

*Thymes Two*

Unique Gifts & More

Spend \$75.00 and receive a **FREE GIFT**

306 Main Street, Edson Mon to Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm Ph: 780-723-3350

EDSON'S INDEPENDENT, AWARD WINNING LOCAL NEWSPAPER

The Weekly

**ANCHOR**

SERVING EDSON & YELLOWHEAD COUNTY FOR 30 YEARS

PASSPORT PHOTOS & MORE

The Weekly Anchor

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT 780-723-5787

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

WWW.WEEKLYANCHOR.COM

VOL. 32, NO. 02



i'm lovin' it®

IS A BIG MAC® WITH BACON STILL A BIG MAC?



For a limited time only. At participating McDonald's restaurants in Canada. ©2020 McDonald's



i'm lovin' it®

**FOOD BANK**

Edson Food Bank reflects on year of challenges...

see page 13

**COVID-19**

Health Care Workers die after catching Covid-19...

see page 3

**REAL ESTATE**

Year in review for Edson Real Estate business...

see page 4

**COMMENT**

Not so decisive action...

see page 6

# Edson Mayor looks back on 2020

**"The last several months have been incredibly difficult, but there is light at the end of the tunnel"**

by Shaylyn Thornton

As we all cautiously enter into 2021 hoping that it is a much different experience than 2020, it is a great time to look back on the year and consider the challenges that we have overcome and the many lessons we have learned.

Town of Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara shared some of his thoughts on 2020 in an interview with The Weekly Anchor.

**Q:** Obviously, the big theme of 2020 was the pandemic. What kind of impact did COVID have on the Town?

How do you feel about the Town's response to the situation?

**A:** "Like every business and organization, the pandemic changed how we operated and created many unknowns. It certainly took most of our attention during the year as we adjusted to ever changing

information. While there have been many struggles, I believe we have weathered the storm fairly well with many businesses adapting to the changing dynamic through curbside pick-up and increased online presence. Residents worked really hard to follow

*continued pg 2*



It was a great way to end 2020, with fresh air fun. Pictured are Ruth Bartram (5) sister Georgia Bartram (2) with mom Lindsey and dad Jesse. The family was at Willmore Park having a wiener roast before heading up the toboggan hill. photo Deanna Mitchener

**WOK BOX EDSON**  
780-725-9739



WOK BOX EDSON DELIVER

*Gelmici Jewellers*  
123 - 50 Street Downtown Edson phone: 780-723-3618

Welcome Back... We are Counted and Cleaned and Ready for 2021!

Monday - Friday 10am-5:30pm; Saturday 10am-3pm



PASSPORT PHOTOS & MORE  
The Weekly Anchor  
CALL TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT 780-723-5787



Quality Products...

- Ready Mix Concrete
- Pre-Cast Barricades
- Residential
- Commercial • Industrial

...Quality People

7007 - 4TH AVE., EDSON, ALBERTA



Brendon

# Spring stock is arriving!

Regular hours: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun closed

BRANDS YOU TRUST  
GET IT ALL  
*Jensen's*  
LIFESTYLE CLOTHING  
PRICES YOU LOVE

Main Street, Edson  
780-723-6677

# Edson Mayor looks back on 2020

*continued from front*

guidelines and support each other. Town Council provided nearly \$750,000 in tax relief and utility credits in the spring to assist residents and businesses. We also created a \$300,000 loan program through Community Futures, and hired a Business Liaison to give businesses extra support during this difficult time. I think we did really well overall and are in a good position to recover in the future.”

**Q:** What was the biggest challenge(s) of 2020 for you as Mayor, and how did you handle them? If different challenges for the Town as a whole, what would they be?

**A:** “Like everyone, a pandemic is not something we have experienced so there is no playbook. There are often no good decisions, only difficult ones and we just have tried to make the best decisions we can for the overall safety of our community. The biggest challenge as Mayor is that most of the decisions are made by other levels of government, but the public looks to local leadership for answers to questions. This is why we started doing regular videos to answer common inquiries and to provide clarification where required. Keeping updated on everything and being responsive in a timely fashion to the volume of inquiries has probably been one of the largest challenges.”

**Q:** What are some of the Town's biggest accomplishments in 2020?

**A:** “I'm proud of the fact that despite COVID, Council instituted the Non-Residential Tax Incentive Bylaw to spur development and approved the Home Builders Incentive Program to encourage construction in Hillendale. We also continued progress on the Multiplex including receiving \$20 Million in grant funding from the Federal Government, the most handed out to any community

outside of the major cities. That was a huge accomplishment. We also seen the opening of Parkland Lodge and the Bike Skills Park at Willmore this year which are wonderful additions to our community.”

**Q:** What were some of the main disappointments from 2020, with the pandemic causing so many issues?

**A:** “Not having our regular community events and the cancellation of things like Canada Day and hockey were some of the bigger disappointments I think for Council and the general public. Council also has a pretty aggressive Strategic Plan and due to the attention given to the pandemic, we have not been able to maybe accomplish as much as we wanted this year.”

**Q:** As Mayor, what are you most proud of when you look back at 2020? What are you most disappointed about?

**A:** “I think I'm most proud of the fact of how the community has come together to support one another. Various parades for seniors, healthcare workers, birthdays etc. People helping each other, taking care of our seniors and most vulnerable and an increased focus on supporting local business. In addition, Town Staff really I think did an impeccable job of responding and trying to create COVID safe opportunities throughout the year. The biggest disappointment is of course COVID and how it created so much stress and anxiety for everyone.”

**Q:** What lessons have you learned in 2020 that you plan to take into 2021 and into the years forward?

**A:** “A good internet connection and Zoom are your best friends in a pandemic. No seriously, I think that the pandemic has shown everyone what is important in life

and that we shouldn't sweat the small things and appreciate what we have... our friends, families, work, and community.”

**Q:** Do you have a message for Edson residents as we head into 2021?

**A:** “The last several months have been incredibly difficult but there is light at the end of the tunnel. We need to continue to follow health protocols so we can get to the other side of this pandemic quicker. We

have much to look forward to in 2021 with continued TMX construction, TC Energy Pipeline Projects, construction of the Cascade Power Plant, along with all the things that make our community great such as our trails and outdoor recreational activities. Things will get better and Edson will be stronger because of it. When it is safe to do so, we certainly will be looking at putting a big event together to celebrate our community.”

## THIS WEEK'S FEATURE Mint Homes Ltd.



Features: One bedroom and two bathrooms Spacious bungalow with excellent street appeal Den off the foyer can double as a guest room Vaulted ceiling over great room Walk-in pantry in large open kitchen Huge master suite Curved landing leads to full basement

Plan#: 1133-1518-C

Sq.Ft: 1518

Beds:2 Baths: 2

For these plans  
**SPECTRUM**  
Home Plans  
www.spectrumhomeplans.com

Member of National Home Warranty Program

Phone: 780-723-2330

Fax: 780-723-5068

Email: [minthome@telusplanet.net](mailto:minthome@telusplanet.net)



## FREE Chopped Water

From Jan 4–17, enjoy a FREE Chopped Water with any purchase made in-store. Cheers!

**THE CHOPPED LEAF**

Edson Plaza | 5506 4 Ave. | 780.725.0404

Valid only at the Edson Plaza Chopped Leaf location. Not valid with any other discount or promotion. One coupon per person per visit. Not valid with online orders or with third party delivery. No cash value. Taxes extra. Offer available until January 17, 2021.

# Health-care worker passes after contracting COVID-19 on duty

## Care aide at Bethany Riverview in Calgary, Joe Corral, dies on Dec. 28 from COVID-19

61 year old Joe Corral will be mourned as the first Alberta health-care worker to die of COVID-19.

Corral, who died on Dec. 28, worked as a health-care aide at Bethany Riverview, a long-term care centre in Calgary specializing in caring for people with complex dementia.

In a Jan. 4 release from the Health Sciences Association of Alberta, President Mike Parker states, "It is with profound sadness that I am hearing of a member of our community of front-line health-care professionals who has succumbed to COVID-19.

"While others were told stay at home and socially distance as the pandemic took hold, health-care workers have rushed to the defence of Albertans. This individual answered the call to serve Albertans during the pandemic and has made the ultimate sacrifice.

"This tragic death highlights why we have been advocating so strongly for the immediate vaccination of all front-line health-care workers who put themselves at the greatest risk every day.

"HSAA members know and accept the risks involved in caring for our critically sick friends and neighbours. We are and will continue to be Alberta's best line of defence.

"We also need a government to be laser-focused on the most important issue of our day, one that truly is in this together with us, one that is putting the needs of Albertans first just as our members and all health-care workers have been for the last ten months.

"HSAA stands with all health-care workers as we mourn this loss," Parker concludes.

