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place to stay, relax and explore year-round. Opportunities in the Robson Valley, and is an ideal place to stay, relax and explore year-round.

On one side, the majestic Rocky Mountains on the other, with the mighty Fraser River winding through forests and farmlands, fed by numerous rivers and streams.

Picture the snow-capped Cariboo Mountains in McBride, BRITISH COLUMBIA
 START YOUR ADVENTURE

McBride Up Close
 visitmcbri.ca/maps
 Locomotive gateway
 Mural by Glen Frear
 Mural of 2704
 View from the gazebo
 Railway Station
 CNR caboose
 Scale model solar system Neptune sign
 Recreation Centre Community Hall
 Fire Hall
 Hospital, doctors, emergency, pharmacy, health services
 Roundhouse Theatre
 Horseshoe Lake Rd
 Birdwatching gazebo
 Display ad key
 Laundry phone
 Pay phone
 Photo opportunity
 Birdwatching/Wildlife viewing
 Northern Routes cultural sites

McBride F A Q
 Elevation: 722m / 2350'
 Population: Village of McBride: 616 surrounding area: 1,586
 Av. annual rainfall: 533mm / 21"
 Av. annual snowfall: 170cm / 67"

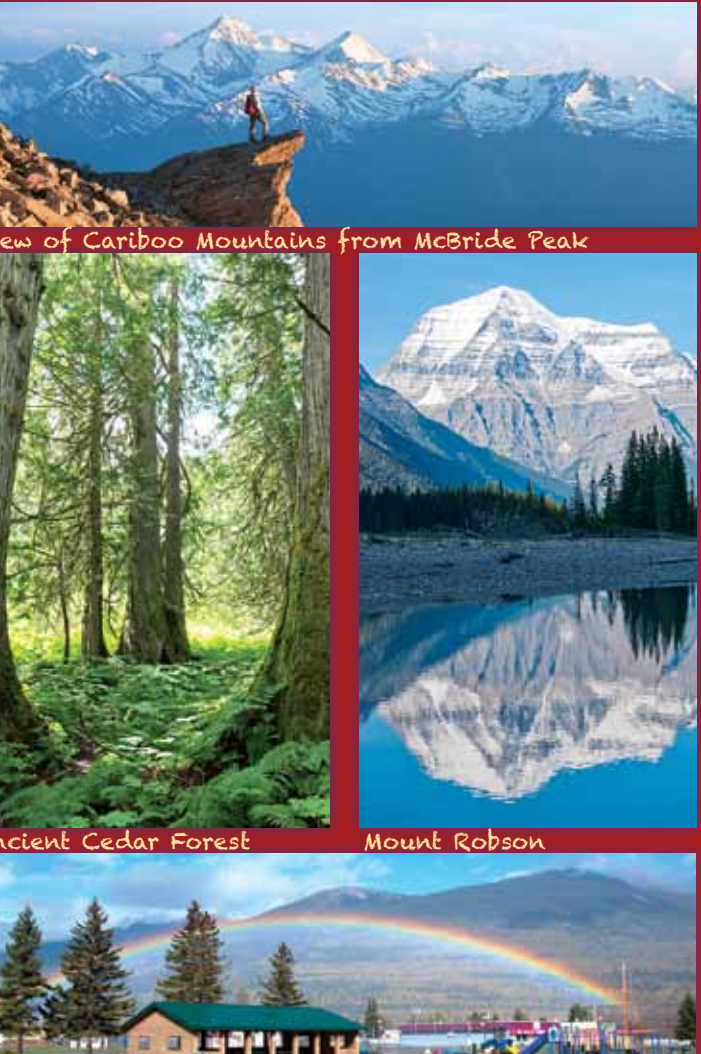
West	Km	Miles
Goat River	40	24
Crescent Spur	50	30
Loos	53	32
Dome Creek	55	33
Ancient Forest	55	33
Prince George	212	132
Prince Rupert	934	580
Vancouver	998	620
Dawson Creek	693	431
Tuktoyaktuk	3337	2074

