



Valemount Special Council meeting P3



Your weekly source of news, views and entertainment

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# Construction of Ancient Forest interpretive centre to begin this summer

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Long standing plans for the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation's interpretive centre at the Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park are coming to fruition. The First Nation released a request for proposals on March 7th inviting small businesses and local contractors interested in helping build the centre.

The over 4,000 square foot space will be powered with solar energy generators and include accommodations for staff, as well as accommodations that can be rented to tourists. The First Nation also plans to have a local gift shop at the building, according to project coordinator Sultanur Ashikin.

"The idea is we will hire or we will encourage our local small businesses [and] community members to participate in a program where we will be running this Indigenous gift shop," Ashikin said.

The interpretive centre will also cater to the community's needs with an area in the middle of the building where elders can sit by a fire to give talks to younger generations, he added.

Alongside building the interpretive centre, the First Nation will also replace the boardwalk in the park with a wider boardwalk including guardrails, stair handrails, and timber framing.

According to Ashikin, construction on the building and new boardwalk will start by mid-May, with the project deadline coming at the end of 2027. He expects most of

the construction work to be finished this summer, with any remaining work to be completed in the summer of 2026.

Construction will not prevent visitors from going to the park, Ashikin added.

"For the construction of the boardwalk, we have identified five different segments of the boardwalk. Once the construction in one segment is going on, we'll make sure the rest of the segment is still accessible," he said. "We will try to minimize the impact of construction as much as possible."

The project received funding from Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada back in 2020, but COVID-19-related difficulties and the deaths of

CONT'D ON P2



The trumpeter swan is the largest and heaviest bird native to North America and the largest species of waterfowl with a wingspan of 6 feet or more. Because of their size they need a considerable runway to get airborne. I managed to pull off a successful stalk to get decently close to about 30 of them using a camouflage cover thrown over me and the lake shore brush as a screen. /LEON LORENZ

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# Ancient Forest interpretive centre...Cont'd from A1



The interpretive centre at the Ancient Forest Provincial Park — seen in the above design — will be 4,000 square feet and powered through solar generators. Construction on the project will begin this summer after several delays over the past five years. /ABIGAIL POPPLE

the project coordinator and project manager caused significant delays in getting the project off the ground, said Ashikin.

“It’s a culturally very important place for the Lheidli T’enneh First Nation community. We have always wanted to have some activities or programs running up at the Ancient Forest.”

- Sultanur Ashikin, Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Enhancement Project Coordinator

When Ashikin was hired in early 2024, he hired a contractor to help him complete market analysis and found that funds for the project would fall short – while the funds were sufficient in 2020, inflation increased the price of materials over the following four years. He tweaked the project design with the help of a contact in the provincial government, eliminating a proposed trail and campground, bringing the project back to a reasonable budget.

Now that the project is back on track, Ashikin says he looks forward to having the project completed.

“It’s a culturally very important place for the Lheidli T’enneh First Nation community. We have always wanted to have some activities or programs running up at the Ancient Forest,” Ashikin said. “This was our vision in the beginning when this was identified as a provincial park back in 2016.”

### Community Involvement

The Ancient Forest Enhancement Project has focused on meeting community needs since its inception, Ashikin said. The First Nation formed a working group with Lheidli T’enneh First Nation members, representatives from the Prince George-based Caledonia Ramblers – who helped build the original boardwalk in the park – and representatives from the Village of McBride, he said.

“Working group members are always guiding us. Whatever decision we make, we reach out to them, discuss with them, and we make the decision,” Ashikin said.

In the vein of community involvement, project leads are doing their best to hire as many local contractors as possible, according to Ashikin.

“Usually what happens is a general contractor takes the project and he hires

subcontractors,” Ashikin said. “We scoped the whole project into many different scopes... So a local business or contractor who doesn’t really have the capacity to bid for the whole project, but has the capacity for, let’s say, painting – even he can participate in the request for proposals process.”

McBride Chamber of Commerce member Russ Purvis told The Goat he is pleased to see the emphasis on supporting local businesses through the project. As the Chamber’s liaison with Lheidli T’enneh First Nation, Purvis has seen the project take shape firsthand.

“There’s folks, particularly in the cedar end of the business, that were involved in offering some consultation when [Lheidli T’enneh First Nation] put a bid together for the project. So that’s real firm support from McBride on the project,” Purvis said.

While the project managers may not hire from McBride exclusively – for instance certain parts of the project may involve work outside the expertise of local contractors – Purvis is cautiously optimistic that the community will see business from the project.

“It’s going to be a big change for the Ancient Forest Park and everybody around that’s involved with it,” Purvis said. “From the standpoint of having a Lheidli T’enneh presence in the park – they’ve got the interpretive centre, they’re going to be having events there – that stuff is a big change, which I think is really positive. I think we’re all going to look forward to it.”

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*In memory of...* David Jules Frye  
It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of David Jules Frye. Born May 23rd, 1954 in Kamloops. He peacefully passed March 17th, 2025 in McBride.  
David was a man of many things. A partner, father, step-father, brother, son, friend. An artist. But most importantly (to him), he was a trapper. An outdoorsman. A man's man. He had a sensational love for being outdoors and working his trap lines.  
David joins his father Jules Frye, son Justin Frye, partner Angela Watson, and mother Mae Frye.  
David leaves behind many family members and friends—notably his brother Ronald Frye, sister Tammy Titus, daughters Samantha Frye & Gabrielle Kowch, and step-daughter Aliesha Ricard.  
Please join the family for a lunchtime service on March 30th at the Lions Hall in Valemount.

# Valemount special council meeting: 2025 budget, ReDi grant decisions

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Valemount Council heard a presentation about the 2025 budget and approved a grant application from the Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society at a special meeting on Wednesday, March 19th.

Mayor Owen Torgerson called the special meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

## Budget presentation

Director of Finance Lori McNee gave a presentation on the proposed 2025 budget, which includes a 5.5 per cent tax increase, in line with the Village's Asset Management Plan. Additionally, improvements to the cemetery, sportsplex, and travel costs that the mayor and CAO incurred during economic recovery efforts will be included as budget items.

McNee said Council would be able to consider giving first and second reading to the budget at its March 25th regular meeting.

For more information on the proposed 2025 budget, see P6.

## ReDi grant for Seniors Housing

Council approved granting \$19,540 to the Valemount Senior Citizens' Housing Society with funding from the Columbia Basin Trust's Resident-Directed Grant program.

The annual program allows Valemount residents to vote on which local groups should be awarded funding for their projects. This year, Senior Citizens' Housing Society applied for \$19,500 to cover the remaining costs associated with the Ash Street Housing project. The funds will be used to purchase furniture and maintenance equipment such as lawnmowers, said Society employee Rob Hennigar during his public presentation on the project.

While Council typically makes ReDi grant decisions during one meeting, staff recommended making a decision about the Senior Citizens' Housing Society application during a separate meeting due to concerns about meeting quorum. Two councillors – Hugo Mulyk and Donnie MacLean – are members of the Society, creating a conflict of interest which prevents them from voting on the issue. Additionally, Mayor Torgerson informed staff he would not be present at the March 25th meeting when Council makes its ReDi grant decisions. The Village Bylaw requires a majority of Council – three out of five members – be present to meet quorum, which would not be possible with two councillors recusing themselves and one councillor absent. As such, staff recommended making the decision during the March 19th special meeting, while Council will consider the remaining ReDi proposals during the March 25th regular meeting.

## Adjournment

With no discussion of new items and no public comments, Torgerson moved to adjourn the special meeting at 2:07 p.m.



Valemount's Director of Finance Lori McNee presented the Village's 2025 budget at a special council meeting on March 19th. The proposed budget includes a 5.5 per cent tax increase to cover costs related to the cemetery, sportsplex, hiring a summer student, and economic recovery efforts. /ABIGAIL POPPLE

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# Recycling services to return to McBride this summer

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

After about a year of negotiations, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George board of directors approved a contract with RecycleBC for recycling services in McBride during its March 20th meeting.

The Regional District paused recycling services May 31st last year after the previous service provider, Cascades, announced it would no longer offer solid waste management services.

While recycling services in Valemount resumed in mid-September, the Regional District was locked in negotiations with RecycleBC for months in an attempt to have McBride become a principal depot, rather than a satellite depot. According to Manager of Communications Hilary Erasmus, the only difference between a principal and satellite depot is that at satellite depots, the Regional District pays for the cost of hauling recyclables to the nearest principal depot. In McBride's case, the Regional District will cover the cost of hauling recyclables to the Valemount depot, she said.

The contract approved at the March 20th meeting will make the McBride Transfer Station a

"Having recycling services back throughout the Valley is an important step forward. The only regret I have is that it's taken this long."

-Danielle Alan, RDFFG Director, Area H

satellite depot. Erasmus said the Regional District anticipates the McBride Transfer Station will reopen on July 2nd, though that date may change based on how long it takes to execute the new depots' service agreements. The Regional District will communicate updates about the transfer station through its website, social media, and through print materials, according to Erasmus.

In an interview with The Goat, Electoral Area H representative Dannielle Alan said she was excited to have the contract signed.

"This has been a long time coming," Alan said. "Trying to make sure we have the full services that we need while dealing with RecycleBC has been challenging, but everything that is being accepted in Valemount will be accepted in McBride."

