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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.

## Williston Reservoir spring update

BC Hydro reports that the minimum spring 2024 Williston Reservoir level is currently expected to be above 2162 feet.

This follows some concern earlier this year that the levels would have to drop below 2150 feet. While it says that Williston inflows

remain below average, Hydro notes that on April 22 last year, Williston was ~12 ft. lower.

It says the increase in reservoir levels is associated with "additional system precipitation, continued imports, and milder April weather."



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**Trivia:** What object in the sky can weigh over a million pounds? →



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# The Macktown Buzzette

May 2 - 15, 2024

## Recycling depot plans still in air

A plan by Green Phoenix Recycling to open a Recycle BC centre in town (see Buzzette April 4) has been dropped. Shortly after a Temporary Use Permit was sought to build a depot behind 320 Mackenzie Blvd., the company withdrew its application.

Recently the Regional District has proposed a Recycle BC depot at the Mackenzie Transfer Station (landfill) which it says could be operational by fall.

The RD has also announced that due to its contractor ceasing operations, the recycling bins in town will not be available for service beginning May 31.

**Quotes:**

*"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals."*  
— Immanuel Kant

## Rent help approved for EBCC groups

Council approved rent subsidies last week for two more groups having to relocate from the Ernie Bodin Centre (EBCC) this year.

The Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Store will receive \$7,800 this year to cover its full rent costs for the year, and smaller subsidies over the next three years. The Thrift Store, which raises money to buy equipment for the hospital, is moving into the basement of Living Joy Church.

The Mackenzie & District Museum reports it will be moving into a unit at 320 Mackenzie Blvd. It will receive \$24,000 this year to cover rent, and \$36,000 over the next three years to subsidize rent.

The Museum also receives \$12,000 from the District annually which partially covers operating expenses, the bulk of them being covered by Regional District funding.

So far three groups from the EBCC will be getting District help with rent in their new locations for a cost of over \$106,000 in the next four years. This figure surpasses the projected cost of the 5-year life safety upgrades at EBCC, an option rejected by Council in 2022.

The Arts Centre and the Autumn Lodge Society receive annual fee-for-service funding but have not requested relocation expenses as yet.

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## Council pauses routine MLMCF board re-appointment

Council received its annual recommendation from the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest Board to re-appoint a director for a renewed three-year term, with this year being Jim Atkinson's turn. Mayor Atkinson, who is married to Mr. Atkinson, removed herself from the vote.

Councillor Wright asked why Council does not solicit nominations for the Community Forest board as it does for other organizations in town. Councillor Hipkiss, who is herself an appointee to the board, said she does not know why.

Some discussion followed with Councillors Wright and Brumovsky commenting that the lack of an open nomination process discourages participation in the Community Forest by the community. Community

See 'Community Forest' over →

## Mystery surrounds quiet off-leash policy change

Almost two years after Council quietly passed a policy changing the default for all local trails to off-leash for dogs, the District of Mackenzie recently confirmed the change and updated its Animal Control web page to reflect it.

Prior to 2022, leashes were required for dogs on all District property except informally for Second Beach and for the small dog park behind Ernie Bodin Centre.

Asked why the new trails policy was not communicated to residents over the last two years, both District staff and Mayor Joan Atkinson declined to answer.

See "Policy mystery" over →

**Fun Facts:**

- B.C.'s newest political party, founded by a resident of Metchosin, is named the Party of Citizens Who Have Decided To Think for Ourselves and Be Our Own Politicians.
- B.C. once had a party called the Work Less Party. Its platform was a reduction of the standard work week to 32 hours.
- The Canadian Rhinoceros Party has existed in various formations since 1963. It ran 27 candidates in the last federal election. Some of its platform has included: repealing the law of gravity; providing higher education by building taller schools, and declaring war on Belgium.

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



## A J.D. sighting?

Local radio personality and longtime CHMM station manager J.D. McKenzie is rumoured to be in town this week, reportedly packing up his home to move permanently to the East Coast to be with his belle.

Having already transitioned out of CHMM three years ago, J.D. will still be missed at the golf course and the curling rink.

(Note: This report was not authorized by the subject. :p )



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## COMMUNITY NOTES

**MARKING TIME:**  
*Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration.* Traveling exhibit from the U.S. @ Two Rivers Gallery, Prince George, to October 6.

**BOOK CLUB** @ the Library. May's book: *The Terror* by Dan Simmons. Available for loan May 6. Discussion June 3, 5 pm.

**WILDLIFE AWARENESS TRAINING** w/ Kale Ericson (Conuma Resources) May 4<sup>th</sup>, 12 pm. Mackenzie Secondary School Gym. Free.

**CALLING ALL MUSICIANS** Monday Night Song Circle / Jam night @ the Baptist Church, 7 - 9 pm.

**PROSPECTORS COURSE** May 24 - 26 w/ Geoscientist John deGrace & Omineca Mining Assoc. Two in-class evenings and Sunday (May 26) in the field. \$50. Register by May 17 @ CNC.

## WORD JUMBLE

What 9-letter word can you make from these letters? How many 5-letter words can you find?

A	L	I
G	O	T
A	N	S

## 'Community forest board'...

forests are based on principles involving community participation and decision making.

Council agreed to review the Community Forest rules on appointing members before approving Atkinson's re-appointment.

The Community Forest board comprises seven members, three of which are appointed by the District, three by McLeod Lake Indian Band, and one by the MLMCF board itself.

Councillor Hipkiss and retired teacher Ron Crosby are the other two District-appointed directors. All three District appointees have served recurring terms.