East	Km	Miles
Dunster	30	18
Tete Jaune	63	39
Mt Robson Pk	76	47
Jasper	166	103
Edmonton	530	329
Calgary	581	361
Halifax	5423	3370
Vancouver	402	250
Vancouver	756	470

McBride Area
 visitmcbri.ca/maps
 Koeneman Regional Park
 Day picnics
 Koeneman House
 Log picnic shelter
 Equine staging area
 Informal boat launch

McBride & Robson Valley VISITOR GUIDE

British Columbia, Canada



McBride's Heritage Railway Station
 The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company laid out the townsite in a standard GTP design with the station as the focus of Main Street, flanked by two parks, and it remains the same to this day. The present station was completed in 1919 on the sturdy foundations of the original, which was lost to fire in 1918. Meeting the passenger train was major entertainment for villagers. With rail as the only viable way in and out for many years, the station was where one went to wait for the mail, ship milk and cream, pick up supplies, send a telegram, have a good feed at the 24-hour Beanyer Restaurant, or just catch up on gossip. Canadian National, owner of the railway, moved the last of its operations out of the building in 1989. The Canadian government designated the station a heritage building, and the Village of McBride purchased it in the early 1990s. Much of the ground floor of the station has been renovated along 1920 lines with locally grown and milled wood. The station is again a gathering place, the home of the Visitor Information Centre and a new beanyer. The art gallery is an attraction with work by local artists and artisans, and VIA Rail's year-round passenger trains continue a century of service to McBride.

Whistle Stop Gallery
 Located inside the historic McBride train station at First and Main, visitors can see an amazing variety of original, local artwork created by more than 100 members of the non-profit Whistle Stop Gallery Society. Members have also worked hard to bring arts and culture into the Robson Valley as evidenced by various public art projects including murals, artistic fire hydrants and participation in various cultural festivals and events.

The station is also home to mementos and photos tracing McBride's pioneer past, and the gallery stocks many books about the history of the region by local authors.

EXPLORE McBRIDE
 Breathtaking mountain beauty, clean air. Fine dining or home-made style takeouts. Friendly streets, good conversation. Explore the historic village and forested trail. With full services, relaxing green spaces, playground, skate park and rec centre, McBride is your year-round stopping place.



Museum and Library
 Head down Main Street to visit the beautiful new library and museum by the locomotive gateway. Browse books and meet local people, connect with a computer or free wifi. Use your BC library card to borrow or return library materials here. Both organizations offer fun, interesting programs for all ages including music, speakers, movies, history, arts and crafts. Travellers are welcome to take part! Browse digital archives at the museum and tour the latest exhibitions. Be sure to see the casts of dinosaur footprints from the Monroe Trackway discovered just 70 km north of town. Pick up a travel guide to the many history plaques around McBride. Visit mcbri.de.bc.libraries.coop & valleymuseumarchives.ca

McBride's Scale Model Solar System
 You can have fun with astronomy in McBride even on a rainy day! Starting from the sun (a street lamp near the railway station) travel down Main Street and find each planet's orbit as you head to the outer solar system. At approx. 3 billion-to-one scale, the walk from the Sun to Neptune is 1.5 km, 3 km return. Pick up a free brochure for more astronomy facts to enjoy during your "space flight." visitmcbri.ca/solar

Dominion Creek Trail
 Retrace some of the steps of the builders of the railway and early McBride in a forested trail just a few blocks from Main Street. In 1912-13 supplies were carted from ships and scows at the river up to the future railway yard. For a longer nature walk through town, follow the suggested route to Horseshoe Lake. Orange path on McBride map.

