect, you'll create meaningful moments.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be building something you hope will be beautiful and accepting all the challenges that go along with such an elusive quest. The main consideration is not whether you made it pleasing or perfect but whether it does the job of beauty, which is to attract. You'll see all kinds of proof this week that you've hit the mark.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To prioritize yourself and your work, you need to believe in your own worth and potential. You still wrestle with the belief that you're "worth it," but you could also just drop the struggle and decide you have unique perspectives, gifts and contributions to make, and therefore it is, quite simply, your duty to make use of them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Because you're often hanging out on the edge of your comfort zone these days, it's more important than ever to have an excellent home base with the amenities that make such a place a wonderful sanctuary to return to for stability, rest and recovery. The functionality and aesthetics of home are absolutely tied to your health and well-being.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your interactions of all kinds will involve a sheen of sophistication that attracts others who know or want to know the nuances of your preferences. Efficiency and functionality matter to you as much as elegance does. Arguably, the ease of function is the very essence of excellent design.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've got a lot of heart and intention, and sometimes that's all you can bring to the table. What happens after that is up to fate and the spirit of education. Be kind to yourself as you learn. You're doing your best, even when it doesn't go as planned. No matter how things go, the memory will count for a lot.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your self-identity has been intertwined with service to others, so it's sometimes hard to turn the focus onto yourself without questioning if it's justified. Can you just pretend like it is? What would you do if you believed you deserved to do absolutely whatever you wanted?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You try and offer encouragement to everyone, but there are some whose creative drive and remarkable ability inspire you to take it further. You're impressed by those who express a rare artistic sensibility and seem to have a deeper understanding of emotional nuances. This week features meaningful collaboration.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your presence has a lasting impact, rippling outward in ways you might not see but will always feel. Your small acts of empathy shape the foundation of a relationship, a community and, in some ways, the world at large. What starts as a subtle gesture grows into something meaningful and profound, touching more lives than you realize.

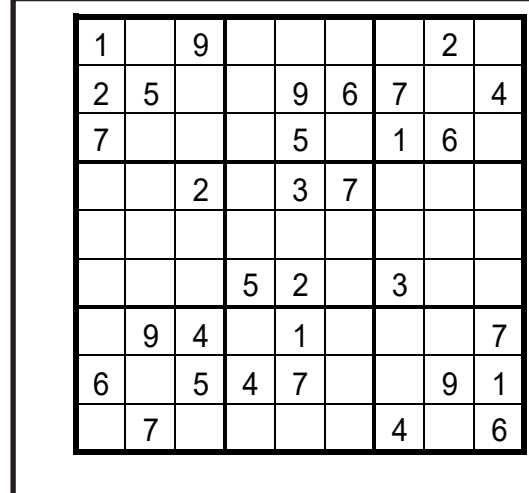
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're carrying and processing a lot this week, seeking out the gifts in each situation. Your attitude is a wonder. By trying to make things work despite the dynamics at play, you'll learn and create more than many people ever manage to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's not fun to feel heart-invested in a relationship that the other person seems to approach as transactional. But remember that even transactional relationships hold value. Motivations of duty and necessity still have intrinsic meaning, and you can build something real from them, even if it's shaped differently than your original expectation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A true friend doesn't just share time, experiences and insights. They spark curiosity in the soul, point to our incompleteness and need of another point of view and leave us with questions that linger long after the conversation ends. The most meaningful connections aren't built on tidy interactions but on the thrilling discomfort of not knowing, of wandering into the unknown together.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: It's thrive time! You'll make instinctive decisions and follow through with total trust in your power to manifest your dreams. You'll be paid well for your talent for organization and be a huge asset as a recordkeeper and a financial manager, too, sometimes all at once. Your social swirl will be colorful, and playfulness and charisma will turn up to 10 whenever you need it. A dear connection will keep unfolding over time, an alive and ever-changing source of soul fortification.