Accepted recyclables include foam packaging, glass, plastic bags, metal containers and plastic containers, according to the Regional District.

Alan said she looks forward to seeing recycling services return to McBride once new bins are installed, and added that the Regional District will save hundreds of thousands of dollars with RecycleBC compared to the former service provider.

"That's part of the reason... taxes will be going down in Electoral Area H by 2.4 per cent," she added.

The McBride Transfer Station's designation as a satellite depot does not mean it will offer fewer services than a principal depot, Alan emphasized.

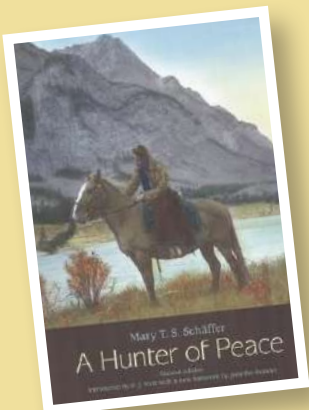
"Having recycling services back throughout the Valley is an important step forward," Alan added. "The only regret I have is that it's taken this long."



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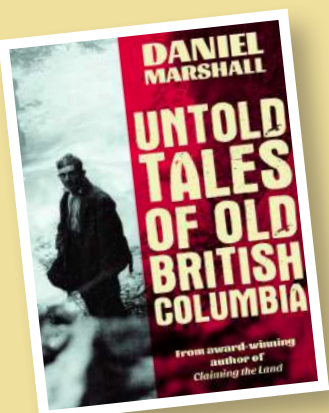


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Mary T. S. Schaffer's reputation as an artist, author, photographer and explorer is best illustrated by her own delightful accounts of rugged camp and trail life in the Rocky Mountains of Canada in the early 1900s. In 1980, the Whyte Museum published a compilation of Mary Schaffer's works as *A Hunter of Peace*, edited by E. J. (Ted) Hart which was the catalyst for a resurgence of interest in Schaffer's work. Now, by revisiting Schaffer's original manuscripts contained in the Archives and Library of the Whyte Museum, the spectacular second edition of *A Hunter of Peace* even more fully reflects Schaffer's work and intent.

BY MARY T.S. SCHAFER

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A collection of fascinating stories of the extraordinary and astonishing in BC's history. The award-winning Daniel Marshall captivates readers with intriguing and unknown stories, everything from Indigenous rights to Native gold; political intrigue to daring feats; the remarkable, mysterious traveller Harry (Harriet) Collins; the forgotten origin of Canada's oldest Chinatown; mysterious artifacts and confounding tales of the obscure and mysterious.

BY DANIEL MARSHALL

NON-FICTION

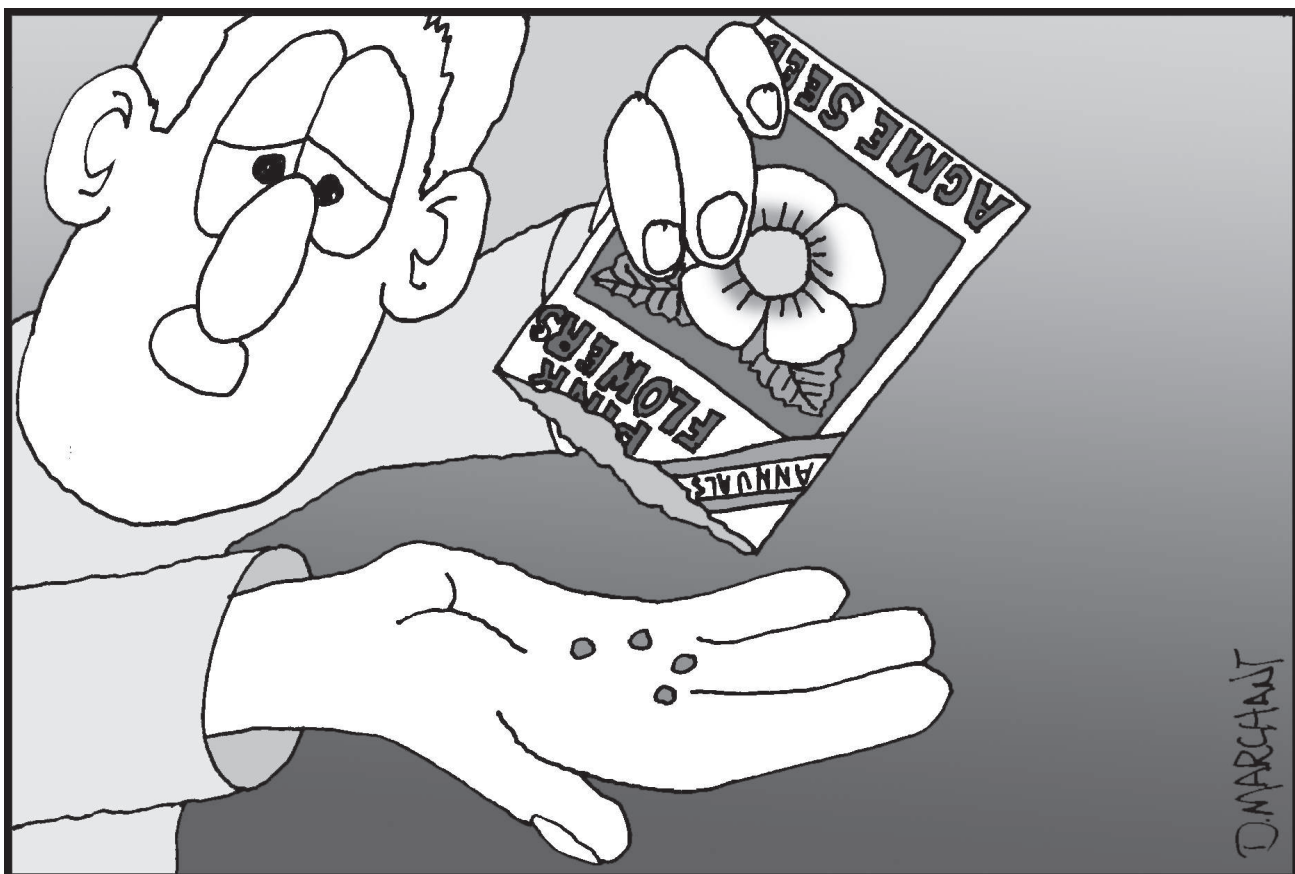


### BECOMING A MATRIARCH

When matriarchs begin to disappear, there is a choice to either step into the places they left behind, or to craft a new space. In her highly anticipated second book, Helen Knott returns with a chronicle of grief, love, and legacy.

Having lost both her mom and grandmother in just over six months, forced to navigate the fine lines between matriarchy, martyrdom, and codependency, Knott realizes she must let go, not just of the women who raised her, but of the woman she thought she was. Woven into the pages are themes of mourning, sobriety through loss, and generational dreaming.

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"I SURE DIDN'T GET MANY SEEDS, BUT AT LEAST THEY GAVE ME A BIG COLORFUL ENVELOPE."

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## Global Thoughts

BY GWYNNE DYER

### Congo: The Tail Still Wags the Dog



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

“Joseph Kabila boycotted the election and is preparing an insurrection because he is the AFC,” said President Félix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo last October, and lo! It is coming to pass just as he predicted.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo or just DRC), so-called to distinguish it from a much smaller country on the other side of the river that also calls itself ‘Congo’, is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa and the second most populous (115 million people). The eastern part has been at war for the past 30 years, and it’s about to get worse.

The fighting has been almost continuous for two reasons. One is that the eastern part of the country is very rich in scarce minerals -- gold, copper, cobalt, tin, and above all coltan, which is essential for smartphones and other electronic devices. (DR Congo has 60% of the world’s coltan). The government is 1,600 km. away, and most of the mineral wealth is stolen.

The other reason is that just across the DRC’s eastern border is Rwanda, where the Tutsi minority suffered a genocide in 1994. With the help of neighbouring Uganda, the Tutsis fought back and they now effectively rule Rwanda – but the Rwandan president, Paul Kagame,

also takes a keen interest in the eastern DRC. In fact, he sort of controls it.

There are also Tutsis in the eastern DRC, and Rwanda has created various militias from among them over the past three decades to keep the ‘génocidaires’ (perpetrators of the genocide who fled to the DRC) at bay. However, the same militias also ensure that the minerals dug out in the eastern DRC by tens of thousands of small-scale miners actually go to Rwanda.

It’s a highly profitable game, but it can only go on so long as the DRC’s government in Kinshasa is weak and the Congolese army is corrupt. That hasn’t generally been a problem for Rwanda (or for Uganda, which also takes its share of the loot), but once in a while they need to change the president in Kinshasa.

The first time they did that was in 1997, when they found a washed-up Congolese ex-revolutionary called Laurent-Désiré Kabila running a bar and brothel in exile in Tanzania and made him the president of the DR Congo.

Rwanda’s Kagame and President Yoweri Museveni in Uganda needed a Congolese face for their fake revolution, and Kabila suited their purposes perfectly. After a bloody campaign he was duly installed as the new president in Kinshasa – but he subsequently fell out with

Kagame and Museveni, and was assassinated in 2001.

