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EDSON

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Auto Thefts Down?

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County Campground 5-Year Capital Plan Proposed
Plan includes Miller's Lake boat ramp and Bear Lake/Shining Bank dock installations

by Shaylyn Thornton

campground operations and service levels. The presentation was given on request of Council, who identified the evaluation and review of campground operations as a priority during the fall 2020 Council Strategic Planning Workshop. Administration asked for Council review and an overall strategic plan regarding campgrounds. 52 campgrounds are located within Yellowhead County, with six of those being operated by Yellowhead County. Of the other 46 campgrounds, 11 are Provincial, 22 are Private/Non-Profit, and 13 are operated by the Foothills Recreation Management Association (FRMA).

continued pg 2



The Carroll family, as well as Sarah McDonald, Abigail Morin (2), and Brandon Morin took part in the Family Day Scavenger Hunt at Willmore Park on Family Day. The Family Day Unplugged events were extended until February 21 to give more families a chance to participate after the recent extremely cold weather kept most people indoors. photo Deanna Mitchener

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County Campground 5-Year Capital Plan Proposed

continued from front

Shining Bank Lake is the only site that is both owned and operated by the County, with Bear Lake, Long Lake, Jerry Vanderwell Memorial Park, Beta Lake, and Nojack being leased from the Province.

The Riverside Campground was also previously managed by Yellowhead County, however it was closed in 2020, and all amenities such as fire pits, outhouses, and picnic tables were removed.

For the six managed by the County, campground operations have been largely unchanged since they began contracting campground operators in 2006. Prior to 2006, the campgrounds were operated directly by the County through seasonal bylaw staff that travelled between campgrounds, collecting fees and dealing with camper issues.

Campground operations were last reviewed in 2015, resulting in the 'Campground Improvement Plan.' Administration acted on recommendations from that plan over the last five years, specifically regarding compliance with new regulations and amenity improvements for safety and functionality.

Council was presented with a cost breakdown of Operational and Capital costs over the past five years. The operational costs ranged from \$110,500 in 2018 to \$196,500 in 2017. Operational costs in 2020 were \$137,600. Capital costs ranged from \$0 in 2017 and 2019, to \$76,700 in 2018. Capital costs in 2020 were \$34,500. It was noted that contractor subsidies are included in the operational costs, ranging from \$500/month (Long Lake) to \$3000/month (Bear Lake).

Fees charged for un-serviced County-operated campground sites range from \$15-17. Other fees for un-serviced sites in the County range from \$11-16 (FRMA), \$20 (Private/Non-Profit), and \$24 (Provincial).

Director of Community Services Christopher Read noted that, "Right now, the [County-managed] campgrounds all operate at a loss. We subsidize with the budget from Yellowhead County Council."

In 2020, the campgrounds saw a high of 20,625 visitors compared with the last five years, despite the closures of the campgrounds in May due to COVID-19. Based on this figure, the cost per visitor that was subsidized was calculated to be \$8.34 in 2020.

McNernie spoke on how visitor facilities have improved over the past five years. The presentation noted that, "Public recreation needs constantly change and evolve. YC Parks strives to continue to meet the evolving needs of its visitors and maintain high user satisfaction."

Improvement projects that have been completed include new fire pits, upgraded outhouses, garbage/recycling combination bins, new picnic tables, fish cleaning stations, trail development, boat launch repairs, and the regular

maintenance and upkeep of sites.

McNernie also presented Parks' proposed 5-year Capital Plan for their campgrounds for Council to consider. In 2021, proposed plans include the Miller's Lake Boat Ramp and the Bear Lake/Shining Bank dock installations at a total cost of \$62,000.

In 2022, the plan includes the Long Lake dock, JVMP playground, a Long Lake outhouse, and carrying out the re-gravel program at JVMP and Long Lake. This comes with a total cost of \$115,000. 2023's plan includes a Long Lake playground, addition of three sites at Bear Lake, replacing wood storage areas at Bear Lake, Shining Bank, and Long Lake, and re-gravelling of Beta Lake and Nojack, at a total cost of \$125,000.

In 2024, \$135,000 worth of improvements were suggested, including the Shining Bank day use playground, Bear Lake gazebo replacement, and re-gravelling Bear Lake and Shining Bank. Finally, 2025's proposed improvements included fire pit replacements, site marker replacements, plastic dock replacements, and a playground at Beta Lake, for a total cost of \$105,000.

The total investment of the proposed changes over the next five years would be \$542,000.

McNernie also brought up other possible improvements that could be added, such as a sani-dump station at Bear Lake (\$125,000), enlarging the beach and adding new sand to Shining Bank Lake, and providing electricity to sites at Bear Lake (\$88,000), JVMP (\$111,000), and Shining Bank Lake (\$96,000).

The potential for site additions at Bear Lake, Long Lake, JVMP, and Beta Lake were also mentioned, at costs ranging from \$28,035 to \$112,140 depending on the campground and number of sites to be added.

Council was then directly asked about the direction they'd like to go with campgrounds moving forward regarding services and offerings, taxpayer subsidy, and capital improvements.

Councillor Anthony Giezen recognized the many benefits of campgrounds but felt that the taxpayer subsidy is quite high to operate six campgrounds. "I realize the total value of campgrounds in the County," he said. "But I don't know if the municipal government should be subsidizing to this degree."

Councillor Shawn Berry said, "I'm not sure we should be in the campground business at all." He noted that many campground users are not from Yellowhead County, saying, "I'm certainly not in favor of subsidizing people coming from other places." He also said that the fees were "pathetically low" in comparison to other campgrounds across Alberta and BC, noting his own travel experiences.

"Don't get me wrong, I really

believe campgrounds are a great experience and a great thing for families," continued Berry. "I just want to see us not subsidizing it so much."

Councillor Lavone Olson said that she doesn't agree with all of the suggested potential capital improvements, and that she would like for Council to look at them individually to determine whether they should be completed.

Councillor David Russell agreed, saying that each improvement should be looked at on a "case-by-case basis." He added, "Our budgets aren't what they used to be."

Many Councillors suggested the raising of fees to lower taxpayer subsidy. Director Read and CAO Jack Ramme explained that, because of contractor agreements, raising fees would not lower the subsidy as much as one might hope.

Ramme also noted that these campgrounds are considered "rustic campgrounds," and that raising fees too much could encourage more random camping, which would be a detriment to the County and environment. He referred to the fire two years ago in Marlboro. "We almost lost the

whole Hamlet because of people random camping," Ramme said.

Councillor Wade Williams recommended that they "stay the course," to avoid seeing decreases in services or increases in taxpayer subsidy.

Giezen agreed that they should "stay the course for a period of time," but that he wants to look at other options for privatizing or getting community groups involved for the future. "I don't want to see this subsidy increase... yet we know that if we don't do subsidies and we don't do capital improvements then the campgrounds are going to go down, that's just the reality."

Administration will take Council's direction to stay the course and look at capital improvements individually.

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THIS WEEK'S FEATURE Mint Homes Ltd.



Features: Country Kitchen with access to the rear deck . The master bedroom has a 3 piece en suite. The kids bedrooms have been raised 36 inches to allow for headroom in the garage which is located below, there are window seats in both bedrooms 2 & 3. Angled stairs lead to a full basement with large daylight windows, the basement development plans comes with the drawings. The garage size is 24x22, and there is access to the basement from the garage.

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Company aims to eliminate methane venting at remote well sites

by Adrienne Tait

At their February 16 meeting, representatives from Kathairos Solutions Inc. presented Edson Town Council with information about their company and innovation in greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

Kathairos Solutions Inc.'s objective is to help oil and gas producers meet the government's environmental targets by eliminating methane gas emissions at remote well sites.

Kathairos proposes using liquid nitrogen instead of methane when operating pneumatic devices. Their presentation noted, "Since liquid nitrogen is non-corrosive, non-flammable, and waterless, it is the ideal candidate to replace natural gas used by pneumatic devices."

According to the presentation, over half of the methane emissions by oil and gas producers are the result of controlled venting, and the remainder is from unintended releases of fugitive emissions. Methane is the main constituent of natural gas and has a 25-times greater global warming potential than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period.

The provincial government has committed to a 45% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2025. There are over 100,000 remote sites in Alberta,

approximately 10,000 of which are in the Edson area. The company predicts that for every 50 wells serviced, eight new employment positions will be created.

Kathairos Solutions has partnered locally with Velvet Energy to test their system which uses liquid nitrogen to operate pneumatic devices such as valves, level controllers, and pumps at remote locations.

Dick Brown, CEO of Kathairos Solutions Inc., told Council that liquid nitrogen is already used in a variety of industrial or commercial applications, such as hospitals.

Two prototypes are currently in operation, the first having been installed in September on a newly completed well and the second was installed in November on two brownfield wells. A brownfield well is a mature well that has either reached a production plateau or has progressed to a stage of declining production.

The prototype units have withstood temperatures of +25C to -42C with no issues. "Over 1100 cubic tonnes of CO2 equivalent have been eliminated to date," said Brown. Brown told Council that the system is appealing for companies because of its simplicity, affordability, and scalability.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Revenue Sharing Agreement: Council has approved a two-year extension of the current Revenue Sharing Agreement with Yellowhead County. The current agreement had expired in December. It's hoped this two-year extension will give time for things to settle before reopening the agreement as both communities continue to deal with the current pandemic, both will have new CAO's this year, and a municipal election is on the horizon in October.

