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The Weekly Anchor

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024

WWW.WEELYANCHOR.COM

VOL. 35, NO. 48



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At participating McDonald's restaurants in Canada. © 2024 McDonald's



**EDSON**

**Town 2025 Budget and household impact explained...**

see pages 12 & 13

**SHOP LOCAL GIFT IDEAS**  
see page 7

**COMMENT**

Pause on common sense?

see page 10

**Edson Light Up celebrates holiday season**

by Niki Luymes

Edson and area celebrated the beginning of the holiday season on November 22, with the annual Light Up in the Park.

People were welcomed to the RCMP Centennial Park from 5:30pm to 7:30pm to enjoy some seasonal fun. The event starts with Santa turning on all the Christmas lights, and ended with

the fireworks show.

Vanier Students opened the event, along with their music teacher Robyne Wilock, by singing carols. Santa also joined them on stage for a few songs before

starting the countdown to light up the park.

Afterwards, people were invited to roam around the park to enjoy the various activities.

*continued page 3*



The annual Christmas Light Up at the RCMP Centennial Park in Edson ended with a spectacular fireworks show. The show began at 7pm and lasted until 7:30. photo Niki Luymes

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see our ad on page 7

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Prices in Effect December 2-8, 2024

**302 53 St #200, Edson, AB**

While quantities last. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Prices exclude GST & Deposit. Items may not be exactly as shown. Items may vary by store. All wine and spirit prices shown are for 750mL bottles, unless otherwise noted. Prices valid at Edson, AB locations only.



# Edson Light Up celebrates holiday season

continued from front

The Edson Community Engagement Action Team (CEAT) gave out glow sticks, hot chocolate, and candy canes by the outdoor stage. Some kids enjoyed sledding down the hill or making snow angels in the freshly fallen snow. Parents could watch the fun from the warmth of two fire pits.

Inside, the Galloway Museum and Travel Centre was offering snacks and other activities. They had colouring pages and paper crafts for kids to enjoy. On the other side of the building free s'mores and snacks were on offer.

Rachel the balloon lady was also inside making festive light up balloons for the kids. At 7pm the fireworks show started. People were able to enjoy the spectacle in the snow until the end of the night. By 7:30pm the event was finished and people began to head home.

The main purpose of the event was to build community. "A neighbourhood is just a 'hood' without neighbours. A house isn't a home without friends and family. The event brings people together for a magical night to celebrate winter. We live in Canada, after all, and it's important for us to embrace the beauty of our signature season," said Diana Inscho, Community Development

Coordinator with the Town of Edson.

Edson's Light Up Night has been happening in some capacity for over 10 years. "It began to help support local shopping in Edson and it still does. A couple years ago, due to the popularity of the event, we moved the date to the day after the shopping date so as not to compete," explained Inscho.

Even though this year had more snow than last year, quite a few people still came out. "CEAT ran out of hot chocolate after giving out 450 cups. The museum gave out over 200 s'mores in less than 90 minutes. The audience for the fireworks was impressive!" said Inscho.

Lots of community organizations are involved in making Light Up happen. Along with the Town of Edson, the Galloway staff, CEAT, and the Edson youth council volunteer. "7 of our 12 Youth Councillors volunteered to help with setup and take down. Thanks also to Ms. Wilock of Vanier and the students who came out to sing so beautifully for us from the outdoor pavilion," added Inscho, "Thanks especially to the Galloway Station Museum staff and volunteers for partnering with us for this magical event."



During Light-Up on November 22, people could go inside the Galloway Museum and Travel Centre to enjoy crafts and colouring pages as a way to escape the cold outside. photo Niki Luymes



A large gathering came out to the RCMP Centennial Park in Edson on Nov. 22, to enjoy the annual Christmas Light-Up from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. photo Niki Luymes

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**Seniors and Community  
Appreciation Christmas!**

**Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024**  
**Time: 10 AM - 1 PM**  
**Place: Edson & District Recycling Depot**

**Christmas Dinner will be served  
as well as goodies and coffee!**

\*Limited seating inside and takeout available.

**Come sit on Santa's knee and  
have your picture taken.**

**We'll have a Ho-Ho-Whole  
lot of fun!**

**Call the Recycling Depot at  
780.723.4002 for more information**

5327 1st Ave, Edson



# Town and RCMP introduce AGENT program to businesses

by Niki Luymes

The Edson RCMP hosted a Town Hall meeting at the Edson Friendship Centre on November 20 at 7pm.

The meeting was specifically for local business owners to discuss their ongoing concerns regarding unhoused individuals.

RCMP Staff Sergeant Christian Desiles led the two hour meeting. Also attending to help answer questions was Eric Christensen, Enforcement Services Manager with the Town of Edson, and various groups including the Homelessness Taskforce, Citizens On Patrol, the Friendship Centre, Reflections, and Wayfinding.

Earlier this fall, the RCMP and Town council did a business walk around downtown Edson where they gathered information from businesses. Homelessness, and the safety concerns surrounding it, were the main topics. So, the decision was made to conduct a RCMP Town Hall meeting to gather more feedback and answer questions from those affected.

The first half of the meeting was focused on questions from the business owners. "Basically it's your night. I want to talk with you about the situation, about what's going on, and about what we're doing. I want to hear from you. I want to hear your feedback, struggles, and difficulties," said Desiles. As the event was a full house, there was no shortage of questions. Each question would first be answered by Sargent Desiles, who'd then ask for input from the other representatives if the question was outside his scope.

One of the people present asked whether the homeless individuals in Edson were predominately from the town or if they came from other locations and are just staying in Edson short term. "From a police perspective, we don't see people

coming here in bus loads. We've been dealing with the same people for the four and a half years I've been here. Every year, two maybe three people show up and try their luck, but the majority leave," answered Sargent Desiles.

People also used the meeting as a way to share their perspectives and experiences with local unhoused persons. One business owner shared that her business had once given out tea during one of the cold snaps. Even though the action was appreciated by some individuals, others came back demanding more. She explained that the demanding individuals almost got violent and she was forced to call the police.

The second half of the meeting was dedicated to presenting the new AGENT program to local businesses. The AGENT program is designed to allow business to pre-approve RCMP and peace officers to remove loiterers and homeless encampments from their property. The program was recently approved by the Edson Town Council and this meeting served as its official launch with local businesses. Sergeant Desiles and Eric Christensen also answered questions about the program.

Someone asked if there was anything business owners can do besides just calling RCMP. Desile answered that this would be when the AGENT program would be useful. "It takes a step away from you, where you now don't always have to call us. If we see them there and we know your are an AGENT, now we are legally placed on your property to remove them. We're still doing it if your are not an AGENT, it's just that we'd have a little bit less leeway."