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SUDOKU

Answers on P09

HOW TO PLAY

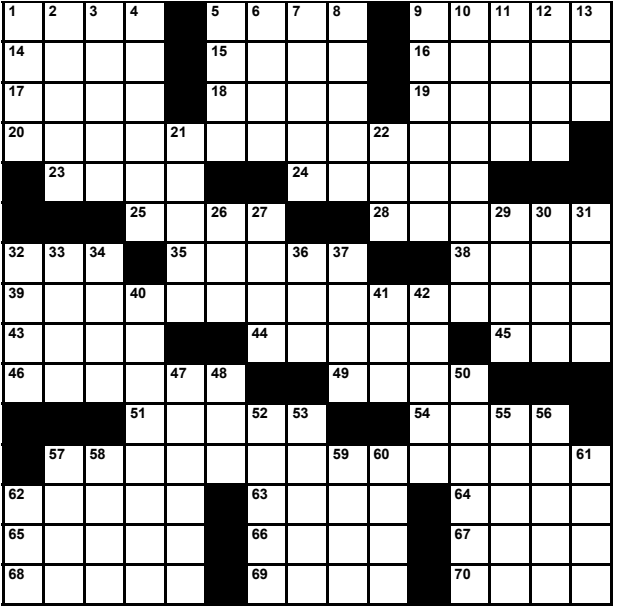
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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

The Toughie

Answers on P09

- Across**
- Guess
 - Short-billed songbirds
 - Harmon of 'Rizzoli & Isles'
 - Caffeine source
 - Brownish song bird
 - Travel routes
 - British school near Windsor
 - Gwyneth Paltrow film
 - Heavenly host?
 - Message to Houston
 - Gershwin's "The ___ Love"
 - Stan's partner in comedy
 - Atlas stat
 - Lady Macbeth kept seeing this weapon
 - Word with sports or squad
 - Ennoble
 - Five-star
 - City ___
 - French cheese
 - Fajita filler
 - Charlie Chaplin's brother
 - Balkan republic
 - Dame of theater
 - Nips
 - Not tricked by
 - Ryan Adams song
 - Plant fiber used for making rope
 - Cambodian dollar
 - Hotel chain name
 - To conclude
 - Hurler Hershiser
 - Type of light
- Down**
- Give new shape
 - Alaskan carving
 - Luau greeting
 - A source of potassium
 - A bit too-too, to a Brit
 - "Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer
 - Beat
 - Hair tangle
 - Sandy peninsula
 - Outside the law
 - Kind of plum, for short
 - Footnote word
 - Night school subj.
 - Small insect-eating bird
 - Earlier, of a model for example
 - Business card no.
 - Sounds of contentment
 - Gunks
 - "Se7en" sin
 - Actress Donna
 - Salad type



- 60s hairdo
- Sluggers' stats
- Give leave
- Baobab or gingko
- Comebacks
- Stable boy, for example
- "... see what I mean?"
- Romantic affairs
- "Long, long time ___"
- Volunteer-seeking question
- "Harry Potter" owl
- Go around
- Big books
- "Ready ___ ..."
- Soul singer Simone
- Biblical character
- Food, clothing or shelter
- Some wings
- Giving
- John Hancock, abbr.

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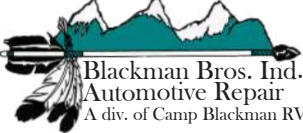
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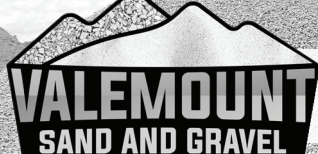
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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	A	F	A	R	5	F	A	T	8	R	U	T
11	P	O	L	E	12	I	C	Y	13	O	R	E
14	P	U	S	H	15	T	A	P	16	O	N	E
17	R	O	A	D	18	D	E	C	K	19	A	I
20	B	A	B	E	21	A	I	22	M	S		
23	L	A	G	24	M	U	M	25	D	E	A	L
26	E	G	O	S	27	L	I	P	28	S	P	Y
29	T	O	O	K	30	L	A	I	31	D		
32	D	I	M	E	33	G	A	R	34	B		
35	B	O	B	36	I	T	S	37	T	E	A	R
38	R	A	Y	39	L	I	E	40	E	A	S	E
41	A	R	E	42	D	N	A	43	S	P	E	D