**JAY KNUTSON** (founding member of Spirit of the West) plays a house concert May 10, 7 pm. 108 Summit Cresc. Tix \$25. Linda (250) 997-3013.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PUBLIC INFORMATION** w/ the Fire Dept and MCS. May 11<sup>th</sup>, 11 am @ the Rec Centre. Preparing for an evacuation order, emergency go-bags, and considerations for Mackenzie's vulnerable residents.

**MCAC WORKSHOPS:** Paint with Sunshine May 6<sup>th</sup>, \$50. Tea and Paint with Cheyenne on May 10<sup>th</sup> \$35. May 14<sup>th</sup>: Pebble art. May 31<sup>st</sup>: Wine & Paint night w/ Christina Watts \$60. More info: (250) 997-5818.

**ALZHEIMER SOCIETY EDUCATION WORKSHOPS** May 13 @ the Rec Centre: *Supporting friends on the dementia journey*, 10 am; *Understanding communication and behaviour*, 1 pm. First Link Helpline® 1-800-936-6033 to register.

**MARCH FOR RED DRESS DAY** Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, starts noon @ MSS parking lot. Calling attention to murdered and missing Indigenous women.

 **themacktownbuzzette.com**

**SHOW N' SHINE** Car show at Rec Centre parking lot. May 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 am - 4 pm. Followed by **SPRING DANCE** w/ Tune Council hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, 8 pm @ the Legion.

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Have you noticed that all the people in favour of birth control are already born? – Benny Hill



## 'Policy mystery'...

In an e-mail reply, Corporate Services Director Emily Kaehn stated the new policy was prompted by complaints to Bylaw staff about off-leash dogs, as well as inquiries into where dogs could be taken off leash.

Kaehn did not answer why no public consultation took place for a change which affects trail users of all types in the community.

Resident engagement on town proposals has been a common practice for the District in recent years, and is mentioned as a value in Council's Strategic Priorities.

In 2019, the District spent \$23,575 to create a public engagement process for issues surrounding Little Mac Ski Hill. The strategy was supposed to be broadly applicable for "future issues that require public engagement."

District staff have not indicated what process will be used to determine which, if any, trails will be designated on-leash in the future.

Signage for the Azan Trail, the new town perimeter trail planned and built by MORATA and funded by public grants, went up in winter. There is so far no posted requirement to leash dogs.

A further question to the Mayor and staff about impacts of off-leash dogs in ecologically sensitive areas did not receive a reply by print time.

Send in your news!



**thebuzzette@gmail.com**

## Provincial Election 2024

Total political contributions raised in 2023 (Top 6 of 14)

BC NDP	\$4,542,419.90
BC United	\$2,970,874.39
BC Green Party	Not available
Conservative Party of BC	\$443,499.04
BC Libertarian Party	\$7,908.90
Communist Party of BC	\$7,742.00

Source: Elections BC - Financial Reports

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## 101 uses for ... ketchup!

**Remove chlorine green**  
Massage ketchup into your hair and leave on for 15 minutes to get rid of swimmers' green.

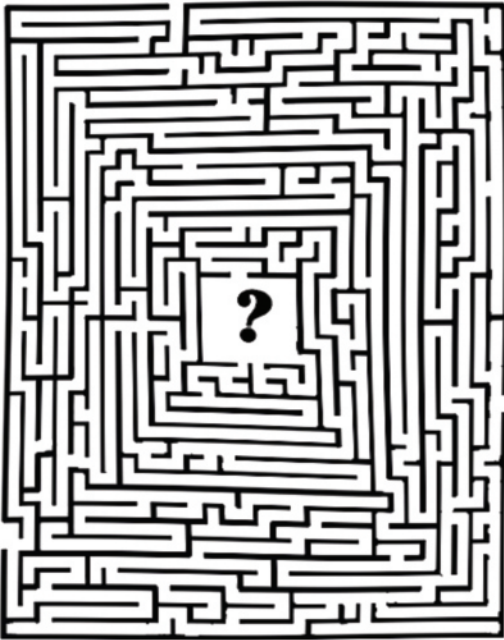
**Make copper pots or molds gleam** Coat the copper surface with ketchup. Let sit for 5 to 30 mins. Rinse and

dry. Acids in the ketchup will remove tarnish.

**Keep silver sparkling** Dunk your silver ring, bracelet or earring into a small bowl of ketchup for a few minutes. If it has a tooled surface, use a toothbrush. Rinse and dry to remove tarnish.

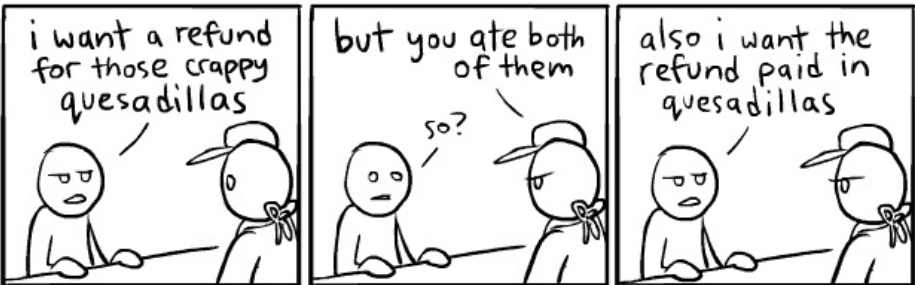
## MAZE 13

How many different ways can you get to the centre?



WORD SCRAMBLE from last issue: Pioneer St., Heather Cres. MINI-CROSS: Solution posted on the Buzzette e-edition page.

TRIVIA ANSWER: A cloud.



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