Ten days later his son Joseph Kabila was made president at the age of 29, but he won elections of a sort in 2006 and 2011. Joseph ran an authoritarian and corrupt regime, but he was certainly more than a puppet. He was finally forced to step down in 2018 – whereupon his links with Kagame and Museveni began to revive.

The militia that is overrunning the mineral-rich parts of eastern DR Congo now, made up mostly of Congolese Tutsis and stiffened as usual with some thousands of Rwandan and Ugandan regular troops, is called M23. It completely controls two provinces and is advancing into a third.

M23 is part of a broader coalition called the Congo River Alliance (AFC) – and they all really work for Rwanda and Uganda, though many of them don’t know it. As Joseph Kabila’s close ally Ramazani Shadary said last month, “Our objective is to regain power democratically in the DRC.” Or undemocratically. Who cares?

A handful of people, some Congolese and some not, have determined the fate of more than a hundred million ordinary citizens of the DRC for thirty years. They could not have done worse if they tried – but it looks like they will go on trying. The tail is still wagging the dog.



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# Valemount 2025 budget to include columbarium, economic recovery costs

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

Valemount Council approved including a 5.5 per cent tax increase in the 2025 budget during a special meeting on March 19th. The increase is in line with the Village's Improving Asset Management plan which consulting company Urban Systems produced in 2020.

Director of Finance Lori McNee presented the budget to Council and outlined new items in the budget. Among the new budget items to be paid through taxes is the addition of a columbarium – a place to store cremated remains – to the cemetery, which is projected to cost \$74,000.

Additionally, the budget includes a \$10,000 item to hire a summer student who can sort through the Village's physical documents, McNee said. According to McNee's presentation, this likely puts the Village in violation of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act – which obligates public bodies to respond to freedom of information requests and destroy personal records after a certain period of time.

"We have a substantial amount of boxes at our community hall right now – the last count is over 100 boxes," McNee said. "If we get a request for any information, we have to go through every one of the boxes. Not only is it [time-consuming] for staff, but if we miss something, [or] if there's personal records there, it's a real concern for the organization."

Staff have asked for a summer student to do this job in the past, but McNee said she would recommend the student be included as a recurring budget item.

Improvements to the Sportsplex are also included in the budget. Public Works estimates that \$15,000 will cover the cost of removing large rocks and filling potholes at the complex.

Finally, McNee included a \$12,000 item for economic recovery efforts. The mayor and CAO have accrued travel costs from traveling for in-person meetings with provincial and federal representatives as they try to secure funding for Valemount businesses suffering from the economic impacts of last summer's highway closures, according to McNee. While the Village previously received \$62,000 in grant funding from the Ministry of Emergency Management to hire consultants, the \$12,000 in travel costs will be paid for through taxation. For more on the Village's economic recovery meetings with provincial and federal government officials, see the next issue of The Goat.

Mayor Owen Torgerson asked if the \$12,000 could be paid through the Resort Municipality Initiative, a Ministry of Tourism program which grants money to resort municipalities including Valemount. CAO Anne Yanciw said these funds can only be used for infrastructure projects, or to finance events that draw tourists.

Additionally, McNee asked Council to approve that staff look into the costs for paving

Dogwood Street. Resident Junior Osadchuk wrote Council in October requesting that the Village seal coat Dogwood Street and add more lighting to the street.

"I did state that ... due to the time it takes to receive quotes, grants, and implement the project, this would not be implemented in the 2025 budget," McNee said. "So I was going to request that Council... ask staff to look into these requests and come back to Council with more information."

Council approved McNee's request to have staff research a potential Dogwood Street improvement project.

Council moved to approve McNee's other additions to the 2025 budget. The budget will not be officially adopted until a special meeting on May 8th, when Council is expected to approve its five-year financial plan bylaw, which municipalities must produce annually according to the Local Government Act. There will be an opportunity for public comment before adoption, McNee said.

Council will consider giving first and second reading of the budget at its March 25th meeting, according to McNee. Afterwards, a presentation on the budget will be uploaded to the Village website and residents will have two weeks to review it and provide comments to Council.



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

## Employment Opportunities: Join our Team!

**Public Works Groundskeeper** (Full-time, Seasonal): This position reports to the Public Works Superintendent and assists with groundskeeping, gardening, and various municipal services.

**Public Works Labourer/Operator** (Full-time, Permanent): Reporting to the Public Works Superintendent, this position provides general labour, heavy equipment operation, and assistance with water treatment/wastewater plant operations for the Village. Candidates with necessary skills and qualifications will be considered for the role of Utility Operator.

Both Public Works competitions close at  
**4pm, Sunday, March 30, 2025.**

**Bylaw Enforcement Officer** (Part-time, Permanent): The regular work schedule for the BEO is 3 days per week, with statutory holidays off and additional requirements on occasion. \$30-34/hour.

Bylaw competition closes **4pm, Monday, April 21, 2025.**

For complete job descriptions and more information, visit [www.valemount.ca/village-office/job-postings](http://www.valemount.ca/village-office/job-postings).

## Open Air Burning Bylaw: A Refresher

As the wildfire season approaches and the effects of the winter drought become evident, residents should keep a few things in mind when enjoying a backyard campfire. All campfires must be:

- No larger than 0.5m high and 0.5m in diameter.
- Contained within a 15cm to 50cm high enclosure.
- At least 6m away from roads, buildings, and anything combustible (goes for anything above the fire too!).
- At least 6m away from property lines.

## Volunteers Needed!

The Village requires volunteers for several important community boards and committees. Get involved and help shape our community!

Visit [www.valemount.ca/committees-of-council](http://www.valemount.ca/committees-of-council) to learn more about each of these unique opportunities, and to access the **Committee Application Form**. You can also pick up a form in person from the Village Office, or call and we can guide you through the process.

**\*Deadline for all applications is 4:00 pm, Sunday, April 13, 2025\***

- The **Accessibility Committee** is seeking a member who will represent people with disabilities or those who support people with disabilities in their work or personal life. The committee meets four times per year and will develop a Village Accessibility Plan to make our community as inclusive and accessible as possible.
- The **Community Foundation Board** will administer a Community Foundation grant program. The fund, created in 2010 and growing ever since, has a substantial balance to distribute to the community. Board members will meet once per year to help identify community funding priorities.
- The **Council Remuneration Review Panel** will meet twice (total) to help evaluate Council compensation and recommend potential changes.
- The **Clean Air Task Force** explores options to protect and improve air quality in the village. For more information, visit the village website at [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca). Look for the Clean Air Website link in the upper right-hand corner. This committee meets at least four times per year.

Submit your application by email to [corporate@valemount.ca](mailto:corporate@valemount.ca), in-person at the Village Office, or by mail to Village of Valemount, PO Box 168, Valemount BC, V0E 2Z0.

## 2025 ReDi Grants

Final approvals and allocations for Columbia Basin Trust Resident Directed (ReDi) Grants were announced at the March 25, 2025, Council Meeting. Check the website for results at [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca)!

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION: 5-Year Financial Plan

All interested members of the public are invited to view the Consolidated 5-Year Financial Plan Budget. Hard copies will be available at the Village Office (735 Cranberry Lake Road) during regular business hours, as well as at [www.valemount.ca](http://www.valemount.ca).

The public consultation period is from April 4-18, 2025. Comments are to be received by the Director of Finance at [dof@valemount.ca](mailto:dof@valemount.ca) prior to April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00pm. All comments received will be provided to the Village Council for consideration in advance of the third bylaw reading, which is expected to be on the agenda at the April 22, 2025, Council Meeting.

## FireSmart Coordinator

Valemount's new FireSmart Coordinator, Michel Woodman, is an experienced Local FireSmart Representative (LFR) focusing on neighbourhood and home assessments. As well as being the liaison between the community/local area and the provincial FireSmart Program, Michel will coordinate public education and FireSmart activities, organize community events such as Community Wildfire Preparedness Day, and engage with the public to distribute FireSmart information. You can reach her directly by email, or call the Village Office:

Michel Woodman, FireSmart Coordinator

Email: [fsc@valemount.ca](mailto:fsc@valemount.ca)



## Village Office Hours

Open Mondays to Fridays  
8:30am to 12:30pm & 1:30pm to 4:30pm  
Closed for Statutory Holidays.



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

# Jasper SkyTram reopens after surviving wildfire last summer

By PETER SHOKEIR, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Jasper SkyTram began its 2024 season Friday, March 21st after closing early last summer due to wildfire.

While the Jasper wildfire burned much of the Whistlers mountainside, the aerial tramway was largely unharmed, with only its cables and the stations' coolers full of spoiled food having to be replaced.

"The fire came up that slope towards the tram, and so some of the infrastructure was exposed to it," Stuart Back, chief operating officer of the Banff Jasper Collection by Pursuit. "[There was] not too much visible damage, but it did take some work to get it back ready to open for this spring."

Located within Jasper National Park just south of the townsite, the Jasper SkyTram takes visitors to an elevation of 2,263 metres where they can explore Whistlers Peak and take in the panoramic views. It runs seasonally from late March to the end of

October.

Back acknowledged the wildfire had made changes to the landscape but noted it would result in new wildflowers and regrowth around Jasper National Park, and the landscape would continue to be breathtaking.