The meeting ended at 9pm and those present were welcome to stay and discuss any issues with the representatives.



Tourmaline Oil in Edson donated \$15,000 to the Kinette Hampers recently. The Kinette Club helps bring a smile to many families over the Christmas season. photo submitted Deanna Mitchener

## Parkland Lodge Auxilury's

# Christmas Tea & Bake Sale

...and small Silent Auction

Plus a 50/50 Draw!

**Where:**

**Parkland Lodge (Main entrance)**  
*follow signs to basement*

**When:**

**December 7, 2024**

**Time:**

**Bake Sale starts at 1pm; Tea at 1:30pm**

**Cost:**

**\$5 per person; lodge seniors free**

Cut-off for silent auction is 3:30pm

Door prizes, silent auction & 50/50 will be drawn at 3:30pm

*\*Please bring your bags*



## Hear for the Holidays



**YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR OPEN HOUSE!**

December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> | 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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- Free consultation



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# TOWN OF EDSON

## Public Information & Notices 2024

**Town of Edson  
Office Hours:  
Monday to Friday  
8am to 4pm  
(Closed Stat Holidays)**



### NEW YCE MULTIPLEX PROJECT WEBSITE

A new website at [www.ycemultiplex.ca](http://www.ycemultiplex.ca) will be a focal point for all information about the new YCE Multiplex. It will also have regular updates on construction progress as the project takes shape.

Discover the Future of Recreation for Edson and Yellowhead County

Join us in celebrating the development of our state-of-the-art recreation complex, designed to enhance community life and foster a healthy lifestyle. The YCE Multiplex Project is scheduled for construction to start in 2025, with an anticipated completion in 2027.

Go to [www.ycemultiplex.ca](http://www.ycemultiplex.ca) to visit the new site and keep up-to-date on the project.

**WWW.YCEMULTIPLEX.CA**



### EMERGENCY EXERCISE

DECEMBER 6, 2024



The Town of Edson will be the host of a large-scale, multi-agency, emergency exercise throughout the day on Friday, December 6th, 2024.

The site for the exercise is in the vicinity of Parkland Composite High School and Ecole Pine Grove School, there will be a large police and first responder presence. Do not be alarmed, this is an EXERCISE ONLY!

This is a non-school day; therefore, students will not be impacted.

Be aware that roads and trails in the area will be closed off for the duration of the event. We ask that residents keep their distance and allow crews to focus on the exercise.

Programming at the Edson & District Leisure Centre will not be impacted.

We appreciate your patience as we conduct this important exercise to ensure our community, and all agencies involved, are better prepared for potential future emergency situations.



## PRE AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS

GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN BEFORE THE LAST WEEK OF DECEMBER TO ENROLL IN THE PRE-AUTHORIZED TAX PAYMENT PLAN FOR 2025. THIS PROGRAM ENABLES YOU TO PAY YOUR TAX LEVY OVER 12 MONTHS AND DOESN'T HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES.

PLEASE NOTE YOUR ACCOUNT MUST BE CURRENT FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO ENROLL.

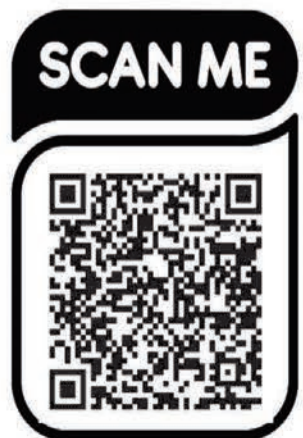
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### NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Recent Development Permits approved by the Development Authority, under the Town of Edson Land Use Bylaw 2070 as amended, can be found at <https://www.edson.ca/business/planning/development-permit-applications>. Additional information can be requested from the Planning Department at 780-723-4402 or [planning@edson.ca](mailto:planning@edson.ca).

Any person who is deemed to be affected by the issuance of any one of these permits may appeal to the Subdivision and Development Authority **by 4:00 p.m., on the 21<sup>st</sup> day after the date of issue as published on the Town's website**. On Permitted Uses, grounds for appeal must relate only to interpretation, variance, or relaxation of Land Use Bylaw 2070. On Discretionary Uses, all aspects of the proposed development may be challenged upon appeal. Written notice of appeal, accompanied by the appeal fee as established by Town Council, must be filed through the Office of the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board at Box 6300, Edson, AB T7E 1T7. Direct Control District Approvals cannot be appealed.





**Letter to the Editor:**

**Legion poppy drive receives generous community support**

Dear Sir;

I am writing on the behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 51, to thank the people and the business community of Edson for their generous support of the 2024 Poppy Drive.

Legion Volunteers placed 289 Poppy Boxes at local business, and our Cadets canvassed the town.

It is through The Poppy Campaign and the generosity of our fellow citizens that, in addition to providing assistance to Veterans and their families, we can foster the Tradition of Remembrance amongst our youth, the leaders of tomorrow.

Legion Representatives participated at 5 schools presenting "The Act of Remembrance", to over 1900 students, and over 600 Edsonites were present at the Nov. 11 Service at the Legion.

Again, a great big Thank You to everyone who participated, volunteered and attended all the events.

Ian McGill  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Joe Wynn Branch 51  
2024 Poppy Chairman

PS: If any Poppy Boxes were not picked up please call the Legion at 780-723-3455

**TRAIL COMMUNITY HALL  
THANK-YOU!**

The Trail Hall Social Society would like to extend a huge **THANK-YOU** to all the sponsors and everyone who participated and supported our Fall Supper on Oct 26, 2024.

**We couldn't keep our doors open without the support of the community.**

**You are all valued very much!**

For information or bookings: 780-728-5641  
Trail Community Hall, 53532 RG. RD 180, Yellowhead County

**Donations needed for Annual Santa's Little LEAP Gift Shop**

by Deanna Mitchener

Registrations are open for the Edson LEAP Society's 4th annual Santa's Little LEAP Gift Shop fundraiser. The two day event will be held on December 13 and 14. This is the Society's main fundraiser of the year.

Anna Vander Haeghe BScOT, Paediatric Occupational Therapist and Director for the Edson LEAP Centre, said, "The Edson LEAP Society is now accepting registrations for our popular annual Santa's Little LEAP Gift Shop."

Children, youth, and dependent adults of all abilities will be able to book a time to shop with the help of an expert 'elf'. This allows them to purchase a present, wrap it, and gift it to their special person(s). "Our elves have so much fun helping shoppers with gifts for their loved ones," said Anne.

"Thanks to the generous donations from local companies, businesses, and individuals we are able to stock our shelves with a variety of gifts that our shoppers can choose from," said Anne.

The Edson LEAP Society is an Alberta registered non-profit that started in 2020 with the mission to support families raising children with diverse needs.