HSAA is 27,000 health-care professionals dedicated to protecting the public health system and

the vulnerable Albertans who rely on it.

**Editor's note:** It was announced on January 5 that a second Alberta health-care worker has died of Covid-19. Health Minister Tyler Shandro said during a news conference that he was sorry to announce the death of a second continuing-care worker — a woman in her 50s from the Edmonton zone.

# Alberta RCMP urge rural residents to use online crime reporting

Alberta RCMP launched the online crime reporting platform in May 2020. Since then (May 31 – Nov. 30, 2020) there have been over 780 reports submitted through online crime reporting.

We are encouraging all Albertans to report eligible crimes (select property crimes under \$5,000) because reporting less serious crime online helps emergency call takers and frontline members focus their time on high-priority calls. It is also a very convenient way to add your report and even include photos of your stolen or lost property.

More reports have been made in urban areas than rural, and we're urging rural residents to consider making online reports when possible. These reports assist us in crime

analysis, aids us in establishing trends and patterns, and ultimately leads our investigators to the chronic offenders. It also assists us in making decisions about how and where to deploy resources.

Crimes reported online will be taken just as seriously as crime reported in any other way.

The Police Reporting and Occurrence System (PROS) Data Centre processes all online crime reports. The PROS Data Centre is a centralized data centre team that handles records management and routine data entry to allow frontline officers to focus on policing our communities, not doing administrative work. From Dec. 1, 2019 – Nov. 30, 2020 the PROS Data Centre handled over 58,500 requests which saved officers, approximately, over

20,000 hours of time in front of a computer. Of those requests, over 780 came from online crime reporting.

After the PROS Data Centre processes the reports, they are sent to the Call Back Unit (CBU). The CBU is a specialized team of RCMP members designed to handle non-emergency calls for service in an effort to create efficiencies in our service. From Dec. 1, 2019 – Nov. 30, 2020 the CBU diverted and answered over 8,300 calls for service which is equivalent to approximately 22,300 hours of service or 18.5 General Duty Constables' workloads over the past 12 months.

Our number one priority is the safety and security of the public and of our officers. We are committed to providing the most effective, efficient policing possible and being responsive to the ever-changing policing needs in Alberta. Help us help you. Pick up the

phone and report crime and suspicious activity to your local RCMP detachment, or go online to report eligible property crimes at: <https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta/en>

**For Only \$5000 Down this could be your home!**

**This 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Mobile Home is in Exceptional Condition!**

Includes Stove, Fridge, Microwave, and Dishwasher  
With beautiful new Flooring.  
Comes with fully fenced yard and back deck.

\*some conditions apply

**Call Lexie at 780-723-3110**



*Helping the world hear better*

Serving Alberta since 1964

We are AADL, WCB, HINNIHB, CVA provider

## HEARING EVALUATIONS

**Edson Clinic**

Thursday, January 28\* 10:00am-1:00pm

Edson Senior's Drop In Centre/Pioneer Cabin

**4836-7 Avenue**

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Attending Practitioner

**We provide:**

**Agnieszka Lehmann**

Registered Hearing Air Practitioner

- \* Latest Technology - all digital hearing aid models
- \* Repairs to all models
- \* 30 day trial period

**Edmonton**

#134-15277 Castledowns Road  
Edmonton, AB

**1-855-258-9429**

## Canada Summer Jobs 2021

EMPLOYER APPLICATION PERIOD OPENED ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 2020 AND WILL CLOSE ON JANUARY 29TH, 2021

For more information please visit: [bit.ly/37COKUm](http://bit.ly/37COKUm)

- [GeraldSoroka.ca](http://GeraldSoroka.ca)
- [Gerald.Soroka.c1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Gerald.Soroka.c1@parl.gc.ca)
- 780-723-6068
- @GeraldSoroka
- @geraldsoroka



Gerald Soroka, MP Yellowhead

**Check out our new mobile friendly website!**

[www.weeklyanchor.com](http://www.weeklyanchor.com)

# Year in review for Edson and area real estate business

## 2020 started out a little slower than 2019 however real estate sales ramped up by June

by Jordan Rae

According to the Alberta Government's economic dashboard indicator website, homes sold in Alberta through the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) increased 39.3% to \$1.8 billion in November 2020 compared to the same time period in 2019.

In Alberta, Red Deer had the largest increase (+66.7%), while Fort McMurray had the largest decrease (-4.6%). Year-to-date sales in 2020 have surpassed 2019 in November by 2.6% despite COVID-19 impacts in the spring.

According to data compiled by the Alberta Real Estate Association, annual individual sales for Edson and area were 181, down from 203 in 2019, but up from 177 in 2018. Royal LePage Edson Realtor Elaine Taylor's own calculations supported this data.

The 20-year-average total sales number is 242, with the last notably busy year being 2014 with 329 total-sold for this area. Commercial real estate activity is excluded from these numbers.

2020 started out a little slower than 2019 for real estate sales, with only seven in January of 2020, however things ramped up in June when that number rose to 27, beating the 20-year average of 26. This was due to what's known as a "delayed spring market," likely caused by COVID-19 impacts in March, which also accounted for a jump in listings in September, when the area saw a whopping 48 for the month.

The reasons people were buying and selling were fairly standard, Taylor explained. "I had sellers retiring and moving elsewhere, others looking for other work opportunities in other areas of the province and other provinces, and the usual first-time buyers and those upgrading their homes or downsizing," she said. "I also had folks coming to Edson for work and were looking to purchase either a temporary home here, or make the Edson area their permanent home."

In 2020, not only was the market a busy one, but it was also a tough one. "There were several properties that went into a multiple offer situation which can be very stressful for a buyer; there were a lot of deals falling apart on financing," she said. "I found that the lenders tightened up their lending practices and were much more cautious when approving mortgages."

Like many industries, the real estate business halted somewhat as soon as COVID-19 hit in March. Real estate was eventually deemed an "essential service" and new protocols had to be conceptualized and followed to resume property listings and showings.

"We implemented new forms and procedures to advise clients of the risks of COVID-19 transmission while selling a house or viewing a house," said Taylor. "And to also have both sellers and buyers complete a health questionnaire for current or recent sickness, if they were waiting for a test result, if they had been exposed to someone who was sick or was waiting for a test result, and any recent travel."

Procedures for showing homes included sanitizing hands, wearing masks, not travelling to showings in the same vehicle as clients, and sellers were to leave lights on, and cupboard doors open. These procedures will more than likely remain standard practice for the foreseeable future. Clients were also asked to limit the folks coming to the viewing, to only those who would be on the offer.

"We also tried to limit the number of houses shown to prevent potential spread of COVID-19. This meant examining each property to see if it made their top three list of homes to see," said Taylor. "Some buyers like to see everything in their price range which could mean 12 houses, give or take, so we had to take a serious look at each listing to narrow down the list."

New restrictions imposed in

Alberta in December made open houses impossible, and forced realtors to have to be even more creative with things like virtual showings and video tours.

Another large impact on the 2020 year for local real estate was the Trans Mountain Expansion Project. "We fielded a lot of calls for rental housing for the TM folks which started in November 2019," said Taylor. "Although Royal LePage Edson Real Estate chose to not practice in the area of property management, lots of our clients have rental homes and homes that were listed for sale and sitting vacant, so we helped our clients fill their rentals and vacant homes by directing the TM folks their way."

"There's also the Cascade Power Project on the Robb Highway that's ramping up," said Taylor. "Edson also saw quite a few new businesses open in recent months and a few that are expanding, which is great news for the Edson area."

In the last part of the year, Taylor says she had a lot of inquiries for office and retail

space for rent and there's been a few investors buying up rental properties.

With the madness of 2020 growing slightly fainter in the rear-view mirror, Taylor shared her thoughts on what 2021 might bring for the industry.

"I feel this will depend on what happens with COVID-19, the vaccine, and what restrictions are imposed on us and for how long. We are somewhat in a wait-and-see-mode," she said. "We need to get the economy going again, get businesses that are closed reopened, get the pipeline built, and get new projects on the go. Getting our people back to work and having some sort of normalcy in life is key to keeping the Edson area's economy going."

Taylor says it's currently a great market for buyers, as there's a vast selection of properties for sale, prices are still on the soft side, and low mortgage rates are still in effect. She can see buyers still looking to make a move, but suggests they do so soon, as she anticipates that rates will increase in late spring or early summer.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE** **S. MCLEAN CONTRACTING INC.** **WATER ACT** **NOTICE OF APPLICATION**

Notice is given that **S. McLean Contracting Inc.** has filed an application under the provisions of the *Water Act* for developing a 28.5 ha sand and gravel extraction operation located at SW 03-055-14-W5. Extraction operations will include soil salvage & stockpiling, pit dewatering, excavation, crushing, screening, mixing asphalt aggregate, hauling and reclamation activities. Pit operations will intercept groundwater. The pit operation site will be reclaimed to three end-pit waterbodies.