- Development Permit: Council has defeated a motion to allow an accessory building at 4905 5th Avenue. The proposed development site is designated Direct Control and requires Council approval. The main concern was the type of structure being built and the materials / aesthetics of the building.

- Next Meetings: The next Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for February 23rd, 2021 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 2nd, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

While the Council Chambers remains closed to the public at this time, you can register for virtual attendance. Registration links and agenda details are normally available Friday afternoons on the Town of Edson website.

Volunteer Income Tax Program gets personal taxes done free

Yellowhead County:

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, brought to you by the County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) has volunteers registered with and vetted by the Canadian Revenue Agency ready to help eligible residents with their taxes.

If eligible, you can drop off your T4s, T5s, donations, medical expenses and the previous year's

income tax return at either Yellowhead County office in Edson or Wildwood. You will be contacted at a later date to pick up your tax return. The program hours are as follows: 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon; then 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday at the Wildwood Office, and 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday at the Edson Office.

Please note that you will be asked to complete a questionnaire and sign an authorization form to e-file your

tax return by the volunteers. No records or documents will be kept by the volunteers.

To be eligible, your Tax Returns must be simple (no business or farm income, no capital gains, no depreciation and not a death return). You must also be a resident of Yellowhead or Parkland County. As well, note that a current tax return is

required for federal benefits to continue without disruption.

For low income individuals:
 1 person income \$35,000 or less
 2 person income \$45,000 or less
 3 person income \$47,500 or less
 4 person income \$50,000 or less
 5 person income \$52,500 or less

For more information, please call Yellowhead County at 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935.



On February 15 (Family Day) Cheri Ladouceur, Justin Robinson and eight year old Amanda (dog) were making great use of their show shoes along some trails out at Willmore Park. photo Deanna Mitchener

[P]

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Shelterpod organizers thankful for community support

by Shaylyn Thornton

Erica Snook-Pennings, who is one of the Project Coordinator for the pilot project Shelterpods, has a lot of good to say about the support received for their project.

Shelterpods looks to provide a solution for homeless members of our community, to have a private, safe, and warm place to sleep. The project involves building five rooms located in the 'Plastics' building at the Edson Recycling Depot. The Shelterpods team is made up of Snook-Pennings, Anne Auriat of the Edson and District Recycling Society, RCMP Staff Sergeant Christian Delisle, and AHS Public Health Inspector Christine Gilham.

Homeless individuals can call and book a room and will be given a keypad code that will be changed after each use. The rooms will be cleaned daily. The rooms are meant for emergency housing and will not be for long-term housing.

The team put out a request to the community for assistance in funding this pilot project and have been grateful for the support they received. According to a presentation given to Yellowhead County Council, \$57,700 has been raised in the community thus far. The Town of Edson has also committed to a \$64,000 grant to the project from their COVID-19 Recovery Reserve.

"Thank you very much to all our donors this far. We appreciate how the community has rallied around and supported our pilot project of the Shelterpods," said Snook-Pennings.

The pods, which the group had originally hoped would be ready for January 2021, ran into a few snags but are hoping to be running soon. "We encountered a little bit of an unanticipated slow start with acquiring the building permit and the subsequent cold weather snap affecting the trades' ability to work in the unheated space," said Snook-Pennings. "We are hoping to be operating by the end of February."

Snook-Pennings also gave an update on the construction. "The pods have been framed and insulated. The ventilation and fans are installed. Power will be hooked up this week. The drywall, flooring, and protective wall coverings will



One of the large supporters of the Shelterpods initiative so far has been the Edson Pharmacy, who donated \$10,000 to the project. This amount specifically went towards the construction of the on-site washroom facility. Pictured (left to right): RCMP S/Srg. Christian Delisle, Anne Auriat (Shelterpod Project Coordinator), Edson Pharmacy Owner Sabia Saincher, Edson Pharmacy Owner Himmat Panwar, Erica Snook-Pennings (Shelterpod Project Coordinator), local Physician Amol Saincher, Pharmacy Technician Chrissy Miller, and Pharmacy Technician Michelle Bodner. photo Jordan Rae

follow," she said.

The support so far has been very positive, with both monetary and supply donations coming from individuals and companies in Edson and area.

Snook-Pennings noted that they are still accepting financial donations through ATB Cares, a platform that gives Shelterpods 100% of the funds raised. The Shelterpods team noted that \$14,000 had been raised via ATB Cares so

far during their County presentation.

Any questions about how you can help with alternative donations can be directed to Michelle at Reflections at 780-723-2390 or Erica at the Friendship Center at 780-517-7644. "Both these programs provide supports to individuals experiencing homelessness," said Snook-Pennings. As the Edson Friendship Center is a non-profit agency, donation receipts can be provided.

Ice surfaces to reopen at Repsol Place

Town of Edson Feb. 11, 2021

With the changes to the Provincial COVID-19 restrictions, the Town of Edson is moving forward with plans to open the Repsol Place ice surfaces back up to our minor hockey and figure skating user groups. The pool will also be available to the swim club, as well as the previously announced one-on-one and household training sessions for the public.

The announcement was made on Saturday that youth group physical activities (training only) would be allowed under Step One of the Provincial Path Forward Plan. The restrictions do not allow for drop in use or family rentals at this time. Since the announcement, the Town of Edson has been in contact with youth user groups of both the arenas and the pool to come up with a plan moving forward.

Arenas

Both arenas will be opened to minor hockey and figure skating for training purposes only, as per the updated Provincial guidelines. The arenas will only be open Monday to Friday on the request of the user groups to help keep staffing

costs down.

Pool

The pool has reopened for one-on-one and household training. The Orcas Swim club will also be permitted to use the pool under the new restrictions.

The following rules will also be in place for the whole facility to match the new restrictions.

- No spectators will be allowed, and Repsol Place will remain closed to the public. Only those with scheduled training will be permitted.
- All participants must be 18 years or younger, excluding coaches/trainers.
- Games/scrimmages are not allowed.
- Physical distancing of 3-metres must be maintained between participants at all times. Coaches and trainers may enter for brief interactions with participants.
- Participants must be masked at all times, except during the training activity. Coaches and trainers must remain masked at all times, except when in the pool.
- Access to change rooms must be limited, including accelerated arrival and departure, emergencies (for example, first aid) and

washroom use.

It is anticipated that the arenas will keep the ice in until the end of April, depending on demand from the user groups. These plans will be reviewed as information comes in from the Province.

More information on Edson's COVID-19 response can be found at www.edson.ca/covid.

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TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2020

**Town of Edson
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COVID RESTRICTIONS
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

TOWN OF EDSON AND THE HEART OF EDSON GALLERY PRESENT:
**WINTER 2021
OUTDOOR
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CONTEST**



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- PHOTO MUST BE TAKEN OUTDOORS IN EDSON OR THE SURROUNDING AREA DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY - MARCH 2021 (YES, WE ARE TRYING TO GET YOU OUTSIDE :-))
- ONLY ONE PHOTO PER PERSON CAN BE SUBMITTED SO PICK YOUR FAVORITE!
- IMAGES WILL BE USED BY THE CONTEST ORGANIZER TO PROMOTE THE CONTEST ONLY. PHOTOS WILL REMAIN THE COPYRIGHT OF THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND ATTRIBUTION WILL BE GIVEN (WE TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY)
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- FOR MORE DETAILS AND HOW TO ENTER, GO TO WWW.EDSON.CA/ARTSANDCULTURE
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 - Low income, seniors, students
- Income Thresholds are as follows:**
- 1 person income \$35,000 or less
 - 2 person income \$45,000 or less
 - 3 person income is \$47,500 or less
 - 4 person income is \$50,000 or less
 - 5 person income is \$52,500 or less and increases by \$2,500 per individual per family thereafter

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We will not be accepting taxes prior to this date.
We are not accepting walk-ins.

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Reminder:

A current tax return is required for federal benefits to continue without disruption, ex: government pensions, child tax benefits.



For more information
please call 780-723-8616



Did You Know? 

The Town of Edson Live Streams all Council and Committee Meetings?

You can view all meetings at www.edson.ca/live, subscribe to our YouTube Channel, or watch on Facebook Live.

While the Council Chambers remains closed to the public at this time, public and media are able to register for virtual attendance. Registration links and agenda details are available Friday afternoons on the Town of Edson website or Facebook Page.