Horseshoe Lake Gazebo
 Horseshoe Lake, formed from an oxbow channel of the Fraser River, boasts a variety of bird species. A mobility friendly walkway takes you over water to the covered gazebo where you can enjoy the peaceful surroundings. From the Visitor Centre to the gazebo is 1.3 km. Ask at the Visitor Centre for the complete Robson Valley bird list or check us out online at visitmcbri.ca

RELAX BY RAIL
One of the north's best kept secrets
 Another way to come to McBride is on VIA Rail's daytime passenger train, the Skeena. It runs year round and travels quite a different route from the highway, serving many communities between Jasper, Prince George and Prince Rupert. From Tete Jaune to Dome Creek it gives views of the meandering Fraser. To the east it runs along the mountainside, giving panoramic views across to Mount Robson. A dome observation/bar car is usually included with economy class. It gives a cosy way to relax with family or friends while VIA does the driving—even blizzards are fun! (Note: on some trains in summer the dome car is reserved for touring class only.) Beverages and snacks can be bought on board, or take a picnic. Bicycles, kayaks, small canoes and caged pets can usually be taken along for extra fees—check what is available before travel. For current fares, schedules and on-line booking see viarail.ca. The waiting room in McBride station is open every afternoon for the train, and has more information. visitmcbri.ca/rail

McBride Mountain Trails
 A great way to have fun near McBride is walking or cycling our new trail system just 4 km from town. Built by local volunteer effort in partnership with several agencies, the McBride Mountain Trails are for hiking, cycling and horse riding, and are great in snowshoeing season too. The 24 km network branches off and crosses the forest service road in several places, providing a great variety of trips. The routes take you through an amazing variety of natural settings, from the cool shade of a cedar forest, aspen groves, and fern-fringed wetland, to drier pine and spruce habitat where you can see stumps drilled by large pillared woodpeckers. Start from downtown, from the forest road, or part way between at Koeneman Park. New paths under the highway bridge near Koeneman Park make a fun connection to the river beach at low water. See map above for directions to the trail head. Trail etiquette: non-motorized use only. Cyclists yield to equestrians, hikers yield to both. See the kiosk at the horseback staging area by Koeneman House for details on trail use, or visitmcbri.ca/parks.

HOW WE BEGAN
 FOR CENTURIES the Yellowhead Pass was a First Nations trading route. At the west end of the pass, the Shuswap people had seasonal salmon fishing camps and a village which became known as Tete Jaune Cache in the 1800s. Further west the Rausch River valley, where they were as well before the railway came, was noted on a map in 1871 as Riviere au Shuswap, later shortened to Rausch. The nineteenth century brought explorers, goldseekers and railway surveyors. Early in the 1900s the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company planned an extension of their line from the prairies to a port on the west coast through the Yellowhead Pass. Railway construction took place in what is now the Robson Valley from 1911 to 1914. At that time the only route through thick forests was the Fraser River. Thousands of workers plus food, horses, lumber, and concrete and steel for railway bridges went down the river on scows. Graceful ships called sternwheelers steamed right up the river to Tete Jaune until summer 1913 when a railway bridge was "accidentally" built too low for them to pass. Huge camps made of logs and tents were set up for the workers—they along with horses and mules provided most of the labour. The railway contractors enforced prohibition within 3 miles of their camps, so just beyond, another camp would appear with belles, booze and card rooms. As construction passed through, these camps vanished, but some of the railway settlements grew and flourished. The railway had maintenance sections about 8 miles apart. Stations were built at many of them. Most were identical to the only one now preserved in the valley, at Dunster. Some names of past and present communities are Red Pass, Mount Robson, Rearguard, Tete Jaune, Shere, Croydon, Dunster, Rausch, Eddy, McBride, Craibreen, Legrand, Rider, Goat River, Crescent Spur, Loos, Snowshoe, Urling, Kidd, Dome Creek, Penny, and on down the line. A century after railway construction, the only other station left is at McBride. The railway, owned for the past century by Canadian National, (CN Rail) is busy and much more automated, with trains more than 4.5 km (2.8 miles) long serving an expanding port and realizing the builders' dreams all those years ago. THE SITE OF McBRIDE was surveyed and established as a divisional point on the railway in 1912, and its first station was claimed, for a while, to be the largest between Winnipeg and Prince Rupert. The yards had eight miles of track in addition to a roundhouse, turntable, bunkhouse, two water towers, a dam and an ice house. As a newly constructed railway town, the community was known as Mile 90, its distance from the Alberta border. On July 1st, 1913 it was officially named McBride after Sir Richard McBride, the Premier of British Columbia. For over 50 years there was no road through the valley so McBride developed as a self sufficient community with almost all services needed including schools, a hospital and drug store, clothing, grocery and variety stores, car and farm machinery dealerships, a drive-in and theatre, real estate office and airfield. In 1932 the village was incorporated and over time the boundaries extended. Highway 16 was officially opened in 1970, bringing to an end the isolation of the village. Today McBride is supported by a diverse economy, including railway, agriculture, forestry, tourism, arts, culture, and community services.