"And the Jasper SkyTram has those incredible, broad views, so it gives people a chance to see not just the Jasper townsite and the immediate effects of the fire but all across the national park," he said. "That is an enduring experience that guests will be enjoying for many years to come."

At this time of year, snow still blankets the peak and likely won't melt until June, with high winds compounding the frigid temperatures. Visitors should dress appropriately and can rent snowshoes at the upper station. Additionally, the upper station has an upstairs restaurant where visitors can warm up and eat lunch.

"Spring in the Rockies means there's still snow around up on the mountains, and so there's still skiing to do, but that also means if you can access the upper mountain areas that the Jasper SkyTram gives the guests the benefit of, then they can still explore," Back said. "And a beautiful, sunny day in the spring in Jasper can be even more breathtaking than the summer vistas, often."

Last summer, Parks Canada approved the \$25-million purchase of the SkyTram by Viad, the U.S. parent company of Pursuit. It was previously owned by the same company that runs the Marmot Basin ski resort. The SkyTram's leadership team, including general manager Todd Noble, remains the same.

Some critics have expressed concern about Viad's ownership of multiple attractions in Banff and Jasper national parks, with one competitor accusing the U.S. company of monopolistic practices.

Back stated Pursuit was proud of the experiences it offers in the Rockies and that Jasper was unique as a destination.

"We really feel that this Jasper tram experience stands alone, and so we're very confident in the success of the experience that can be delivered there and how it can reflect the authenticity of Jasper," he said.

Pursuit has committed to a full reinvestment of the Jasper SkyTram and intends to replace 60-year-old infrastructure, subject to approval from Parks Canada.

"When we do that, we believe that we can really continue to elevate the experience and make sure that the Jasper SkyTram is authentically Jasper but also something that continues to excite visitors to come to Jasper and really experience the national park," Back said.

Based on early bookings, Back said there was "real excitement" for visiting Jasper from guests around the world, although factors such as fewer campsites and hotel rooms following the wildfire will affect the local economy.

He added Pursuit and other tourism companies have collectively pledged \$5.5 million toward Jasper's recovery.

"We're really committed to Jasper's long-term growth and recovery, and so we're focused on making sure this summer is as successful as it can be for Jasper, making sure that the message out there is that we're open, and we're ready to welcome visitors back," he said.

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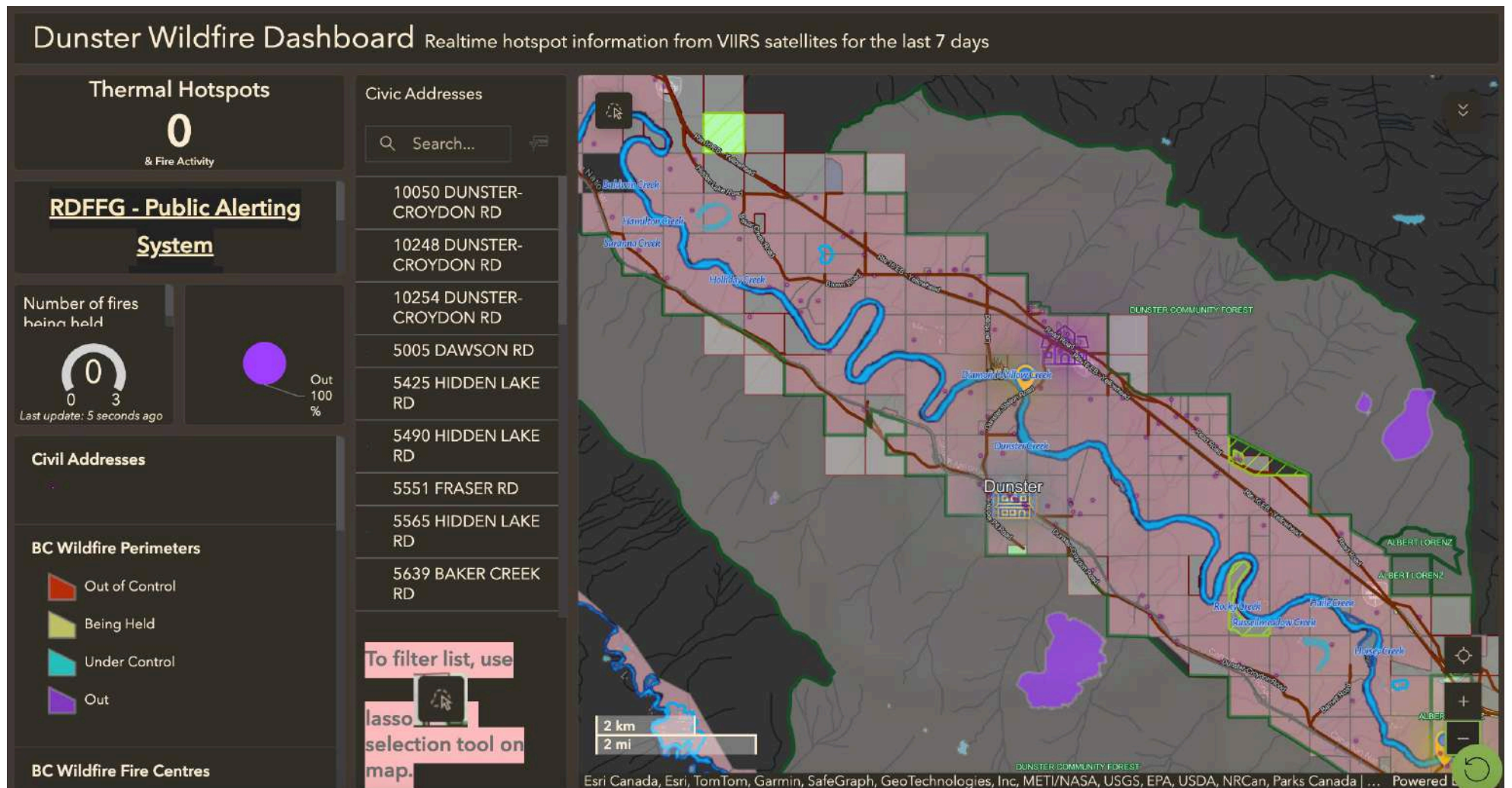
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FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025 - THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

**Valemount Historic Society**  
*Annual General Meeting*  
 Wednesday April 9th 2025 6:30pm  
 Valemount Public Library basement  
 Everyone welcome! Join the board as a director or learn more about the Historic Society's mandate.

**PUBLIC NOTICE: FOREST OPERATIONS MAP REVIEW**  
**McBride Community Forest Corporation** invites the public to review its **Forest Operations Maps (FOM ID: 2241)** which provides development plans within the Robson Timber Supply Area and administered from the Prince George Natural Resource District.  
 The FOM(s) have been prepared in accordance with the Forest and Range Practices Act and describe areas planned for Cutting Permit and Road Permit development within the next three years.  
 The public may provide comments on the FOM(s) at any point during the review and comment period, which starts **March 27, 2025** and ends **April 28, 2025**.  
 The FOM(s) is accessible for public review and comment submissions online at the following website address: Forest Operations Map (gov.bc.ca) or <https://fom.nrs.gov.bc.ca/public/projects#publicNotices>  
 Alternatively, in-person review and comment of FOM(s) can be completed, by appointment to ensure a McBride Community Forest woodlands staff member will be available, at the following locations during regular office hours (8:30 am to 4:00 pm): **200 Robson Center, 855 Frontage Road, McBride BC V0J 2E0**  
 FOM(s) comments may also be submitted by mail to the above address or by phone at **(250)-569-0262** or by email at [gm@mcfc.ca](mailto:gm@mcfc.ca)

# Dunster Community Forest Society releases wildfire dashboard



The Dunster Community Forest website now has a wildfire dashboard showing thermal hotspots, wildfires and property lines. The Dunster Fire Brigade will use the dashboard to determine who to contact when a fire approaches private property. /ABIGAIL POPPLE

BY ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

The Dunster Community Forest Society, which also manages the Dunster Wildfire Brigade, has released a new wildfire dashboard for Dunster and the surrounding area, spanning through McBride and Cedarside.

The dashboard – which can be accessed at <https://dunstercommunityforest.ca/dunster-wildfire-dashboard/> – will update alongside the BC Wildfire Service dashboard, but also includes links to the Regional District’s emergency alerts and a colour-coded legend showing thermal hotspots, volunteer firefighting boundaries, and local government properties, among other features.

In an interview with The Goat, Dunster Community Forest Society administrator Marie Hyde said she made the dashboard to give residents an interactive database with more information than what the BC Wildfire Service dashboard offers on its own. She has previously made similar maps for the Dunster Community Forest and the nonprofit organization Community Futures using her experience as a geographic information systems analyst, which she says was useful for building the wildfire dashboard.

“BC Wildfire Service, they usually just have a static map... And I thought, why not create an interactive one?” Hyde said. “And as I was looking at layers [data that can be added to geographic information systems], I realized, ‘Oh, there’s thermal satellite imaging that we could add to this.’”

The thermal hotspot layer draws data from the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite, a type of satellite NASA uses to collect data on temperature across the globe. That data will allow locals to see hotspots – which could be caused by smaller fires not identified on the BC Wildfire Service dashboard – in real time, Hyde said.

“If we have a fire in a certain area, we [the Brigade] can highlight which properties would be affected and make sure we contact them.”