LIVE STREAM

Council Live Stream

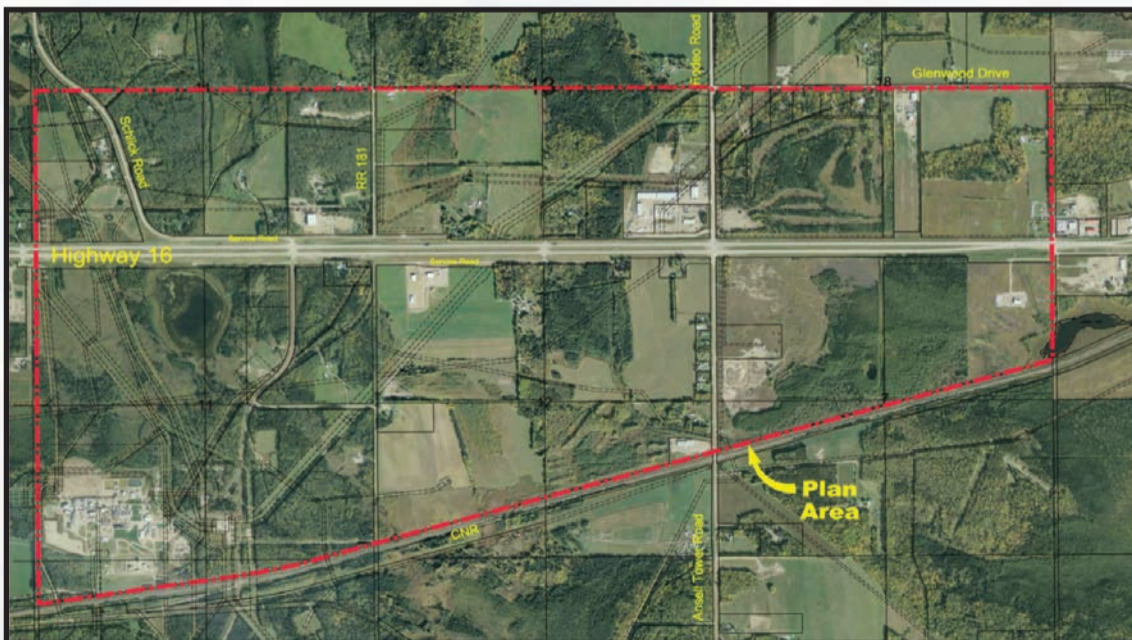



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Land Use Amending Bylaw No. 2251

**Feedback is
Welcome!**

Council will hold a Zoom Public Hearing to consider a proposed amendment to Land Use Bylaw No. 2251 on Tuesday March 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm through Zoom Meeting online.

If approved, the Edson West Area Structure Plan comprises some ±1,019 hectares and contains portions of Section 7 and 18-53-17-W5M in the Town and portions of Section 2, 11, 12, 13 and 14 -53-18-W5M in Yellowhead County (see sketch below) will be amended to align with higher level planning statutory documents.



To view details of the application, please see: www.edson.ca/bylaws You may submit written comments by emailing: engineeringandplanning@edson.ca; by mailing: Planning—Town of Edson, PO Box 6300, Edson AB T7E 1T7; or by hand delivering to the Civic Centre drop off box at the front door entrance.

Submissions must be received by the Town prior to the Zoom Public Hearing for Councils consideration. Any person, group, or person acting on behalf of anyone who claims to be affected by the proposed bylaw, may make representation during a Public Hearing through Zoom online. Oral presentations are subject to a five (5) minute time limit.

Registration will remain open until the beginning of the Public Hearing on March 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Register here at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vgplaoE3TESaYDI5Tbkt5Q or contact engineeringandplanning@edson.ca for meeting details.

Personal information contained in submissions are collected under the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act). This meeting will be recorded and shared.

Auto theft down?

February is Alberta Crime Prevention month for Theft of Motor Vehicle as well as Theft from Motor Vehicles.



by Dana McArthur
publisher/Editor

Member Canadian Association of Journalists

suggest that there is still room for improvement. Additional

precautions can include:

- Lock vehicle/garage doors
- Remove all valuables from vehicle
- Use a steering wheel lock
- Remove garage door opener from vehicle
- Use vehicle tracking system
- Park in well-lit areas
- Never leave vehicles running with the keys inside

Anyone who has information on any crime can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play.

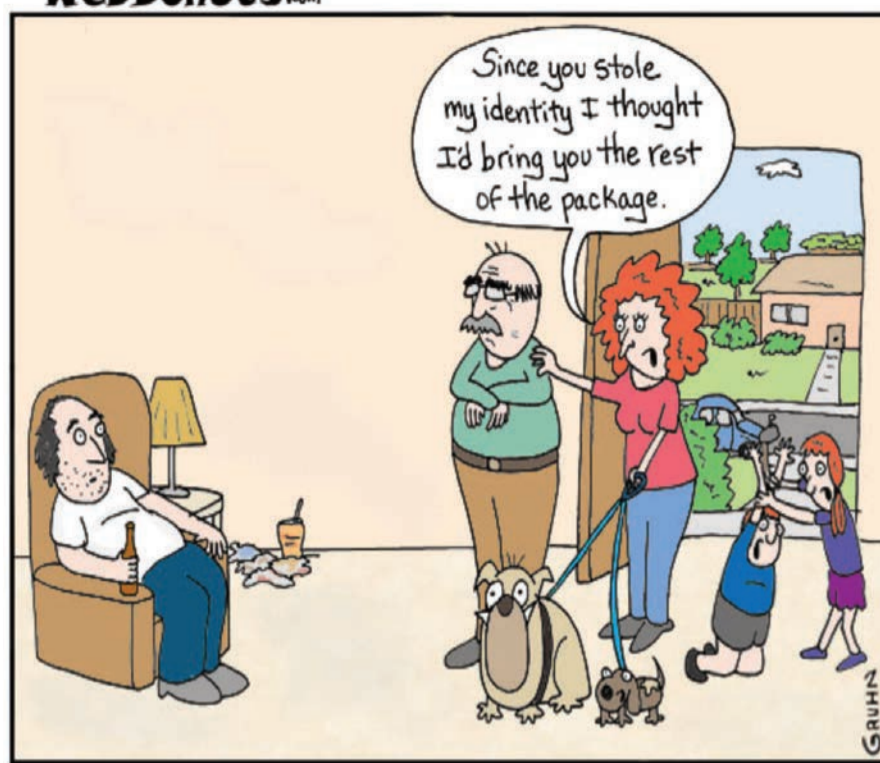
What is rather surprising good news is that during the pandemic Alberta's RCMP actually noted an overall decrease in these types of crimes from March to December 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.

Urban Alberta Detachment areas saw a 27% decrease overall in Theft from a Motor Vehicle and a 26% decrease in Theft of Motor Vehicles.

Rural Alberta Detachment areas saw an overall 29% decrease in Theft from a Motor Vehicle and a 21% decrease in Theft of Motor Vehicle.

Despite these positive numbers, the Alberta RCMP

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Letter to the Editor Policy

The Weekly Anchor welcomes Letters to the Editor

All letters are published at the discretion of the editor-publisher who reserves the right to edit for clarity, length and libel. All letters must bear the name of the writer—and must also include the address and telephone number (which will not be published). The publisher will consider withholding the writer's name from print if there is a legitimate concern of reprisals.

Letters published do not necessarily reflect the policies or beliefs of this newspaper.

A fiscally responsible councillor is like a cozy sweater

Dear Editor:

A fiscally responsible Town Councillor is like a warm cozy sweater. You don't wear it all the time and it's not stylish or trendy. But when it's cold and stormy they sure come in handy.

For instance I bet Hinton Council now wishes they'd had another one when they voted 4 – 3 on February 2, 2021 in favour of increasing administrative pay (non-union) for 47 employees.

Michaels, Nelson and Waugh voted against the increase. But they lost, in the midst of one of the worst financial crises in 50 years, and at a time when many other councils were either reducing their pay or at least significantly decreasing their operating costs. And just one more bland boring responsible vote would have avoided this major oops.

Similarly, back in September 2019, Council voted 3 to 4 against giving administration a very reasonable 4 – 5% taxation cap (\$13,100,000) for their upcoming budget. Again Michaels and Nelson cast responsible votes, along with Ostashek. But for want of one more of these boring but practical votes, administration came back to council with a proposed 16% increase that made for months of unnecessary work on behalf of Council to obtain a remotely reasonable budget. Another major and easily avoidable oops.

When Council voted 2 – 5 against reducing their own pay a few months ago, Dewly and Maguhn were for it. That day Council needed two more cozy sweaters instead of the fashionable unaffordable kind.

Undoubtedly some Councillors think a temporary surplus is sufficient reason to justify a permanent and long-term increase to the operating budget. But the boring homespun fact remains that a Councillor needs to treat taxpayers' money as if it were his or her own. Not just for efficiency but to show empathy for individuals or businesses struggling to make ends meet given the triple whammy of the coal mine closure, downturn in the oil and gas industry and now the pandemic.

Many of our local businesses are closed, some are in foreclosure, and many have reduced salaries or permanently laid off staff. For those still struggling to stay afloat, any kind of increase in property taxes or our 4 – 5% utility rate increases will be enough to send them under. What a time to approve salary increases giving the town over 24 staff in the salary range that tops out above \$100,000 and six in the one that extends past \$130,000 (our Directors and Town Manager).

Even when the amounts of money involved are small, the message it sends is that we are not all

in this together. Council needs to tighten their belts, put on the old sweater, and concentrate on priorities like water, sewer, police and roads.

Of course not every sweater is as warm as advertised or as dependable. It is important to do your research to make sure yours won't come apart in the first storm or just in the routine wash cycle. And that your councillor won't either.

Next October at election time, think boring and reliable and get that warm cozy sweater.

Footnote: New information has just come out about the administrative (non-union) pay increase. Town Administration apparently omitted significant information on a 2019 administrative (non-union) increase of 3% and in consequence Town Council may revisit its decision.

Stuart Taylor, Hinton

Editor's Note: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author's and do not necessarily or in any way reflect the official policy or position of this newspaper or its publisher and staff.

