## FROM DIRT TO PAVEMENT: MADISON PENNEY DOMINATES IN HYTHE



Madison Penney, daughter of Todd and Diana Penney, has been making waves since kicking off her first racing season in May at the dirt track in Taylor, BC. After a rough start-including a blown clutch on opening weekend-she was right under the car the next morning with her dad, helping install a new one. That determination earned her a 3rd and 4th place finish early in the season, even with a few tough hits to the wall.

This past weekend, August 30 & 31, Madison tried her hand at pavement for the first time at Hythe Motor Speedway in Alberta—and she didn't just adapt, she dominated, setting the fastest lap in her class and scoring wins in both finals on Saturday and Sunday.

A huge thanks to Onlt Towing for providing the car and engine that made this all possible. And big appreciation to the team at Dalex Auto and our incredible supporters: Charlie and the crew at TireCraft, Bumper to Bumper, Logo Tech, NAPA, Snap-on, and Avery Heinrichs. Madison's success is a true team effortand she's just getting started.



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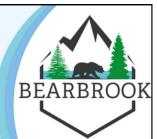


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### **SPRUCED** by Maggie Squires Cobbett

### What's Spruced?

From North Carolina, I'm a southern seed that dropped in the boreal impressed by down-to-earth ways-of-living, Northern Lights, and winter swimming in the Liard Hotsprings. Between arriving mid-1970 and leaving end-of-1990, I worked for Highway lodges, the local pool, BC Parks and managed an outfitter hunting area with partner Ted

who trekked by foot, boat, horse, and bush plane the region's rivers, valleys, and mountains. Then in 1990 I left the marriage, headed south with three grade school daughters and a baby to attend university.

While I went to class the kids went to school. When summer rolled around the trio of older sibs went north. The youngest spent a summer with me in Inuvik where I studied arctic lakes and streams. After high school graduations, each daughter, at various ages and places, pursued degrees and training, travel and work, experience and adventure. But my daughters' compass heading was North and eventually each one returned and put down roots in the spruce forest. With all four offspring in the north, 35 years after living somewhere else, in October 2024 I came back.

Despite decades-long absence, folks remember a very pregnant me riding a bicycle in a bikini back in 1979, and I remember being part of a close knit, caring community. Still cycling at 71 but not in a bikini! the 'welcome back' was warm. Yet, so many years later, Fort Nelson does not look like the town that I left. Replaced by a straight stretch of road to the mountains, the Old Alaska Highway is gateway to farms and acreages and handsome homes with broad lawns. Back in town, there's a first-class recreation centre and forest trail that loops across the flat, up the hill and into the Demonstration Forest. On the other hand, there are newer and bigger hotels with fewer vehicles out front, instead of Tompkins and the Muskwa Café there are fast-food restaurants, up and down the main street businesses are closed, on every street there's a home for sale. And I hear concern about the lack of industrial activity and good-paying jobs, youth moving away, and the four-hour drive to the nearest hospital, birth centre, and travel hub. Yet at the reserve, in town, and on farms and ranches along McConachie Creek folks have deep roots.

So here is Spruced, a place for reader's stories about inheritance and identity, belonging and family, hardship and prosperity. I'm spruced because my daughters and spouses and grandsons and granddaughters have deep roots in the northern boreal.

What's got you spruced? To share a story, contact me at <a href="mailto:squires.maggie@gmail.com">squires.maggie@gmail.com</a>.

### ECOLOGICAL CONSULTING COMPANY Dr. Sonja E. R. Leverkus PhD RPBio RPF PAg EP Founder and Ecosystem Scientist SHIFTING MOSAICS Phone: 250-321-7069 CONSULTING Email: info@shiftingmosaics.com Website: https://shiftingmosaics.com "Conserving biodiversity from the past, in the present, for the future."

### MUSKWA MUSINGS with Casey Gairdner

### Dancing In the Sky: the return of the lights!

As the northern sky darkens and the chill of autumn settles in, our community is once again treated to the ethereal dance of the aurora borealis. While science explains these shimmering curtains of light as solar particles interacting with Earth's atmosphere, for generations, Indigenous peoples have viewed these natural phenomenon through a deeper, more spiritual lens.



