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## Thrift Store donates \$65,000 for new hospital equipment

The Hospital Auxiliary Volunteers are really proud of their recent Hospital donation of \$65,000 towards the purchase of a new Cardiac Patient Monitoring System.

This new networked digital system will offer significant improvements in quality of care by enabling continuous monitoring of cardiac patients in the emergency department and

acute care unit.

This donation was made possible by the hard work and dedication of the Thrift Store Volunteers, our loyal customers and the Mackenzie and McLeod Lake residents who donate their unwanted items to our organization. Thank you everyone.

(Photo at TheMacktown Buzzette.com photo gallery)

## Conservation group talks pellets in Japan

Prior to a B.C. Forests Ministry trade mission to Japan this week, a different delegation was speaking to Japanese environmental groups, government officials and media about what they say is the risk to primary forests of B.C.'s pellet industry.

Michelle Connolly of Conservation North and Ben Parfitt of Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives were the guests of three Japanese groups which visited north central B.C. last year with Japan's public broadcaster.

"Forestry interests promote the idea that B.C. forests are managed sustainably, when they are not. We were invited

See 'Pellet talks' over →

*Best wishes for the New Year!*



[themacktownbuzzette.com](http://themacktownbuzzette.com)

## Bigger Rec Centre discounts a no-go

A proposal to expand the discount program for Rec Centre memberships received some discussion by Council at their last meeting.

The proposal, put forward by Councillor Wright, would expand the occupation groups to include School District 57 staff, Northern Health employees, and social workers, and would increase the discount to 50% (although the original wording of the motion called to reduce the discount.)

Currently a 25% discount is offered for RCMP Officers, Paramedics and Search & Rescue personnel. Fire Department volunteers

receive a free membership, according to Rec Services Director Terry Gilmer.

Council members said they appreciated the spirit of the proposal. Mayor Atkinson agreed but said that the District already subsidizes Rec Centre users up to 90%.

Speaking with passion, Councillor Wright pointed out shortages of school and health care workers locally and said incentives are necessary to attract and retain workers in the community. He said "When times are tough, it's time to invest in the community. It's not a time for austerity."

The motion was voted down 4 - 1 with two councillors recusing themselves to avoid a conflict of interest.

## News of the Odd:

A study this year out of Colorado University found that opposites, in fact, do not attract. The study analyzed couples over more than a century and found that traits such as political and religious attitudes, level of education, and IQ levels were more aligned than opposed in lasting couples.

Traits such as smoking and drinking, introversion / extroversion were also more likely to be shared qualities in successful couples than not.

The findings suggest implications for future generations, e.g., physical or psychological traits that become concentrated, creating gaps in the wider population.

Same-sex couples were not in the study. Source: [phys.org](http://phys.org)

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# The Macktown Buzzette

Dec 14 - Jan 10, 2024

## Good first year for Kimta PG bus

[Updated 01/04/24 for correction:] Medical appointments, shopping and airport trips are some of the main reasons people have been using Mackenzie's new 5-day per week bus service to Prince George.

Overseen by Kimta Transportation Society and operated by Evergreen Taxi, the six-passenger service at the end of September had transported 528 passengers since mid February. The service is separate from the Kimta community bus that can be booked for local trips.

Kimta President Mark Robillard provided some financials to Council in October. The service receives \$51,000 in annual funding from the NDIT and private grants, including from Iris Energy. It was operating at a loss of \$70

per trip at the end of September. This included two slow months of August and September.

Robillard says the Society would like to keep fares at \$30 each way (\$50 to the airport) and ideally would require funding of \$75,000 per year.

Current funding is in place for two more years, with NDIT negotiating for continuing funding. Robillard says it's important to know that Mackenzie's is the only bus service in the north that is run by volunteers.

## Stories, topics on watch for 2024

Lots of new developments in town this year. A sample of items The Buzzette is watching for:

- **Livestreaming.** Council has been shy about starting live camera meetings.
- **Age-Friendly and Accessibility Plan.** A consultant came to town last winter and conducted interviews with residents. The report is in. Awaiting the plan.
- **Connectivity.** Getting that last 29 kms of fibre optic line to connect the town to service at Hwy 97. The District has been awaiting word on a federal grant for 2+ years.
- **Provincial Election.** We know who the Conservative and Liberal (United) candidates are. Who will run for the NDP in Prince George - Mackenzie?

What are you watching for in 2024? E-mail: [TheBuzzette@gmail.com](mailto:TheBuzzette@gmail.com)

## Quotes:

"Listen, all creeping things, the bell of transience."  
- Kobayashi Issa



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## Trivia:

What is a baby kangaroo called? (Answer back page) →

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## Mackenzie Office Location

Mike Morris, MLA  
Prince George - Mackenzie  
Unit #124, Mackenzie Mall  
Open Tues & Fridays 9 am - 12 pm  
Or book an appointment:  
[Jesse.Wright@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Jesse.Wright@leg.bc.ca)  
Ph. (250) 997-5281



Rise in online extortion targeting youth, say RCMP

Police are warning parents about online extortion following the death of a 12-year-old Prince George boy by self-inflicted gunshot wound in October.

Extortion is the practice of blackmailing someone for money or favours by threatening to reveal personal or sensitive information. RCMP are highlighting a particular form they are calling “sextortion” which is extorting money or sexual favours by first extracting and then threatening to reveal sexual images or private information online.

Reports of sexual extortion are on the rise and targets are often youth,

particularly boys, between the ages of 13 and 18.