Any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within **7** days of the date of this notice to:

Environment and Parks  
Regulatory Approvals Centre  
5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza  
9915 108 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G8  
Phone: 780-427-6311  
Fax: 780-422-0154  
Email: [aep.waapplications@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aep.waapplications@gov.ab.ca)

The written statement of concern should include the following:

- Quote the OneStop application/file number: **5052128 (EMS Application 001-00471084)**
- describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Water Act
- explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activity and/or diversion of water proposed in the application
- provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable
- state the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application
- contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer. Please provide the telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact.

Environment and Parks will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and notify each filer by letter of the decision to accept or reject their written submission as a valid statement of concern. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department's website at <https://avw.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx>.

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

Lisa McLean  
S. McLean Contracting Inc.  
Phone: 250-835-8313  
Email: [lisamclean0312@gmail.com](mailto:lisamclean0312@gmail.com)

Or

Jaimie Poettcker  
Aspen Land Group Inc.  
Phone: 780-809-8191  
Email: [jpoettcker@aspenlandgroup.com](mailto:jpoettcker@aspenlandgroup.com)

## PASSPORT PHOTOS & MORE



The Weekly Anchor

5040 3rd Avenue, Edson  
780-723-5787

Call to book an appointment



# TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2020

**Town of Edson  
Office Hours  
CLOSED TO PUBLIC DUE TO  
COVID RESTRICTIONS  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

*Celebrate  
World Snow Day*

By participating in a Family Friendly Scavenger Hunt on the Hornbeck Ski Trails

Sunday, January 17th.

Goodies to give away after you complete the scavenger hunt (available 11-4 pm).

Brought to you by the Muskeg Flyers & the Town of Edson

COVID 19 Guidelines will be followed.

For more information check out [edson.ca/familyfun](http://edson.ca/familyfun) or the Muskeg Flyers Facebook Page



## Council/Committee of the Whole Meeting Schedule

Town Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings are held in the Council Chamber of the Edson Civic Centre, 605 –50th Street\*, as follows:

**Regular Meetings of Council:  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 P.M.**

**Council Committee of the Whole meetings:  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 P.M.**

\*Due to COVID-19, the Council Chamber is currently closed to the public and meetings are being held via Zoom. They can be viewed live on the Town of Edson’s Facebook or Youtube page. Questions regarding items on the agenda can be submitted to [civiccentre@edson.ca](mailto:civiccentre@edson.ca) or by calling 780-723-4401 ext. 104

# Now Hiring!



## Chief Administrative Officer

The Town of Edson seeks an energetic, dynamic, progressive and collaborative leader. In addition to possessing superior tact and diplomacy skills, they will have a strong sense of fairness and compassion, exceptional relationship building skills, and the ability to build and support strong teams.

The CAO will have the ability to create a respectful environment in which diverse perspectives and opinions can emerge and spur transformational ideas.

Please Note: in order to receive consideration for this position, please apply to the Vogel Group at [rick@thevogelgroup.ca](mailto:rick@thevogelgroup.ca) or 780.665.4965 ext. 101. The Town will not accept applications directly.

## NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Development Authority has authorized the issuance of the following Development Permits in accordance with the Town of Edson Land Use Bylaw #2070 as amended:

Permit #	Address/Legal	Development Type	Use	Date Issued Online	Zoning
<b>Week 1</b>					
001-2021	201 54 Street/Plan 062 6845, block 9A, Lot 5	Free Standing Sign – Digital Menu Board	Permitted	January 7, 2021	C-1
<b>Week 2</b>					

Any person who deems 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 ([www.edson.ca/development](http://www.edson.ca/development))**. 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.

# Not so decisive action

Premier Jason Kenney announced Monday, January 4 that the six Alberta MLAs and one



by Dana McArthur  
publisher/Editor

Member Canadian Association of Journalists

high-level UCP staff member who took part in non-essential travel outside Canada during the pandemic have (finally) been reprimanded.

The six MLAs have either resigned or have been dismissed from their ministries or cabinet committee roles. The premier's chief of staff was also asked to step down.

Kenny's initial hesitancy to take action against the wayward MLAs solicited a harsh backlash from voters and the official opposition -and rightfully so.

There is no greater image of hypocrisy than the government telling the entire population of Alberta to avoid non-essential travel outside the country, then being slapped in the face with the images of elected officials basking in southern climates!

MLAs sitting on beaches while many Albertans couldn't be with the people they love when they died, are selfish acts that run counter to today's greater public health concern. Not only does this set a bad example for the rest of Albertans, it also begs the question of just how serious these officials take the plight of seniors, patients, hospital workers, and those who have lost loved ones to Covid-19?

Most Albertans have made huge sacrifices to comply with AHS and government rules and recommendations to keep their families and vulnerable people safe. "Albertans have every right to expect that people in positions of public trust be held to a higher standard of conduct

during the Covid-19 pandemic," Kenney said in a statement.

But Kenney's backfired attempt to sweep the whole mess

under a rug until it blew over, may be the most damaging political hit his government has experienced so far.

Showing decisive leadership by taking action immediately would have been a far better way to apologize to Albertans for these MLAs' disingenuous behaviour.

In an unannounced Facebook Live appearance on January 6, Kenney chose a variety of questions he would respond to. The news media was not provided advance notice that he would be speaking.

In a confusing mixed message during his virtual appearance, Kenney said, "I think we need to support safe travel." His statement on "safe travel" appeared to contradict the Alberta government's website, which clearly states people should "avoid non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice."

It was revealed on Jan. 6 that passengers on board at least 20 flights between popular sunny vacation destinations and Canada may have been exposed to COVID-19 during the holidays, according to data published by the Public Health Agency of Canada. "Now is not the time to travel out of Canada for vacation purposes or any non-essential purposes," said federal public safety and emergency preparedness Minister Bill Blair.

As of our January 7 press-time, Kenney has been conspicuously silent and hasn't spoken publicly to answer media questions since his January 1 announcement on the travel scandal.

WebDonuts.com



## 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.*

## CRA Announces Temporary Flat Rate Method to Claim Home Office Expenses

Gerald Soroka  
MP Yellowhead



choose to use the detailed method to calculate employment expenses. To do so, get a completed and signed Form T2200S or Form T2200 from your employer and keep

documents to support your claim.

For more information visit: [Canada.ca/cra-home-workspace-expenses](https://Canada.ca/cra-home-workspace-expenses)

OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, would like to inform constituents that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has announced a new temporary flat rate method to simplify claims for home office expenses.

Those that worked more than 50% of the time from home for a period of at least four consecutive weeks in 2020 due to COVID-19 can claim \$2 for each day worked from home during that period. The maximum amount any individual can claim for the temporary flat rate method is \$400.

This method can only be used for the 2020 tax year.

Those that have larger claims can still

### The Weekly Anchor Your Local Independent Newspaper

All claims of errors in advertisements must be received in writing by the publisher within 5 days after the first publication. The Anchor is responsible to supply one ad proof upon customer request. Ads approved by the advertiser or agent absolves the Anchor of any liability for errors. Any other errors or failure to print is limited to the cost of the space where the error occurred within the ad. The opinions expressed within this publication are not necessarily those of the Anchor or the publisher. Material published may not be copied or reproduced without the expressed written permission of the publisher.



**Canadian Publication Mail Number - 40014221**  
SERVING: TOWN OF EDSON & YELLOWHEAD COUNTY FOR 30 YEARS!  
OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Thurs 9:00 am to 4:30 p.m.  
Fri.: 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m.  
DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Call  
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Tuesday, Noon

Published by: 422247 Alberta Ltd.  
5040 3rd Avenue, Edson, Alberta  
P.O. Box 6870, T7E 1V2  
Telephone: (780) 723-5787  
Fax: (780) 723-5725  
Email: [anchorwk@telusplanet.net](mailto:anchorwk@telusplanet.net)  
Website: [www.weeklyanchor.com](http://www.weeklyanchor.com)

Letter to the Editor

# Travelling MLAs are only Mortals

Dear Editor:

When a Roman General celebrated a military “triumph” through Rome, dressed in a glorious purple-and-gold toga suggesting royalty or even divinity, a companion or possibly a slave would stand beside him in the chariot repeatedly whispering into his ear “Remember that you are mortal”. Why? Because the Romans understood the dangers of pride or indeed arrogance. Better, perhaps, than we do today.

I expect Jason Kenney now wishes he'd assigned someone to remind his own caucus members, like MLAs Tanya Fir, Jeremy Nixon, Tracy Allard and Pat Rehn. While the rest of us stayed home and didn't visit our children or grand children over Christmas, and tried to follow the rules set down for us, they saw fit to travel out of country to warmer climates in direct contravention to their own government's recommendation against such travel.

