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Your support allowed me to pursue my love of radio for nearly three decades in Mackenzie.

Thank you so much, and please welcome new radio manager, Paul Smith.



JD McKenzie

Trivia: The rock band Thin Lizzy based its name on one of the world's most popular cars. What is the car? (Answer back page) →



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The Macktown Buzzette

Aug 12 - 26,
2021

Bitcoin mining op in Mackenzie?

A bitcoin mining operation at Canal Flats, B.C., may be the prototype for others planned in rural B.C. by the Brian Fehr Group, including one in Mackenzie.

Mayor Joan Atkinson said an official announcement has not yet been made but that the company proposes to build a new facility in the industrial area here.

The Canal Flats operation was built on a former Canfor mill site purchased by Fehr in 2018. Fehr's company has received buy-in from Australia-based Iris Energy, which will head-

See 'Bitcoin op' over →

District quiet on drinking water

Questions to Public Works about testing for residential drinking water safety in Mackenzie remain unanswered.

The 2020 Annual Water System Report lists only one residence, on Blackwater Crescent, as having been tested for metals. In past years, according to reports, at least four residences were tested.

The 2020 report showed higher than acceptable levels of lead at the Town Booster Station, and of manganese at several locations.

In 2016, Mackenzie Secondary School showed a slight exceedance for lead. *The Buzzette* was told that the foods room and a fountain showed

Mountaineers plan season

Mackenzie's new junior hockey team, part of the Greater Metro Hockey League (GMHL), now has a name, a coach, and the beginning of a schedule.

Manager and coach Andrew Fedurko says he will be in Mackenzie after a recruiting camp in Edmonton later this month. The Mountaineers will then host a camp here September 24 - 25.

The GMHL is an independent junior hockey league which began in eastern Canada in 2006. It is expanding into B.C. for the 2021/22 season with teams in Mackenzie and Kitimat.

The Mackenzie team is seeking billets and sponsors.

the higher counts. An even higher exceedance was found at The Rec Centre.

Lead is usually leached into water through the distribution system rather than collecting in natural water sources.

School District 57 mitigates contaminants by flushing, pipe replacement and installing filters. In recent years, schools have also replaced their drinking fountains.

For the community water supply, Public Works says it carries out biannual flushing of hydrants to flush out iron, lead and manganese deposits.

See 'Water quality' over →

Quotes:

“You must never lower yourself to being a person you don't like.”
— Henry Rollins

New manager begins at CHMM

CHMM Radio has hired a new manager, who began training this week.

Mackenzie resident Paul Smith will take on the role formerly filled by long-time manager JD McKenzie, who retires this fall. (See also *Buzzette* July 29 issue.)

Did you know?

In 1883, a Canadian Pacific Railway crew were drilling for water near a railway 35 miles west of Medicine Hat.

Instead of water, they found natural gas, at a depth of 1155 feet. A well drilled the next year also found gas, but not without accident. The gas in the bore hole, which had been connected by pipe to a stove, caught fire and caused an explosion, injuring several workers.

By the early 1890s, more wells were drilled in the area, producing gas for the first time for homes and industry.

WHAT'S ON

Mostly easy, always free to share your info in the 'Bee'! (...zet)

TheBuzzette@gmail.com
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(Sorry, no text ☹)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

The members of the **Hospital Auxiliary** say **THANK YOU** to customers and donors of clothing and household items to our Thrift Store. Your support helped us donate \$20,000 toward the purchase of two patient lifts at the hospital.

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RCMP Report

For July:

- On 2021-07-01 RCMP located a Mackenzie resident that was in breach of his release order. The male was out past his curfew and intoxicated contrary to his release conditions. He was arrested and later released to attend court.
- On 2021-07-03 a vehicle was stopped on Mill Rd. The vehicle was not insured and was being used to transport large amounts of alcohol to the Northern communities. The driver was charged on the Motor Vehicle Act and the Liquor Control Act. Liquor was seized and the vehicle was impounded.
- On 2021-07-05 RCMP attended to a residence on Blackwater Cres for a male that was breaching his conditions. He was not located and no charges will be forwarded.
- On 2021-07-06 RCMP attended a residence at the Century Trailer Park for an assault. A female had

Continued over →



MCLEOD LAKE MACKENZIE COMMUNITY FOREST

K2M Forest Stewardship Plan #3

Forest Stewardship Plan #3 for the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest (MLMCF) is available to the public for review and written comment.

Deadline for comment is Friday September 3, 2021

The plans can be viewed online at mlmcf.ca/operations, or in person Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm at the District of Mackenzie office, 1 Mackenzie Blvd, Mackenzie, and the McLeod Lake Indian Band office, 61 Tse'Khene Drive, McLeod Lake.