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

TOUGHIE ANSWERS

1	S	T	A	B	6	T	I	T	S	11	A	N	G	16	E		
17	K	O	L	A	22	W	R	E	N	27	R	O	A	D	S		
33	E	T	O	N	38	E	M	M	A	43	A	N	G	E	L		
49	W	E	H	A	54	V	E	A	P	59	O	B	L	E	M		
65	M	A	N	I	70	O	L	L	I	E							
76	A	R	E	A	81	D	A	G	86	G	E	R					
92	C	A	R	E	97	X	A	L	T	102	A	O	N	E			
108	O	F	B	R	113	O	T	H	E	R	118	L	Y	L	O	V	E
124	B	R	I	E	129	S	T	E	A	K	134	S	Y	D			
140	B	O	S	N	145	I	A			150	E	D	N	A			
156	E	D	G	E	161	S			166	O	N	171	O				
177	N	E	W	Y	182	O	R	K	187	N	E	W	Y	192	O	R	K
198	S	I	S	A	L	203	R	I	E	L	208	O	M	N	I		
214	I	N	A	L	L	219	O	R	E	L	224	N	E	O	N		
230	G	A	U	S	235	L	T	D	S	240	E	S	T	D			

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Valemount

Money Matters Workshops on Tuesdays 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 Jan 31 & SAT Feb 1 the McBride Mustangs Boys Basketball team host their annual tournament. Valemount Game times Fri - 4:45pm, 8:15pm, Sat 12:00pm and 3:15pm

SAT Feb 1st DJ Night at the Valemount Legion with Koala Dolla from Prince George. 8pm-1am. Tickets \$25 available at Ticketleap.com or Infinity Office and Health.

MON's February 3rd and 10th: Caregivers of children aged 0-8 years are invited to join us for **Let's Talk Tech for Tots!** Two informative mornings starting at 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, at the RVCS office in Valemount, 1444 5th Avenue. Registration is required; please contact the office to sign up at 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more information. This program is brought to you by the Infant Development Program and Family Support Program.

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 14th Tourism Valemount presents Winter Fest 2025! Block party on 5th ave between Cedar and Birch 4:30-9pm. Join us as we celebrate winter and the Family Day long weekend! We will be including activities such as; outdoor DJ, food vendors, ice/snow sculptures, bouncy castles, children's activities, maple syrup taffy, and warming stations!

SAT Feb 15th Frostbite Fury is set to take over at The Rocky Mountain Speedway, come out and watch the snowmobile races. Gates open 10am, adults \$20, senior and youth \$15, under 12 free. Vintage, pro and kids racing categories. Warm-up fires, concession, beer garden & more.

WED Feb 19th Firm Foundations Christian Outreach Annual General Meeting will be held at 1 pm at 1440 7th Avenue. Everyone Welcome.

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

FRI Feb 21:RVCS Men's Program invites the men of the community and their children to join us for an outdoor **social Winter Gathering** in collaboration with the Family Place Drop-in! at the Valemount office, 1444 5th Avenue, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. This fun-filled event will include music, tobogganing, a cozy fire pit, hot chocolate, and hot dogs to roast over the fire. If you don't have a sled, don't worry—we'll have some extra crazy carpets on hand. No registration is needed.

MON February 25th and March 3rd Caregivers of children ages 9-18 years are invited to join us for Let's Talk Tech for Tweens & Teens! Two informative sessions starting at 10:30 AM-12:00 PM, at the RVCS office in Valemount, 1444 5th Avenue. Registration is preferred; please contact the office to register. This program is brought to you by the Family Support Program.

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 aged 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. The program runs from 11:15 PM to 2:15 PM and lasts for 10 weeks at the Valemount Public Library, 1090A Main Street. No Registration is required for this Drop-In program. For more info contact 250-566-9107 events@rvcsbc.org.

Old-time Music - Wednesdays
Oldtimers band and music night at 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 receive 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 required please contact the office to sign up 250-566-9107 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more information.

WED's Infant Massage Starting January 29th: Infants aged 0-12 months and their adult caregivers (no siblings, please) are invited to learn about the benefits and techniques for Infant Massage in an 8-week program. Join us from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM at the Valemount Public Library, 1090A Main Street. The purpose of the International Association of Infant Massage is to promote nurturing touch and communication. Registration is required; please contact the office at 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.

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 31 – Let's Make Soup!

February 7 – Sing Along with Cat

February 14 – Making Valentines

McBride

THUR Jan 30 JENGA Get ready for some fun with JENGA!! Join us at the McBride office, 942 3rd Ave at 1 PM for an exciting game session! No registration is required for this drop-in program—just come and enjoy the game! We can't wait to see you there! This event is brought to you by the RVCS Seniors Program.

THURS Jan 30 – Thematic Books Discussion Group at the McBride Library 1:30pm. Read any Frontier and Western Fiction book and join in for a lively discussion.