McBride Peak
 McBride Peak offers a panoramic view of the Robson Valley and the village of McBride. A fire lookout, built in 1930, is located near the peak. Building materials for it were hauled up by packhorses on the steep mountain trail. A second building at the Halfway Viewpoint provided an overnight stop for staff going to the top, and served as a lookout during spring before snow melted at higher elevations. Built by the industrious Fred Koeneman, this historic cabin still overlooks McBride and Fred's homestead (now Koeneman Park). The site, maintained by Rec Sites and Trails BC and the McBride Community Forest, offers picnic tables, fire rings and a pit toilet. The road is steep with several switchbacks, so 4WD is recommended. Visitors are reminded to use their gears when descending, to avoid burning out the brakes. A further 5.5 km rough, steep 4WD road zig-zags to a parking lot below the tree line. From there, travel in the alpine is strictly non-motorized.

Parade on July 1st, 1913 at Mile 90, renamed McBride that day.
 A parade on July 1st, 1913 at Mile 90, renamed McBride that day. The name "Robson Valley" was chosen in a contest held by the Dunster Farmers' Institute in 1922.

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V33



A ANCIANT FOREST / CHUN T'OH WHUDUJUT PROVINCIAL PARK

As Pacific storm systems sweep over the interior mountain ranges of British Columbia they leave heavy rain in the valleys. In the watershed of the upper Fraser River this has given rise to a unique inland temperate rainforest. A significant example this is the Ancient Forest which has western red cedar trees that are likely 1,000+ years old, and greater than 2.5 to 3 meters (8-10 feet) in diameter. Home to over 1300 species of plants, mosses and lichens this ecologically unique area hosts a variety of animal and bird species and is a popular year-round destination for hiking or snowshoeing. Thanks largely to grass roots community efforts, the forest has several kilometers of marked trails and walkways, and includes a 450 metre long universal access boardwalk.

Parking at the trail head is 95 km west of McBride on Highway 16. Day-use/picnic area only. Universal access pit toilets. For more details, see bcparcs.ca

PARKS AND TRAILS
visitmcbride.ca/parks

B Boulder Mountain Trail
Offers a steep 6 km trail through an old growth forest up to open alpine, with excellent views of the Rocky Mountain Trench. Access: Off the Goat River Forest Service Road, 34 km west of McBride. Further up the FSR is the start of the historic Goat River Trail to Bowron Lakes and Barkerville. A week's hike over the Caribos.

C Bell Mountain
Provides excellent views of the McBride area, as well as open alpine hiking. Access: Bell Mountain Road, 9.3 km west of McBride on Hwy 16, with vehicle access (rough) to start of alpine (16 km). A multi-season recreation area used by skiers, snowshoers, and sledders in winter, and equestrians and hikers in summer. The equestrian and hiking trail networks extend from the Dore River, connect with the ski trails mid mountain, and up to the sled trails and alpine meadows on top of Bell Mtn. Many loops in the network offer short or long trail options. Trail heads are located at km 0 on the Dore River FSR, and at 3 km and 5 km on Bell Mountain FSR. Rustic equine campgrounds with two corals at each site are planned for the mountain close to McIntosh Falls.



D Ozalenka Trail
A 6.9 km trail ascending gradually to an open alpine features wildflowers, small lakes and waterfalls in summer, and fun snowfields in winter. A public hut is available for overnight use. **Pre-registration is required** by calling the Ozalenka Alpine Club at 250-569-2596. Access: km 19 on the West Dore Forest Road via Dore River Road, 5 km west of McBride.