"LEAP helps increase access to community programs and events, support families success in the community and at home, and is a resource for our entire community to help increase inclusion and learn about disabilities," said Anna.

Registration are booking fast. For more information visit:

[www.edsonleapcentre.as.me/santasgiftshop](http://www.edsonleapcentre.as.me/santasgiftshop)

If you are interested in donating to the LEAP Society please email [edsonleapsociety@gmail.com](mailto:edsonleapsociety@gmail.com). They are accepting direct donations for this event (gifts, money, wrapping paper, gift bags, homemade items) up to Dec 6. Items can be dropped off at the LEAP Centre, located on the west entrance of the Red Brick building.

Free e-edition at [weeklyanchor.com](http://weeklyanchor.com)

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS AND BIDDERS OF THE 19TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES!**

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Northside Motorsports	Constance Grabowski	Denay McMorran	Sid's Safety & Janitorial	Ina's Gallery	Servus Credit union
Timberjack Home Hardware	Cathy Cooper	Mary Auriat	Steph's Cleaning	Setzer's Sleigh Rides	
JRF Oilfield	Century 21 Twin Realty	Joanne & Ed Bellmond	Thymes Two	Steve's Trucking Edson Ltd.	Four Trax Enterprises Ltd.
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Freedom Power Sports	Joanne Fossheim	Quilters Quarters	Jensen's Lifestyle Clothing	Sierra Fitness	Westlake Soy Candles
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## MIDNITE MADNESS

**Thurs, Dec 5  
9pm to 12am**

Spin the Wheel  
for  
**PRIZES  
&  
DISCOUNTS**



\*\*No Points awarded or  
Redeemed during the Sale\*\*

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# Nite Owl

**Late Night Shopping  
Thursday, December 12**

**SHOP LOCAL MATTERS**





Phone: 780-723-4800 Toll Free 1-800-665-6030 Fax: 780-723-5066  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**Facility Maintenance Labourer  
EDSON, AB**

COMPETITION NO. 24-041

Reporting to the Manager of Transportation Services, the Facility Maintenance Labourer is responsible for the maintenance and care of County owned buildings, grounds, and other facilities in Yellowhead County.

The salary range is currently \$71,688 to \$88,893 per year. Yellowhead County offers a competitive benefit plan.

To apply please submit resumes online at <https://yhcounty.ca/jobs/>

A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online.

The competition will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

We thank all interested applicants in advance, however only those applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

Human Resources  
Yellowhead County  
Email: [jobs@yhcounty.ca](mailto:jobs@yhcounty.ca)

The personal information obtained as a result of this advertisement will be utilized for these employment opportunities only, and is subject to compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



**ROADSIDE BRUSHING WORK**

Attention Yellowhead County residents! Winter roadside brushing and mulching work is underway throughout Yellowhead County until mid December to help improve safety on our county roads. Please be mindful of crews, reduce your speed in work zones, and follow all posted signage.



Approved Development Permits have been issued authorizing the following:

Permit No.	Location	Proposal	Date	Appeal Deadline
D24-148	SE-14-53-10-W5 Wildwood Area	Home Business Small-Vehicle Repair	Nov 15/24	Permitted Use
D24-149	SW-6-47-12-W5 Brazeau Reservoir Area	Outdoor Storage - Discretionary	Nov 22/24	Dec 13/24

Yellowhead County Development Permits are also posted online at [www.yhcounty.ca](http://www.yhcounty.ca). The public is considered officially notified of approved development permits once posted online, in accordance with the Public Notification Bylaw. The Yellowhead County Land Use Bylaw NO 02.24 provides that any person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority may appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board or Alberta's Land and Property Rights Tribunal dependent on jurisdiction of the appeal authority. Appeals under the jurisdiction of Yellowhead County's Subdivision and Development Appeal Board require a written notice of appeal and a payment of \$500.00 payable to Yellowhead County within 21 day of the publishing of the Notice of Decision.

Requirements for appealing the development to the Alberta's Land and Property Rights Tribunal can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/subdivision-appeals.aspx> or by calling 780-427-2444.

**Yellowhead County  
Municipal Election  
2025**

Thinking of running in the upcoming Municipal Election? Here are some things to consider:

Under the MGA, elected officials have the duty to: **Qualifications to run for Council include:**

- Participate in council meetings, committee meetings and meetings of other bodies you are appointed to by Council.
- Participate in developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality.
- Consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole.
- Bring to Council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality.
- Obtain information about the operation or administration of the municipality from the Chief Administrative Officer
- Keep in confidence matters discussed in private at Council meetings until discussed at a public meeting.
- Must be at least 18 years of age on nomination day.
- Must be a Canadian citizen.
- For position of Mayor, you must have been a resident of Yellowhead County for the six months preceding nomination day.
- For position of Councillor, you must have been a resident of the electoral division of Yellowhead County for which you intend to run for the six months preceding nomination day.

Need more information? A Candidate Guide and Information Package will be available soon at both Yellowhead County offices. Visit [ycvotes.ca](http://ycvotes.ca) for additional information.

**Dates to remember:**  
Nomination period to run as a candidate is from Jan 1 to Sept 22 2025.  
Yellowhead County Municipal Elections on Oct. 20, 2025.

[www.ycvotes.ca](http://www.ycvotes.ca)



Phone: 780-723-4800 Toll Free 1-800-665-6030 Fax: 780-723-5066  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

**Caregiver Support Group  
In-Person Group Sessions**



Join us for a valuable opportunity to connect with fellow caregivers and share your caregiving journey in a safe and confidential setting. Whether you are caring for parents, spouses, elderly friends, family members, or children, these sessions are for you.

Join us at the Yellowhead County Wildwood Office every third Tuesday at 4:00PM.

- 2024 Dates: Dec 17
- 2025 Dates: Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, June 17



Call the Yellowhead County Wildwood Office at 780-325-3782 or email Karen at [kschatz@yhcounty.ca](mailto:kschatz@yhcounty.ca) for more information



**GOOD NEIGHBOUR  
Snow Shoveling Program**

Do you have a member of your community that could use your help to clear their sidewalks?

Reach out to someone in your neighbourhood who may need help and you could be nominated as a **GOOD NEIGHBOUR!**

Nominated volunteers will be entered into the prize draw in April!



Have a **GOOD NEIGHBOUR** who is helping you out with snow removal?

Nominate them and enter them into April's volunteer prize draw!

PLUS - you can recognize your volunteers

Prizes include gift cards to Subway/Wildwood 2-for-1, Sammy's, and various other exciting rewards.

Nomination forms and recognition signs are available at the Yellowhead County Wildwood and Edson Offices, or contact Karen at 780-325-3782 or [kschatz@yhcounty.ca](mailto:kschatz@yhcounty.ca)



LOOKING FOR A GREAT WINTER ACTIVITY? CHECK OUT OUR...