If you are the victim of sextortion, RCMP advise to:

- 1) Stop communication immediately with the person
- 2) Do not give in to their demands; they will only demand more
- 3) Reach out to a trusted adult and report to [cybertip.ca](http://cybertip.ca) or to your local police
- 4) Deactivate – but don’t delete – the social accounts you were using
- 5) Save a copy of any images you sent, and take screenshots of the messages and profile of the extorter, including user name.

BUZZETTE Mini-CROSS

	1	2	3	4		5
6						
7				8	9	
10			11			
		12				
13	14		15			
16						

- ACROSS
- 1. Scolded, teased
  - 6. Parsley, sage, rosemary &
  - 7. Point to, direct a projectile
  - 8. Acronym for vinyl records

PLAY FOUR from last issue: PIPE, IDOL, TEEM, YAMS  
Trivia Answer: A Joy.

Marriage Counsellor: So, what brings you here?  
Wife: He takes everything literally. I can’t stand it.  
Husband: My truck.



WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble to spell out three more Mackenzie street names (w/ street types abbreviated)

frisky falconers \_\_\_\_\_  
snail or kid \_\_\_\_\_  
dank chore \_\_\_\_\_

‘Pellet talks’...

to Japan to tell the public and key decision-makers about what’s happening to at-risk forests and species in this province,” Connolly said.

According to Conservation North, Japan sources large amounts of wood pellets from forests in British Columbia. The pellets are made using logging waste wood, sawmill waste but, more critically, they say, healthy forests logged expressly for this purpose.

Connolly and Parfitt met with biomass financiers Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, as well as the Sumitomo Corporation, owner of the Pacific Bioenergy plant in Prince George that shut its doors in 2022.

“B.C. is a high-risk place from which to source pellets,” Parfitt told investors and bioindustry officials in Japan. “Logging companies have cut down too much forest too quickly. Sawmills, pulp mills and even some pellet mills have closed because too little primary forest is left.”

Mackenzie Mixed Dart League Standings  
Dec 13, 2023

- 1. Outsiders 46
- 2. Dart Vaders 44
- 3. We Can Fix That 39
- 4. Shazaam 31
- 5. Sharp Shooters 28
- 6. Blazing Darts 27
- 7. Cereal Killers 26
- 8. Double Vision 25

High Scores:  
Nathen F 100 x 4, 125 x 2, 140;  
James 100; Jim 122, 101; Collin 121; Ashley 116; Cody 100 x 2;  
Erik 107; Dick 100 x 2; Cindy 134;  
Jason 100 x 2; Anita 102; Jeanne 114; Matt 100

Low Scores:  
Angela, Chantal, Joe, Maggie, Megan, Judy x 3, James, Luke, Matt, Collin, Jeanne, Nate, Robin, Jason

COMMUNITY NOTES

XMAS CRAFT TABLES @ the Mall Sat, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> all day.

MOVIES IN THE POOL  
Sundays 11 am, Rec Centre Pool.  
Dec 17: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, Dec 24: *Elf*.

WINTER WONDERLAND  
Arena Public Skate Dec 23 & 24. 10 am – 4 pm

LIGHT UP THE COMMUNITY Online voting closes Dec 17. Vote for best Xmas residential and business lights @ Let’s Chat Mackenzie.

MACKENZIE MINOR HOCKEY Tournaments Jan 6/7, Jan 13/14.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS  
The 2024 Para Biathlon World Championships and Nordic World Cup Finals, March 5 - 17 in Prince George, needs volunteers for Event Support, Security, Transportation. Kevin Pettersen 250-564-0392.

thebuzzette@gmail.com

Did you know?

The Einstein, discovered in 2023, is a 13-sided shape that can be tiled infinitely without repeating a pattern. Can you make some Einsteins and tile them together?



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APPLICATION FOR PESTICIDE USE

The purpose of the proposed 3-year Pesticide Use Permit (PUP) # 233-0024-23/26, and the treatments it covers, is to reduce localized black fly annoyance for residents and visitors of the District of Mackenzie.

This Pesticide Use Permit is a renewal of the recently expired PUP which previously covered this program. The proposed duration of the PUP is from 01 April 2024 to 30 September 2026. All applications would be completed within The District of Mackenzie, and at Morfee Creek, located approximately 1.5 km north of the town centre. The only black fly larvicide product proposed for use is VectoBac 1200L (PCP # 21062) which contains the naturally-occurring soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis*. VectoBac 1200L would be mixed with water on-site and applied to Morfee Creek using a calibrated drip bar or slow pour. The total area to be treated each application is estimated at 0.6 – 2.7 hectares. There may be between 2-4 applications per season.

This Pesticide Use Permit has been prepared on behalf of the District of Mackenzie by Duka Environmental Services Ltd., an environmental sciences firm, with extensive experience in pest management plan development and biting fly control programs. For more information on black flies, the annual program, or to request a copy of the PUP application please contact Duka Environmental Services Ltd, 19732 – 68 Avenue, Langley, B.C., V2Y 1H6, (604) 881-4565, Facsimile (866) 759-5902, or email [duka@telus.net](mailto:duka@telus.net). For VectoBac 1200L product information please see the manufacturers website [www.valentbiosciences.com](http://www.valentbiosciences.com). The PUP may also be viewed at, or a copy requested from, the District of Mackenzie public works office, #1 Mackenzie Blvd., Mackenzie, BC, V0J 2C0, (250) 997-8183, Facsimile (250) 997-4381.

A person wishing to contribute information about the treatment site for the evaluation of this permit application must send copies of the information to both the applicant at the address above and the administrator under the Integrated Pest Management Act at BC Ministry of Environment, #200 10470-152nd Street, Surrey, B.C., V3R 0Y3 or email [IPMPBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IPMPBC@gov.bc.ca) within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

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