Questions or written comment regarding the plans should be directed to Dan Boulianne, RPF, General Manager, PO Box 579, Mackenzie BC, V0J2C0, (250) 997-1027 or by email at generalmanager@mlmcf.ca.



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The day I made that statement, about inventing the internet, I was tired because I'd been up all night inventing the Camcorder. – Al Gore

‘Bitcoin op’...

line the expansion into other B.C. communities.

Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency. “Mining” refers to the data operations that are required in each bitcoin transaction, using a digital public ledger known as a blockchain.

The operations require large amounts of electricity to power vast computer banks with hundreds of cooling fans. A single Bitcoin transaction can use up to an estimated 1,784 kilowatt hours of power. Globally, cryptocoin processing is estimated to consume over 100 terawatts of electricity annually (one terrawatt = 1 million megawatts). This is a higher energy demand than that of



many countries.

Companies that provide these resources receive a share of the currency. Canada has become attractive to cryptocurrency operations because of its cheap hydroelectric power and cooler climate.

A study by Hydro Québec in 2018 found that cryptocurrency mining provides few long-term jobs, however: less than two jobs per megawatt of electricity consumption.

A small Bitcoin operation has been running in Ocean Falls at a former pulp mill site since 2018. The company, Ocean Falls Blockchain, employs less than 10 people.



FWCP

Fish & Wildlife
COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Apply now: grants available for fish & wildlife projects

The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program funds projects to help conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams.

Our annual grant intake opens Thursday, Aug. 12, and we’re looking for grant applications for potential projects that align with our Peace Region action plan priorities.

Key dates:

- Peace Region grant applicants must submit a notice of intent by Monday, Sept. 13.
- Grant applications are due Friday, Oct. 29.

Join us online:

- Notice of intent info session: Wednesday, Sept. 1, 9 a.m.–10:30 a.m. PT.
- Grant info session: Tuesday, Sept. 28, 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m. PT.
- RSVP at fwcp@bchydro.com.

This year we approved approximately \$1.3 million for 26 projects in our Peace Region, which are being delivered by First Nations, consultants, agencies, stewardship groups, and others.

fwcp.ca


The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations, and public stakeholders to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams.

PLAY FOUR

Word Scramble from last issue: Rachel McAdams, Keifer Sutherland, Leslie Nielsen

TRIVIA ANSWER: The Model T Ford, manufactured from 1908 to 1927.

A-MAZE



★ Astro Notes: ★

The Perseids, made of tiny space debris from the comet Swift-Tuttle, are one of the brightest meteor showers of the year.

They occur every summer between July 17 and August 24, peaking around August 9 to 13. From some locations, you can see can see 60 to 100 meteors in an hour.

If you have a tent with a roof screen, it's a great time of year for backyard sleep outs!

★ Perseid Meteor Showers ★

‘Water quality’...

Manganese has, in recent years, been identified as a possible concern in drinking water, particularly for infants and in infant formulas. Prior to 2019, it was considered only a problem of discolouration.

District water reports from 2018 to 2020 have shown exceedances for manganese at various locations, some at close to 3x maximum acceptable levels. (*See Buzzette July 15 issue*).

While Mackenzie prides itself on excellent drinking water, the District has been quiet about communicating potential concerns to residents. So far, it has not committed to any permanent mitigation measures.

In 2019, the District received close to \$5 million from a provincial infrastructure grant, the Northern Capital and Planning Grant. The money was allocated in 2020 to construction of the new fire hall.

In the meantime, an error found in the 2020 report has been corrected. The error gave the appearance of a higher acceptable level for lead in drinking water than is established by Health Canada.

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RCMP Report...

been assaulted by two other females. Charges are pending against the two females. There were no serious injuries.

- On 2021-07-07 an excavator was stolen from a business on Mackenzie Blvd. it was recovered short distance away stashed in the bush.
- On 2021-07-08 RCMP attended the hospital for a male that arrived after being victim of a shooting. Emil SPELMAN has been charged with numerous offences and there is currently a warrant for his arrest.
- On 2021-07-11 a residence on Hwy 39 was broken into and firearms were stolen. The file is still under investigation.
- On 2021-07-22 RCMP were conducting a roadblock near Windy Point. A vehicle approached then sped away. It was eventually stopped and the driver was issued violation tickets under the Motor Vehicle Act.
- On 2021-07-30 RCMP stopped an impaired driver. The driver then became combative with police. He was later transported to the hospital for minor injuries and issued a 90 days driving prohibition. His vehicle was impounded for 30 days.
- On 2021-07-31 RCMP stopped a pickup leaving the Morfee Lake area. The driver was intoxicated and charged under the Criminal Code. The vehicle was impounded for 7 days as the driver was already prohibited from driving.

Thanks to Mackenzie RCMP for this report.