**Cross-Country Skis & Snowshoes Rentals**



**Weekly Rentals for Cross-Country Skis:**

**\$30/pair (includes boots/skis/poles)**

Enjoy winter in the County!

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NEW THIS YEAR! You can also reserve your skis online at [yhcounty.ca/registration](http://yhcounty.ca/registration)

\*A valid credit card is required for rental\*

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FOR EVERY VERIFIED\* WILD BOAR SIGHTING, YOUR NAME WILL BE ENTERED TO WIN A CABELA'S GIFT CARD!

The MD of Greenview, Saddle Hills County, Woodlands County and Yellowhead County want you to Squeal on Pigs! For every verified\* sighting, your name will be entered to win a Cabela's gift card! You can report sightings through the EDDMaps App or by emailing [wildboar@gov.ab.ca](mailto:wildboar@gov.ab.ca).

\*To be eligible for the draw, reported sightings need to be geotagged for confirmation. To learn more about the reporting process, please visit [www.mdgreenview.ab.ca/squeal-on-pigs/](http://www.mdgreenview.ab.ca/squeal-on-pigs/)

For more information, please contact Greenview Agricultural Services at 780.524.7621.



**Yoga & Sound Bath  
December 15, 2024 1:30 PM**

With the Winter Solstice we honour the magnificent Sun, that on the darkest longest night, is born again - bringing a new year of life and growth with it.

Come experience this nourishing rest time with Terry and Roseanne as they help you to ground and calm your nervous system. Please wear comfy clothes and bring water, a blanket, a pillow and anything else to make yourself extra comfortable.

Brule Community Hall  
\$25

Register online at [yhcounty.ca/registration](http://yhcounty.ca/registration) or by phoning Jina at 780-723-4800





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**Pause on common sense?**

Just over one year ago, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau



by Dana McArthur  
publisher/Editor  
Member Canadian Association of Journalists

will benefit about \$25. This temporary GST "holiday" is not nearly enough to provide any

meaningful impact on affordability.

While the plan will help people save some money at the checkout, it will actually go further for those with higher household incomes; like when it comes to buying a \$600+ video game console.

Of course, the highest proportion of people using home heating oil across the country is in Atlantic Canada, with 305,900 homes out of 1,022,256 currently using oil. 70-80% of homes in Western Canada use natural gas, with a much lower carbon footprint than heating oil, by the way.

The Liberal government also planned to send \$250 cheques to Canadians who worked in 2023 and earned \$150,000 or less. Those cheques, which Trudeau called the "Working Canadians Rebate" were to arrive sometime in early spring 2025.

In essence, the federal government decided that one area of Canada using a more carbon intense type of home heating is worthy of a carbon tax break, while those living elsewhere using more efficient types of heating —are not.

The cheques would not have gone to those who struggled to find work in 2023 and may still be unemployed, or to retired seniors on limited income, those with disabilities, or injured workers.

Fast forward to today, Trudeau's federal government is grappling with persistent unpopularity in the polls (to say the least) and two stinging defeats in recent by-elections.

The promised \$250 was omitted from Bill C-78 when it was tabled on November 27. This appeared to be an attempt by the Liberals to appease the NDP and salvage the time-sensitive GST break, without addressing calls to expand eligibility for the \$250 yet. Cost estimates for those cheques exceed \$4.7 billion.

So, of course, the Liberal government announced an estimated \$1.6 billion+ plan to offer a two month pause on the 5% GST for certain items (after December 14, when the legislation passes).

These items include candy, processed snacks, baked sweets, prepared food and platters, children's clothing, toys, video games and consoles, car seats, diapers, and Christmas trees. Also included will be wine, beer, ciders, and spirit coolers (up to seven percent alcohol by volume). Restaurant meals —dine-in, takeout, or delivery will also be GST exempt.

Some economists have also pointed out that this GST break could have inflationary consequences down the road. By dropping the 5% GST there is a strong possibility these items will go up 5% or more (and not come down).

We are not quite sure though how getting 5% off a bag of Cheetos, expensive prepared foods, or baked sweets helps families who are struggling to put staple foods on the table. With more working people using the food bank than ever before, it seems rather tone deaf to the harsh reality many individuals and families are facing due to inflation.

Instead of a 5% salty snack discount, how about a respite on the ever-increasing Carbon Tax and/or GST on fuel and home heating? That would put the rest of Canada on par with Atlantic Canada's carbon perk. And it would certainly make more sense than a small discount on a party platter.

The federal government claims those spending \$2000 on these items (in two short months) should save about \$100. In reality, most practical estimates say the average Canadian

While it's not the worst thing the Liberals may have done with Canadian tax dollars (think WE Charity and green slush fund scandals), it does seem little more than a struggling party willing to buy votes.

**Weekly Anchor**

**pick-up locations:**

- Edson Post office (outside boxes)
- Edson, Your Independent Grocer (inside)
  - Edson Sobeys (outside box)
  - Edson Tags North (inside)
- Edson and District Leisure Centre (outside box)
  - Edson, Home Hardware (inside)
  - Edson, Thymes Two (outside box)
- Weekly Anchor (outside box and inside)
  - Edson, Parkland Lodge (inside)
  - Peers Trading Post (inside)
- Niton beside postboxes next to A&W (outside box)
  - Wildwood Post Office (outside box)
  - Evansburg Post Office (outside box)
  - Evansburg Super A Foods (inside)

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Your Local Independent Newspaper

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Publisher/Editor Dana McArthur  
Published by: 422247 Alberta Ltd.

5010 3rd Ave., Edson Alberta - Box 6870, T7E 1V2

**Edson RCMP Occurrences**

For the week of: Nov 18 to Nov 24, 2024

Traffic Collisions 21; Traffic Complaints 5; and Theft Complaints 5 topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 5; Alarms/False Alarms 3; Animal Calls 0; Assault 2; Assistance Calls 3; Cause Disturbance 3; Child Welfare 0; Fail to Comply with Conditions 1; False/Abandoned 911 Call 2; Family Orders and Agreements 1; Fraud 2; Harassment/Criminal Harassment 1; Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 0; Information File 5; Lost or Found property 1; Mental Health Act 0; Mischief or Damage 3; Missing Person/Request to Locate 0; Municipal Bylaws 1; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 0; Recovered Stolen Property 0; Sudden Death 1; Suspicious Persons 1; Traffic Violations 3; Trespassing 3; Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; and Wellbeing Checks 5.

**KID'S CORNER**



Meet Rayver in Grade 1 at Mary Bergeron Elementary School.