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ARTS & LITERATURE FEATURE:

Getting to know Frank O'Keeffe:

Former Edson teacher-turned-author

by Shaylyn Thornton

Frank O'Keeffe is a name that may sound familiar to students who attended elementary school in Edson in the 1970's. O'Keeffe first taught second and third graders at A.H. Dakin Elementary, as well as being a part-time Librarian, and then taught fourth graders at Pine Grove Elementary. His wife, Patricia, was a first-grade teacher, retiring in 1988 after 15 years of teaching in the Yellowhead area.

Frank O'Keeffe may also be a familiar name to those who have read one of his many successful novels, such as his first book 'Guppy Love' or one more recent such as 'The Grand Getaway.'

O'Keeffe was born in Dublin, Ireland, and he began his writing career there while in the fourth grade, when a teacher offered a prize of sixpence for the student who could write the best story. O'Keeffe wrote a story about a plane carrying racehorses that crashed in the South American jungle, and won the sixpence prize, thus earning his first income as a writer.

After leaving school, O'Keeffe emigrated to Canada. He worked in a bank in Kimberly, BC for awhile before moving to Calgary and working for an insurance company. During his time there, he would write skits for the annual Christmas party.

O'Keeffe did some travelling to places like Australia, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Japan, and returned to working with insurance in both Calgary and BC. He was blessed with three children, a daughter and two sons. He then decided to give up his career in insurance and attend the University of Calgary to pursue his Bachelor of Education degree.

Following graduation, O'Keeffe came to Edson and began his teaching career. He took up writing again when he found that his class was expected to put on a performance at the annual Christmas concert, and his original scripts got some rave reviews from both parents and the local newspaper.

O'Keeffe also became the editor of the Teachers' Association Newsletter for a few years and wrote a humorous column called Heatherwood Happenings for a year for the Edson Leader.

While teaching at Pine Grove, O'Keeffe met fellow teacher Martyn Godfrey, who liked the pieces O'Keeffe had written. Godfrey had just had his second young adult/children's novel published and encouraged Frank to try writing a novel.

O'Keeffe came up with the idea for 'Guppy Love' and told Godfrey about it, who responded, "It sounds great. If you don't write it in three months, I'll steal the idea."

O'Keeffe went to work on the novel, completing it in three months. 'Guppy Love' became his first published novel.

O'Keeffe and his wife decided to purchase land about 8kms outside of Edson and built a house on the property. Before long the family was raising cattle, and chickens, and even

beekeeping.

O'Keeffe found inspiration in the world around him for his next stories and managed to write many successful young adult novels. He began travelling across Canada to do readings and writing workshops in schools and libraries, so he decided to take a leave of absence from teaching, and never went back.

Over the years, O'Keeffe has written and published 11 novels. Most of his young adult novels are humorous fiction, as are his novels 'The Grand Getaway' and 'Outside Enniskerry and Beyond.' His novel 'Woodbine' is historical fiction.

These three novels, along with the young adult novel 'Harry Flammable,' are available for purchase on amazon.ca. O'Keeffe's novels are rated highly from his readers, with both 'The Grand Getaway' and 'Woodbine' having 5-star ratings on the amazon.ca site.

Most of O'Keeffe's novels have inspirations from his life and "sometimes it is a small incident," he says.

O'Keeffe explained that the opening for 'Guppy Love' came from when he was teaching the second grade at A.H. Dakin, and his classroom had a large fish tank with three big goldfish. O'Keeffe went back to his classroom during recess, looking for his coffee cup and found quite a mess.

"The classroom was under water, and bright green gravel. The tank had been smashed," he said, adding, "I found out later that two boys who shouldn't have been in the room had been playing catch with a marble and one of them missed."

O'Keeffe looked for the fish and found them alive in a plastic glass with a little water. "I always admired the quick thinking of the little girl who had rescued them," he said. "She hadn't rushed to tell a teacher. She went looking for a janitor."

In the book, O'Keeffe changed the story to involve guppies instead of goldfish, and had the little girl put the fish into the teacher's cold cup of coffee.

Another novel was inspired by his son's involvement in Edson Minor Hockey. "Our son was the goalie on a Midget hockey team in Edson and Edson Minor Hockey was threatening to fold the team if the one coach didn't get any help because of the rowdiness/fights etc," explained O'Keeffe.

"Minor Hockey said the team needed a manager. My wife volunteered," he said. "I was inspired to write the young adult book, 'It's Only A Game' after I saw how my wife, bit by bit, changed the team's behaviour. The team won a Sportsmanship Award at a later tournament." On one early morning occasion, when the coach didn't show up and the arena manager wouldn't let the boys on the ice without one, his wife Patricia even had to run a practice, wearing the coach's skates stuffed with his socks.

O'Keeffe has continued to write over the years, although now more so



Frank O'Keeffe is a published author of humorous and historical fiction who formerly taught students in Edson elementary schools. photo submitted

poetry and short stories. He now lives in Calgary, where he cares for Patricia, who suffers from Alzheimer's.

"In the book 'The Grand Getaway,' I modelled the character of Caroline on Patricia when she was still able to speak a little," explained O'Keeffe. A reader review of the novel noted, "In Caroline he draws a delightful character who in spite of her dementia always manages to make everything

better."

O'Keeffe had some advice for aspiring writers and spoke about the biggest lesson he has learned in his career. "They say you should write about what you know, but you also have to be observant. Sometimes small things, or a piece of dialogue, can give you ideas," he said. "Read as much as you can. Writing is a bit like learning to ride a bicycle. First you have to learn how to balance."

Frank O'Keeffe's *The Grand Getaway* is getting rave reviews

"WOW, JUST WOW!"

AMAZON REVIEW

Betty, Charlie and Caroline, residents of Cavandish Long Term Care Home, along with their homeless friend Danny, flee the home on an extraordinary journey fueled by Betty's dream to see the Grand Canyon one last time.

Standing in their way is a cast of characters – bizarre, comical, and outlandish, any of whom could help or hinder the fulfillment of their dream. This laugh-out-loud funny yet touching novel is a trip you won't want to miss.

"In Caroline he draws a delightful character who in spite of her dementia always manages to make everything better."

"Funny, serious, happy, sad... you'll experience it all as you take the journey with the four main characters."

EWAN - AMAZON REVIEW AMAZON REVIEW

FRANK O'KEEFFE'S BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE ON AMAZON



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



WILDFIRE SEASON STARTS MARCH 1

Burn Permits are required starting March 1, 2021.

For further information contact:
Cory Chegwyn
Deputy Fire Chief, Public Safety
Yellowhead County
780-723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030

During this time, permits are required for any burning (excluding campfires), or already burning fires in the area managed by Yellowhead County Fire Department.

Please go to www.albertafirebans.ca for the latest information on current fire ban maps and details.
Yellowhead County manages and issues fire permits only for the area north of Highway 16 and east of Highway 22. Permits are free and available by contacting your closest Yellowhead County Office.

APPROVED DEVELOPMENT PERMITS have been issued authorizing the following:

Permit Number	Location	Proposal	Notice of Approval
D21-006	Plan 0324530, Blk 1, Lot 1 SW 32-51-24-W5 East River Road	Accessory Building (Studio) – Variance for Height	Feb 2/21
D21-008	SE 05-53-19-W5 Millers Lake Area	Home Business (Minor) – (Discretionary Use) – Sawmill	Feb 8/21
D21-010	NW 33-54-10-W5 Chip Lake Area	Single Detached Dwelling with Attached Garage Covered Veranda and Covered Deck	Feb 17/21
D21-012	SE 33-52-08-W5	Existing 14' x 32' Single Detached Dwelling	Feb 17/21

Yellowhead County Development Permits are also posted online at www.yhcounty.ca. The public is considered officially notified of approved development permits once posted online, in accordance with the Public Notification Bylaw.

The land use bylaw provides that any person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority may appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by filing a written notice of appeal, containing reasons, with the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board for Yellowhead County accompanied with payment of \$300.00 within Twenty One (21) days after notice of the approval is given. If you have questions or concerns please contact Yellowhead County's Planning Department at 1-800-665-6030.

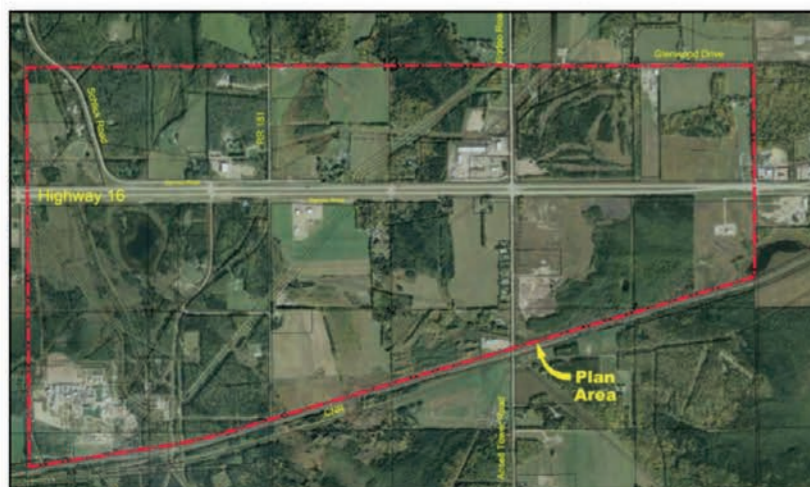
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED BYLAW NO. 05.21

PURSUANT TO SECTION 692 OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT, BEING CHAPTER M 26 R.S.A. 2000 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO:

Notice is hereby given that all Public Hearings will begin at 1 p.m. on **March 9, 2021**, in the Council Chambers of the Yellowhead County Administration Building located at 2716 1st Avenue, Edson, Alberta.

