

# MOONLIGHT MADNESS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

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Even with so many people helping, Stutz said the progress was still slow. Some days there were only a couple people up helping, and the

task seemed daunting in the coldest weather of the year.

"It was tough. It was not an easy thing to do," Stutz said. "I found it emotionally difficult. At the beginning we didn't know if it was

going to work out."

It was also frustrating to see the horses in their emaciated state. Even though they were starving, the volunteers were unable to feed them too much everyday on the advice of a veterinarian. Another challenge was turning snow into water for the thirsty horses. It takes approximately 10 litres of snow to make just one litre of water.

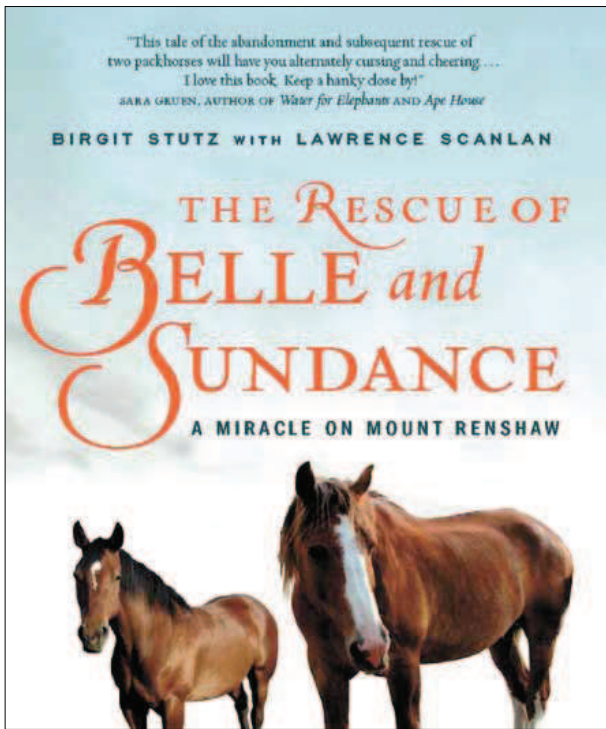
Now, the two rescued horses are living happily with owners that care for them. Sundance was sent to a farm in Kamloops, and Belle is now trained and being ridden by her owner in Prince George. Belle returned to McBride earlier this spring to be trained by Stutz, and was ridden in the town's parade.

The original owner, a lawyer from Edmonton, was charged, and found guilty in court. He was ordered to pay restitution and to undergo treatment. He appealed that decision and did not have to go to treatment. Stutz said the appeal was disappointing.

"Money for him is just a slap on the wrist," she said.

*The Rescue of Belle and Sundance: A Miracle on Mount Renshaw* is available at Bearfoot in the Park in Jasper. In McBride the book can be found at the McBride Trading Co., the Farm Store and the Visitor Info Centre. In Valemount, copies can be picked up at The Gathering Tree, and at the Dunster Store in Dunster. Books can also be ordered through Chapters or Amazon.

On Dec. 3, Stutz will be doing a book reading at The Gathering Tree from 6 to 8 p.m. She hopes to do a reading in Jasper sometime in December.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Birgit Stutz's book follows the true story of the heartbreaking rescue.

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