**Q:** If you had a time machine, where would you go and why?

**A:** Philippines, so I could meet my Grandma and Grandpa.



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**Weekly Anchor Newspaper**



# Edson Craft Centre hosts Pottery and Gift Sale

by Deanna Mitchener

The Edson Craft Centre's Pottery and Gift Sale was held on November 22 and 23. It was the first pottery sale held at the Library since the renovations were completed.

Annette McGill with the guild, said, "The sale was well attended by local residents and non-local visitors. Patrons were impressed with the variety and quality of the pottery and gift items that were all created by our local potters."

Due to popular demand, the potter's guild is also going to hold two upcoming 'Pop-Up' sales in the Pottery studio located at the North West corner entrance in the Library building (back alley). The Pop-Up sales will be held on December 5 and 18 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

"Many attendees also expressed interest in taking pottery classes and asked to have their names added to a wait list. As the pottery studio is still under reorganization and completing equipment repairs in the new year, pottery classes will be held later in 2025," said McGill.

Getting involved with forms of art is a great way to express yourself or even explore a new hobby. It can also be an excellent way to promote a sense of calm and relaxation, and can be therapeutic for those who suffer from anxiety or depression, and a great way to meet new people.

The pottery guild expressed thanks to the community of Edson and area for their support and attendance at the Christmas Pottery and Gift Sale.



The Edson Pottery Guild held their annual Christmas sale at the Edson Public Library on November 22 and 23. photo Niki Luymes



The Community Kitchen at the Edson United Church is always well attended. The Edson United Church says they feel incredibly blessed to have this program running. A huge thank you goes to the many volunteers that help make this program a community success. Pictured is Kathy Mitchell Arndt, one of the many volunteers, serving up some lunch recently. submitted by Deanna Mitchener

**More investment  
in health care.  
More jobs for nurses.**

**Public service.  
It's better here.**

[Alberta.ca/BetterHere](https://alberta.ca/BetterHere)







# 2025 Budget Summary TOWN OF EDSON



## 2025 Approved Budget

The 2024 budget reflects Council's commitment to advancing key priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. This includes creating a connected and inclusive community, fostering a robust and adaptable economy, addressing environmental challenges, ensuring quality infrastructure, and providing effective leadership with meaningful community engagement.

As part of the budget process, Council held two public engagement sessions prior to discussions and a question-and-answer session after presenting the first draft. These opportunities allowed residents to share their perspectives and priorities, helping shape the final budget.



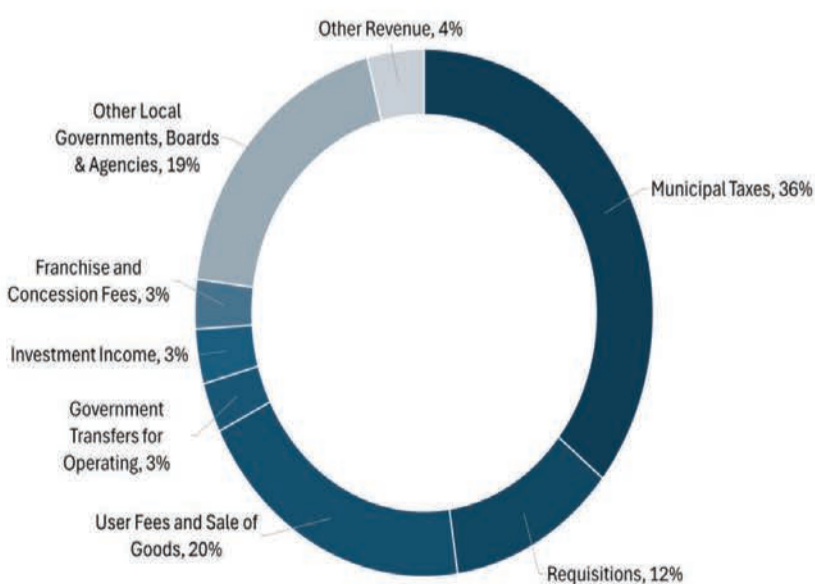
## Operating Budget

A \$40 million operating budget was approved that balances several factors such as cost of services, affordability vs demand for infrastructure, financial sustainability, reserve management, and alignment with Council's Strategic Priorities.

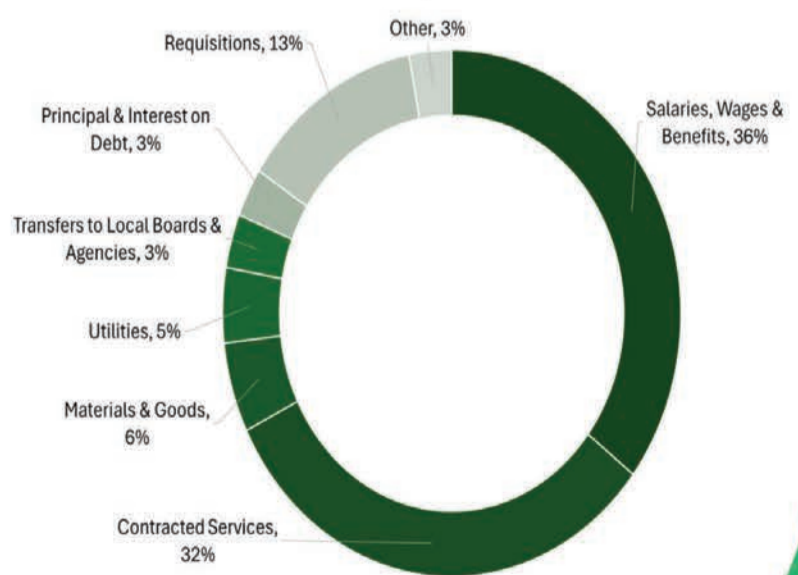
Some new operational projects for 2025 include:

- Hillendale infrastructure assessment
- Lane paving pilot program
- Snow removal contracted service for parking lots
- Increase in the Backflow and Sump Pump Program
- RCMP contract increase
- FireSmart Program (grant contingent)
- Increase in Move Edson grant
- FCSS Community Needs Assessment
- Records Management and Digitization System

Revenues



Expenses



**“Council is committed to passing budgets that keep affordability in mind as we continue to face extreme inflationary pressures and infrastructure demands. This is a difficult balance considering the increasing costs to municipalities, but we feel we’ve been presented a fair budget that addresses the needs of the Town with quality levels of service for our residents.”**

**-Mayor Kevin Zahara**







# Household Impact

4% municipal tax levy increase  
\*Based on an assessment of \$350,000



2024  
MUNICIPAL  
PROPERTY  
TAX

\$2,395

2025  
MUNICIPAL  
PROPERTY  
TAX

\$2,491

Equates to an estimated increase of \$8/month

## User Fees

To support long-term financial sustainability, adjustments to landfill tipping fees and user fees have been approved. Landfill tipping fees have increased to \$64 per tonne for residents of Edson and Yellowhead County (YHC).