To many in the Cree and Dene nations, the Northern Lights are not just a spectacle, they are a bridge between worlds. Cree legends often speak of the lights as the spirits of our ancestors, dancing in the sky. It's said that when you see them, they are a sign that loved ones who have passed on are happy and watching over us. The brilliant display is believed by some cultures to be the spirits communicating, a whisper of comfort and reassurance, not to mention a sight that brings awe to many.

Dene legends also hold this connection to the spirit world, with some traditions viewing the lights as the spirits of animals like the caribou, celebrating their existence in the sky. There's a shared respect for this phenomenon, and a common warning, do not whistle at the lights. It's believed that doing so could provoke the spirits, causing them to descend.

So, the next time you look up and see the sky ablaze with green and purple, take a moment to reflect on these stories. They remind us that we are part of a larger, interconnected web of life, with our ancestors guiding us from the star-lit heavens. It's a powerful and humbling thought, a true blessing of life in the North.

Everyone enjoy the week ahead and be sure to go check out the Street festival this upcoming weekend it is sure to be a good time for everyone!

Until next week,

Casey Gairdner "The Muskwa Muser" - Muskwamuser@gmail.com

WANT TO WRITE AN ARTICLE? EMAIL US TO GET MORE INFO **NEWSLETTER@FNCLS.COM** 



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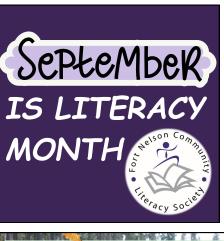


-iPhone -Samsung Certified Used Cell Phone From \$99.99





# Fort Nelson Hospice Society 😘 Moved 50<sup>TH</sup> AVE N #6 LANDMARK PLAZA GREENBAY TAX ATION)



Got an Event? Let Us Help Spread the Word — For Free!

Send us your event name, time, and location, and we'll add it to our community calendar at no cost. Email the details to: newsletter@fncls.com

Alcoholics Anonymous - Mondays, Wednesdays & Saturdays - 8:00PM to 9:00PM Mondays at the United Church 5108 Sunset Drive, Wednesdays & Saturdays - 4916 50th Ave North Unit # 6 <\*NOTE\* LOCATION CHANGE>

Narcotics Anonymous - Fridays - 7:00PM - Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Centre

### NRRM Recreation Centre Fall Swim Schedule

Lane Swim - Tuesday & Thursday - 6:30AM to 9:00AM Family/Lane Swim - Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun - 9:00AM to 1:00PM Family/Lane Swim - Tuesday & Thursday - 9:00AM to 11:00AM Accessibility Swim - Tuesday & Thursday - 11:00AM to 1:00PM **Public Swim -** Monday to Sunday - 1:00PM to 4:00PM **Evening Swim -** Monday to Friday - 4:00PM to 8:00PM

Phoenix Theatre - Closed For Upgrades - August 29 to September 18

Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>

Literacy Society "Open House" - 11:00AM to 3:00PM - Literacy Society Soup and Seniors Social - 11:30AM Soup, 12:30PM Social - Northern Lamplighters Hall Women of Wellness - 5:00PM to 7:00PM - Friendship Centre Grief Support Group - 6:30PM - 4916 50th Ave North Unit # 6

Tuesday, September 9th

Wednesday, September 10th

Baby Playgroup Ages 0-2 - 9:00AM to 11:00AM - NR Child Development 5011 Airport Drive Canasta - 11:00AM - Northern Lamplighters Hall Tech Support for Seniors - 4:30PM to 5:30PM - City Furniture International Potluck (Spain/Portugal) - 5:30PM to 7:00PM - Literacy Society

### Thursday, September 11th

**The Park Social -** 10:00AM to 11:30AM - Art Fraser Park **Knitting & Crafts -** 3:00PM - Northern Lamplighters Hall

Friday, September 12th

Knit & Crochet: Community Helpers - 1:30PM to 3:30PM - Fort Nelson Public Library Fun & Games - 1:30PM - Northern Lamplighters Hall StreetFest - 5:00PM to 12:00AM - 50th Ave S In Front of the Phoenix Theatre