-Marie Hyde, Dunster Community Forest Society

Additionally, the dashboard will allow Dunster Wildfire Brigade members to access information collected in the resident information survey last year. The survey asked residents to name the skills and equipment they’d be willing to contribute in an emergency, as well as basic emergency contact information such as their phone number and the number of people and animals living on their property.

“If we have a fire in a certain area, we [the Brigade] can highlight which properties would be affected and make sure we contact them. That’s where the resident information sheets come in handy,” Hyde said. “The map doesn’t show their phone numbers to keep it private. One of our volunteers will use the map, highlight which

properties [are affected], and then cross-reference with our contact list and make the calls.”

The Brigade is not trained to fight structural fires, Hyde emphasized. The dashboard will allow these volunteers to see homes surrounded by forests and stave off approaching fires before they reach buildings, she said.

Alongside creating the dashboard and collecting residents’ information, the Brigade has accessed funding from the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to purchase firefighting equipment. The Brigade now has enough equipment to outfit one firefighting unit, which includes pumps, hoses, nozzles, and water tanks. All that’s left now is purchasing a trailer, according to Hyde.

The group plans on doing a refresher workshop going over how to use its new equipment some time this spring, Hyde added. They will also host a Community Wildfire Preparedness Day on June 28th using funding from FireSmart BC.

The Brigade is not currently accepting more volunteers, Hyde said – they are keeping the group compact until they gain more experience and feel confident they can build a bigger organization. However, locals can visit the community forest’s website – which has a dedicated section for the fire brigade – for updates, Hyde said.

“The people that we have are sufficient to keep things slim so that we are coherent in what we’re doing,” Hyde said. “Next year, or maybe later this year, we hope to invite people to come be a part of it.”

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# New trail race raises over \$6K for Valemount trail organizations

By SPENCER HALL

The company behind Valemount's newest mountain trail race has raised just over \$6,358 for two local trail organizations — the Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association and the Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association.

Alpenglow 100 organizers Gary Robbins and Geoff Langford with Coast Mountain Trail Running told The Goat their company regularly donates to communities they hold their events in.

"We take a percentage of every race entry. And for us this year, 2025, we will eclipse \$500,000 lifetime donations back to trail and Search and Rescue organizations," Robbins said.

About 450 people from across the world will be participating in the first ever Alpenglow 100 race, which will be held from Friday, July 4th to Sunday, July 6th. The race's namesake comes from the sight of the sun hitting mountain slopes pre-sunrise or after sunset, which is usually pink in color.

The event will kick off Friday evening at 9:30 p.m. at Whiskey Fill Farm with the 100 kilometer race on, followed by the 60 km and 35 km races on Saturday. A kids race and post race get together featuring live music and refreshments will then be held on Sunday.

Robbins said Valemount provides a unique opportunity as a racing location because the alpine snow melts faster than other locations. It also just happens to be the kind of location that his clients are looking for, based on the difficulty level of the terrain and the breathtaking mountain views the area is known for.

"By just pure luck, Valemount, the structure, the layout of both mountains with McKirdy and Swift fell into that range naturally for the most part...thankfully was not too challenging to make those distances [35 km, 60 km and 100 km] work over that terrain," Robbins said.

The race hit its maximum number of registered competitors in just over two days, according to Robbins.

"We have people coming from around the world to Valemount in July, and the majority of them have never been there before," Robbins said. "We're super excited to be bringing this race to Valemount and to be doing that here in a year where it will be about economic recovery for that region."

Langford told The Goat that he and Robbins have produced about 10 race concepts over the years, but the experience of launching the Alpenglow 100 has been "above and beyond" anything they've done before because of the sheer amount of community enthusiasm and support.

"Just so many businesses and people reaching out to us wanting to know how they can be involved and support the event. It's just been amazing," Langford said.

While the 2025 race is sold out, those interested in volunteering can register at <https://raceroster.com/events/2025/101544/the-alpenglow-100/volunteer>. Those who volunteer at this year's race get early registration access to next year's Alpenglow event.



## LAND ACT: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CROWN LAND

Take notice that **Ridgeline Events Inc.**, from **Burnaby, BC**, has applied to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Omineca Region, for a **Licence of Occupation for special (running) event** purposes situated on Provincial Crown land located **on trails around Valemount, BC**.

The Lands File for this application is **7410356**. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to **Ariel Yelland**, Senior Authorizations Specialist, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Omineca Region at 5th Floor 499 George Street, Prince George, BC V2L 1R5, or **Ariel.Yelland@gov.bc.ca**.

Comments will be received by Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Omineca Region up to **April 27, 2025**. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Omineca Region may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit the website at **<https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca>** for more information.

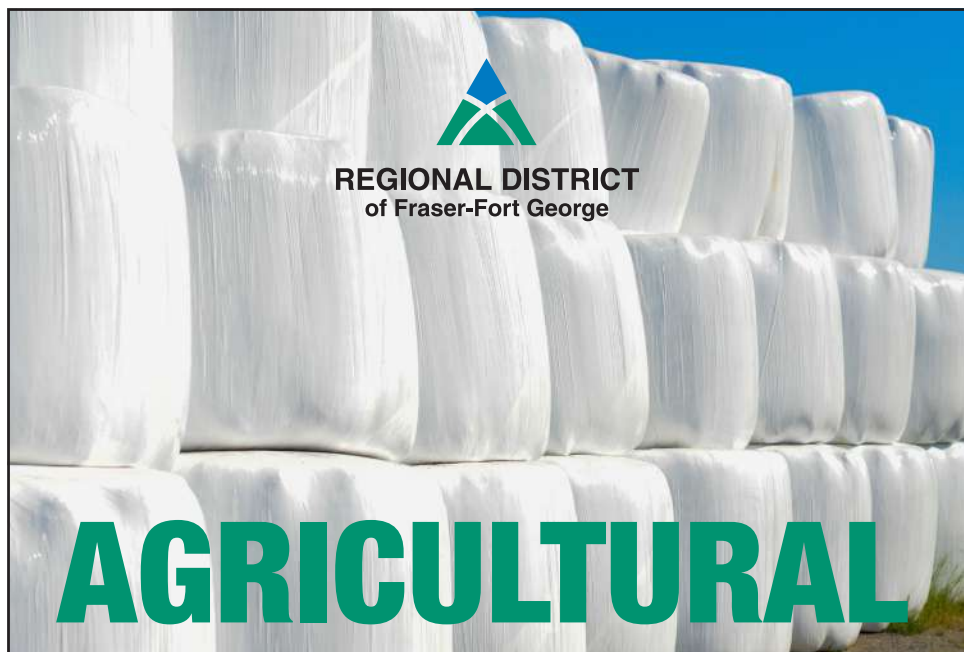
Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. Access to these records requires the submission of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. Visit **<http://www.gov.bc.ca/freedomofinformation>** to learn more about FOI submissions.

A hard copy MAP showing the location and extent of the application area may be acquired by contacting the Senior Authorizations specialist named above at **[Ariel.Yelland@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ariel.Yelland@gov.bc.ca)**.

## McBride Men's Shed holds open house



The McBride Chapter of the Men's Shed held an open house on March 22nd. Local president Terry Winkler was thrilled with the turn out. The group that gathered included men who made the trip from Shed's in Fraser Lake, Jasper and Valemount. Winkler addressed the group and provided a brief summary as to what the group is all about before allowing Men's Shed Association of BC President Jan Fennema an opportunity to address those gathered. There are 140 Shed's across Canada, 70 of which are in BC. The men who are members work together to support each other and their communities through everything from emotional and mental support to actions when they see a need. /ANDREA ARNOLD



REGIONAL DISTRICT  
of Fraser-Fort George

# AGRICULTURAL PLASTIC RECYCLING

When farmers are finished with agricultural plastics like baler twine and bale wrap, disposal can be a challenge. Usually, the used materials are stored on farms or end up in the landfill, but a pilot program operated by Cleanfarms, in partnership with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, aims to change this. Farmers can participate at no cost by picking up Cleanfarms collection bags at the McBride Regional Transfer Station for each type of material and returning them when full to the transfer station when full. Cleanfarms' contractors pick up the materials and transport them to recycling facilities in Canada and the USA to be processed and reused in new products like plastic bags and car parts.

## 1. PICK UP COLLECTION BAG

Farmers can pick up collection bags at the McBride Regional Transfer Station.

## 2. SORT MATERIALS

Use separate bags for twine, bale wrap and silage film. Shake off debris and dirt to clean the materials before bagging.

## 3. DROP OFF FULL BAGS

Farmers can bring full bags of clean, separated material back to the McBride Regional Transfer Station.

## 4. MATERIALS TRANSPORTED FOR RECYCLING

The materials collected are baled, consolidated and then transported to recycling facilities.

This is one of three Cleanfarms recycling pilot programs taking place in the province. The others are in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the Peace River Regional District, and each program is slightly different, depending on the type of local farming. Cleanfarms' overall goal is to expand these pilots into permanent programs across the country to achieve zero agricultural plastic waste in landfills.