Additionally, a 3% increase has been applied to various user fees, excluding Leisure Centre fees. Leisure Centre fees will see a similar 3% increase effective September 1, 2025.

## Capital Budget

The 2025 Capital Budget includes twenty-seven (27) initiatives with an investment of \$42,086,075.

The Capital Budget is funded 53.1% from grants, 21.1% from reserves, 20.1% from other local governments and boards, 5.6% through debenture.

A large focus remains on infrastructure improvements and flood mitigation efforts with sanitary sewer and road upgrades. The much-anticipated start of the YCE Multiplex Project is scheduled and funded for 2025, as well as some improvements at Vision Park and the purchase of an Aerial Truck for the Fire Department.

A full Capital Projects list can be found at [www.edson.ca/budget](http://www.edson.ca/budget).

## Residential Utility Adjustments

	Low Consumer (10m <sup>2</sup> )			Medium Consumer (25m <sup>2</sup> )			High Consumer (60m <sup>2</sup> )		
	2024 Fees Monthly	2025 Proposed Fees Monthly	Increase	2024 Fees Monthly	2025 Proposed Fees Monthly	Increase	2024 Fees Monthly	2025 Proposed Fees Monthly	Increase
Water & Wastewater Consumption	\$ 38.80	\$ 42.68	\$ 3.88	\$ 97.00	\$ 106.70	\$ 9.70	\$ 232.80	\$ 256.08	\$ 23.28
Water & Wastewater Administration	13.25	14.58	1.33	13.25	14.58	1.33	13.25	14.58	1.33
WWTP & Storm	16.25	16.25	-	16.25	16.25	-	16.25	16.25	-
Waste & Recycling	29.51	30.40	0.89	29.51	30.40	0.89	29.51	30.40	0.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 97.81</b>	<b>\$ 103.91</b>	<b>\$ 6.10</b>	<b>\$ 156.01</b>	<b>\$ 167.93</b>	<b>\$ 11.92</b>	<b>\$ 291.81</b>	<b>\$ 317.31</b>	<b>\$ 25.50</b>

Based on average increase of 5% across multiple service fees.

[www.edson.ca/budget](http://www.edson.ca/budget)





# ESTS receives \$66,000 grant from province

Alberta's government has provided almost \$66,000 to the Edson Senior's Transportation Society to aid with the purchase of a wheelchair-accessible bus.

Investing in Alberta's communities helps lift community spirit, support the provincial economy and build a stronger and more vibrant province. Through the community grants program, Alberta's government supports hundreds of non-profits each year.

One non-profit supported by the government is the Edson Senior's Transportation Society. Alberta's government has provided funding through the Community Initiatives Program (CIP) to help the Edson Senior's Transportation Society buy a wheelchair accessible bus to help keep Edson and area seniors on the move.

"Last year, the Edson Senior's Transportation Society provided 5,163 trips in total for a total of 23,245 kilometres driven. The Edson Senior's Transportation Society provides an invaluable service to Edson and area, and Alberta's government is proud to support them through this community

grant." -Tanya Fir, Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women

Since April 2024, Alberta's government has invested more than \$12 million in community grants supporting 249 non-profits. Budget 2024 commits \$16 million to the Community Initiatives Program, part of \$130 million in funding and supports to the province's critical non-profit community.

"Helping seniors with accessibility is important to Alberta's government. We are proud to support the province's seniors through various grants, including through the community grants program, and will continue to be dedicated to finding new ways to support seniors across the province." -Jason Nixon, Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services

On average, for every public dollar invested in Alberta's communities through community grants, three additional dollars are invested, resulting in a significant impact within the local economy. Every year, these two long-standing grant programs, the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) and CIP, support hundreds of projects such as

playgrounds, community halls, arts centres, festivals, events and programs that better the lives of Albertans.

"Alberta's government recognizes the role non-profits play in strengthening Alberta's communities and we have made a \$120-million commitment to support them in Budget 2024. I am thrilled to hear of the provincial investment of almost \$66,000 to help the Edson Senior's Transportation Society purchase a wheelchair accessible bus." -Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead

"The approval of the Community Initiatives Program Project-Based Grant provides critical resources to sustain accessible transportation services for Edson residents. This funding ensures that seniors and individuals with cognitive or mobility challenges in our community continue to benefit from wheelchair- and lift-accessible transportation – a service essential for fostering independence, societal participation, and access to vital services." -Dawn Mitchell, executive director, Edson Senior's Transportation Society

## Weyerhaeuser Donates \$10,000 to the Edson & District Public Library

Weyerhaeuser Donates \$10,000 to the Edson & District Public Library

The Edson & District Public Library is delighted to announce that the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund granted \$10,000 to support our Furniture Fundraising Drive.

"With this amazing donation we purchased beautiful, movable shelves which frame our bright, revitalized Children's area" said Robin Corser, Library Board Chair.

"The new shelving allows us to reconfigure the children's space to accommodate various activities and provides a place to showcase new and appealing books to encourage children and their parents to read," said Robin, "fostering the development of early childhood literacy and socialization skills." The library continues to fundraise to replace the existing bookshelves with lower and more accessible ones to better serve our patrons and improve sight lines throughout the library for our staff. "Thanks to the wonderful generosity of Weyerhaeuser and many others in our community, we have received \$200,000 to date bringing us ever closer to our \$250,000 goal," said Sheila Buckle, Library Board Vice-Chair.

In both rural and urban settings, the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund supports hundreds of important organizations and programs in the communities



The Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund generously donated \$10,000 towards the Edson & District Public Library's furniture fundraising campaign. Pictured from left to right: Jasmine Hagen (Chair of the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund), Ed Ogloza (Library Board), Peter Taylor (Library Board and Town Councillor), David MacDonald (Weyerhaeuser), Jessica Macpherson (Weyerhaeuser), Natalie Peace (Weyerhaeuser), Donna Williams (Library Board), Robin Corser (Library Board Chair), Brian Jones (Weyerhaeuser), Sarah Tonowski (Library Manager), Sheila Buckle (Library Board Vice Chair)

where they operate with funding, time, expertise and resources. Weyerhaeuser made its first charitable donation in 1903 and has provided more than \$266 million in grants through its formal giving program, which was established in 1948.

More information on the Weyerhaeuser grant application process is available online at [www.WY.com](http://www.WY.com)

If anyone wants more information or would like to join Weyerhaeuser on the Library's Wall of Recognition, please contact Sarah Tonowski Library Manager at (780) 723-6691, [stonowski@edsonlibrary.ca](mailto:stonowski@edsonlibrary.ca).