The purpose of this hearing is to allow persons to make known their views with respect to the proposed

Bylaw No. 05.21 being a Bylaw to amend the Edson West Area Structure Plan.



To view the details of Bylaw 05.21, please see www.bit.ly/EdsonWestASP. All written submissions will become public information upon receipt by the Yellowhead County Council. Copies of Bylaw No. 05.21 are also available for public inspection during regular office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Yellowhead County office located at 2716, 1st Avenue, Edson, Alberta. Further information may be obtained by contacting the office at 723-4800, or 1-800-665-6030.



Cross-Country Ski & Snowshoe Rentals

Skis: \$30/week
Snowshoes: \$10/week

Yellowhead County Parks & Recreation is offering cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals this winter! Rentals will be booked on a first-call, first-serve basis. Absolutely no walk-in rentals. Reserve in advance by phoning 780-723-4800.

Please fill out our rental agreement and bring it during rental pickup. The rental agreement can be found on our website's (www.yhcounty.ca) news section.



We're encouraging you to help out a neighbour in your community. If you have any questions about this program, call us at 780-325-3782 or go to WWW.YHCOUNTY.CA

REGISTER YOUR EQUIPMENT FOR 2021 WITH YELLOWHEAD COUNTY

Deadline for Registration is April 1, 2021.

All equipment hired by Yellowhead County **MUST** be registered annually by the deadline. Yellowhead County will select equipment that is the best suited for the work to be done and provide the most cost effective level of service.



For more information or to register your equipment, call the Infrastructure Services Department at (780) 723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030.



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



Save the Date!
March 10, 7:00 PM

Septic Sense: Solutions for Rural Living FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP

FREE Online Workshop via Zoom.

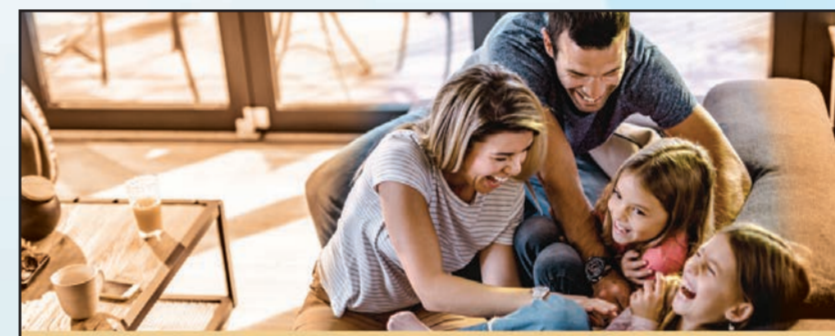
Understanding and Taking Care of your Septic System. Presented by Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association.

- Why should you maintain your wastewater treatment system?
- Save money, avoid costly repairs or replacement
 - Reduce health risk and pathogen exposure
 - Protect the source and surface water
 - Recycle water back to aquifers

Further registration information coming soon!

This workshop includes a free Homeowner Information Package. Please contact Yellowhead County Agricultural Services at 780-325-3782 with any questions regarding this workshop.

Wednesday March 10, 7:00 - 9:00 PM



FAMILY FUN KITS

Register for our Family Fun Kits to get resources, games, and toys for a weekend of family fun! Some possible kits available:

- Jumbo Games
- Seasonal Kit
- Sensory Play
- Obstacle Course
- Building Sets
- Magnetic Play

Kits are free to borrow. Limited kits available.

Sign up by calling Yellowhead County

780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935.

Kits can be picked up at either the Wildwood or Edson Yellowhead County on Thursdays and must be returned by 4:30 PM on Monday.

Families can borrow up to 2 kits a month.



Get your taxes done - free!

...with the Yellowhead County Volunteer Income Tax Program!

Eligibility Requirements:

- Tax Returns must be simple (no business or farm income, no capital gains, no depreciation and not a death return)
- Must be a resident of Yellowhead or Parkland County
- For Low Income Individuals:
 1. 1 person income \$35,000 or less
 2. 2 person income is \$45,000 or less
 3. 3 person income is \$47,500 or less
 4. 4 person income is \$50,000 or less
 5. 5 person income is \$52,500 or less

Reminder: A current tax return is required for federal benefits to continue without disruption, ex child tax credit, government pensions.

Where: Yellowhead County Offices (Wildwood and Edson).

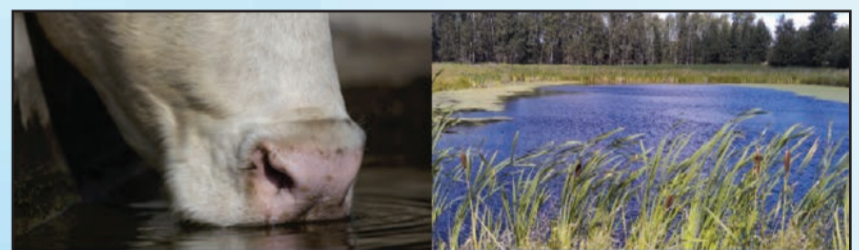
For more information, please call Yellowhead County at 780.325.3782.



ONLINE CLASS!
MARCH 31ST
6PM-8PM
\$15.00

Please register early as the number of kits available is limited. \$15.00 includes the oyster mushroom Grow Kit and access to the webinar.

Please call the Yellowhead County Wildwood office by March 12 to register.
1-800-814-3935 or 780-325-3782



Rural Dugouts - A Two-Part Webinar Series

March 4 and March 11 at 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Register online at www.westcentralforage.com/events

This webinar series will be presented by Shawn Elgert, Agricultural Water Engineer with Alberta Agriculture & Forestry. Learn about best practices for building and maintaining a dependable

dugout. Topics include planning considerations, design, construction, operation and protection, water quality issues and treatment solutions, and dugouts for stocking fish.

For more information contact Jessica at 780-621-8670 or via email at conservationag@westcentralforage.com. Offered in partnership by:



REMEMBER: You're not alone. Ask for help. Talk about what you're experiencing with someone you trust and try to find a healthy way to change what is happening or how you react to it.

Get help online: www.bullyingcanada.ca/get-help

Get help by phone: 1-800-668-6868

(Call the number above to speak anonymously with a counselor who knows how to help you.)

Let's stand together, speak up and stop bullying.
Let's lift each other up!

County hires new Chief Administrative Officer

Yellowhead County (Feb. 16, 2021) – After an extensive search, Yellowhead County will be hiring Luc Mercier as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Mercier will be replacing Jack Ramme, who is retiring after 18 years of service for Yellowhead County.

“This was not an effortless process,” said Mayor Jim Eglinski. “As a council, when we set out to recruit administrative leadership for this region, we look for

the right mix of management experience and passion to guide our staff in serving residents and stakeholders. Luc Mercier, as our new CAO, is certainly part of our goal to build a better community for present and future generations.”

Mercier comes with over 30 years of municipal experience, 19 of which have been as CAO. After spending the last two and half years as the CAO for

the Municipal District of Bonnyville, Mercier says he's excited to be back in western Alberta, where he and his wife have lived for over 24 years.

“I am thrilled at the opportunity to work with the dedicated council, staff, and residents of Yellowhead County and look forward to many years' service to the region,” said Mercier. Mercier will begin the position at the beginning of April.

Updates from West Yellowhead MLA Long

The past year has been difficult to say the least. However, Albertans across the province have shown their resiliency by committing to follow public health orders. Through our individual and collective commitment to these orders, our province has seen significant improvement in the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations and total daily cases. Due to this significant improvement, our government was able to announce a robust outline for how Alberta can begin to lift restrictions. In Alberta, discussions will be had about further lifting restrictions if after three weeks the total number of hospitalizations is within the range of the next applicable benchmark:

- Step 1: Under 600 hospitalizations (began on Monday, February. 8th)
- Step 2: Under 450 hospitalizations
- Step 3: Under 300 hospitalizations
- Step 4: Under 150 hospitalizations

For more information about Alberta's plan, please visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://www.alberta.ca/COVID19).

Below are other important items that my constituents should be aware of:

Reinstating of the 1976 Coal Policy

Alberta's government has reinstated the 1976 Coal Policy in response to concerns Albertans raised about surface mining in the Eastern Slopes. This includes reinstating the four coal categories, which stated where and how coal leasing, exploration and development could occur.

Albertans have spoken loud and clear and they have been heard. Government should have done a better job communicating about the change and its intentions when the coal policy was rescinded in spring 2020. The intent was to align coal

with all other commodities, but Albertans have been clear that they expect coal to be managed differently.

Over the coming months, a closer look will be taken at Alberta's approach to coal development. As part of this process we commit to listening to the perspectives of all Albertans through widespread consultations on a new coal policy. Our goal is to help ensure that government's approach to coal development reflects the best interests of Albertans and balances stringent environmental protections with responsible resource development.

