

OPINION

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BIRGIT STUTZ

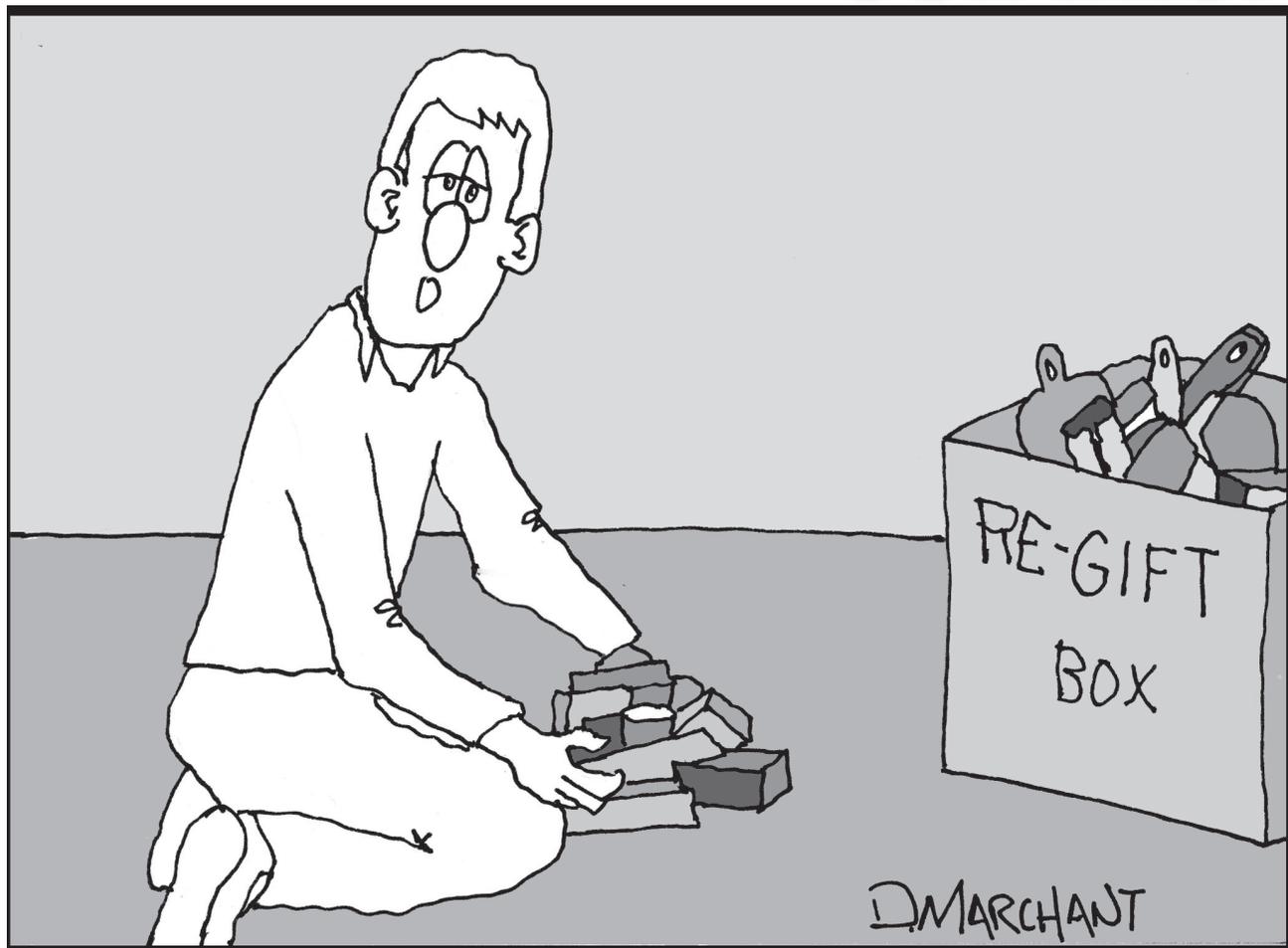
VIEWPOINT

Last week, Robson Valley residents accomplished what many thought was impossible - digging a one-kilometre long trench in six feet of snow to rescue two starved, trapped horses that were found near the Renshaw cabin a couple of weeks ago. Yet people from all walks of life came together and got the job done.

Residents from McBride, Dunster, Valemount, and surrounding areas, as well as a handful of snowmobilers from as far away as Alberta, pulled together at one of the busiest times of the year to help save the two emaciated, abandoned horses. Some families even brought their kids along, the youngest one being 12 years old, so they could experience what it means to work together and to help an animal in need.

Braving frigid temperatures, and facing long, cold, daily rides on snowmobiles to reach the horses, many volunteers doubling up on snowmobiles to get more helpers into the area, the rescue team

worked tirelessly for days, digging a narrow trench which would eventually connect to a groomed logging road. These people completely put their lives on hold, some taking time off work, some delaying their trips to visit family for the holidays, most of them putting off their Christmas traditions. Some volunteers borrowed snowmobiles and others took money out of their own pockets to rent sleds in order to help with the rescue effort, as the only access to the horses was by snowmobile. Several volunteers also suffered frostbites due to the extreme conditions, and the entire ordeal left many physically and mentally exhausted. However, I think all that was forgotten when the trench was finally completed and the horses were led down the "tunnel to freedom" and out onto the logging road just one day before Christmas Eve. It was a wonderful thing to see the happiness, joy and pride in everybody's eyes when the horses were finally freed from their snowy prison. If there is such a thing as community spirit, McBride and area sure has it. Thank you to everybody who helped make this rescue possible. I am proud to be a member of this community.



"THESE ARE THE GIFTS WE ARE KEEPING. IN THE BOX ARE THE GIFTS WE ARE GOING TO RE-WRAP AND GIVE TO OTHERS NEXT CHRISTMAS."

» **ARTS AND THEATRE**

A night at the speakeasy

LORANNE MARTIN
Contributor

MCBRIDE - The McBride Round House Theatre held its annual fund raiser on Saturday, December 13th which was hosted by the Gigglin Grizzly. Approximately 60 guests attended the 1920's Gangster-style theme party, with 45 people dressing up in true gangster style costumes. "I was amazed

at how convincing the costumes were," stated Dutch Malone, (Bob Thompson) a successful gangster.

The Blue Syntax band from Valemount was looking for practice time and was hired for a mere pittance (travel costs). McBride native Greg Clements played drums and 2 horn players, one of whom is enrolled in the music program

at Malaspina College, up in 1920's costumes and waited on the guests hand and foot."

"The Gigglin' Grizzly staff went to great lengths to decorate the banquet room in 1920's style. "It was like stepping back in time and with all the authentic costumes it was like being on a movie set, commented Thompson. The staff also dressed

up in 1920's costumes and waited on the guests hand and foot."

"One of the highlights of the evening came when Mike and Little Mike (aka Mike and Barb Jackson) showed up late to the event dressed in trench coats and sunglasses and in true Bonnie and Clyde fashion pulled

See **Speakeasy**, next page

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