Ontario's former finance minister Rod Phillips probably wishes he'd told a staff member to do it to him before leaving for a carefully concealed vacation to exclusive

Saint Barthélemy or, at the least, before creating a series of social media posts that made it seem he was still just folks and at home. As might NDP MP Niki Ashton, who travelled to Greece to visit her ill grandmother without mentioning it to her party leader or whip. (In a fine statement the NDP acknowledged her observance of protocols and the importance of family, but said with millions of us unable to visit sick relatives “Canadians, rightfully, expect their elected representatives to lead by example” and removed her from her shadow roles.)

The biggest mistake elected officials can make is to become arrogant, to “believe their own clippings”. The atmosphere of constant crisis and the partisan rhetoric of good against evil can easily feed such a sense of self-importance that they start feeling they have reached a higher plane than the rest of us mortals. Literally, in the case of these trips.

It's possible that a sense of entitlement also comes in part from getting paid too much. But whatever the cause, this arrogance was especially visible when some of these MLAs posted

pictures of themselves on public social media sites from such locations, e.g. Pat Rehn's T-shirted shot from a Mexican tourist attraction with the caption “Merry Christmas from our cave to yours”.

As for Tracy Allard, as a vice chair of cabinet's Emergency Management Committee you of all people were aware of the government's rules and recommendations. If your judgment is this bad when it comes to one set of rules for us and another for you, how can this important committee, your colleagues and especially we taxpayers rely on your leadership in the future?

I invite all elected officials therefore to imagine Allard, Rod Phillips, Tanya Fir, Pat Rehn, Jeremy Nixon and Niki Ashton whispering in their ear “Remember that you are no more important than the average tax payer – your boss.”

For the sake of your character and, indeed, your career, because

the alternative is to have voters, and the premier, shout it at you

when you are caught. *Stuart Taylor, Hinton*

## OPEN TO ALL EDSON BUSINESSES

# EDSON BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK

JANUARY 19, 2021 AT 8:30 AM  
VIRTUAL MEETING

REGISTER AT [EVENTBRITE.CA](https://www.eventbrite.ca)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT HEATHER AT [HCOKES@ALBERTACF.COM](mailto:HCOKES@ALBERTACF.COM)



EDSON BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK



### NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of John Eroslow (Stanley) Gelmici who died on October 15, 2020. If you have a claim against this Estate, you must file your claim by Feb 11, 2021

with **SHARI L. BOISVERT**

at **Boisvert Law Group**  
P.O. Box 6568  
324- 50 St.,  
Edson, Alberta T7E 1T9

and provide details of your claim.

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

**NEW!!**

**NEW!!**

**NEW!!**

## Plastics: What Goes Where?

Starting January 1st, 2021

### MIXED HARD PLASTIC

- detergent, soap and shampoo bottles
- plastic bottles/ tubs/ containers and lids (from items such as peanut butter lids, spreads, margarine, sauce, yogurt drinks, yogurt, etc.)
- disposable plastic cups
- disposable plastic cutlery
- garden nursery pots and trays
- water cooler jugs
- pill bottles
- broken toys
- broken plastic containers
- any plastic labeled with #2-#7



### #1 PLASTIC

- clamshells (from items such as berries, spinach, single serve fruit, cakes, tomatoes, hummus, take-out, peanut butter jar body, etc.)
- any plastic labeled with #1



# Mayor Zahara speaks out on MLA travel scandal

## Mayor's social media post shared by Alberta's NDP leader, Rachel Notley

by Jordan Rae

Frustrations boiled over as Albertans discovered that six United Conservative Party MLAs, and a number of party staffers, travelled outside of Canada over the holidays despite recommendations from both the provincial and federal governments to stay home.

Premier Jason Kenney told the media on January 1 that he wasn't aware of who was out of the province until the news became public. He then ordered all traveling members to return to Alberta.

The UCP came under heavy fire over the subsequent days after Kenney attempted to deflect the situation but did not discipline those in his party who left Canada.

Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara posted a message on New Year's day after seeing information about (now former) Municipal Affairs Minister Tracy Allard being in Hawaii this past Christmas, as well as reports he saw from Ontario with a Minister there also having travelled abroad.

Zahara voiced his frustrations in a social media which read, "[My] family was unable to visit my dying mother for months. She did not get the funeral she deserved. Friends have lost their jobs and our healthcare is at a breaking point. Real sacrifices have been made. Yet some think it is acceptable to vacation internationally. I'm beyond angry."

Mayor Zahara spoke on the actions of Allard, "I got to know her a bit, she was a great Minister, and I expected better from her and the rest of the elected leadership."

Zahara, who recently lost his mother, stated he felt the need to speak up on the issue after personal sacrifices in the last year regarding his mother's last days implored him to do so.

"It was really personal to me, because of the situation with my mom passing away this year," Zahara said. "Not unlike thousands of other Albertans, we were restricted on when we could see her, how many people could see her, unable to have a funeral — she was

unable to do some of the things she liked to do during her final time because of the restrictions, so it became very personal to me."

Zahara's post was most notably shared by Alberta's NDP leader, Rachel Notley, on her social media page. He commented on Notley's share, "It was very surprising to me, but I think it just reflects how many people feel. I'm not the only one that has gone through these sacrifices; everyone has."

"Elected officials need to hold themselves to a higher standard, yes, mistakes are going to happen, and they should apologize. But this is more than a mistake, it was a planned vacation trip, against the guidance that was clearly laid out since March," said Zahara.

Zahara shared his thoughts on Kenney's initial decision not to reprimand the officials. "I worked in the provincial government as a press secretary for three years, I lived through the Alison Redford 'Sky Palace' saga. I was there with Jim Prentice as well, and I was flabbergasted at that response," he said. "I had flashbacks of Alison Redford not wanting to take responsibility, regrettably, on some things, and I expected more, especially from Premier Kenney. It was a slap in the face, not only to Albertans, but also to his colleagues that were doing the right thing."

Just three days later, Kenney recanted, stating, "Over the weekend, I have listened to Albertans who are sending a clear message that they want real consequences for these actions."

The Premier accepted the resignations of Grande Prairie MLA Tracy Allard as minister of municipal affairs and Jamie Huckabay, his chief of staff. Calgary-Klein MLA Jeremy Nixon has been removed from his position as parliamentary secretary for civil society, and Red Deer-South MLA Jason Stephan has been relieved from Treasury Board. Three other MLAs: Calgary-Peigan's Tanya Fir, Tanya Yao of Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo, and Lesser Slave Lake's Pat Rehn have all been removed from their legislature committees.

Transportation Minister Ric McIver will take over municipal affairs until a new minister is appointed.

Zahara says he's satisfied to see the actions taken by Kenney. "I'm glad that decisions have now been made that there is some accountability in the system," he said. "Hopefully we can move forward because really, right now, this is not what we should be talking about. We should be talking about vaccine roll-outs and focus on getting through this."

### Important Notice Dangerous Ice Conditions

#### Millers Lake

SW-08-053-19-W5M; West of Edson

Lake aerators create hazardous thin ice and open water. For your safety, observe these posted warnings at all times:

#### Lake Aeration in Progress Danger-Thin Ice and Open Water

Take these extra measures while on an aerated lake:

- Use at your own risk.
- Don't go beyond danger signs or approach the open water.

For inquiries or to report a problem, please call: 780-410-1999.



toll free: 1-877-969-9091 • ab-conservation.com



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

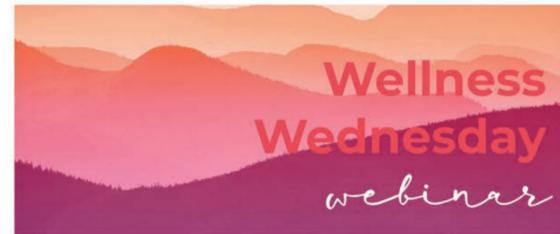


January 18 is Blue Monday. It's the longest day in winter, making it the darkest, gloomiest day of the year. As a result, many people experience depression and sadness in larger degrees than usual.

To offset the mood, Yellowhead County FCSS challenges you to share 2 acts of kindness that you or someone you know has done or experienced.

Let's remember the good in the world. Submit your comment and optional photos to the Blue Monday post on our Facebook page:

@YellowheadCounty



We're also hosting FREE Wellness Wednesday webinars meant to offer practical advice for managing your mental health during difficult times.

