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The Macktown Buzzette

Aug 18 - 31,
2022



Undeveloped trail between the golf course and Morfee campground, 2022.

Perimeter trail - for who?

New sections have appeared this summer on the community perimeter trail, renamed last year the Azan Trail, and being built by Mackenzie Outdoor Routes and Trails Association (MORATA).

Approved by the District in 2020, and using some funds from a \$500,000 Signature Trail grant the District received in 2020, the Azan Trail partly substitutes what had been a District proposal for a Community Connector Trail: a wide, multi-use and winter groomable trail that would connect the Golf Course, Morfee campground and the Rec Centre. (See also *Buzzette* July 2, 2020).

In its partial status as a "Signature" community trail, the Azan is supposed to accommodate general and beginner-level trail use. It was proposed to attract tourism and bring
See 'Perimeter trail' over →

District receives Community Works \$\$

The District of Mackenzie received \$101,670 this month from the Union of BC Municipalities' Community Works fund, disbursed to municipalities twice yearly. The money is for "local governments to make local choices about which eligible projects to fund."

A letter announcing the payment came late last month,

Random 2021 stats: Macktown

Population: 3,281 (down 11% from 2016)

Total private dwellings: 1,837

Average age of the population: 41.9
(compared to 42.8 for BC)

0 - 14 years: 555

Over 65: 560

Over 95: 5 (female)

Married: 1,195

Living common law: 430

Not married or living common law: 1,100

Average total 2020 income: \$55,800

Source: statcan.gc.ca

around the same time that Council was considering whether to fund Ernie Bodin Centre upgrades beyond two years, a cost estimated at \$97,000, or to demolish the building. (See *Buzzette* August 4, 2022).

The *Buzzette* has not learned whether this money was discussed by Council at the last meeting.

NEAR HEAVEN

Kayak Rentals

\$10/day (24 hrs.)

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WHAT'S ON



TheBuzzette@gmail.com

Phone: (250) 997-5038

Council elections upcoming

Elections for municipal town councils will take place in B.C. on October 15.

Nominations are open August 30 to September 9. The District of Mackenzie has nomination packages and information on its website.

Local man missing

RCMP this week issued a Missing Person notice for Andrew Santos, missing in Mackenzie since August 4. A description is available on the RCMP website and notices are circulating through the community.

At time of writing, the family did not know whether an official search has been initiated.

News of the Weird:

Texas school district pulls Bible from shelves

A Texas school district this month ordered controversial books be removed from school library shelves for review.

The policy targets any book that has been "challenged" by a parent or community member. One of these is The Holy Bible, flagged earlier this year for being written by "men who lived a long time ago."

Post Office hours return

The sign does not show it, but the Post Office has returned mailbox access through its main doors to 7 am to 7 pm, following tightened protocols regarding parcel security.

Quotes:

"Some people are not brave but simply ignorant of the danger they are in."
- Mokokoma Mokhonoana



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Can you hear me now, honey?

A senior, worried his wife was losing her hearing, walked about 30 feet behind her and asked, "Can you hear me, honey?" No reply.

He moved 15 feet closer and asked again. No reply.

Moving even closer, he asked a third time. Not a word.

Coming up a few inches behind her ear, he said, "Can you hear me now, honey?!"

His wife replied, "For the fourth time, yes!"



'Perimeter Trail'...

new local users into Mackenzie's trail system.

The District describes the trail as an easy, bikeable loop accessible to beginners, families, and "elderly walkers". Some who have used the trail, however, find it anything but.

With engineered rises and dips catering to mountain bikers, the trail is technical in many sections and forces non-mountain bikers off their bikes. One user, referring to "moguls" built into the tread, commented that "It's a young persons' trail."

MORATA says the trail is defined as "accessible" based on adaptive mountain bike (aMTB) trail standards; however, they acknowledge that there are currently no trail users in the community using adaptive mountain bikes.

The group points out that funding for the trail, while coming from public sources, was secured by MORATA. They point also

to a new, more accessible section, constructed this summer at the south end of the Cicada Ball Diamonds.

Rec Services Director Terry Gilmer told *The Buzzette* that there are "many moving parts" in Mackenzie's outdoor rec planning.

He says an active transportation plan for the community is still being developed, and that gaps in the trail network can be addressed.

The bulk of the \$500,000 Signature Trail grant, a provincial grant through BC Rural Dividend, is being used for construction of the new bike park downtown.

