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The Macktown Buzzette

Dec 18 - 31,
2025



Council supports concerns re: professional reliance

Mackenzie Council will send a letter to the B.C. government expressing concerns about proposed legislation seeking to shift oversight and approval on municipal development to the private sector under a policy called "professional reliance".

Acting on an open letter to the province shared with B.C. municipalities by the City of Pitt Meadows, Council briefly discussed the implications of such a policy.

Concerns were also raised that Bill M 216 - 2025 was introduced by a government backbencher, the NDP MLA for Nanaimo.

A policy feature introduced provincially under the former BC Liberal government, professional reliance was a form of provincial deregulation which removed much government oversight from industry practices, essentially allowing industry to self-monitor and self-regulate.

Critics point out this led to many abuses, particularly in the resource sector, citing the Mt. Polley mine tailings breach in 2014 which polluted Quesnel Lake as an example of the policy's failure.



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News of the Odd:

A man who made a bet in 1998 that he could walk from Chile to England is still walking 27 years later. 29-year-old Karl Bushby, a UK citizen and paratrooper while in a bar in the southern tip of Chile bet a laughing friend that he could walk all the way home to England. The next day he began his journey, walking north through deserts, mountains and jungle, backtracking away at times from wildlife and armed drug cartels.

The most difficult challenge came in 2005 when he had to cross the frozen Bering Strait between Alaska and Russia. He complete this with his bet buddy.

Bushby was in Hungary in early December and had 1500 kilometres to go.

Study: Gut bacteria evolve rapidly

A new study out of UCLA reports that bacteria in our digestive systems evolve rapidly in response to novel starches such as maltodextrin, made from cornstarch and prevalent in the diets of industrialized countries since the 1960s.

Gut bacteria are also evolving differently in industrialized vs.

See 'Gut biome' over →

Financial info missing for grants intake: Mayor

Local organizations that receive annual fee-for-service grants from the District provided presentations to Council at the last meeting. Council will hear from others in January.

Mayor Atkinson reminded groups that of the five that presented last week, only one had provided the required financial reporting under the District's Grants Policy.

Hospitals operating over capacity: report

Fifty of B.C.'s 87 hospitals had more patients than beds over the last year, according to a new series of reports this week by The Tyee.

The top 20 crowded hospitals, mostly in the southern regions of the province, were operating at 110 - 134% capacity last year, with overflow patients being treated in "surge beds" - beds in hallways and other informal areas of the hospital. Nicola Valley Hospital in Merritt topped the list last year for most crowded.

Read more at theyee.ca.



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Hospital Auxiliary donates \$65K for critical medical equipment

A note from Gloria Reid of the Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Store:

The Ladies Hospital Auxiliary is so proud to have been able to donate \$65,500 this year to the Mackenzie & District Hospital for some much needed equipment.

In July we donated \$40,000 to purchase a LifePak-35 defibrillator on a crash cart. In November, after a wonderful tour and tea, we presented Hospital Adminis-

trator Lisa Hannan with an additional cheque for \$25,500. With this donation they will purchase an i-STAT machine and a Golvo Mobile Lift.

These donations were made possible by the hard work and dedication of the Thrift Store volunteers, our loyal customers and Mackenzie and McLeod Lake residents who donate their unwanted items to our organization.

Thank you everyone.



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Trivia:

What is the longest running TV show?
(Answer back page) →



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Conifex workers off til mid-Jan

Conifex production staff have four weeks of downtime which began this past Monday, December 15.

The company announced in late November a curtailment of operations due to slower market activity, higher interest rates, and the higher U.S. softwood duties.

Quotes:

“I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph.”

-- Shirley Temple

The company news release states Conifex is optimistic about both local fibre supply and the future: "Conifex continues to believe the fundamentals for SPF lumber are positive over the medium and long term."

"...Curtailments across the industry have already driven North American lumber production to its lowest level in a decade, which is expected to help rebalance inventories and support a return to more sustainable pricing."

The downtime comes amid

See 'Conifex' over →

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SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE MACKTOWN BUZZETTE

See you in January!

A pinch of holly and a pinch of pine - Now we know it's Christmas time.

Thanks to Buzzette advertisers who helped bring you community print news in 2025!

AstroMoto Lube n' Shine, Azu Health, Bottles 4 Planters, CHMM 103.5 FM, Chris Simpson, Chu Cho Forestry, City West Internet, Conifex Timber Inc., Dave's Accounting, District of Mackenzie, Enbridge, Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (BC Hydro), Full Moon Howling Craft Butchering, Fry Daddy's, Fortis BC, Hart Dental, H&R Block, Innergex, Kahu House & Pet Sitting, Kiel Giddens MLA, Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce, Mackenzie Pharmachoice, McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest, Mixed Martial Arts Mackenzie, Near Heaven Kayak Rentals, PICS BC, ProMech Solutions, Prometheus Electrical, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, RKS Electric, Sunrize Lawn Care, Tse Khene Food & Fuel, Western LNG.