Please come and enjoy our newly renovated and expanded library. Membership is free.

## Yellowhead County Council considers whistle cessation bylaw

by Shaylyn Thornton

At their November 9 GPC meeting, Yellowhead County Council heard from General Manager of Infrastructure and Planning Services Cory Armfelt on a potential whistle cessation bylaw.

Train whistling is mandatory under Transport Canada regulations as a safety measure at grade crossings but often disrupts nearby residents' quality of life. Neighbouring municipalities have successfully enacted whistle cessation bylaws, offering potential relief for residents affected by train noise.

With several crossings throughout the County, interest from community members has been received regarding whistle cessation, which prompted Armfelt's review.

Armfelt gave an overview of the process related to ensuring whistle cessation at specific crossings. "The cessation process requires a multi-step approach, including public notification, a joint safety assessment with railway operators, and council approval," said Armfelt. "Implementing whistle cessation will involve initial investments in safety assessments and crossing upgrades to ensure compliance with federal regulations."

Armfelt noted that the process is "not necessarily linear" but more of a "back and forth through the whole process." Once a report is accepted, it would be sent to Transport Canada for their review and approval. Then, regarding the construction work that would need to be completed, a contractor would be hired.

"It is not necessarily a short process but, in our

review, other municipalities have successfully gone through it," Armfelt said.

The benefits of a whistle cessation bylaw include noise reduction for communities near rail lines and improved quality of life for affected residents. However, these benefits come at a price. Previous case studies for areas such as Wildwood and Wainright indicated potential costs between \$18,000 to \$214,000 per crossing, depending on required upgrades.

In addition, as the Town of Blackfalds reported, a consultation on an existing crossing costs approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000, with an estimated timeline of 6-12 months per crossing to cover consultations, engineering evaluations, communication with railway, public notifications, and implementation.

There would also be an increased dependency on crossing safety infrastructure as whistle alerts cease, and compliance with Transport Canada standards could mean required design enhancements at crossings.

In all, initial cost estimates for a typical crossing improvement could range between approximately \$20,000 to \$200,00, depending on location and existing safety measures. Annual maintenance costs would be shared between the County and the railway operator, so Armfelt noted that funding and budget allocations should also be explored in advance with those costs in mind.

Armfelt recommended that Council's next steps be to direct Administration to provide a list of crossings which have received resident complaints/concerns over the recent past.

Councillor Dawn Mitchell supported the recommendation to bring back a list of crossings with resident complaints, saying, "I do think it's important that we be aware of the ones that are causing issues in the communities. Whether we move forward with action on those crossings, I think is a different matter."

Councillor Brigitte Lemieux asked about "increasing [the County's] legal exposure" in the event of passing a whistle cessation bylaw.

"My holistic answer is that anything that the municipality does that has a safety component to it inherently increases our risk and our liabilities," said Armfelt. "We are judged on our deficiencies related to insurance issues that come up. We have to be very concerned and very cautious that we are meeting the safety requirements as proposed by Transport Canada and the railway provider ongoing, to ensure our exposure is as limited as possible."

Councillor David Russell expressed concern over potential safety hazards and referenced a previous case study in Wildwood.

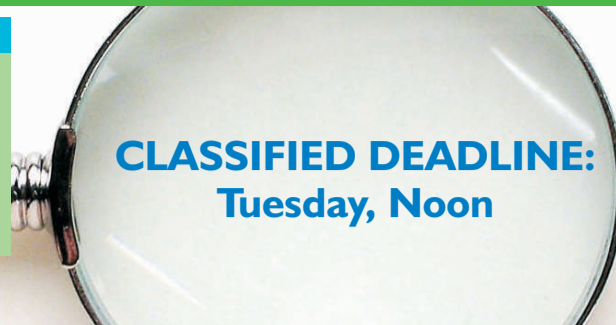
"We went through this whole process, step by step. It took quite some time and at the end of it all we ended up with a letter from Transport Canada because certain residents were not crossing at the proper spots and they saw that as a safety concern," Russell said. "If a safety hazard either stays or reoccurs or happens, Transport Canada can overrule the whole works and put the whistle back in. This is not a simple process and it's not cheap."

Council voted for Administration to bring back a list of County crossings that received complaints in the recent past.



# CLASSIFIEDS

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**Wildwood Legion** Bottle Depot is hiring bottle sorters. Forklift experience would be an asset. Please drop resume off at the bottle depot on Tues- Sat from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm or email to rclbr149@gmail.com

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS**

Estate of:  
**Irene Theresa Tilby**  
who died on August 29, 2024.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by:  
January 2, 2025,

with:  
**Shari L. Boisvert;**  
**Boisvert Law Group**

at:  
324-50th Street, P.O. Box 6568  
Edson, AB T7E 1T9

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

**What's happening, when and where in the community**

**Community Events**

**December 4:** Family Time. Join on Wednesdays for some indoor fun, Programs run from 10:30AM-12:30PM Marlboro Community hall. Registration is required visit [www.yhcounty.ca/registration](http://www.yhcounty.ca/registration)

**December 7:** Parkland Lodge Auxiliary Christmas Tea and bake sale. Bake sale starts at 1:30 other draws will be done at 3:30 for silent auction and raffles at the Parkland Lodge

**December 8:** Winter Market 11am-2pm Marlboro Hall  
**December 8:** Yoga Nidra & Sound Bath. Marlboro Community Hall, 4:30 - 6:00pm, Register online at [yhcounty.ca/registration](http://yhcounty.ca/registration) or by phoning Jina at 780-723-4800

**December 11:** Seniors and Community Appreciation Dinner, Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Edson and District Recycling Depot. Come and Join us at the Recycle Depot, Wednesday December 11, 2024 for a Turkey dinner with all the fixings. This is our annual Seniors and Community Appreciation Christmas Event.

**January 4:** HRH Grad Bottle Drive. Time: All Day, Location: Holy Redeemer drop off and mobile pick up.

**January 18:** Edson Sabres Excel U13 Tourney. Time:

All Day, Location: Edson & District Leisure Centre. Please come out and cheer our local Sabres on and check out the raffle table.

**First Wednesday of Every Month:** Senior's Recycling Day. Between 10 am and 1 pm, senior citizens are welcome to visit the depot for snacks and refreshments while their staff unloads your sorted recyclables free of charge.

Email us with your non-profit event date at: [anchorwk@telusplanet.net](mailto:anchorwk@telusplanet.net)

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**EDSON**

**BETHEL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
6350 - 13th Ave., Edson. Phone 723-3007

Pastors John & Roberta Greiner: Heather & Daniel Greiner  
Sunday service: 10:30 am  
Morning worship

**EDSON ALLIANCE CHURCH**  
5525-2nd Ave., Edson  
Ph: 723-5776 Pastor Bryan Walter  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service  
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting.

