



# BURNS LAKE DISTRICT NEWS

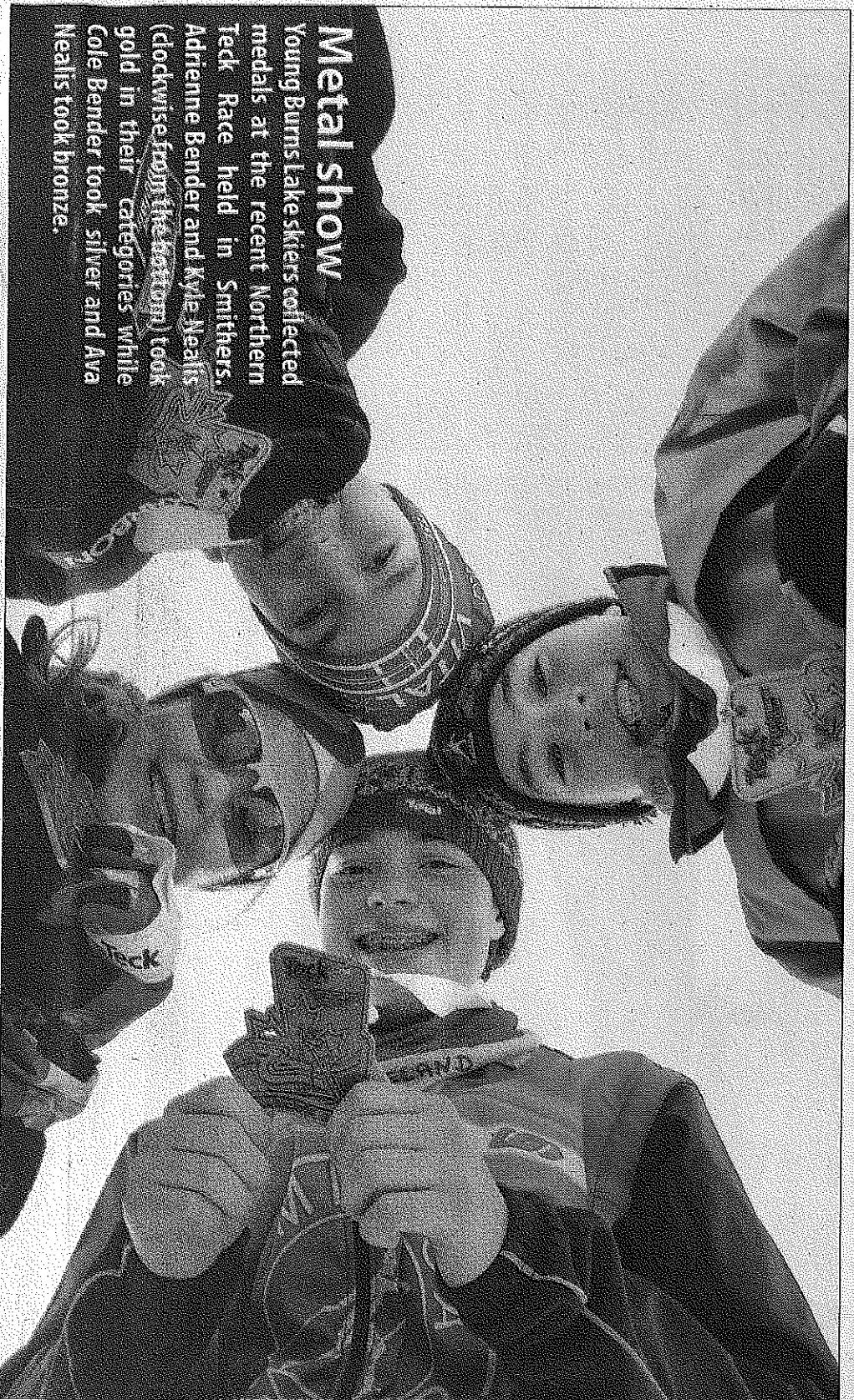
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JUL 09/14

# DISTRICT NEWS



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**Metal show**  
 Young Burn's Lake skiers collected medals at the recent Northern Teck Race held in Smithers. Adrienne Bender and Kyle Nealis (clockwise from the bottom) took gold in their categories while Cole Bender took silver and Ava Nealis took bronze.

## No criminal charges against Babine Forest Products

Ministry of Justice and WorkSafe BC in Burns Lake for announcement

WALTER STRONG

Representatives from the B.C. ministry of justice and WorkSafe BC were in Burns Lake on Jan. 10, 2014 to announce to workers and family members the long-awaited conclusion of Crown Council's investigation into the 2012 mill explosion at Babine Forest Products (BFP) sawmill near Burns Lake.

Criminal Justice Branch communications counsel Neil Mackenzie said, "The crown has concluded there will not be any charges approved against Babine Forest Products in relation to the explosion and fire in January 2012."

The Jan. 20, 2012 mill explosion killed two workers and injured many more.

"The meeting today in Burns Lake was with affected workers and family members to inform them of the decision," Mackenzie added. A written statement provided by the ministry of

justice said the ministry did not believe charges related to the violations identified by WorkSafe BC would lead to a criminal conviction.

"Based on the evidence that would likely be available for presentation by Crown Counsel in court, the [Criminal Justice] branch has concluded that there is no substantial likelihood of conviction for any of the regulatory offences recommended by WorkSafe BC. The charge assessment analysis included consideration of a viable defence of due diligence."

WorkSafe BC had referred the case, along with the Prince George Lakeland Mill explosion investigation, to Crown Counsel for consideration on Nov. 29, 2012 (see Lakes District News WorkSafe BC investigation into mill explosions complete).

At the time, the full report of the WorkSafe BC investigation into the explosion was kept confidential so as not to compromise the Crown Counsel investigation.

Since then, the rebuild of the mill has almost been completed and it is expected to begin processing logs in February.

All of the most modern dust mitigation systems have been put in place during the construction of the new mill. Dust from beetle-killed woods was

identified as one of the contributors to the mill explosions at BFP and Lakeland in Prince George.

Lake Babine Nation (LBN) in Burns Lake lost one of their members that night, and LBN Chief Wilf Adam was concerned with crown's decision.

"It seems there will be no justice for them [the killed and injured workers]," Adam said. "Nobody is going to pay for what's been lost."

"That's the same feeling that I got from the workers I talked to last night. Last night they were anticipating charges, and it's not going to happen."

Maureen Luggi lost her husband Robert Luggi in the mill explosion.

She was disappointed with the decision, and disappointed in WorkSafe BC for being, she said, unable to provide evidence to the crown's standards.

"I think it's sad that an enormous amount of time and effort was spent by WorkSafe BC only to have the process be unsuccessful in the courts," Luggi said. "It would be good for WorkSafe BC to evaluate itself on such a major file," she added. "They need to evaluate themselves and reconcile the differences between crown council standards [and their own]."

"My initial response was a lot of hurt and anger... [but] really nothing has changed for the families... see BABINE MILL ▼ P7

**Morice timber supply area under review**

Is the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations about to approve a transfer of timber supply licenses?

Story on page 3

**LDM crews make safety highest priority**

Imagine it's your job, 24 hours a day, seven days a week - during the very worst of winter conditions - to be out on the highways.

Story on page 5

**Burns Lake mountain biking on a roll**

'Keep the ball rolling' could be the mantra for the Burns Lake Mountain Bike Association as it readies itself for more seasons of growth.

Story on page 11

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