E Kristi Glacier Trail
A 10.9 km trail leading to a high elevation alpine pass area in the Cariboo Mountains. A small backcountry campsite is located at the end of the trail. Access: From the middle fork of the Dore River drainage, access via Dore River road, 5 km west of McBride.

F Avalanche Valley Trail
Starting on Dore R. road, 5 km west of McBride, go 8.4 km left onto South Dore FSR, then 18 km to trail head. 13 km one way with steep sections. Provides spectacular views of the Cariboo Mountains. A backcountry campsite is on the edge of Cariboo Lake just below Roberts Glacier.

G Eagle Valley Trail
Trail head at km 13.1 on South Dore FSR. Offers a moderate 9 km trail to access a spectacular moraine and glacier environment. Public hut available for overnight use. **Pre-registration is required** by calling the Ozalenka Alpine Club at 250-569-2596.

H Mount Lucille Alpine
Open alpine hiking offering splendid viewing, lakes and wildflowers. Access: From Lucille Forest Road, which starts just 5 minutes from downtown McBride. At the 4.5 km mark take the right fork. Rough vehicle access to parking, with up to 5 km hike to the sub-alpine, depending on parking location.



- ON ROAD & TRAIL**
Be alert for wildlife running out in front of you on highways and back roads, night and day.
- When travelling forest roads, watch for trucks especially when active logging is in progress. Watch for signs indicating road restrictions.
 - Gear down when descending steep mountain roads to avoid burning out brakes.
 - Protect the fragile ecosystem—please do not use motorized vehicles in the alpine and stay on trails.
 - Before setting out, educate yourself about local conditions and wildlife!
 - Never feed wild animals, or leave food items or packaging where they might find them, and pack out what you pack in.
 - Enjoy watching wildlife at a safe distance or from a vehicle.
 - For more details and tips, see **wildsafebc.com**

DOME CREEK

The community of Dome Creek lies down in the valley several kilometres north of Highway 16 along the railway and the Fraser River. Founded by the railway in 1912-13, it continues as a settlement and farming area. Its first school is now under development as a museum. The community has a Post Office and a library open Monday afternoons and Friday evenings. The library, Lena Schultz Reading Room, has high speed Internet accessible anytime from the front porch.



Robson Valley

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WILLMORE WILDERNESS PROVINCIAL PARK

KINNEY LAKE AT THE BASE OF MT. ROBSON, RIGHT, AND MT. WHITEHORN.
MOUNT ROBSON PROVINCIAL PARK
Mount Robson Provincial Park starts just 76 km from McBride. Named after the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies (3954 m, 12,972 ft) the park features world famous hiking experiences such as the Berg Lake trail. Consult the Mount Robson Visitor Information Centre (seasonal) to plan your wilderness adventure. bcparcs.ca

PLAYING HERE
visitmcbride.ca/play

ATVs
Enthusiasts of all experience levels are lured and challenged by the variety of road systems the Robson Valley has to offer.

Bird Watching
Varied and plentiful opportunities from the valley bottom up to the alpine. More than 170 species have been identified between Mount Robson and Dome Creek (checklists are available at the Visitor Centre). Be sure to visit the Horseshoe Lake observation platform.

Camping
From full service private campgrounds to back country camping, there are many options. The McBride Community Forest maintains two rustic campsites. Privately owned campgrounds along Highway 16 offer electrical hookups, washrooms, hot showers, laundry facilities and corals. Look for the camping symbols on the maps on this guide.

Backcountry Skiing
Bell Mountain and the Dore River drainage offer terrain for all skill levels. Snowmobile access may be required for some areas.

Cross-country skiing
Bell Mountain offers approximately 15 kms of groomed and track-set trails complete with a cabin managed by the Yellowhead Ski Club.

Dogsled tours
For a unique experience, try mushing, either as a passenger or driver, in the Small River area. Spend the day, complete with picnic lunch.

Heli-skiing
World renowned skiing in the snow laden Cariboo and Rocky Mountains.

Horseback riding and guided tours
Spectacular trails across the region have been designed for, or are suitable for riding. For details on three, see Bell Mtn (C), Blueberry Trail (M), and McBride Mtn (overleaf). Guided horseback tours are a great option for visitors of any experience level. An opportunity for ice fishing, with large dollies up to 18 pounds found in the large, deep pools.