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‘Conifex’...

other mill announcements in the province this season, including permanent closures at West Fraser in 100 Mile House and Vancouver Island’s Crofton pulp mill which had already ceased paper production in 2024.

Short term shutdowns also began at Brink Forest Products mills earlier this month.

XKCD

HEY ALL!

DOES YOUR E-21 HUMIDIFIER MAKE AN ANNOYING CLICKING NOISE? MINE DID, BUT I FINALLY FIGURED OUT THAT THERE'S AN EASY FIX, SO I MADE THIS VIDEO IN CASE ANYONE ELSE...

I KNOW THERE'S MORE IMPORTANT WORK IN THE WORLD, BUT I FEEL LIKE THESE PEOPLE DESERVE, AT MINIMUM, A STATUE.

COMMUNITY NOTES

MARTIAL ARTS
MONDAYS complimentary class Dec 22 or 29. Limited space. Register with Fedo 250 997-3722

FIX IT FRIDAYS
Fridays, 5 - 7 pm at the Arts Centre. Free for members, by donation for non-members.

TECH TIP TUESDAYS
Tuesdays 5 -7 pm @ the Arts Centre. Free for members, by donation for non-members

DISTRICT XMAS LIGHTS CONTEST
Nominations for best holiday lights open until Dec 19, online voting Dec 22 - 26. Winners announced Dec 29. More info @ the District.

Coming in January:

MCAC HOUSE CONCERT SERIES
Folky Strum Strum plays the Arts Centre January 30 at 7 pm. Tix \$25/\$20.



themacktownbuzzette.com

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Enjoy the potentially last season of an old human era, say astrologers, as the coming year will see major planetary shifts from earth and water signs into air and fire signs, beginning what many see as a new epoch in human history.

We had a taste of this already this year with outer planet Pluto beginning

‘Gut biome’...

non-industrialized parts of the world. The study found DNA locations in 30 gut bacteria species in industrialized populations where genes appear at high fre-

quency, dominating or “sweeping” the gut biome.

Gut health is an emerging field in the study of chronic diseases such as inflammatory bowel, Crohn’s and mood disorders.

Read more at phys.org

MAGIC FOUR

1	2	3	4
2			
3			
4			

- 1. Frozen water crystals
- 2. Everyone gets one
- 3. A sign, symbolic warning
- 4. To go (past tense)

CROSSWORD select answers from last issue: Across: 10. Along, 11. Verse, 12. Leader, 15. Various, 18. E-glider, 23. Earner, 25. Enola, 28. Mo’ 30. Gnome, 36. Hance, 38. INXS. Down: 1. Salvage, 2. Pleadings, 4. Indie, 7. Craven, 9. Teen, 19. Dropper, 20. Reading, 22. Sony, 27. AMHA, 34. PEI. MAGIC SQUARE: Row 2: 12, 8 4, Row 3: 10, 0, 14.

on TV but began even earlier on radio in 1937. show is the soap opera Guiding Light, which ran from 1952 to 1989 scripted series on North American TV. The all-time longest running The Simpsons, running now for 37 seasons, is the longest running Trivia answer: If you answered The Simpsons, you are mostly right.

How do you get a Canadian to apologize? Step on his/her foot.



A-MAZE

The original version of this maze appeared in a January 1995 issue of The Mackenzie Times!



ning its 20-year sojourn into the sign of Aquarius. Neptune and Uranus also stepped briefly into their new fire (Aries) and air (Gemini) signs this year but will return with decisiveness in 2026.

The faster moving of the four outer planets, Saturn, has also been retrograde in Pisces for most of this year but will join Neptune in Aries in 2026, and be friendly with rebel planet Uranus, which re-enters Gemini in May,

traveling through that sign for the next eight years.

Expect to see a radical and fast-moving new age of (not surprisingly) high tech, AI, travel and communications, possibly radical health innovations, and, as Uranus exits Taurus, a completely new money system. Be aware of higher potential for both stricter government control over people, they say, but also growing humanitarian consciousness.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble these anagrams to spell out three more Mackenzie street names (with abbreviated street type, e.g.: Cres., Dr., St., Ave.)

- lo, red army _ _ _ _ _
- nor dry sled _ _ _ _ _
- cable karts crew _ _ _ _ _