Saturday, September 13th

Fort Nelson Farmers Market - 9:00AM to 3:00PM - Elks Hall Canasta - 11:00AM - Northern Lamplighters Hall StreetFest - 11:00AM to 6:00PM - 50th Ave S In Front of the Phoenix Theatre

Sunday, September 14th

### NRSS MEALS ON WHEELS MENU \$10.00/MEAL



Call to order 250-774-3193 the day prior

Tuesday, Sept 9 - Meatballs, Rice & Veggies

Thursday, Sept 11 - Cold Plate With Salads, Chicken & Ham

\*Menu may be subject to change depending on circumstance\*

NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY Opportunities & Notices

Career Opportunities

Job Posting No. 2025.24 Labourer I - Recreation Closes: Sep 15, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

> For current career opportunities visit www.northernrockies.ca/careers

**Bidding Opportunities** 

ITT-2025-20 Leachate Force Main -**Construction Phase 1** 

Closes: Sep 11 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

For current bidding opportunities visit www.northernrockies.bidsandtenders.ca

Advisories, Notices & Hearings

### Share Shed - Located at the Landfill

Give or take clean, usable items for FREE. Help your community, reduce waste, and save money!

Hours:



Tue-Wed 11:30am-5pm Thu-Sun 11am-5pm Closed Mondays



NOTE: This advertisement contains the most curren



**'BEEM There, Done That'** Money tips, local insight, and advice from the credit union that gets it.

Financial Goals for Fall

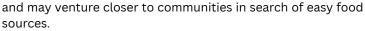
September's a fresh start. Pay down a debt, boost savings, or finally start that emergency fund.

Need help making it happen? Book a fall planning session with BEEM.

Call 1-877-787-0361 or visit BEEM Credit Union (formerly **North Peace Savings)** here in Fort Nelson.

## STAY BEAR AWARE IN THE NORTHERN ROCKIES

As fall approaches in the Northern Rockies, bear activity increases. Bears enter a period called hyperphagia, where they eat almost constantly to build fat reserves for winter hibernation. This means they're more likely to be active during the day



Whether you live in town, hike on weekends, or camp in the backcountry, it's important to reduce the chances of a bear encounter. Store garbage securely until collection day, remove attractants like fallen fruit, pet food, and unclean BBQs, and keep pets leashed. On trails, travel in groups, make noise, and carry bear spray. When camping, store food and toiletries in bear-proof containers. If you see a bear, stay calm, speak softly, and back away slowly-never run.

Jenn Riggs, Community Coordinator for WildSafeBC Northern Rockies, offers free presentations, and event booths to help people learn how to safely coexist with wildlife. To connect with Jenn, email northernrockies@wildsafebc.com.

To report concerning bear behaviour, call the RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277 or #7277 on the TELUS Mobility Network. For more information, visit bcparks.ca.

Let's all do our part to keep wildlife wild and communities safe especially during this busy fall season.



Date:Sept 25,2025

Time:11am-1pm

Location:Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society

ID requirements are based on the service offering requiplesse bring a piece of Government issued photo ID. If you need a SIN, please bring: your birth certificate, certificate of Indian Status and any other forms of federal or provincial identification you may have.

Government Gouvernement du Canada

Service Canada Get a Social Insurance Number

- Receive a PAC access code to sign up for My Service Canada - Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP)

- Employment Insurance (EI) - Pension information for Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS)

- Passport Information

- General Government of Canada information

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Tax Slip information (T4, T5007) T4A-Pension, T4A-OAS and more) Notice of Assessments (NOAs) and Assistance with CRA

correspondence Benefits and Credits information: Disability Tax Credit (DTC), Canada Child Benefit (CCB), GST/HST credit, Canada Worker's Benefit (CWB)

- Account updates (address, contact number, direct deposit, etc.)

Canada



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# Ryan Kerr Senior Santa Project

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