Holmes (Beaver) River
Located 11 km east of McBride, great fishing for dollies and rainbow, especially at the falls just up from the main highway.

LaSalle Lakes
46 km west of McBride, just east of Crescent Spur. The east lake, which offers smaller rainbow, has a blazed footpath to a canoe launch. The west lake, another 1.5 km westward and 1.5 km off Hwy 16, has a rustic overnight campsite with tables, fire pits, a swimming dock, small boat launch (no motors please), beach and some big eastern brook trout. An opportunity for ice fishing, but the access road may not be plowed in winter.

Little Lost Lake
There is a 20-minute foot trail that takes the angler to this beautiful little lake, located on a bench just above the weigh scale at Tete Jaune. Some big rainbow trout have been fished here.

McKale (Blackwater) River
Access via Mountainview Road, beginning just east of McBride, on the north side of the Fraser River. Good for dollies, rainbow and whitefish. Also, logging road access into the headwaters of the river.

Nevin (King), Holliday (Baker) Horsey Creek & Small River
All four creeks are east of McBride along Highway 16. Access to Nevin and Holliday Creeks is on foot, while Horsey Ck and Small River have logging road access off the highway. Fishing is good for dollies and rainbow. After high water, a run of larger dollies occurs.

Shere Lake
A small lake located off the Dunster-Tete Jaune Road. A short trail and wharf provide access to the lake. Suitable for day use only. An opportunity for ice fishing, but the access road may not be plowed in winter.

The Fraser River is . . .
1375 km (854 miles) long
fifth largest river in Canada, by volume
and drains an area of 220,000 km²
(almost the area of Britain)

Instructions for using this guide

- Blue number squares on the maps and ads are to help you locate the advertisers.
- Find updates at visitmcbride.ca
- Why? Page 1 upside down? We are known as the windy valley. To view the other side of this guide in a gale: keep a firm grip left and right, and rotate it vertically. In calm air: Same as above. Enjoy!

CRESCENT SPUR-LOOS

Visit the path less travelled in Crescent Spur-Loos. Made up of several communities which grew and faded as sawmills came and went, it now attracts back country enthusiasts from all over the world. From grizzly bear watching in the Morkill to hiking the historic Goat River Trail, the unspoiled wilderness offers a true challenge to the adventurous at heart. For a more relaxed trip, take a guided tour through the many old growth forests, or visit La Salle Lakes. Little La Salle is a popular fishing destination and La Salle Lake campground offers rustic camping with a swimming dock, non-motorized boat launch and beach.

DUNSTER
Named after a town in England by the railway during construction in 1913. Dunster remained settled after the building boom, and has flourished as a farming area ever since. It once had many dairy farms which sent cream out in cans by passenger train, until the highway and tanker trucks replaced that in the late 1960s. In recent decades most have changed over to beef farming.

The Dunster Community Hall, located on the uphill side of the highway, hosts a community market on Saturdays 11am-1pm, July to September, where one can find home baking, garden produce, crafts, flea market items and barbecued lunches. The community also hosts the world famous Ice Cream Social and dance on the Saturday evening closest to July 1—an annual event not to be missed.

For a scenic drive to 'downtown' Dunster turn west onto the paved Dunster Station Road, down to the picturesque Flower Bridge across the Fraser River. Whenever the highways department paint the bridge white, local women decorate it with flower paintings. Nearby is the home of the annual Robson Valley Music Festival, held in August.

At the "T" intersection turn left and follow the road until you come to Dunster's quaint country general store and post office open daily, and the 1913 railway station at the VIA Rail flag stop.



20 34

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TETE JAUNE

Tete Jaune Cache was briefly a major centre with a shipyard during construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and while flooding erased most of the signs of early activity, local history books are alive with the tales of its existence.

Pronounced "tee jon cash", it is named after a yellow-headed trapper thought to be Pierre Bostonski, who caded his furs near Mt. Robson. The pass and the highway received the English version of his nickname.