COVID-19 Vaccine Shortages

Alberta has proven that we can lead provinces when it comes to administering the COVID-19 vaccine as over 100,000 doses have been injected into the arms of Albertans since mid-December. Our province has the staff and necessary administrative resources to deploy to the vaccine effectively and efficiently. However, this reality is on hold as our supply has completely vanished.

Initially, the federal government said that Alberta's share of vaccines would be reduced between 20 per cent to 80 per cent over four weeks. Yet, we found out that Alberta would actually receive no vaccines at all in the last week of January.

As soon as Ottawa can procure the vaccines Albertans require we will continue to lead provinces in having them administered.

Alberta Parole Board

Property crime is often a major

West Yellowhead MLA Martin Long



issue for people in West Yellowhead. That is one reason why I am proud that our government

established the Alberta Parole Board. Having a provincial parole board will provide a fairer, faster, more responsive and responsible justice system that better protects Albertans, their loved ones, and their property from repeat offenders—including parolees. The introduction of the Alberta Parole Board is part of a broader effort to assert Alberta's jurisdictional authority within Confederation. For information on the Alberta Parole Board, please visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=77156E65DC997-9C2B-B9B6-1DBB4E8E863D5B89>.

Red Tape Reduction

Our government is tenacious in our aim to reduce Red Tape and to be a streamlined, investment welcoming jurisdiction. Alberta has received its

second positive grade for red tape reduction. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) gave Alberta an A, and we are proud to hear that Alberta is the most improved province on this file.

Cutting red tape keeps more money in the pockets of Albertans. Find out how Alberta's government is cutting red tape by visiting: <https://www.alberta.ca/cut-red-tape-engagement.aspx>.

Chief Provincial Firearms Officer

The responsible use of firearms is engrained in our way of life in rural Alberta, and that is why it is welcome news that Alberta's government established the office of the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO). The CFO will represent our province's position on firearms policy and promote firearms safety education in Alberta. With a provincial CFO, we can show Ottawa and the rest of Canada what it means to be responsible with firearms. Applications recently closed for the position, and I am looking forward to welcoming Alberta's first CFO.



4914 - 3rd Avenue, Box 7230, Edson Alberta T7E 1V5
 Ph: (780) 723-4214 Fax: (780) 723-7994 Email info@yellowheadgas.com
 Toll Free: 1-877-723-4214

Invitation to Tender

2 YEAR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT (2021 and 2022)

Each construction season consists of the installation of gas lines to applicants located throughout the Co-op's franchise area. Tender packages which include historical volumes, specifications, and typical drawings will be available at the Co-op office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sealed bids marked “2021 & 2022 Tender for Gas Line Installations – Yellowhead Gas Co-op Ltd.” will be received at our office until 12:00 p.m. (MST) on March 15th, 2021. A list of bidder's construction equipment and references is to be included.

*Due to the Co-op moving, please contact the office for location information prior to delivery of tender packages.

The Board reserves the right to refuse any tender.

P

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FULL LISTINGS AND PHOTOS ON WWW.GLOBALAUCTIONGUIDE.COM

UFA requests road policy variance in Wildwood

by Shaylyn Thornton

On February 9, UFA representatives approached Yellowhead County Council during their regular Council meeting with a presentation regarding the moving and upgrading of the UFA Wildwood Cardlock.

UFA plans to have seven fuel lanes at their new site instead of the current two lanes and will offer the addition of Premium and Dyed Premium Diesel. The existing fuel station has been in operation since 1961.

Nick Harsulla, Manager of Government Relations, and Brendon Krueger, Manager of Real Estate and Facilities, were the presenters for UFA and they spoke of the challenges the company is facing when choosing a site for their expansion.

The ideal site for them was referred to as Site 1, however it is owned by Alberta Transportation and the red tape restrictions have proven to be a huge obstacle. They requested the County provide support in working with the Provincial government.

UFA has been in discussions with AT for over two years regarding the purchase, and when County Administration spoke with the province it was indicated that the time frame for the potential sale of the land was 5+ years.

The second site, referred to as Site 2, is owned by a private landowner that is directly east of the Department of Transportation. While Site 1 is accessible via Highway 16X, Site 2 is accessed by way of Range Road 92, and Road Construction Policy 3200.10 would require that the section of road leading to the proposed UFA site be a 10.5m Commercial/Industrial road with an asphalt surfacing.

Section 56(11)(b) of Land Use Bylaw 16.13 also states that, "Every on-site parking and loading space provided, and the access thereto, shall be hard surfaced if the access is from a street or lane which is hard surfaced. Exceptions can be made if the land will be used by heavy equipment for industrial purposes."

The UFA representatives indicated to Council

that the cost to construct such a road and to asphalt the parking/circulating area of the site is too cost prohibitive. "While we are committed to remain within the Hamlet of Wildwood, the new location must be financially viable to the overall benefit of our business and our members," said Krueger. "Due to bylaw requirements the additional cost associated with paving both the access road and Cardlock site are detrimental to the Business Case."

At the February 16 Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting, YC Planning & Development Manager Brent Shepherd presented some options for Council to consider and discuss.

The first option involves a variance to the RCP 3200.10 to reduce the standard of road construction to a 10.5m gravel road. This in turn would not require that the parking lot be hard surfaced as it would not connect to a hard surface road. However, road bans would be placed on the gravel section of road unless it is approved as a road ban free structure.

The second option would require that a portion of Range Road 92 be hard surfaced and the remainder gravel to prevent dirt/gravel from being tracked onto Highway 16X. Again, this would mean the parking lot would not be required to be hard surfaced, and road bans would then be placed on the gravel section of road.

Option three would be to not provide a variance to the policy and require that if UFA wishes to develop the site, a hard surfaced road be required and as part of the development permit approval a condition would be included to hard surface the parking lot. This would be consistent with other commercial developments in Yellowhead County Hamlets.

Option four would be for the County to lobby the Province for the sale of the Provincial land to the County, and in turn the County would sell the land to UFA. However, the timeline on this option would be difficult to overcome.

At first, some members of the Council spoke in favor of the second option. However, as discussions continued, Council recognized that it may not be fair to other business owners who

were required to pave their properties without a variance granted.

CAO Jack Ramme said, "The County spent significant dollars paving every street in that Hamlet not that long ago, as we did in Peers and all of our other Hamlets, trying to beautify and clean up the communities and sidewalks, et cetera."

Ramme pointed out that they would be breaching that policy, and that they hadn't done it for anyone else. "You are going to be permitting a company, with probably fairly robust volumes, to track a lot of gravel and debris onto your roads." Ramme suggested a potential cost-share of the paving, to avoid breaching policies and to stop the Hamlet of Wildwood from turning into a "mud bowl."

Shepherd pointed out that granting the variance would likely upset the smaller businesses in the County, such as those in Niton Junction that had been required to pave their properties.

Councillor Penny Lowe agreed. "I have a hard time with this," she said, noting that UFA is valuable to Wildwood but that variances haven't been granted for other businesses just because paving wasn't financially viable.

"I agree with Councillor Lowe. Your initial reaction is to want to help in any way to stimulate the economy and help people out, but these fair practices were put in place for a reason," said Councillor Dawn Mitchell. "What's fair for one has got to be fair for the other."

Mayor Jim Eglinski wanted to look more into the idea of cost sharing the paving. He also said that he would like to try to talk to the Minister of Transportation directly about Site 1, and have a "good, frank, serious talk" on the future of that property. "I would like to see us push for that as soon as possible," he said.

Ramme noted that the land has remained stagnant for 20 years, and that whether it gets "used for UFA or someone else," it would be a valuable topic to discuss with AT.

No decision was reached, with Eglinski noting they were "at a bit of a stand-still," but the matter will continue to be looked into and discussed in future meetings.

No-Spray Program Yearly Renewal

(YC) Yellowhead County Agricultural Services requires landowners who do not want herbicide applied adjacent to their property to enter into an agreement with the county prior to April 1st of each year. The landowner becomes responsible for weed and brush control in the designated areas, as defined by the no-spray agreement.

Once an agreement has been completed, no-spray signs must be purchased at a cost of \$5.00 for two signs, at the Yellowhead County Edson or Wildwood Offices. These signs must be placed by the landowner in a highly visible area as close as possible to the property line.

Yellowhead County Agricultural Services requires each landowner who has signed the agreement to fulfill their obligations before the July 1st deadline. After the July 1st deadline,

Yellowhead County re-assumes responsibility for weed and brush control and may apply herbicide adjacent to non-compliant roadsides if necessary.

If you chose not to renew your agreement for 2021, we ask that you please remove your signs prior to the start of the spray season starting May 1st, 2021.

Residents who have any concerns or questions are asked to contact Yellowhead County Agricultural Services at 1-800-814-3935 or (780) 325-3782.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

HELP IS HERE FOR YOU

The COVID-19 outbreak has changed our daily routines and adjusting hasn't been easy. Not for anyone. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed and struggling to cope, help is available—24/7.

Visit alberta.ca/mentalhealth to find resources.

Alberta

Wildwood Annual Fair update

submitted Carol Riehl

Thank You for your concerns, wishes and hopes for our annual Fair 2021 your words of encouragement are appreciated.

This is a reminder to us of our many generous sponsors and our many enthusiastic participants .