January 20, 1 - 3 PM: Transform Your Stress: The Resilience Advantage Strategies for Managing Stress in Challenging Times  
Presented by Jocelyne DeVillie (Addictions Counsellor, Edson)

January 27, 1 - 3 PM: Cannabis/Vaping, Addiction & Mental Health: Practical Strategies for Mental Wellness  
Presented by Curtis Lockinger (Prevention and Recovery Facilitator)

Registration required: Please call 780-325-3782 to register. (ZOOM link will be provided during registration.)

### Tax Recovery Auction Notice

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY  
2716 - 1st Avenue  
Edson, Alberta T7E 1N9 780-723-4800

Notice is hereby given that under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Yellowhead County will offer for sale, by public auction, in the Yellowhead County office in Edson at 2716 - 1st Avenue, Edson, Alberta, on Monday, January 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., the following lands:

TAX ROLL	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	TITLE NUMBER	PARCEL
031387	NW 34-53-17 W5	862 105 648 / 862105648A	8.62 ACRES
184790	7622234 B1 L2	972 036 817	.71 ACRES
184792	7622234 B1 L1	972 036 816	.71 ACRES
197824	7921271 B7 L26	092 207 034	1.21 ACRES
301923	117HW B2 L3	122 279 489	LOT

Each parcel will be offered for sale, subject to a reserve bid and to the reservations and conditions contained in the existing certificate of title.

This parcel is being offered for sale on an "as is, where is" basis, and Yellowhead County makes no representation and gives no warranty whatsoever as to the adequacy of services, soil conditions, land use districting, building and development conditions, absence or presence of environmental contamination, vacant possession, or the developability of the subject property for any intended use by the Purchaser.

No bid will be accepted, where the bidder attempts to attach conditions precedent to the sale of the property. No terms and conditions will be considered, other than those specified by Yellowhead County.

Yellowhead County may, after the public auction, become the owner of any parcel of land that is not sold at the public auction.

Terms and conditions of the sale will be announced at the sale or may be obtained from Yellowhead County.

Redemption may be affected by payment of all arrears of taxes and costs at any time prior to the sale.

Yellowhead County Corporate & Planning Services

### APPROVED DEVELOPMENT PERMITS have been issued authorizing the following:

Permit Number	Location	Proposal	Notice of Approval
D21-001	Plan 9322313, Blk 2, Lot 3 SW 05-52-18-W5 Hwy 47	Accessory Building (Garage)	Jan 5/21

Yellowhead County Development Permits are also posted online at [www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca](http://www.yellowheadcounty.ab.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. Any other questions or concerns please contact Yellowhead County Planning Service, 1-800-665-6030.

### Yellowhead County Offices Open to Public

Edson & Wildwood

Please respect social distancing and masking guidelines when entering county offices.



Yellowhead County

## Here's My Card

## Business and Professional Directory

### GLASS

**Edson Glass Ltd.**  
To serve you better for your HOME & AUTOMOTIVE GLASS NEEDS



Calvin Robinson  
780.712.3444 #5, 5101 3 Ave.  
Fax: 780-723-7805 Box 30044  
Email: edsonglass@shaw.ca Edson, AB T7E 1Y2

### GLASS

**GLASS GUY**  
AUTOMOTIVE | RESIDENTIAL | INDUSTRIAL | COMMERCIAL

**CODY MCKEAND**  
Owner/Operator

780-221-9982  
glassguy.cody@gmail.com

4842 3rd Ave  
Edson, AB

### ARBORIST SERVICES

**HIGH COUNTRY**  
Arborist Services Ltd.

587-969-6026

Tree Pruning & Removals  
Ornamental Shaping & Hedge Trimming  
Stump Grinding & Brush Chipping  
Tree Planting & Tree Protection  
Risk Assessment & Disease Diagnosis  
Pine Beetle Tree Assessment & Removal  
Firesmaring & Custom Thinning

Web: [highcountryarb.com](http://highcountryarb.com)  
Email: [highcountryarb@gmail.com](mailto:highcountryarb@gmail.com)

### MECHANICAL SERVICES

**PRIORITY MECHANICAL SERVICES LTD.**

Equipment maintenance & repair

Gary Heise  
780-723-1458



We're encouraging YOU to take some time this winter 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](http://WWW.YHCOUNTY.CA).

# Alberta RCMP brings awareness and shares an educational approach on hate crime

RCMP Detachments across Alberta are collaborating their efforts to work in partnership regarding hate motivated crimes. Our goal is to provide an improved police service delivery to Albertans and an educational approach in relation to these crimes. Contacting the police servicing the area where a crime occurs enables police to respond more efficiently and effectively. A swift and strong response by law enforcement can help stabilize and calm the community, as well as ensure services are offered to assist with a person's recovery.

For those who are experiencing difficulties relating to any type of hate crime or hate incident, our goal is to have Albertans feel comfortable to report these to police immediately. Accurate and comprehensive police reporting is essential to understanding the prevalence and patterns of hate crimes both locally and nationally. Alberta RCMP want to help support our residents and communities through these difficult times.

Hate incidents involve behaviour that, though motivated by bias against a person's race, religion, ethnic/national origin, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation, are not criminal acts. They become criminal when they are motivated by hate to commit violence against persons or property, or if a potential victim is in reasonable fear of physical injury. Police can help to defuse potentially serious situations and prevent bias-motivated criminal behaviour by responding to and documenting bias-motivated speech or behaviour even if it does not rise to the level of a criminal offence.

This partnership between police and citizens will maximize cultural awareness to better communicate and work with our citizens of diverse backgrounds. The Alberta RCMP are collaborating with community leaders to increase tolerance and promote peaceful conflict resolution among community members.

If you suspect or witness any crime, you are

asked to call 911 in an emergency, or contact your local police servicing the jurisdiction where the crime has occurred.

Hate Incidents are also recommended to be documented through the Alberta Stop Hate website at [www.stophateab.ca](http://www.stophateab.ca).

If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at [www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com), or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.



Kendra Cariou with daughter Devin Whitford (six months old). Devin was all nice and cozy in her little winter sled on January 3. The weather has been unseasonably warm so far this year with the trend continuing over the next week. photo Deanna Mitchener.



## Hamper Initiative Celebrates Community



Board Priority 3: Community Engagement



## GNS: Good News Story

Students and staff from 19 classes at Harry Collinge High School were pleased to wrap up another successful Holiday Hampers program to help out their community before going on winter break in December. The school's annual initiative challenges individual classes to bring in food, small items, and monetary donations - this season raising over \$6,000 - to provide for those who may need a little extra this holiday season. This year, they were able to put together hampers for five families, 12 gifts for individuals through the Yellowhead Emergency Shelter for Women, and an additional 12 gifts for individuals through the Hinton Employment and Learning Place. Principal Glen Allen was very humbled by his staff and students' efforts and grateful for the local businesses, such as Boston Pizza, and the many individuals who also participated. "We feel so unbearably lucky that we live in a town as generous as Hinton. We never fail to band together to help lift our community up a little higher, and that's what makes us so amazing!"

Mrs. Wotton's Chemistry 30 class was recognized as the first class in the history of their program to repeat as champions. They first won last year when they were in Chemistry 20, and they have set a new precedent to strive for. HCHS has been doing the challenge for seven years - raising over \$35,000 to help their community.

Op/Ed:

# Tax reduction in new year helps strengthen seniors' financial security

by Jim Carr, MP - the Prime Minister's special Representative for the Prairies

Canadians are ringing-in the New Year with another tax reduction from the federal government—they can now earn more before paying any federal income tax. It's another important step forward for the middle class and those working hard to join it—and for seniors' financial security.

When the Liberal government's increases to the Basic Personal Amount are fully implemented in 2023, 4.3 million seniors will benefit, including 465,000 whose federal income tax will be reduced to zero. Every year, singles will save close to \$300 and couples will save nearly \$600.

These savings will help seniors with everyday expenses, like groceries, hydro and deliveries.

It's part of the Liberal government delivering on their plan to make life more affordable for seniors.

That work started in 2016, when the first act of our new government was to pass the Middle-Class Tax Cut to reduce personal income taxes. This saved affected Canadians an average of \$330 a year for singles and \$540 a year for couples.

Seniors depend on strong public pensions,

and our government is committed to improving them. We reversed the previous Conservative government's increase to the age of eligibility for Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), restoring it to 65 years from 67 years. That put thousands of dollars back into the pockets of new seniors.

To help low-income seniors, we increased the GIS by \$947. And to help those low-income working seniors keep more of their benefits, we increased the GIS earnings exemption so they can earn up to \$5,000 without any reduction in benefits and get a partial exemption for their next \$10,000 in income.

To help seniors with extra expenses of the pandemic, we made one-time payments to seniors in April through the GST Credit and July through OAS. Together, they are worth over \$1500 for a low-income couple, all tax-free.