**EDSON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
4719 - 9th Ave., Ph: 723-3982  
Pastor Mesh Hit

Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m.  
**EDSON MENNONITE CHURCH**  
6212 - 13 Ave, Edson

Office hrs: Tues 9am-1pm  
Office phone: 780-723-4992  
Pastor Tyson Moerike  
(Call or text 403-966-4705)

Sunday worship - 9:45  
**EDSON-PEERS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
4633-7th Ave., Edson

Ph: 723-5242  
Pastor: Ryan Hoogerbrugge  
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Edson -  
Nursery provided Sunday School

**EDSON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**  
1133-55 St. Edson - Ph: 723-5490.

Saturday Morning Service at 11:00 a.m. Sabbath School at 10:00 a.m.  
**EDSON UNITED CHURCH**  
Edson United Church

1214 Edson Drive Edson AB  
Phone: 723-3418  
**FAMILY OF FAITH CHURCH**  
463 72 St., Edson (formerly Glenwood Hall), Telephone: 780-517-7558

Sunday: 10:00 am - Coffee and Donuts; 10:30 am - Morning Service

Pastors: Pastors John and Ingrid Huizing vfm@shaw.ca  
**HOLY TRINITY**  
(An Anglican/Lutheran Faith Community)

Rev. Johnny Pooten 780-723-3157  
Worship Service 10am Sundays.  
All Services will be held at 623-50 St., Edson. (St. Catherine's). Please phone for other information.

**THE NEW JOSHUA GENERATION FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL**  
4911 B 3rd Avenue, Edson, AB

Sunday Worship at 2:00 p.m.; Fellowship after service.  
Rev. Noemi Sogocio, Senior Pastor, 780-600-0050; noemi\_sogocio2006@yahoo.ca

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
4803 - 6th Avenue, Edson  
Telephone: 723-3661.

Pastor Father Thomas Basani (SAC)  
Mass: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 10:00 a.m.

Call office for weekday Mass times.  
**HARVEST OUTREACH MINISTRY EDSON**  
(HomeChurch) in Dunamis Centre

5202 -2nd Ave (East Entrance)  
Service: Sunday 10am  
Ph. 780-725-2222

**CARROT CREEK, NITON JUNCTION & PEERS**

**CARROT CREEK CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Pastor George Stone  
Ph: 795-2132 Church in Peers, Ab

Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Non-denominational - Everybody Welcome!

**COMMUNITY COWBOY CHURCH**  
Niton Junction Hall Tuesdays, 7 p.m. 780-712-3502



# County Elections Bylaw moves to 3rd reading for public input

## Council debate centers around criminal record checks for candidates

by Shaylyn Thornton

At their November 26 meeting, Yellowhead County Council heard from CAO Luc Mercier regarding Elections Bylaw 15.24.

The bylaw “reflects a change in the election procedures and processes that municipalities are regulated to do, as well as can choose to do, with respect to its election processes,” said Mercier. “That is a result of changes to the Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) as well as the Municipal Government Act (MGA) which have recently taken place in Alberta.”

The changes to the LAEA and MGA came from the Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act and impact how municipal elections are conducted and some of the rules governing local election officials' conduct.

Certain aspects of the bylaw are required to be passed before December 31 in the year before a general election, while other components must be passed before June 30 in the general election year or by resolution. County Administration combined all the required components into Bylaw 15.24 to have all elements dealt with in preparation for the election.

Some of these components include the appointment of Returning and Substitute Officers, locations where nominations can be received, withdrawal of nominations, deposit required for nominations, and required notification at voting stations in the event of the death of a candidate.

The deposit for candidates wishing to run in Yellowhead County was previously \$500, but the new bylaw would require \$100 instead. “In this council's attempt to be totally transparent and allow

as many people [as possible] the option to voice their ideas and to come forward, we have chosen to recommend to council to reduce that dollar amount down to \$100,” said Mercier.

Procedures for advance votes, voting stations, special ballots, institutional votes, and early counting were also included in the new bylaw. The Early Counting Centre ensures that the Returning Officer does not begin counting special ballots, advance votes, and institutional vote boxes no earlier than 7:30pm on election day.

Provincial legislation now allows municipalities, by bylaw, to add a component to a candidate's application to run for election where they would be required to include a Criminal Record Check (CRC). “We, as Administration, have not recommended that in this bylaw for various reasons,” noted Mercier.

These reasons include the fact that candidates are already required to make an oath that confirms they meet the qualifications, a CRC is only accurate up to the date requested, and there are several different types and sources for CRCs.

In addition, there is additional time and cost to process these checks (approximately \$70+ and up to 10 days), and checks must be disclosed with the Nomination Package and therefore would be available for examination by the public.

Mercier stated Administration's recommendation to give all three readings to Bylaw 15.24 as presented, without additional changes to the CRC process.

Councillor Anthony Giezen approved of the bylaw as written. “I think part of the pride in the County is that people know their candidates,” he said.

Councillor Dawn Mitchell said she had a “completely different view on the Criminal Record

Checks.” “I do feel that the public should be aware of persons putting their name forward to be elected and represent them. They should be aware if they have a criminal record or not,” she said. “I would not be supporting this bylaw as it stands.”

Councillor David Russell disagreed, saying, “I think if we're going to pass bylaws or legislation, we should do so to address a concern that is immediate and it's happening or looming in front of us. I've been through four or five elections now and I've never seen a need for this.”

Deputy Mayor Brigitte Lemieux stated she saw the “pros and cons” to adding a CRC process, and referenced the fact that a candidate's check would be made public. “Some of the feedback that I received from the voters I spoke to is, we all make mistakes in life, but it shouldn't define you for your entire life,” she said.

Russell pointed out that being convicted of a criminal offense is a matter of public record. “If you're really that serious about a candidate you can look up their criminal record yourself. I don't think it's up to the County to out you,” he said.

Council gave the first two readings to Election Bylaw 15.24, but moving to the third reading was defeated, as a unanimous vote is required and both Lemieux and Mitchell voted against. “I want to give our public an opportunity to contact their Council members or to have some discussion with each other or Administration,” said Lemieux. “I want to give the taxpayers and voters an opportunity to have some time to have their say.”

The third reading of the bylaw will take place at a meeting in December. The next municipal election takes place in October 2025.



The Edson Lions Club generously donated \$3,187 towards the Edson Library furniture fundraising drive. This money was raised through raffle sales at the August Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament. Pictured from left to right is Arden Lohner (Edson Lions Club), Sheila Buckle (Library Board), Robin Corser (Chair, Library Board), Donna Williams (Library Board), John Gauchier (Edson Lions Club), and Larry Williams (Edson Lions Club). photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener

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