**To learn more, visit [www.cleanfarms.ca](http://www.cleanfarms.ca)**

*This pilot program is made possible by grant funding from Agriculture and Agri-food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program. The Regional District's share of the funding is from the Economic Development Budget that supports advancing of the economic well-being of electoral areas and neighbouring communities.*

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COMPOSTING.**

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# 120 Jasper households displaced by wildfire may not get interim housing this spring

BY PETER SHOKEIR, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Jasper's interim housing has housed 72 displaced households as of March 15 and is expected to ultimately accommodate between 320 and 360.

That still leaves around 120 households still on the waitlist due to the demand and availability of the inventory, according to the Jasper Recovery Coordination Centre (JRCC).

"Unfortunately, there remain a number of households that we have informed this week that they are unlikely to receive an offer of housing this spring," Michael Fark, municipal director of recovery, told council on Tuesday (March 18). "Having said that, as the JRCC, we are continuing to explore options to bring additional units."

Should the ongoing initiatives yield more housing units, the JRCC will make offers to households still on the waitlist, following the prioritization matrix.

Parks Canada is providing 100 duplex trailers and 120 dorm-style units for a total of 320 units to house residents displaced by the 2024 wildfire, which destroyed nearly a third of the town, including over 800 housing units.

The duplex trailers have been placed on the four serviced parcels within the townsite. Some of these trailers, along with the dorm-style units, will be at Marmot Meadows, adjacent to Whistlers Campground south of town.

Fark reported they will reach full occupancy of all units mobilized so far by early May, and occupancy at Marmot Meadows will begin April 1. Some additional housing units will be coming in May and June.

Parks Canada has also reserved 71 seasonal campsites from May 7 to Oct. 13 for those affected by last year's wildfire. Residents who are interested can apply online.

Coun. Rico Damota asked if there was an opportunity for displaced residents to live in recreational vehicles within town this summer.

CAO Bill Given replied that on-street parking would be difficult to enforce since the municipality would have to distinguish between residents' and visitor vehicles. In addition, living in RVs on vacant lots would require permitting, and administration could look at RVs staying at undamaged properties.

## Rebuild progress

Fark reported 99 per cent of demolition permits for fire-damaged sites have been issued, and Parks Canada remains in contact with the remaining leaseholders to assist with permitting.

Debris has been removed at more than half of these fire-damaged lots.

"We remain more or less on schedule for the debris removal to be complete in May," Fark said. "There may be a few properties that trail slightly beyond that but nothing substantive."

While the post-debris removal sampling process occurs, lessees can submit development permit applications for review and approval, but building permits cannot be issued until the demolition close-out permit is finalized.

Fark highlighted how there had been 200 per-application meetings for development permits since October as well as 1,300 phone calls and emails.

As well, 17 new planning staff have been added to Parks Canada's department since July, and 78 development permits have been issued since August, with a number of those fire-related permits.

Coun. Scott Wilson said he was happy to see debris clean-up get prioritized but still had concerns about the permitting process.

"It's already two months out from a variance request response," Wilson said. "[I'm] still very concerned that we don't have the capacity to deal with the influx of permits coming in [the] spring."

Fark replied the Municipality of Jasper's (MoJ) new urban design and standards department is working with Parks Canada to set service standards around timelines and expectations, and they were looking to mobilize as much capacity as possible to address the permits.

Beth Sanders, director of urban design and standards, noted that Parks Canada would aim to review an application within 20 business days to ensure an application is complete and take another 20 business days to decide on the application itself.

"My understanding is the most important thing an applicant can do is make sure that the application that they send into Parks is complete, and all applicants can meet with MoJ staff," Sanders said.

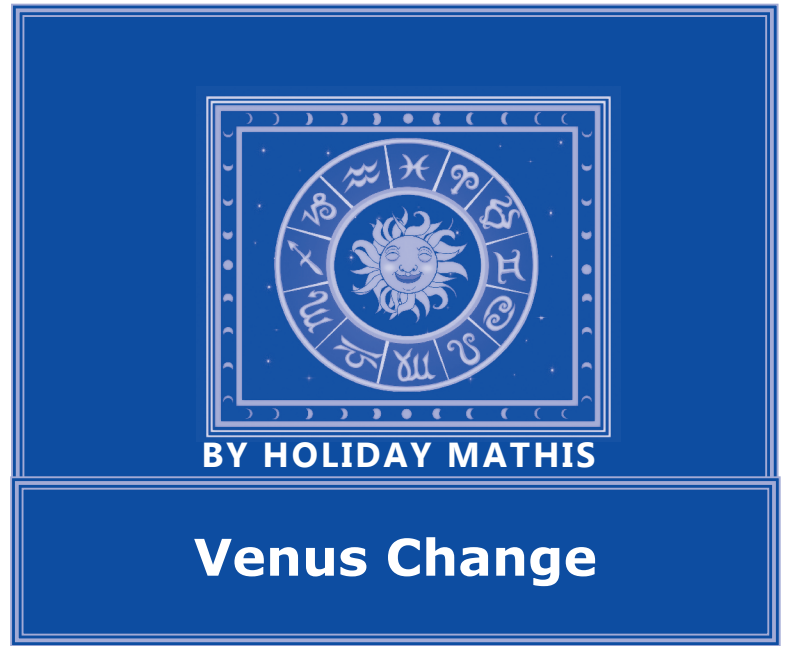
Coun. Helen Kelleher-Empey asked if the two gas stations that were destroyed last summer would be rebuilt in time for the summer tourism season or if there would be temporary pop-up gas stations available.

"The four gas stations were so busy, and the two that we have remaining are right in the centre of town," Kelleher-Empey said.

Fark replied there were specific regulations around fuel stations, and the fuel tanks at the damaged sites would likely have to be excavated and replaced. He also noted the leaseholders have not brought forward any permit applications that could meet the timeline for reopening this summer.

"Similarly, temporary fuel stations would be very, very difficult to accommodate and to meet the regulations around that," he added. "So, the unfortunate answer to your question is we are likely contained to the two fuel stations that remain in town as being what will be available for the summer season."

# PUZZLES



## CROSSWORD

Answers on P13

**Across**

- 1. Pen cover
- 4. Newspaper page, 2 words
- 8. Exclamation of disbelief
- 11. Duffer's dream
- 12. The "fight or flight" emotion
- 13. "\_\_\_ we there yet?"
- 14. The car, affectionately
- 15. Diet
- 16. Resting place
- 17. Assists
- 19. Conflict
- 21. Tree cover
- 24. Lasting impression
- 27. Honey
- 30. Enormous
- 31. Hemingway nickname
- 32. Committed
- 34. Line around which an object rotates
- 35. Use a spoon
- 36. Swell place
- 38. Dimes, nickles and quarters
- 42. "This \_\_\_ shall pass"
- 44. Orderly

**Down**

- 47. "So it's you!"
- 48. Roll of dough
- 49. Metered ride
- 50. Sister
- 51. Rush discovery
- 52. Flower supporter
- 53. Call upon
- 1. Actual notes
- 2. Throb
- 3. Remove rind
- 4. Counterbalance
- 5. Lentil cousin
- 6. Body part
- 7. One of the Barry-mores
- 8. Buzz
- 9. Coffee pot
- 10. Egg layer
- 18. "The magic word"
- 20. On the beach
- 22. Boosts
- 23. Sections of a yard
- 25. Mature
- 26. Bloodshot
- 27. Place that often sells beauty products

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11			12				13			
14			15				16			
17			18			19	20			
		21		22	23		24		25	26
27	28	29					30			
31				32		33				
34				35						
		36		37		38		39	40	41
42	43			44	45	46		47		
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

- 28. Polish the car
- 29. Each "Soap Opera" hour
- 33. CSI NY always has one
- 37. Minute invaders
- 39. Zola novel
- 40. As a result
- 41. Capsized
- 42. Number in a Dickens title
- 43. River blade
- 45. Have
- 46. Logger's tool

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

## SUDOKU

**HOW TO PLAY**

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

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

Answers on P13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14			15						16				
17			18						19				
		20						21					
22	23			24		25	26		27				
28			29		30			31		32			
33				34		35			36				
37					38					39	40	41	42
			43					44					
45	46	47	48		49			50		51			
52				53		54			55		56		
57					58			59		60			
61					62	63					64	65	
66					67						68		
69					70						71		

- 47. Maintain
- 48. Instruments of India
- 50. Word before "One Two Three" in a 1974 film title
- 53. "First Blood" director Kotcheff
- 55. Because of
- 58. Officer Training group, abbr.
- 60. Sgts. and such
- 62. Kind of "Fighter"
- 63. Trademarks, abbr.
- 64. Bugs
- 65. Long fish

## The Toughie

Answers on P13

**Across**

- 1. "Huckleberry Finn" character
- 4. Makes
- 10. Edible Andean tubers
- 14. Meter opening
- 15. Expire
- 16. Breeze in
- 17. Cheating, in a way
- 20. Object
- 21. Card carrier
- 22. Radio talk starter
- 24. Most desirable thing
- 27. Laissez-\_\_\_
- 28. To the point
- 30. Responsibility
- 32. Others
- 33. Scrap
- 35. "Knock it off!"
- 37. Remained knowledgeable
- 43. \_\_\_ Nicole Smith
- 44. Larry Ellison's company
- 45. Government lending group's
- 49. Modern Maturity grp.
- 51. Truce word
- 52. Put
- 54. Cresta Run vehicle
- 56. Kind of income
- 57. Ball team line-up
- 59. Of the moon
- 61. Cutting edge and then some
- 66. Unit of pressure
- 67. Plum, beefsteak or cherry
- 68. Mrs. sheep
- 69. Drunkards
- 70. Space
- 71. Cable alternative