Tete Jaune has evolved as an attractive residential community and a stopping place for tourists. See the history kiosk at the Tete Jaune Community Hall, visit Jackman Flats and walk the trails along the jackpine covered sand dunes. Go mushing with a dogsled team, take a guided horseback ride, go whitewater rafting down the Fraser River, or relax in a spa and enjoy the wilderness beauty around you.

Once down the hill you skirt a wide backwater area hemmed in by the railway grade, where you can observe a variety of bird species. Across the CNR tracks into the forested site of old Tete Jaune. You are now on Old Tete Jaune Road, and five minutes further you cross the McLennan River Bridge. Here a short turnoff takes you to the Fraser River where, in August, you may see the incredible ritual of spawning Chinook salmon.

Cross the railway (Harvey flag stop) and soon come to a "T" intersection with Blackman Road. Turn left and pass through the community of Tete Jaune to the highway junction, from where you can drive west to Dunster and McBride. Check with the Visitor Centre at 1-866-569-3366 or ask at the Dunster Store about current road conditions.

Another 10 km east is Watertank Hill, where there is a view over a steep dropoff to the meandering Fraser River and the Rockies.

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Whistle Stop Gallery

First and Main, McBride
250-569-8891
www.whistlestopgallery.org

TRAVEL THE ROBSON VALLEY ON VIA RAIL PASSENGER TRAINS YEAR-ROUND

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TRAVEL THE ROBSON VALLEY ON VIA RAIL PASSENGER TRAINS YEAR-ROUND

via rail.ca

VIA Rail Canada

VILLAGE OF McBRIDE

36

Village of McBride
Enjoy a stroll through town!

www.mcbride.ca
250-569-2229

Robson Valley Recreation Centre & Community Centre

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Robson Valley Recreation Centre & Community Centre

Skating • Curling
Roller skating
Fitness centre
Convertacourt
Social events
Weddings • Banquets
www.rdffg.bc.ca 250-569-3360

Visit the Beaver (Holmes) River, La Salle Lakes, and McBride Peak Recreation Sites this summer.

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Visit the Beaver (Holmes) River, La Salle Lakes, and McBride Peak Recreation Sites this summer.

Maintained by the McBride Community Forest Corporation.

Comments/Concerns:
call (250) 569-0262

McBride with Bakery & Deli

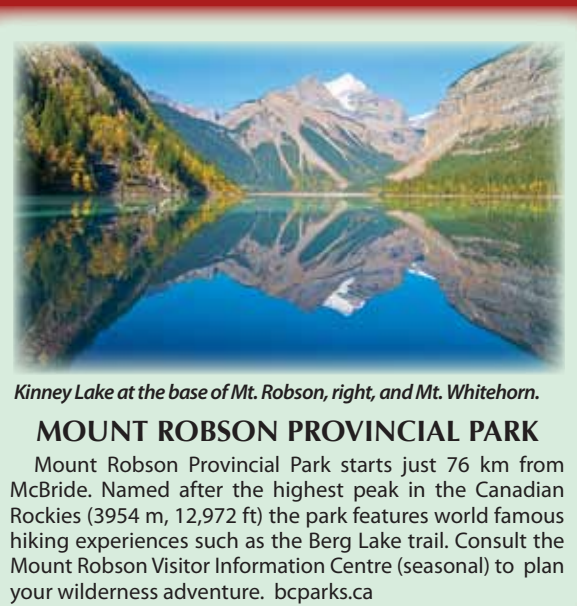
39

McBride
with Bakery & Deli

Mon. 6:30 am-6 pm
Tues. 6:30 am-6 pm
Wed. 6:30 am-6 pm
Thurs. 6:30 am-6 pm
Fri. 6:30 am-7 pm
Sat. 6:30 am-6 pm
Sun. 9 am-5 pm

your neighbourhood grocery store...
fresh food, friendly service

410 Main St 250-569-0140



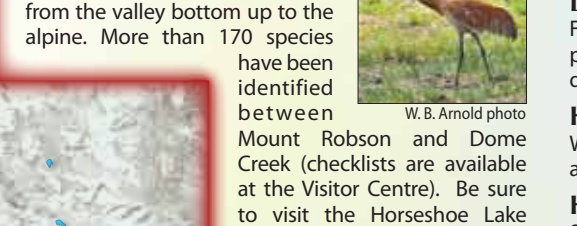
Kinney Lake at the base of Mt. Robson, right, and Mt. Whitehorn.



