

# UPFRONT

Serving the Robson Valley since 1986

Reach The Valley Sentinel at: 250.566.4425 or 1.800.226.2129 • Email: editor@thevalleysentinel.com • Fax: 250.566.4528

## BRIEFLY

### Strong winds knock out power across the Valley

Heavy snow and strong winds caused various power outages across the province Sunday, Jan. 4. 1,150 BC Hydro customers in the Robson Valley were without power when a tree hit the lines at 3:35pm. BC Hydro crews had power restored by 6:30 pm.

### Community Ski Hill?

Anyone interested in chatting about the possibilities for a community ski-hill and the forming of a committee?

Come out to the Caribou Grill Saturday, Jan 10 @ 3pm for more info call 250.566.1444

### Senior's Potluck

The Senior Citizens Social Club is holding a potluck dinner at the Golden Years Lodge on Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

### Chamber of Commerce AGM

The Chamber AGM is being held at the Best Western on Jan 15. It is a wine and cheese/silent auction event. This event is open to anyone who is interested. If you have anything that you would be willing to donate for the silent auction, please call 250-566-9869 or 250-566-0061. Receipts for your donation are available upon request.

## Owner of two abandoned horses wants them back

**Horse Rescue**, from front

"I expected the (pack horses) to walk out of there within a couple of days," said Mackay, who informed the McBride RCMP about the horses.

practices real estate and corporate law, said he "made every effort possible" to retrieve the animals which he has owned since they were three months old.

MacKay, who owns nine other horses, told The Valley Sentinel that he wants the two horses back in his care and is ready to challenge authorities. MacKay came to the McBride area with three of his horses in mid-September, packing in supplies to a woman who was hiking along the Continental Divide. MacKay and his horses made it to the Renshaw cabin under extreme difficulties, crossing bog and deadfall. On the way to Beaver Dam Pass, the horses got stuck in muskeg again and MacKay only managed to get them out under extreme difficulties. He said the pack horses wouldn't follow him any more afterwards, so he took their packs off, leaving them in the alpine, and rode out on his saddle horse, hoping the two pack horses, freed of their loads, would find their way down to the logging road. The supplies never made it to the hiker.

MacKay made two attempts to retrieve the horses, the first time during the last week in October. He borrowed two horses from local outfitter Stan Walchuk to use as pack horses and rode one of his own saddle horses. The weather was bad, MacKay said, and he was unable to locate the animals. He made a second attempt to retrieve the horses after he was informed that some young Edson, Alta., snowmobilers had found the horses on Dec. 3.



Birgit Stutz/The Valley Sentinel

Two starving horses left behind by Edmonton resident Frank Mackay. The horses were first spotted by snowmobilers near McBride, B.C., in the mountains of Renshaw, trapped in a valley of snow more than one metre deep.

Again, the weather conditions were adverse.

"We couldn't even

When Mackay and the young men reached the horses by snowmobile, they

were too weak to walk out.

"They were pretty pathetic looking. They were skin and bone," he said.

The men were hauling in hay on their sleds, however, it all fell off during the bumpy ride in and the only thing left when they reached the horses were 30 pounds of oats and alfalfa pellets and eight litres of Gatorade. Mackay said he poured some Gatorade onto the oats and forced the rest down the horses' throats.

"They were vomiting it up because they couldn't hold it,"

See **Horse Rescue**, Page 5

*"I made every effort I thought I could do, physically or humanely, and after that you have to make a tough decision. I didn't have a gun, and I wasn't going to slit their throats. Even if I had a gun I don't think I could have shot them." ~ Frank Mackay*

"So I packed my gear and loaded up and headed out there Dec. 5," MacKay said.

see the bottom of the mountain. We didn't know which way was out," MacKay said.

discovered that they were trapped in snow 10 feet deep, MacKay said, and the horses

**HORSESHOEING**

Gary Schwartz McBride, BC  
Farrier Service (250) 569-3319

**When You Need It Done Right**

- Mechanical Work
- I.C.B.C. Glass
- Exhaust
- Welding
- Inspections Stations

**Blackman Bros. Industries**  
6780 Blackman Rd • 250.566.4349 • Res. 250.566.4274

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOLAR COMPANY**

New Grants  
Announced for Solar Hot Water!

**SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEMS**  
GARN SMOKELESS  
OUTDOOR WOOD HEATERS -  
The Perfect Answer to Dead Pine  
PV, Wind, Micro Hydro

[www.rockymountainsolar.ca](http://www.rockymountainsolar.ca)  
[royhoward@telus.net](mailto:royhoward@telus.net)  
250-968-4490