FRI Jan 31 & SAT Feb 1 the McBride Mustangs Boys Basketball team host their annual tournament. Game times Fri - 1:15pm, 6:30pm, Sat 10:15am and 3:15pm

FRI Jan 31 & SAT Feb 1 McBride Oldtimer's Hockey Tournament Robson Valley Recreation Centre. McBride's first game @ 7:00pm Friday, Valemount first game 8:45pm Friday. Live Different fundraiser concession all weekend.

FRI Jan 31 & SAT Feb 1 Ladies Curling Bonspiel. Robson Valley Recreation Centre. Games start 4:30pm Friday. Specator viewing area available.

MON Feb 3 Soup & a Bun We invite you to join us for some homemade soup and fresh buns, and get social with your neighbors! Monday, February 3rd, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the McBride office. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing a delightful afternoon together! No registration is required for this drop-in event. This event is brought to you by the RVCS Better at Home Program.

WED Feb 5th McBride Library AGM 5:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the annual general meeting for a report on the annual business and participate in the election of the governing board. Interested in becoming a year round advocate for the library and its mission? Consider becoming a library trustee.

THUR Feb 6:Tech Drop -In Struggling with your phone or iPad? Want to get the most out of your devices? Drop by our Tech Drop-In for friendly, hands-on help with your basic tech questions. No question is too small, and no device is too old. See you there on Thursday, February 6th, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This event is brought to you by the RVCS Adult Literacy Program. No

appointment necessary.

THUR Feb 13 Pottery with Lyuba, whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist, this workshop is perfect for everyone. We'll be working with air-dry clay to craft beautiful and distinctive pieces. See you there from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the RVCS office in McBride. Registration is required; please contact the office to sign up at 250-569-2266 or email events@rvcsbc.org for more information.

THUR Feb 20 Get ready to unleash your inner artist and join us for an exciting afternoon of **Pictionary!** From 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Whether you're a seasoned Pictionary pro or first-time doodler, this event is sure to be a blast. Come and showcase your drawing skills or simply enjoy the creative chaos! This event is brought to you by the RVCS Adult Literacy program. No registration required for this drop-in event.

THUR Feb 27:Join us for a special screening of the **NFB film "Sons"!** Gather with fellow community members to enjoy this captivating movie and experience the power of storytelling. The movie will start at 1:00 PM -3:00 PM. Come and be part of this exciting event. This event is brought to you by the RVCS Adult Literacy program. No registration required.

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!
February 3, 10 & 24th – Swim Days at the Best Western by registration only, email charlene@rvcsbc.org in advance to register

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

Weekly Program for Children – Tuesdays 3:00pm starting with a story and snack, each week library staff will host activities under the umbrella of the following themes: constructing and creating, critical cinematic conversations, board games and cards, and computer lab learning (coding and creation apps). Beginning January 28th, this program is geared to ages 9-12. Please call 250-569-2411 or stop in to register children for some or all events. More info on the website library@mcbridebc.org.

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 game. Join us on Tuesdays 3:30-6pm, 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. Whether you're looking to relearn skills or develop new ones, we welcome you to register. Afternoon 12-1 PM and evening 7-8

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Community Events

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PM options. Contact the office 250-569-2266 or email events@rvcsbc.org

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

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. Join us!

Dunster

Community Potluck Lunches hosted by the Dunster Community Association again this winter at the Dunster Community Hall. They will be on the first and third Saturday of February and March. (February 1st and 15th 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. 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.

SAT Feb 1st from 10am-2pm Introduction to ASL(American Sign Language) with Lonnie Lorenz at the Dunster Schoolhouse: Free class but donations welcome. Bring a packed lunch. Refreshments provided. Register by emailing dunsterfass@gmail.com or call/text 250-569-7762.

TUES Feb 11th Global foods workshop! 5:30pm-7:30pm Dunster Schoolhouse. Learn to make traditional buckwheat crepes "Galettes de Sarasin". It's a traditional recipe from Brittany, north west region of France. A delicious gluten free savoury crepe that can be topped with egg, cheese, ham, veggies,etc. \$20/ person. Register by emailing dunsterfass@gmail.com or call/text 2505697762

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Valemount Eatery Hours Guide



BoShay's Bistro
M-Thu 8am-3pm, Fri 10am-3pm
+ M,W,Th 5-9pm 250-566-0154



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



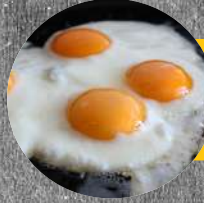
Summit Grill
Open 7 days a week 4-9pm
Located in Best Western Plus Valemount



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
Mon-Sat 4pm-8:30pm
250-566-9090



Abernathy's
Open 6am-1pm 7 days a week
250-566-9199



Vale Coffee Roasters and Cafe
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IGA Deli
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DIFFERENT BETTER

1222 8th Avenue

VALEMOUNT

\$385,000



NEW LISTING!