This summer, MORATA has also been extending the Morfee Mountain Ridgeline and building the Downhill trail on Morfee Mountain. These are trails the club says have MTB tourism potential. Funding for these trails has been through a mix of public and private sector grants.

NOTICES

WANT TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT? There are families in the north who need safety, stability, care and compassion. Contact Stephanie Carr, Axis Family Resources 250-564-9064 ext. 406.

DID YOU KNOW? The Buzzette has probably the lowest print Obituary rates in North America! Available also: Births, Congratulations, In Memory, Celebration of Life from \$0 - \$76. Call 997-5038.

HELP WANTED

WEB DESIGNER The Buzzette is looking for a student or beginner web designer with emerging skills for temporary project. Call, or e-mail: TheBuzzette@gmail.com

Have a public notice?



thebuzzette@gmail.com

THANK YOUs

THE GREEN CAPES LIONS CLUB would like to give a big "Thank You!" to everyone who came out to our fund raiser on August 12th and 13th in Mackenzie Center Mall. Together, you helped raise \$3,411 in support of the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides!

Did you know?

Astronomers have detected a strange and persistent radio signal from a far-off galaxy that appears to be flashing with surprising regularity.

The signal is classified as a fast radio burst, or FRB—an intensely strong burst of radio waves of unknown astrophysical origin, that typically lasts for a few milliseconds at most.

However, this new signal persists for up to three seconds, about 1,000 times longer than the average FRB. Within this window, the team detected bursts of radio waves that repeat every 0.2 seconds in a clear periodic pattern, similar to a beating heart.

Source: phys.org

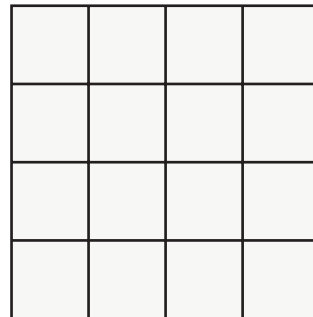
CRYPTO-QUOTE



DXDS YJAGNJ C'E LMAGP ET POP
CSXDSYDP YJD MDOM-XCDV ECOMMAM
VD'MD SAY OB WQABD OB VD OLLDOM.
— BYDVOMY ZMOSWCB

Whether doing them or creating them, puzzles are good for your brain! Do you have a puzzle to share? Send it in to: TheBuzzette@gmail.com

PLAY FOUR



Across

1. A nearby highway
2. Gelatinous extract
3. The absence of any quantity or magnitude
4. Biblical garden

Down

1. Light cloud or pollution in air
2. Having reached old age or high quality
3. Uncommon
4. Suffix meaning a tool or device

CRYPTOQUOTE from last issue: Keep your face in the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow. – Helen Keller

New machine in PG checks street drugs for dangerous substances

A new Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) drug checking machine is now available in Prince George, thanks to a partnership between Northern Health and the POUNDS Project (Preventing Overdose UNDOing Stigma).

The machine allows people to check for harmful additives in their drugs, including fentanyl and benzodiazepines. It can test a range of substances, including opioids, stimulants, and other psychoactive drugs such as MDMA.

"Drug checking technology has the power to reduce poisoned drug deaths and save lives. I am grateful that this cost-effective drug-checking machine is coming to Prince George as an additional tool in our response to the drug-poisoning crisis," said Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

How it works

The FTIR analyzes drugs by shining a light on the sample and measuring how that light is absorbed. The analysis can tell what is in the sample, including the primary components of the substance and if any adulterants are present. The technician may also be able to estimate concentration levels of a substance.

Once the analysis is complete, results are provided to the client along with related harm reduction information to help them develop a safety plan to help prevent overdose.

Sample analysis can also improve the timeliness and accuracy of toxic drug alerts issued to communities, to create broader awareness around specific substances that are flagged.

Drug checking will be available six days a week, from 10 am to 2 pm Wednesday - Saturday, and in the evenings 4 pm to 8 pm Tuesday - Sunday (closed Mondays). Address: POUNDS Project, 1126 3rd Avenue in Prince George. Outside these hours, appointments can be made by texting or calling 250-301-3285.

For more information on drug checking, see drugcheckingbc.ca. For resources on overdose prevention in the Northern Health region, see northernhealth.ca.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble to spell out three more Mackenzie street names (street type included) :

dear lord nosy _ _ _ _ _

varied trust _ _ _ _ _

call vice ops _ _ _ _ _



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themacktownbuzzette.com