We also worked together with provinces and territories to increase the Canada Pension Plan's maximum yearly benefit for future retirees by about 50 percent, meaningfully reducing the risk of not saving enough for retirement. The Quebec Pension Plan mirrored these improvements.

Our policies are showing positive results: 25

percent fewer seniors live in poverty than when we took office in 2015.

As seniors age, they are more likely to outlive their savings, have disabilities, be unable to work and be widowed—all while their health care costs are rising. To help address these pressures on older seniors' quality of life, the Liberal government has reaffirmed our commitment to increasing Old Age Security by 10 percent once a senior turns 75.

Taken together, our government's ambitious and progressive measures are making a real difference in seniors' financial security—however, there is more work to do. Canadian seniors can always count on Liberals to listen, understand their needs and work hard to deliver for them.

## EVENT REMINDER

**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](http://edson.ca)

**See page 14 for more events**

### PUBLIC NOTICE MAINLINE CONSTRUCTION (2014) LTD. WATER ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is given that **Mainline Construction (2014) Ltd.** has filed an application under the provisions of the *Water Act* for authorization to excavate borrow material for road construction purposes for a county project nearby. This borrow pit occurs on Crown lands in SW 09-053-22-VV5 and will be 80m by 100m in size, and 3m in depth. The borrow pits are expected to hold water.

Any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within 7 days of the date of this notice to:

Environment and Parks  
Regulatory Approvals Centre  
5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza  
9915 108 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G8  
Phone: 780-427-6311  
Fax: 780-422-0154  
Email: [aep.waapplications@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aep.waapplications@gov.ab.ca)

The written statement of concern should include the following:

- the OneStop application number: **5051598 (EMS Application 001-00471063)**
- describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Water Act
- explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activity and/or diversion of water proposed in the application
- provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable
- state the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application
- contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer. Please provide the telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact.

Environment and Parks will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and notify each filer by letter of the decision to accept or reject their written submission as a valid statement of concern. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department's website at <https://aww.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx>.

Please quote One Stop file number: **5051598**

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

Paul Leveille  
TerraShift Engineering Ltd.  
Phone: 587-341-0496  
Email: [paul.levaille@terrashift.ca](mailto:paul.levaille@terrashift.ca)

## 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](http://alberta.ca/mentalhealth) to find resources.



# 10th Annual Free Community Meal: 'Miracle On 3rd'

by Deanna Mitchener

Edson experienced a Christmas Miracle for sure this year, when a free community meal was served up and delivered in and around the community. The idea started 11 years ago when Chef Ramzi and Tammy Flanders decided to offer a free Christmas meal, bringing some holiday cheer to each and everyone that attended.

Over the years the event has grown bigger and bigger. It has been held in a few different locations over the years, although last year the pair did not have a facility to cook the huge meal in and, unfortunately, the event was not held.

In the past few months, as the province was continuously adding restrictions and regulations, the pair was worried they would not be able to offer the meal again this year. However, they worked hard and found ways to pull it off, managing to offer another magnificent community event.

Multiple local business owners, many of which are located on 3rd Avenue, stepped up to help out and make the event happen. It was nothing short of a 'Miracle On 3rd'.

December's event was much different than past year's, but just as amazing and joyful to so many. The 'Miracle on 3rd' took place with the help of approximately 20 volunteers over the course of the day, and over 1100 meals went out to help spread some real community spirit.

Chef Ramzi and Tammy were surprised with the turnout, which was so high that the dinner had to end earlier than planned. "For the first time ever, we came up short on the turkey and had to end the meals just before 5pm," they explained. "We sincerely apologize to anyone that had waited in line to receive a dinner. We are somewhat limited in our kitchen equipment here and could only prepare so much. We honestly didn't realize how many people look forward to this dinner each year and are very humbled by it."

"We are so grateful to have been able to serve this dinner and even more so for all the contributions from businesses, organizations, and individuals that helped us. It's so heart warming to see so many come together each year," the pair said. "The volunteers give up their free time on a Sunday and work so hard in the process for the good of the community. We all had a lot of fun but sure hope there are no restrictions for the next one because the big sit-down community dinners are so much easier."

While waiting for meals, Chef Ramzi and Tammy had Christmas music playing outside, a Christmas tree decorated, and friendly masked volunteers serving the meals right to the vehicles, making it so nice for those picking up. More work was going on inside, as the team prepared and portioned the meals into disposable containers.

Dinner recipients were encouraged to donate to the Food Bank to help spread the joy during the free community meal. A truck and trailer were set up to collect the items, and monetary donations were also being accepted for the very grateful Edson Food Bank.

The meal, although different this year, was a perfect example of community and holiday spirit spearheaded by two caring local business owners. "Ramzi, Tammy, and staff wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and hope for better things to come in 2021," they said.

*Writer's comment: On behalf of the Weekly Anchor and everyone in the community we would like to thank Ramzi, Tammy and all who helped bring this Miracle On 3rd to the community. So many people that could not go anywhere this year found real joy in this sharing event. I know as a reporter and delivering some meals to seniors and special needs individuals it was greatly appreciated by everyone. Thank you all so much.*



The 'Miracle on 3rd' free Christmas meal took place hosted by Chef Ramzi and Tammy with the help of approximately 20 volunteers over the course of the day and over 1100 meals went out to help spread some real community spirit. Donations to the food bank were encouraged as well. photo Deanna Mitchener



A truck and trailer were set up to collect items during December's 'Miracle on 3rd' free Christmas meal and monetary donations were also being accepted for the very grateful Edson Food Bank. photo Deanna Mitchener

# Food Bank reflects on a year of challenges and successes

by Jordan Rae

Like most organizations this year, the Edson Food Bank faced many challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reorganization, resiliency, compliancy, and a genuine drive to keep going was the theme for them this year.

Jacey Kemp-Cox, Edson Food Bank Manager, spoke on their biggest challenges this year.

"I feel like the biggest hurdles we face, ongoing, is staying current with all AHS recommendations, finding masks and sanitizer along with everyone else in the beginning, and letting everyone know that we were still open during the lockdown!" said Kemp-Cox.

The organization utilized social media, radio advertising, the newspaper, and word-of-mouth to help get the word out that they were fully functional and ready to serve all those who needed their help.

"Also having enough volunteers to continue operating was a challenge for a while; understandably, some of our long-time volunteers needed to step away from the Food Bank to protect their health," explained Kemp-Cox. "We operated several weeks on a lean crew with our core staff coming in every shift, along with day-to-day preparations for open days."

Kemp-Cox said along with the unexpected challenges, the organization helped address issues with new systems they put in place to cope and thrive.

"We implemented an appointment system in April 2020 in response to the restrictions due to COVID-19," she said. "It allowed us to stay open and continue providing hampers, while keeping risk of exposure to a minimum to our volunteers. It also helped anticipate numbers so we could plan and purchase accordingly and minimize running out of certain items."

The Food Bank worked on streamlining their ordering system so volunteers wouldn't need to shop

so often and utilized delivery services with some stores which also aided in taking the pressures off of limited volunteers, an issue that has now thankfully leveled off.

"After several months of operating on a lean crew due to drops in our volunteers, we are back to a fairly regular rotation each week, along with a couple companies in town that donate an employee or two to come work with us once a month - huge game changer!" said Kemp-Cox.

Kemp-Cox and her team were happy to be able to round out the hampers to include a larger variety of fresh produce this year, creating more healthier options for those utilizing the Food Bank. "It feels really good to be able to provide such a varied and wholesome hamper of groceries to our clients," said Kemp-Cox.

Kemp-Cox says overall, 2020 was not a typical year for them in the donations department either. She wasn't able to share the organization's totals for the year, as they will be discussed at a board meeting closer to their fiscal year-end, but she did say that their finances were greatly affected by the many hours volunteers spent looking for and applying for grants.

"With COVID-19 we were able to secure additional funding this year as well which was a huge surprise," she said. "Additionally, when we were broken into last spring, the community support was nothing short of amazing!"

After the break-in, Kemp-Cox says donations poured in. "People from all over wanted to help with what they could and it really turned around what initially was such a disheartening, senseless act of damage and theft," she recalled. "We were preparing as best we could for several months of stretching every dollar to the max to accommodate an influx of clients due to job loss as a result of the pandemic."

"Each time my phone rang that a company or individual wanted to donate something, it was unexpected," she said. "Even if they had done so in the past, it's just an unknown time right now

and the fact that donations continued to roll in, be it food items, monetary, or people's time, it really humbled me."

Kemp-Cox's core Food Bank staff is comprised of seven "regulars," who she says worked tirelessly throughout the year. Each played an important part in the organization, whether it was picking up groceries or donations, meeting clients, organizing orders, or running meetings.