**Down**

- 1. Position
- 2. Suffix with sulf-
- 3. Renaissance woman on a canvas
- 4. Military jail
- 5. Increase
- 6. "Measure for Measure" villain
- 7. "Nicht" German
- 8. "How obvious!"
- 9. Sweat
- 10. Visual
- 11. Lassie
- 12. Eastern rulers
- 13. Set of six
- 18. Wearing fancy clothing
- 19. WW II air heroes (abbr.)
- 22. Takes steps
- 23. Like some champagne
- 25. Set straight
- 26. Mongrel
- 29. "Guilty," e.g.
- 31. NY gallery district
- 34. Aerospace educator, DeVore
- 36. Lima's land
- 38. Much may follow it
- 39. Covered carriage
- 40. Took place
- 41. Pot over a fire
- 42. Rind
- 45. Jack and the missus
- 46. Bawl

The bookends of the week are ram-themed, with a solar conjunction in Aries at the top of the week and a solar eclipse and new moon in Aries on the weekend. But it's the lovely middle that makes the most impact. Hearts soften, poetry flows, love comes back, all with the grace of Venus moving into the sign of empathy, spiritual generosity and soulful creativity. May your connections flourish and your whole being stay open to the boundless potential for love and healing.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You won't have to push, manipulate or work overtime. You won't have to make difficult requests or sell anyone on yourself or your ideas. It is not necessary to lure, seduce or impress anyone for any reason. This week, you can simply relax, knowing that if it's the right door, it will open for you without you having to do a single thing.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Though a thought is invisible and without the physical animation necessary to move the world, thoughts still, somehow, change things. The subjective worlds inside a mind and the objective world we share are both influenced by what we think. This week, you'll note the seeds of action that shape reality in ways both subtle and profound.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Connection (SET ITAL) should (END ITAL) be easy, and yet, so often, it's not. Humans carry so much unspoken calculation, fear, self-protection and need. Even when they want to be good, those instincts can get in the way. But some humans will surprise you. You're a human who (SET ITAL) does (END ITAL) get it, which means there are others out there like you.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). The world wants to celebrate you -- let it happen. Recognizing your uniqueness as a strength will help you shine -- embrace it, and others will follow suit. The more you lean into what makes you special, the more doors will open in unexpected ways. A moment of recognition reminds you just how much your presence matters.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a deep wisdom in knowing when to move and when to pause. Just as the lion's calculated steps lead to a successful hunt or the spider's patient wait brings its prize, you'll choose an approach this week that feels as organic as the natural rhythm of life itself. Let go of urgency, surrender to the flow, and work with, rather than against, the natural current.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A single thought might seem weightless, but its influence is profound -- it shapes perception, which then guides actions, behaviors and even the larger structures of society. What begins as an idea can inspire movement, shift attitudes and ripple outward to create lasting, tangible change.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can't grow as a person without growing in awareness. New possibilities open when you can see, feel and know more. You welcome all chances to improve, even if they involve a moment of humility. No one said it would be comfortable. The opportunity to learn what you were doing wrong and correct it is a gift.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The specifics of a deal will need to be ironed out, and while the broad strokes may be exciting, the fine print holds the real power. You'll negotiate to secure what you want, but more importantly, you'll negotiate to ensure the longevity, clarity and mutual benefit of an arrangement. Take your time, ask questions, and smooth out the wrinkles.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Steam is the theme. It's a week to apply your fire-sign nature to the principles of water. Join with a water sign whenever possible because you're better together. Two minds will get around obstacles with patience, adaptability and persistence. When fire meets water with the right balance, transformation is inevitable.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may compromise because it's easier for you than it is for others. You're flexible, in a lighter position and perhaps more adaptable or willing to bend. Still, it won't be worth it unless you can do it gladly, with love and nonchalance. Don't put yourself in a position to be resentful further down the road.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've done the work of defining what you will and won't tolerate, and now those around you naturally fall in line. The limits and rules you've set are reasonable and a good match for your circumstance and the people in it, so you won't have to do much to enforce your boundaries. The culture or dynamic you've cultivated is self-sustaining.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll figure out what you're meant to do and do it. This is not so much about research as it is committing to a trial-and-error process. Any false starts, missteps or hours of wandering are not signs of failure -- they are simply part of the path that needs to be traveled. This is what it takes to get you where you're going, and you can trust that you'll get there.

**THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:** Welcome to a year filled with recognition, rewards, relationships rich in kindness and connection, and an abundance of the sort of good moods that make you a magnet for success. You'll be credited for a huge victory, although you'll turn around and give the focus to your team. Your humility and fairness are reasons you keep getting cast in a leadership position. People believe in you, and you believe in yourself. More highlights: two windfalls, you'll be celebrated in art, and special gifts from the ones who want nothing more than to see you thrive.

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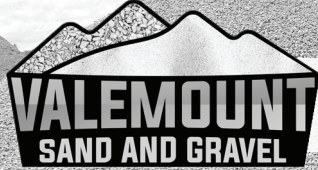
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3	1	7	9	5	8	6	2	4
4	5	8	2	6	1	3	9	7
1	2	6	5	9	7	4	8	3
5	8	3	4	1	6	9	7	2
9	7	4	3	8	2	1	5	6
7	4	1	8	2	3	5	6	9
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## Community Events

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## Valemount

**FRI Mar 28th Free Skate** at the Canoe Valley Rec Centre 7pm-10pm. Enjoy the last day of ice this season with a FREE public skating session.

**SAT Mar 29th Paint the Ice event** at the Canoe Valley Rec Centre 9am-11am. Join us for a FREE, fun event before the ice comes off for the season! Wear clean boots and kids must be with an adult and have a helmet. Paint and brushes are provided and the concession will be open.

TUES Apr 8th RED DIRT SKINNERS LIVE AT the Valemount Community Theatre, Valemount 7pm. Described by Roots Music Canada as "The Pink Floyd of Folk Music" the Red Dirt Skinners are the multi-award winning, multi-instrumentalist husband and wife team of Rob and Sarah Skinner.

**SAT-SUN Apr 26-27 CORE - BC Hunter Safety** from 8am-5pm. Skating rink meeting room. Cost \$315 incl GST. Phone 250-566-4601 to register.

May 4th 2nd annual Valemount Senior Citizen's Housing Society FUND RASING SPRING TEA. More details TBA.

## Ongoing Valemount

**Pancake Breakfast - Sundays**

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

**Cribbage - Mondays**

Join us every Monday at the Golden Years Lodge for a game of cribbage! 1 PM. All welcome.

**Drop-in pickleball - Sun, Tues, Thurs**

Drop-in pickleball at the Community Hall at noon Sundays, and 8:30am Tuesdays and Thursday.

**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.

**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 required. 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.

**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; for more info contact the office 250-566-9107 or events@rvcsbc.org

**Astronomy Course - Wednesdays**

Drop in and learn about astronomy through the Valemount Library's ongoing astronomy series! 7-8:30 every Wednesday.

**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.

**Virtual Fitness Classes at Peak Physio:**

Barre workouts Tuesday mornings at 7am  
Cardio Kickboxing Thursday mornings 7am  
We are adding yoga Monday nights at 7:15pm  
Above workouts are taught by a virtual instructor but held in our quaint gym space. Limited to 6 participants - pre-registration is advised. Kickboxing limited to 4 participants. Cost \$10 per session. Sign up online at www.peakphysiotherapy.janeapp.com or call/text 2650-566-4650

**In-Person Fitness Classes at Peak Physio:**

High-intensity circuit training Tuesdays 7-8pm and Wednesdays 9-10am. Low-intensity circuit training Fridays 9-10am or Sundays 10-11am. Instructor Laura Smith. Sign up online at www.peakphysiotherapy.janeapp.com

**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.

**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!

**March 28 – Puppets and Rhymes**

## McBride

**THUR MAR 27** Join us at the RVCS office in McBride, 942 3rd Avenue, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM for a **documentary film, "Northlore"** which weaves together animation and live-action to delve into the transformations stories of people living in Canada's North, highlighting how the wilderness can transform the human spirit. This event is brought to you by the RVCS Adult

Literacy program. No registration required.

THUR-SAT Mar 27-29 Games Cafe Launch 3:00pm at the McBride library. The meeting room will be open to anyone wishing to socialize and explore our new collection of board and card games (or meet up to play the games currently in our collection). Staff are happy to introduce a new game each day to those who are interested.

**SAT Mar 29th Free Skate at the Robson Valley Rec Centre** 5:30pm-9pm. Enjoy the last day of ice this season with a FREE public skating session.

**SUN Mar 30th Paint the Ice event at the Robson Valley Rec Centre** 2pm-4pm. Join us for a FREE, fun event before the ice comes off for the season! Wear clean boots and kids must be with an adult and have a helmet. Paint and brushes are supplied.

## Ongoing McBride

**MONs 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. Our weekly targeted programming is a great way for kids ages 0-6 (with their caregivers) to play, connect, explore, and learn!