At this time, we would like to spotlight one of those sponsors -Legacy Petroleum LTD (Wildwood). They recently donated \$1,000.

They have sponsored our fair for many years. They not only sponsor, but also participate in the fair; these youngsters are fantastic bakers. Their volunteer help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Dennis, Kim, Kyra, Denelle and Chance Broderson. It is because of people like them and the many, many more we have that make our fair what it is.

Without sponsors and participants there would be no fair. So hats off to all of you. Every contribution is greatly appreciated.

So here's to hoping that you will soon be getting the request to sponsor and participate in our annual fair 2021. Stay safe and healthy

Weekly Anchor Comics



"WHAT DID I SQUISH?" "MY SQUASH!"
by Gary Clark

SWAMP



WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI



Here's My Card Business and Professional Directory

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- Drywall •Blow-in
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Email: edsonglass@shaw.ca

#5, 5101 3 Ave.
Box 30044
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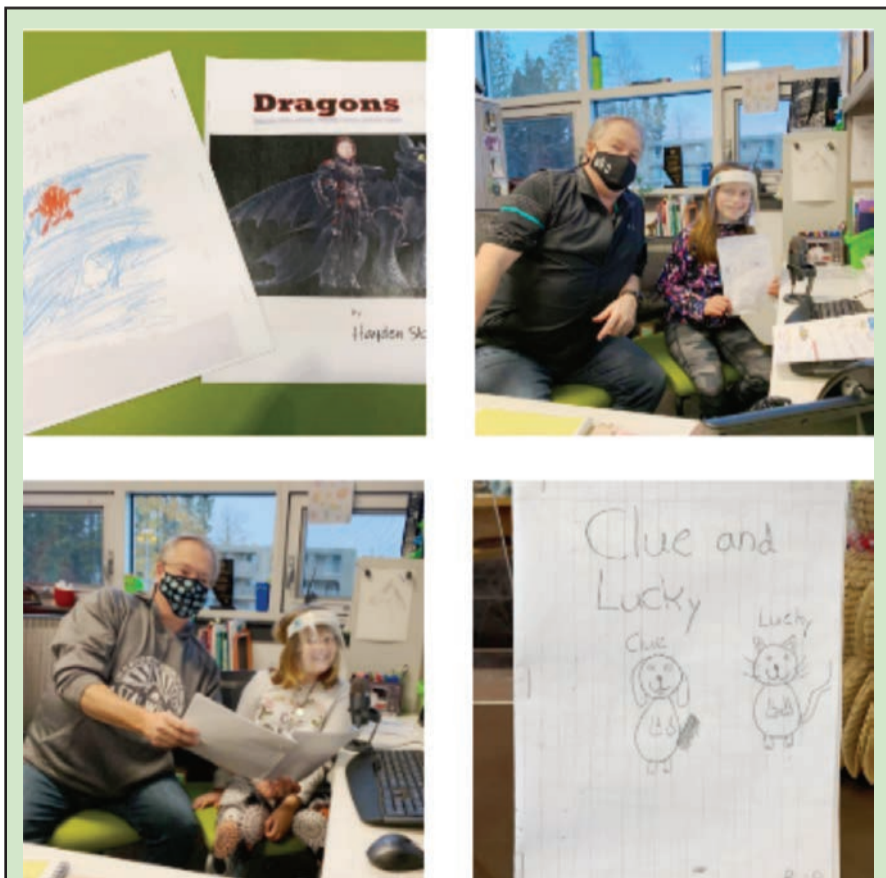
Gary Heise
780-723-1458

HRH gets into Valentine's Day Spirit



Even though the buses were cancelled all week, it did not deter the grade 7 classes at Holy Redeemer from getting into the Valentine's Day spirit. The students in all three classes dressed up in pink and red to have fun on Friday, February 12th. "We challenged the students to dress up and told them we would hand out prizes," says grade 7 Science Teacher Andrea Hallett. "And the students did not disappoint. Everyone did such a fantastic job." This is just one of the reasons HRH is a great place for the students to grow and learn, while having a lot of fun as well.

The halls of Mary Bergeron Elementary filled with budding authors!



Principal Darcy Reynolds is proud to showcase student stories with the rest of the school community. Friday morning announcements include those students who have produced a piece of writing that they want to share with the school. Principal Reynolds invites them in for a short interview, and then they read their story to everyone.

Afterward, their book is published in the library and is part of the general collection so that other students can sign it out from the library to read and be inspired.

Students in Grades 2, 3, and 5 have published *Dragons!*, *The Journey to Far Away to the Pirates Den*, *The Time Travelling Scientist*, *Clue and Lucky*, *The New Shop*, and *The Lonely Volcano*, a book inspired by a Grade 3 science lesson about volcanoes and lava.

Obituaries

~ Obituary ~

Helen May Jackson (nee Leach)

May 31, 1925 – February 11, 2021



Helen May Leach was born on May 31, 1925 in Biggar, Saskatchewan. She was the sixth of seven children born to Walter and Bessie Leach. She moved to Edson when she was six months old and she grew up in Edson. She worked at Rohr's Bakery, Gavin's Drug Store, Collin's Grocery Store and The Edson Leader. She married Cliff Jackson on January 12, 1952. They moved to Nanaimo, B.C. in 1979 where they lived for 4 years and then moved to Salmon Arm.

Helen moved back to Edson in 2004 when she renewed old friendships and made new ones. Her final three and half years were spent in the Edson Continuing Care Centre until she passed away peacefully on Feb. 11, 2021.

Helen was predeceased by her husband Cliff and by all of her siblings, Harvey Leach (Annie), Gert Keefe (Jim), Arthur Leach, Ronald Leach (Ina), Frank Leach (Louise), and Win Griep (Fred).

She will be lovingly missed by her children Trudy Van Dyk (Hank), Wayne Jackson (Terry), and Douglas Jackson (Deb). She leaves behind 9 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild. She will be fondly remembered by numerous nieces and nephews and many friends.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Special thanks to the staff at Continuing Care for the love and compassion they all showed to our Mom and the family.

Quick to Listen, Slow to Speak



Pastor
Bryan Walter

We are an opinionated culture. Whether it's about political perspectives, what we believe to be the keys to life and happiness, or something more subjective like toppings on pizza, there are often as many varied points of view as there are people in the conversation.

Unfortunately, one of the areas that seems to be degrading, especially in this more anonymous digital age, is the way we express those opinions; we've lost sight of the value of gentleness.

What we need to understand is that it is possible to be absolutely right, but do it in a such a way that you are still wrong. Proverbs 15:1 says "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

It isn't just what we say, but how we say it that determines the value of our word. If we actually want to be heard, for the merit of our standpoint and not the mere astringency of our argument, we need to treat others with respect; even if we don't appreciate their beliefs.

The true mark of a gentleman, or a gentlewoman, is their ability to treat others around them with honour and integrity, even in disagreement. The trouble is, society simply doesn't favour this sort of disposition anymore; "Nice guys finish last," as they say.

Instead, our system favours those who are

willing to disregard the feelings of others, and take what they want for themselves.

Is that who we really want to be though? Is it worth being at the top if you find yourself alone there?

James 1:19 encourages us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." We don't have to agree with everyone, but if we truly want to make our world a place worth living in, we need to learn to respect each other.

CHURCH DIRECTORY for Edson & Area

EDSON

BETHEL PENTECOSTAL FAMILY WORSHIP CENTRE
6350 - 13th Ave., Edson. Phone 723-3007
Pastors John & Roberta 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: 10:45 a.m.

EDSON BREAD OF LIFE CHURCH WITH A MISSION
5325 4th Avenue. Sunday Service 11 am with lunch to follow
Pastor Jim Findlay 780-725-3743; Pastor Vinnie Frymire 780-728-8606

EDSON MENNONITE CHURCH
6212 - 13th Ave., Edson Telephone: 723-4922. Sunday Worship 9:45 am.
Sunday School 11a.m.

EDSON-PEERS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
4633-7th Ave., Edson - Ph: 723-5242 Pastor Dan Meyer
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
Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Rev. Kimberly Roy
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: Ron and Bev Swanson. fofcedson.com

HOLY TRINITY (An Anglican/Lutheran Faith Community)
Rev. Johnny Pooten 780-723-4366
WORSHIP SCHEDULE (All services at 10 am Sunday mornings):
1st & 2nd Sunday at St. Catherine's Building 623 50th St.; 3rd and 4th
Sundays at Grace Building 407-7th Ave.;
5th Sunday - call for location. Please phone for other information.

THE NEW JOSHUA GENERATION FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL
4911 B 3rd Avenue, Edson, AB
Sunday Worship at 2:30 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.

**CARROT CREEK, NITON JUNCTION & PEERS
CARROT CREEK CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**
Pastor George Stone - Ph: 795-2132 Church in Peers, Alberta
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

GREEN GROVE UNITED CHURCH
Niton Junction - Ph: 795-2568 Sunday Services

**EVANSBURG/ENTWISTLE/WILDWOOD
ENTWISTLE COMMUNITY CHURCH**
Pastor - Micah Brookhart Office: 780-727-2829
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

WILDWOOD CHAPEL
4820 54 Avenue, Wildwood Alberta, Phone 780-325-3999
Pastors: Bjorn & Karin Bidell
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.; Mid-Week Prayer: Thursday 7:30 p.m..