"Our larger circle of volunteers is comprised of approximately 25-30 people that rotate and it works out to roughly one shift per month for most, but if availability allows

we welcome them to help out more often, always keeping in mind the regulations of AHS and keeping our staff, clients, and volunteers safe," explained Kemp-Cox.

When asked how she feels going into 2021, Kemp-Cox revealed her optimistic outlook. "2020 was not the year of doom and gloom for us. Of course it had challenges, but it really held some memorable moments too, and I feel like we are in a really good position to continue to help more families in the New Year," she said. "If we can alleviate even one portion of a financial burden for someone, that is everything."

## ~ Obituary ~

### James Kenneth Gantz

October 18, 1955 - December 17, 2020

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden and tragic passing of our father, James Kenneth Gantz, on December 17, 2020, at the age of 65.

Jim was born in Cold Lake, Alberta, but relocated with his family to Edson at a very young age. Jim remained in the area until the mid 1990s, when he settled in the Sangudo area, where he stayed for the rest of his life.

Jim was predeceased by his parents Kenneth and Helen Gantz, and brother-in-law Harold Aschenmeier.

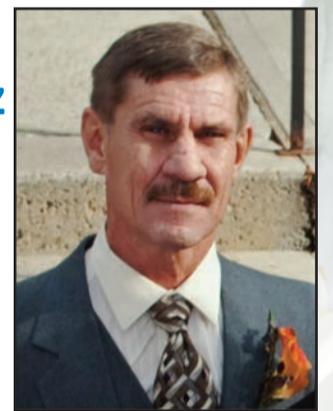
Jim will be dearly missed by his children Mark (Rebecca) Gantz, Meghan (Jeffrey) Bohn, and Annalise (Michael) Richer. Jim was the proud grandfather of Lily, Jasper, Adele, Lydia, Georgia, and James. Jim will also be missed by his siblings Robert Gantz, Marie (Chris) Bohme, Patricia (Graham) Hawke, Elaine Aschenmeier, and Heather (Allan Kelley) Beaulieu, as well as many nieces and nephews, and a host of friends. Jim will also be missed by his dear friend and companion Sarah Desjarlais.

Jim had a long career in the oil and gas industry as a 3rd class Power Engineer with various oilfield companies throughout Alberta. He enjoyed spending his time outdoors camping, fishing and hunting, and especially tending to his gardens in the summer months. Jim will be fondly remembered as a loving father, for his dad-jokes, as an adventurous cook, and for his strong work ethic. Jim was a man of many trades who enjoyed working on his many vehicles, doing home renovations, or just tinkering around; he did it all.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions there will not be a service held at this time.

*In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:*

Edson & District Victim Services - 115-55 St. Edson, AB T7E 1S9, 780-723-8813. Or online at: <https://edsonvsu.ca/how-to-help/>



## WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI

YOU CAN FIND OUT ANYTHING YOU WANT ONLINE THESE DAYS.



AND A WHOLE LOT THAT YOU DON'T.

The Weekly **ANCHOR**

Faith

**The Self-Interest of Kindness**



Pastor  
Bryan Walter

It would seem that an underlying, if often unspoken, theory of our modern culture is that one must seek what's best for one's self and discover our own "truth;" because no one else is ever going to as fully have our best interest in mind.

I think though, that this ends up turning life into a lose-lose

proposition.

I say this because if everyone were to only seek their own self-interest, I think the world would finally slip into a fullness of darkness.

What we need to understand then, is that kindness in the service of others is actually what is in our own self-interest.

In Proverbs 11:17 we are told, "Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves (NIV)."

This is the way the world was intended to work, not as a competition, but as a cooperation. Jesus himself even said that one could sum up all of the laws and commands of God with the simple imperative that we should, "in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12 NIV)."

Could you imagine a world where this was the culture? The major obstacle, however, is that no one wants to be first for fear that others will simply take advantage without reciprocating; and if that's the case, then perhaps the world would

be unchanged save for there being one more human "doormat."

If we can trust the proverb though, even if we see no change in others at first, we could at least still see a worthy change within ourselves that

may eventually have an impact upon others.

As Saint Basil once wrote, "A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."

**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 (office)/728-8988  
Pastor Aaron Kauffman 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 – February 25:** Chair Yoga Active Living Class for Older Adults. Thursdays 4pm to 5pm. Zoom-based. Led by Brienne Benson. Register on-line starting January 5 at edson.ca.

**January 17:** Family Friendly Scavenger Hunt. 11-4 at Hornbeck Ski Trails. Goodies to be given away once you complete the scavenger hunt. For more info visit edson.ca/familyfun

**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:** Transform Your Stress: The Resilience Advantage Strategies for Managing Stress in Challenging Times. Free Wellness Webinar. 1pm to 3pm. Presented by Jocelyne Deville, Addictions Counsellor at AHS. Register by calling 780-325-3782.

**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.

**January 27:** Supporting Children Through Covid. 9am to 12pm. Presented by Edson FCSS and Imagine

Institute for Learning. Register at Edson.ca/fcss.

**January 27:** Cannabis/Vaping, Addiction, and Mental Health: Practical Strategies for Mental Wellness. 1pm to 3 pm. Presented by Curtis Lockinger, Prevention and Recovery Facilitator. Call to register 780-325-3782. Zoom link will be provided.

**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.

Sponsored by The Weekly Anchor

**We are proud to support community events**



Phone: 723-6661

30  
Years of Service

THE WEEKLY  
**ANCHOR**

WWW.WEEKLYANCHOR.COM  
ANCHORWK@TELUSPLANET.NET  
AWNA MEMBER NEWSPAPER

Sue-Ann  
Common

PHONE:  
780.723.5787  
SALES REP.  
Fax: 780.723.5725

5040 3 AVE.  
BOX 6870  
EDSON, AB  
T7E 1V2

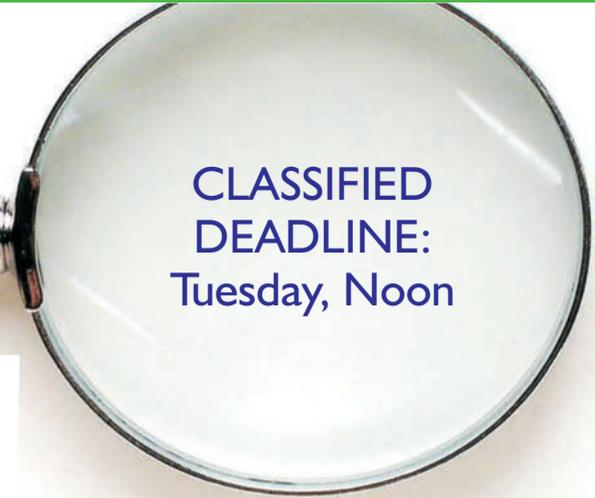
TO PLACE AN AD

780-723-5787

CLASSIFIEDS

EMAIL:ANCHORWK@TELUSPLANET.NET

Classifieds go online at www.weeklyanchor.com



FOR SALE

10 acres for sale 1 mile from Edson 780-712-8048 TFN  
**Perennials for sale.** Brighten up your yard price range from \$2 to \$35. For all variety including sun, partial sun and shade times. Call 403-350-9495

FEED & SEED

**Seed Oats & Barley**  
 Fusarium tested; 80% & 88% germ; No wild oats. Can deliver. jamesbeniuk@gmail.com 780-621-2229

FOR RENT

Two Mobile Home Sites in Sunset. Available immediately. Call Lexie 780-723-3110 TFN

**Commercial shop** on 2nd Avenue. 1800 sq ft total. 1200 sq ft of 1800 includes storefront and bay with 14 ft door and 600 sq ft of office space. Call Wayne at 780-712-0660. TFN

**GLENWOOD APARTMENTS**  
 Bachelor, 1 bedroom or 2 bedroom. Long-term incentives. May include utilities. 780-723-5031. D6 2021

One bedroom trailer on acreage \$900 a month 780-712-8048 TFN

MISCELLANEOUS

**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

**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

Announcements

"Give the world one-half of Sunday and you will soon find that religion has no strong hold on the other half." Sir Walter Scott

Auctions

POLICE THEFT RECOVERY, TRAILERS, TOOLS, On-Line Timed Auction Jan 14 – 19, MAS Sales Centre, Blackfalds, AB. Selling Enclosed Cargo Trailers, Quantity of Tools, Ladders, Pressure Washer, Tires, Slip Tank, Computers, Jewelry, Hockey Cards, X-Bows, Saddle & More. www.montgomeryauctions.com; 1-800-371-6963. Employment Opportunities

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.

Feed and Seed

HEATED CANOLA buying Green, Heated or Springthashed Canola. Buying: oats, barley, wheat & peas for feed. Buying damaged or offgrade grain. "On Farm Pickup" Westcan Feed & Grain, 1-877-250-5252.