**March 31 – Popsicle stick bird feeder**

**MON's** Starting MAR 10: Join our workshop, How To Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk, a seven week program from 7 PM to 8 PM at the McBride Secondary School, 1300 2nd Ave. Learning these skills sets everyone up for success, fostering a harmonious and supportive environment for both you and your children. All supplies and workbooks will be provided. Enhance your communication skills and create a positive impact on your child's development. Registration is required, please contact the office to reserve your spot.

**TUES ASL Sign Language Club** 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

**Dungeons & Dragons - Tuesdays**

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!

**Children's Learning Series - Tuesdays 3:00pm** starting with a story and snack, each week library staff will host activities under the umbrella of a variety of themes. 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.

**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.

**Fibre Artists - Wednesdays**

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 250 569 2411.

**Book Clubs for Adults - Thursdays**

The McBride Library holds two monthly book discussion clubs for adults Thursday afternoons 1:30 PM. Call 250 569 2411 for info.

**Books and Banter - Thursdays**

NEW Books and Banter – Thursdays 12:30 – Adults, join us for lighthearted stories, read aloud, that you'll be sure to enjoy! Refreshments served. Beginning March 20th.

**Sunshine Stories - Thursdays**

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.

**German Conversation Club - Wednesdays**

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 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 mins about what we are working on, then we sit silently for an hour to write. Writers are working on a range of things – novels, memoirs, poems, short stories, dissertations. Join us!

## Dunster

**WED Apr 2nd Poetry Workshop** at the Dunster School House 10:30-12:30. A workshop designed to read, write, speak, and discuss poetry. All ages welcome. Please RSVP with the McBride library.

**SAT Apr 5th** Please join us for the **Brock Maguire Memorial Biennial Live Auction & Gala** at 7pm for hot and cold appetizers and a cash bar to mingle before our LIVE AUCTION starts at 8pm with local auctioneer KEN McNAUGHTON! This is going to be a super fun night!!! We have donations from so many generous local business owners and individuals to auction off in an effort to continue improving the functionality of the school, engaging community and to cover operating costs. In light of our recent loss, we will be gifting 25% of the net proceeds of this event to help support this very sad time and challenging transition for Brock's children. 80 tickets available at \$20 each. Send us an email and e-transfer to dunsterfass@gmail.com or call 250-569-4026 for tickets. Please message us with any questions and we will happily accept donations for auction.

**Community Potluck Lunches** hosted by the Dunster Community Association again this winter at the Dunster Community Hall. They will be on March 1st and 15th. Doors open at 11:30am and lunch is at noon. For more info contact Pete Amyoony 250-968-4334 or Loretta Simpson 250-968-4453.

**Fibre Arts Meet Up** Thursdays at the Dunster Schoolhouse!! Drop in with whatever you're working on between 10am-2pm.

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# 19K litres of diesel spilled near Valemount

By ABIGAIL POPPLE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER, RMG

A bulk fuel transport truck involved in a motor vehicle incident on March 21st spilled roughly 19,000 litres of diesel about 18 kilometres south of Valemount, according to the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

Two Environmental Emergency Response Officers arrived on-site the day of the crash, and the responsible person hired a response contractor to visit the site, the Ministry's web page about the event says. The transport truck and both of its tank trailers were damaged in the incident. Diesel spilled from the rear tank trailer, but responders did not find a spill from the other tank trailer.

The damaged truck and trailers were removed from the site on March 23rd. Additionally, the contractor hired by the responsible person took soil samples and made an assessment on the spill's environmental impact the day after the incident. The contractor is currently developing a remediation plan, the Ministry says.

According to the web page about the incident, no impacts to waterways have been identified. The Ministry will continue to monitor response and cleanup activities but does not anticipate making further updates to the web page.

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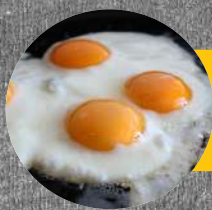
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# Valemount Eatery Hours Guide



**Cranberry Lounge**  
Open 7 days a week 4-9pm  
Located in Best Western Plus Valemount



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



**Vale Coffee Roasters and Cafe**  
Reg Hours: Th 9-2, Fri-Sun 7-2  
[info@valecoffee.ca](mailto:info@valecoffee.ca) / [valecoffee.ca](http://valecoffee.ca)



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



**Glacier Fire Pizzeria**  
Mon-Sat 4pm-8:30pm  
250-566-9090



**IGA Deli**  
Mon-Sat 8am-8pm  
Sun 9am-5pm



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



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## Feature Eatery

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

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

# TOWN OR COUNTRY

**Shelly Battensby**  
REALTOR



**DIFFERENT BETTER**

**1222 8th Avenue**

**VALEMOUNT**

**\$385,000**



Why not settle into this 5-bedroom family home in the heart of town? With south facing views, a large backyard, and a detached garage, outside is a great as the

inside. Full of charm and function, this one could suit you to a T.

**1411 6th Avenue**

**VALEMOUNT**

**\$462,000**



Centrally located, this home offers up comfort, space, and views for days. Situated on nearly 1/2 an acre, this 3 bedroom home is im-

maculate and move-in ready. Flooded with light, you'll feel welcomed the moment you step inside. Available for quick possession.

**3535 Crooked Creek Rd**

**VALEMOUNT**

**\$1,300,000**



This elegant log home on 10 acres is just minutes from town yet will take you miles away in peace and quiet. Beautifully accented with log and stone

features, this 5-bedroom home features plenty of space for the family or guests. Complimented by a large deck, great views, and a large garage, you just can't lose.

**200 Whiskey Fill Rd**

**VALEMOUNT**

**\$889,000**



If you are looking for a great family home with plenty of space for the wildhood, stop here. 74 acres within minutes of town, with epic views and a move-in ready

home, you'll need nothing else. With 3 bedrooms, an eat-in kitchen and a great room with soaring ceilings and views across the valley, you'll never want to leave.



2022  
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**SOLD**

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**ASPIRE REALTY**

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

**11975 BLACKMAN RD**

**\$749,000**



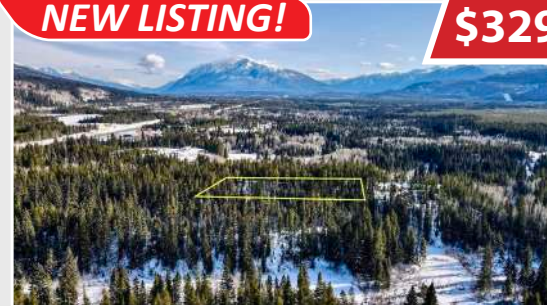
Tete Jaune acreage living at its finest! This 3 bed, 2 bath gorgeous 2021 home is located on 10 flat, usable acres with unobstructed views of the Cariboo Mountains. The open-concept

layout features a full kitchen with sleek stainless-steel appliances flowing into a cozy living room with windows boasting the outside mountain vista all on one level for easy living. Step outside from either the dining room or master bedroom onto the beautiful sundeck providing the perfect spot for relaxing or entertaining while soaking in the stunning mountain views! Additional highlights include A/C, a pantry & bar area off of the kitchen, hot tub, fibre cement siding and fiber on decking for zero maintenance for many years to come! Ideal for both personal enjoyment & as an investment.

**LOT A BRYAN RD**

**NEW LISTING!**

**\$329,000**



Discover this rare opportunity to own a beautiful parcel of land just five minutes north

of town to build your dreams on. This RC1-zoned property offers incredible potential for tourism accommodations, a campground, restaurant and many other essential businesses our valley needs. Nestled in nature, with mountain and McLennan River views, the land features a picturesque ravine with a year-round flowing creek, providing a serene and unique landscape. Whether you envision building a business, a home, or both, this property offers the perfect balance of work and lifestyle. Embrace the potential, create your vision and make this attainable paradise your own!

**75 ASH ST**

**NEW LISTING!**

**\$183,500**



**SOLD!**

Nestled on a spacious corner lot, this updated home offers comfort, style and functionality. Enjoy relaxing on

the covered front deck, perfect for morning coffee or evening gatherings as the mountains give you the perfect backdrop setting. Inside, you'll find many updates throughout, including new drywall, flooring and the majority of windows, ensuring a fresh and modern feel. There is one flex room that is unfinished awaiting your ideas to complete it. Stay cozy in the winter with the efficient Blaze King stove, providing warmth and ambiance. The addition, completed in 2015 adds valuable living space and features beautiful wainscotting throughout adding character and charm. Whether you're looking for a move-in -ready home or a space with thoughtful updates, this property is a must-see.

**11974 ESSEN RD**

**NEW LISTING!**

**\$395,000**



An incredible opportunity awaits with this gorgeous property in the breathtaking Robson Valley. Zoned C2, this versatile land allows for a variety of commercial and

tourism-based ventures, including campgrounds, a convenience store, a recreation facility, or a restaurant-the possibilities are endless! At the heart of the property sits a beautiful log home, nestled into a picturesque mountainside. The land features natural plateaus, offering excellent building sites. A solid wraparound deck provides the perfect outdoor sanctuary for relaxation or entertaining, all while taking in the stunning mountain views. Located just off Hwy 16, 10 minutes north of Valemount, an hour west of Jasper and only a 5 minute walk to the Fraser River makes for an ideal location for both business and leisure!



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