What's happening, when and where in the community - for monthly meetings see our classified page

COMMUNITY EVENTS

January 14-Spring: Visit Willmore Park for the Toboggan Hill. Pack some hot dogs and hot chocolate and enjoy the outdoors.

January 14-February 25: Chair Yoga Active Living Class for Older Adults. Thursdays 4pm to 5pm. Zoom-based. Led by Brianne Benson. Register on-line starting January 5 at edson.ca.

January 18-March 1: Better Balance Active Living Class for Older Adults. Mondays 11am to 11:45am. Zoom-based. Register on-line starting January 5 by visiting edson.ca

January 20-February 24: Joint Effort Active Living Class

for Older Adults. Wednesdays 11am to 11:45am. Zoom-based. Led by a certified exercise physiologist. Register on-line starting January 5 at edson.ca. For more info, call 780-723-4403.

February 24: Pink Shirt Day

February 26: Live online Concert Local Edson and Area Artist Feb 26 at 7pm Hosted on Carla Rands Profile on Facebook.

March 4 and 11: Rural Dugout- A two-part Webinar Series. Register online at www.westcentralforage.com/events

March 10 : Septic Sense: Solutions for Rural living

Online workshop Contact Yellowhead County Agricultural Services at 780-325-3782

March 31: Grow your own Oyster Mushrooms Workshop. Online class 6PM-8PM Call Yellowhead County Wildwood office to register by March 12 1-800-814-3935 or 780-325-3782

First Wednesday of Every Month: Senior's Recycling Day. Between 10 am and 2 pm, senior citizens are welcome to visit the depot for snacks and refreshments while their staff unloads your sorted recyclables free of charge. See the Senior's Day Facebook Event for more details.

We are proud to support community events



780-723-4233

4735-3 Avenue, Edson, AB

Remember to drop off your donations for the
EDSON FOOD BANK
at Independent Grocer, Sobeys or the Edson Food Bank

Edson Food Bank hours are every Tuesday 9am to 11am
and the Second and Last Thursdays of the month from 6:45 to 8pm

780-725-3185

Please call Mondays to make an appointment for
Tuesday mornings. Please call Thursdays to make an appointment for
the two Thursday evenings that we're open.

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We are proud to support community events



Phone: 723-6661

EDSON, AB.

TO PLACE AN AD

780-723-5787

CLASSIFIEDS

EMAIL:ANCHORWK@TELUSPLANET.NET

Classifieds go online at www.weeklyanchor.com

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: Tuesday, Noon

FOR SALE

10 acres for sale 1 mile from Edson 780-712-8048 TFN
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We buy cars, trucks, SUVs, quads, side-by-sides, sleds, boats, etc. for cash. Call 780-817-0602 for a free appraisal. TFN

HALLS

Trail Hall seats 60 people. Available for rental. Contact Richard or Jenny 780-723-2638.

Pinedale Hall has a cozy hall that seats 100 people, which is great if

you have an upcoming wedding, reunion, a Family event or a business that has a need for an open meeting etc. The Pinedale Hall has open rental dates. Catering may be available. Contact Cindy Wood at 780-723-1809.

Pine Grove Hall Association is now taking bookings for the hall. Capacity is 180 people. Full kitchen with annual health inspection. Camping available. Horseshoe pits, grassy baseball field with backstop and a covered outdoor pavilion. Call 780-723-2818 and leave msg.

Edson Masonic Lodge #68. Plan your next event at the historic Masonic Hall. Seats up to 80, perfect for weddings, showers, birthday parties, and meetings. Wheelchair accessible, kitchen facility, centrally located. 4725 9th Ave. They hold a meeting the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. For more info and prices call Holt at 780-728-8973.

Edson Lions Club Hall is taking bookings for meetings, weddings, gatherings and reunions. Upstairs holds 145, downstairs hold

104. Catering available by the Elks. Camping available. Edson Lions is a non-profit society. Phone 780-723-3169.

Entwistle Hall Rentals contact Cheryl at 780-515-1755 or Tracey at 780-898-2317.

Edson Legion Hall seats 350 for dinner and dance, and 400 for convention style seating for birthdays, funerals, meetings and special events. Wheelchair accessible, catering available and ample parking. The Edson Legion is a non-profit organization. Call the

office at 780-723-3455 to book events.

Park Court Hall call or text Karyn at 780-712-3918.

Wildwood Community Hall To book please contact: Marjorie Russell at 780-325-2180 or Mary Anderson at 780-514-6105.

**Regional hall services may be temporarily limited due to provincial Covid-19 restrictions. Please call ahead.*

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: Tuesday, Noon

AWNA Blanket CLASSIFIEDS

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Coming Events

BLANKET THE PROVINCE with a classified ad. Only \$269 (based on 25 words or less). Reach 90 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903 Ext 225; www.awna.com.

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News and Views



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Alberta RCMP reports reduced crime rates in 2020

(RCMP) – With property crime a leading concern for many Albertans, the Alberta RCMP continues to focus on its Crime Reduction Strategy – an intelligence-led approach to policing that enables RCMP to identify repeat offenders and crime trends, as well as conduct targeted enforcement and prevention initiatives. Over the past year, the organization’s strategy had notable success, recording improved crime rates across the province.

Included in the RCMP’s Crime Reduction Strategy are initiatives like Data 2 Action – a program that focuses resources on the province’s most vulnerable communities, targeting prevalent crime types in those areas. Launching two years ago, the program has since grown and is now overseen at a district level, allowing Data 2 Action to be implemented in more communities throughout Alberta.

As well, the Alberta RCMP operates Crime Reduction Units in all four districts of the province; these teams consist of experienced police officers, criminal analysts, and civilian staff specialized in targeting repeat offenders who impact communities most.

After the realization that certain rural properties were repeatedly being targeted for crime, Project Lock Up was also launched under the Crime Reduction Strategy, in 2019. This collaborative, intelligence-led program allows RCMP and citizens to work together to respond to repeat victims of property crime. From March 2019 to April 2020, the number of top-targeted properties – properties that previously experienced the highest rates of repeat crime – dropped by 55.4%, meaning Project Lock Up efforts, including targeted patrols, have contributed to substantially decrease the number of repeat victimizations.

In 2020, the Alberta RCMP saw improved crimes trends throughout the communities it serves. From January through December 2020, there was a 17% decrease in Break & Enters in Alberta RCMP jurisdictions compared to 2019, and a 19% decrease in Theft of Motor Vehicles. Theft Under \$5,000 also declined, dropping by 22%, with 7,852 fewer cases reported than the previous year. Overall, there were 14,230 fewer Property Crime offences and 21,285 fewer Total Criminal Code offences in 2020.

“The Alberta RCMP recognizes that crime rates inevitably fluctuate, rising and declining over time. While the nature of crime cannot be controlled, the RCMP can account for the plans it has in place to manage it. As Alberta’s provincial police force, we are confident that our Crime Reduction Strategy is making an impact and yielding positive results.” - Superintendent Peter Tewfik, Officer in Charge, Alberta RCMP Crime Reduction Strategy

Albertans can stay informed about crime rates in their area by accessing the Alberta RCMP Crime Map at CrimeStoppers.ab.ca, or by visiting the RCMP’s Data and Innovation webpage, which highlights key statistics and

information on policing initiatives throughout the province.

Overall, the Alberta RCMP is dedicated to reducing crime and will continue to collaborate with communities, partner agencies, and government at all levels to do so. By working together, we can be a stronger, safer Alberta.

“ February 23rd marks Canada's Agriculture Day. Thank You Farmers! ”



GERALD SOROKA MP
YELLOWHEAD
780-723-6068 - GERALD.SOROKA.C1@PARL.GC.CA - GERALDSOROKAMP.CA



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The Family Pack 2 Large Pizzas with 2 Toppings, 4 Garlic Toast 1 Litre Soft Drink	\$34.99

DAILY SPECIALS!

Peers and District Cultural and Agricultural Society
o/a Peers Area Community Group

AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Online
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
7pm to 8pm

New Members are always welcome!

For an invite to the online meeting please send emails to:
Peersagsociety@gmail.com

Pet of the Week
Call for information 712-6788
[www.http://www.edsonanimalrescue.com](http://www.edsonanimalrescue.com)
Email: edsonanimalrescue@hotmail.com



Meet Moki! This sweet 1 year old girl kitty loves to cuddle her foster family and is ready to find her forever home. She's looking for a quieter household and one where she is the only queen kitty. Find out more about Moki on our Facebook page or visit EdsonAnimalRescue.com to find out how to adopt.

We have pet friendly ice-melt available for purchase in our online shop <http://edsonanimalrescue.com/shop>. Every one sold helps us carry on our rescue mission!



EARS is still facilitating adoptions during the pandemic-- send us a message, give us a call or find us on Facebook to learn more. We need you more than ever!

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KID'S CORNER



Say hello to 2-year-old Johnathan Basaraba, also known as Johnny. This little cutie loves playing with cars, all things Paw Patrol, and he enjoys being outside (especially when he gets to be around trucks). Johnny loves the color red, and his favorite animal is a "kitty kat." His favorite snack is all kinds of cereal, and he especially loves the marshmallows in Lucky Charms. Johnny also has an awesome big sister named Gabriella, who is 6 years old.

Kid's Corner is sponsored by:
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