This well-maintained family home is bright, cheerful, and flooded with light. Featuring semi-open concept living and 3 bedrooms on

the main, you can keep the kids close. The entryway is large enough for all the boots and bags, and a family room, 2 guest rooms, 2nd bath and utilities are located downstairs. Centrally located.

200 Whiskey Fill Road

VALEMOUNT

\$889,000



Just minutes from town is this expansive 74-acre property with an inviting, family bungalow. Step inside where you'll want to gather around

the kitchen or entertain in the great room. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, and well maintained, this home is move in ready. The yard is landscaped with gardens in place, and there are 3 cleared areas for the horses you've been dreaming of.

16380 Hwy 5 N

VALEMOUNT

\$405,000



Sitting on 9 acres, this log cabin with a compact floor plan is ideal for a couple, with a primary suite on the main floor and large guest space potential

downstairs. The cozy living room walks out to a large, covered balcony with stunning mountain views. A large industrial shop is on site and benefits from year-round highway access.

2350 Bailey Road

VALEMOUNT

\$685,000



This large acreage offers you 60+ acres of opportunity. Level ground with access on either side lets you choose where to develop, while

the rest of the property is ready to be fenced and put to use. Situated within minutes from town, and close to Kinbasket Lake, you have amenities and recreation almost at your doorstep. Keep the parcel intact or pursue subdividing - you decide.



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SHERE LAKE RD

\$399,000



Set on 155 acres of pristine landscape, this property offers flat, usable terrain with views of surrounding mountain ranges and the ideal setup for an off-grid lifestyle. Located just 40

minutes from Valemount it provides the perfect balance between seclusion and accessibility. The property's diverse landscape invites hunting, ATVs, hiking, camping and star gazing while both north and south property borders onto crown land. This property gives you views of the Fraser River and is in very close proximity to it. It is also near Shere Lake which is advantageous if you fish. Seasonal creek runs throughout the property. Ideal for a private retreat or a self-sufficient homestead, this land is a true haven for those seeking off-grid living with unparalleled privacy and natural beauty.

14086 SWIFT CURRENT RD

\$989,500



This 5 acre property that borders Mount Robson Park is as rare as it gets! You are hailed with unobstructed views of Mount Robson (the highest Canadian

Rocky Mountain) throughout the property and have Swift Current Creek bordering the back of your land. You could not ask for a more charming, cozy one bedroom plus loft log home. The highlighted feature with this home is that you can live in it year-round which is an anomaly for this area. Therefore, the option is yours to use this as a rec property or as your permanent, private oasis. The outbuildings on this property include a double garage with a loft, a detached workshop, a hot tub cabin and a guest cabin on the bank of the Creek. Come see for yourself just how extraordinary this property really is!

4995 PITNEY RD

NEW LISTING!

\$449,000



Discover the perfect blend of modern comfort and low-maintenance living in this affordable home, just

5 minutes from Valemount. With a thoughtful designed layout, the home features a convenient mud-room entry, open-concept kitchen, dining & living area and bedrooms in separate ends of the home. Step outside onto the private, spacious sundeck and enjoy the sunny southern exposure while taking in the natural beauty of the treed surroundings ready for your landscaping ideas. Whether you're looking for a cozy get away, income property or hassle-free home, this property offers it all!

1010 MAIN ST

\$469,500



It's great when life gives you options and that is exactly what this property is all about! This 2.66 acres zoned C3 (Main Street Mixed Use) has prime Main St frontage and a tiny,

cozy home already in place. C3 zoning and the lay of the land allows for many possibilities! Whether you use the front 1/2 acre for a laundromat, retail store or tourist accommodation and use the back 2 acres for a residence the possibilities are really endless! The property is currently set up as a private residence. The house has been updated giving lots of character and warmth throughout. There is 2 acres fenced, a large solid outbuilding, raised garden boxes, fruit trees and a hillside of mature forest making you feel like you're in the countryside. This in-town property is as rare as it gets!



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