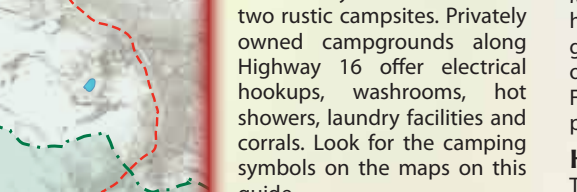
Rufous hummingbirds winter as far as Mexico but fly back to the Robson Valley every spring.



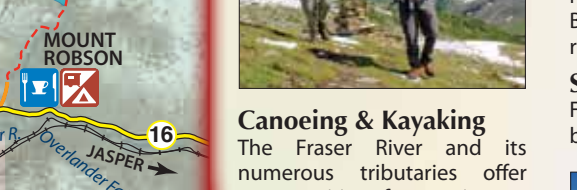
W. B. Arnold photo



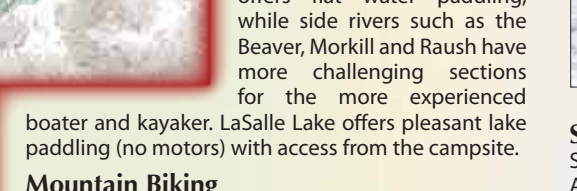
Eileen MacDonald photo



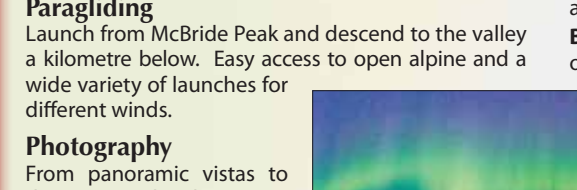
Matt Elliott photo



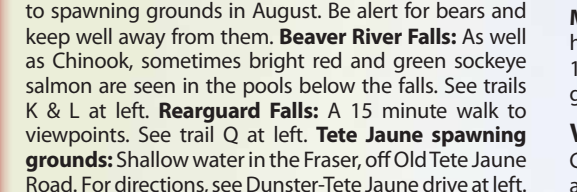
Matt Elliott photo



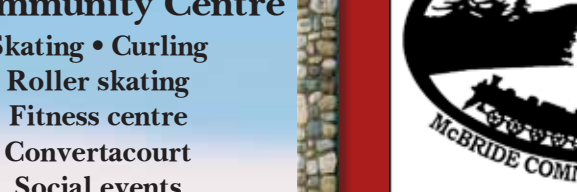
Matt Elliott photo



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Matt Elliott photo



Matt Elliott photo



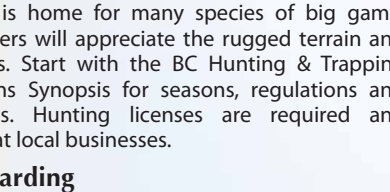
W. B. Arnold photo



Eileen MacDonald photo



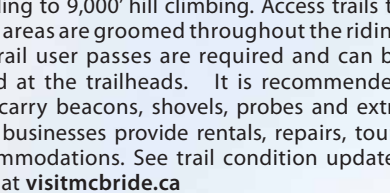
Matt Elliott photo



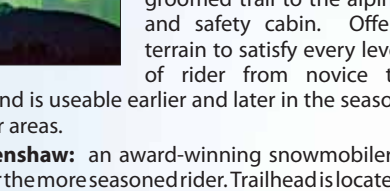
Matt Elliott photo



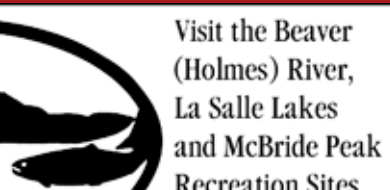
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