Land For Sale

DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA has for sale 4 project lands in Beaver

County. Land locations are: SW27-50-16-W4, SE 18-49-14 W4M, S½ 3-46-11 W4M and NW 32-47-13 W4M. Call Brent Thygesen, b\_thygesen@ducks.ca or 780 678-0150.

Campground For Sale Handhills Drumheller Campground. 87 serviced sites, group area, with buildings, well treed, on 67 acres. All equipment and supplies. Turnkey. Owner retiring. \$650,000 firm. 403-369-2774.

For Sale

INTEGRITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS since 2008 BUILT WITH CONCRETE POSTS. Barns, Shops, Riding Arenas, Machine Sheds and more, sales@integritybuilt.com 1-866-974-7678 www.integritybuilt.com.

Health

HIP/KNEE REPLACEMENT. Other

medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING? The Disability Tax Credit allows for \$3,000 yearly tax credit and \$30,000 lump sum refund. Take advantage of this offer. Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide: Expert help. 1-844-453-5372.

Real Estate

VERY INEXPENSIVE 2 QUARTERS OF PASTURE LAND, Central SK, for sale. 8 other good quarters may be available. Requires fencing. Great hunting \$74,900. Call Doug at 306-716-2671.

Services

CRIMINAL RECORD? Why suffer employment/licensing loss? Travel/business opportunities? Be embarrassed? Think: Criminal Pardon. US entry waiver. Record purge. File destruction. Free consultation. 1-800-347-2540. www.accesslegalmjf.com.

GET YOUR MESSAGE

SEEN ACROSS Alberta. The Blanket Classifieds or Value Ads reach over 600,000 Alberta readers weekly. Two options starting at \$269 or \$995 to get your message out! Business changes, hiring, items for sale, cancellations, tenders, etc. People are increasingly staying home

and rely on their local newspapers for information. KEEP people in the loop with our 90 Weekly Community Newspapers. Call THIS NEWSPAPER now or email classifieds@awna.com for details. 1-800-282-6903, 780-434-8746 X225. www.awna.com.

**WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE**  
**Canadian Prairie Pickers**  
 are once again touring the area!  
**Paying Cash For Coin Collections, Silver & Gold Coins, Royal Can. Mint Sets. Also Buying Gold Jewelry**  
 \$\$\$ We purchase rolls, bags or boxes of silver coins \$\$\$  
**PAYING HIGHEST PRICES**  
 To arrange a free, discrete in-home visit call Kellie at 1-778-257-8647  
 Bonded since 1967

**Airdrie Dream Vacation Lottery Draw 2021**  
 purchase tickets at airdriedreamvacation.ca  
 MAKE YOUR VACATION A  
**"CANADIAN STAY-CATION"**  
**\$38,760** in Prizes  
 Tickets \$120 Only 600 Printed 12 MONTHLY DRAWS  
 Knights of Columbus  
 AIRDRIE COUNCIL #8045 Licence#566391

**Remember to drop off your donations for the EDSON FOOD BANK**  
**at Independent Grocer, Sobeys or the Edson Food Bank**  
 780-723-1350 for current Food Bank times  
 Sponsored by The Weekly Anchor

The Weekly ANCHOR

# Farm & Field

## News and Views



Opinion Column:

## Trudeau's carbon tax short-sighted in so many ways

### No thought as to how the carbon tax could put many Canadian families in a state of food insecurity by 2030

by Sylvain Charlebois  
Professor  
Dalhousie University

COVID-19 has had an impact on Canada's food industry but, over time, resilience will prevail. However, the federal government's pre-holiday announcement that it will increase the carbon tax to \$170 per tonne by 2030 will have a long-term impact on consumers.

Climate change is a real and significant problem. We need to act quickly, and the carbon tax seems to provide a simple and fair solution. The Trudeau government is clearly committed to the carbon tax now.

This tax – more of a policy – is essentially aimed at penalizing polluters. That's a good idea, in principle, but is short-sighted in many ways.

For some farmers, a tax of \$170 per tonne is a game-changer. By 2030, a typical 5,000-acre farm would have to shell out more than \$150,000 in new tax, based on some estimates, without any compensation. That's enough to compromise any farm's ability to make a profit.

As well, how a \$170 tax impacts the competitiveness of the sector will depend greatly on what happens at Canada's borders and beyond. Given the competitiveness of national and international food markets, a \$170 tax per tonne imposed in Canada, but not imposed in other major exporting and importing countries, will undoubtedly penalize our farmers.

Producers can't increase their prices even if production costs increase on the farm. This is quite simply price-taking economics. Unlike the processing and distribution sectors, this economic reality afflicts production specifically.

The government is considering imposing a border control tax on food products from elsewhere, but nothing is confirmed. Taxing domestic production would give importers a significant competitive advantage. Protecting our farmers is imperative.

Of course, with the arrival of president-elect Joe Biden and vice-president-elect Kamala Harris in the White House, things could get easier internationally. Like the Canadian government, Biden intends to ratify the Paris climate accord on behalf of the United States. The agreement encourages nations to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. To this end, American producers may also have to pay a tax, like those in Canada.

Agriculture producers are among the best environmental stewards in the world. They earn their living mainly by having access to abundant natural resources. Environmental recklessness is just not an option.

But incentives to make big changes are lacking. For example, there's no economical substitute for propane to dry out grain at harvest. We need to develop new technologies

to offer environmental options to our producers.

There are also significant risks for consumers.

Farmers keep claiming that food prices will rise, in part because of the carbon tax, which will hit \$50 per tonne by next year. But Quebec and British Columbia have had such a tax since 2007 and 2008, respectively, and food prices haven't increased faster than elsewhere. In addition, consumers receive credits as compensation during tax return season.

Yet it remains unclear how consumers are compensated for higher food prices spawned by fees paid by the food industry, from farm to fork. With a high rate of \$170 per tonne, the idea that the carbon tax could have an impact on retail prices is much less farfetched.

Further research is required, of course, but it's certainly possible that Canada's food inflation rate will increase significantly by 2030.

As presented, Canada's carbon tax policy isn't just about penalizing polluters in the food industry, from farm to fork. It mostly inhibits farms and forks.

Some consumers will be willing to pay the right price for food to help save the planet, so the effects of a carbon tax won't be much of an issue. But for many Canadians who struggle to make ends meet, budgetary realities will be an obstacle even as credit is provided.

The federal government is clearly not considering how the carbon tax could put many Canadian families in a state of food insecurity by 2030.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is senior director of the agri-food analytics lab and a professor in food distribution and policy at Dalhousie University.

*© Troy Media: The views, opinions and positions expressed by all Troy Media columnists and contributors are the author's alone. They do not inherently or expressly reflect the views, opinions and/or positions of Troy Media or The Weekly Anchor.*

## LEGENDS

### CAFÉ & PIZZA

Highway 16 West, Edson, Alberta  
4308 - 4 Avenue  
**723-4811 723-4813**

Open 7 days a week from 6am to 11pm

**Delivery starts at 5pm**

#### TAKE OUT MENU

2 Large Pizzas with 3 Toppings	<b>\$30.99</b>
2 Medium Pizzas with 3 Toppings	<b>\$26.99</b>
Combo 1-1 Large Pizza with 3 Toppings, Mozza Sticks, 1 Ltr Pop.	<b>\$32.99</b>
Combo 2-2 Medium Pizzas with 3 Toppings, Mozza Sticks, 2 Ltr Pop.	<b>\$39.99</b>
<b>The Family Pack</b> 2 Large Pizzas with 2 Toppings, 4 Garlic Toast 1 Litre Soft Drink	<b>\$34.99</b>

**DAILY SPECIALS!**

### Pet of the Week

Call for information 712-6788  
www.http://www.edsonanimalrescue.com  
Email: edsonanimalrescue@hotmail.com



Dolly came to us as a stray in poor condition and pregnant. Thanks to EARS supporters she is thriving and is ready to find her forever home. True to her name, she loves kids and curls up with them to watch movies and doesn't even mind being packed around! To find out more about Dolly and how to adopt, visit EdsonAnimalRescue.com.



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!

Sponsored by:



**413 50 St.,**  
**780-723-6220**

## KID'S CORNER



This is 7-year-old Aubrey Rose Gibbons. She's in the prime of her favourite time of year, Winter, because she loves Christmas and New Year's. Usually, she spends a part of wintertime on a beach somewhere (Hawaii would be the choice) but unfortunately, she wasn't able to this year. She absolutely loves garlic knots, and if they could come in purple or turquoise that would be ideal as those are her favorite colours. Aubrey also loves dolls, video games, and playing in the great outdoors with her big brother and sister. When asked what she wants to be when she grows up, Aubrey said, "I'm still thinking about that."  
*photo submitted*



Kid's Corner is sponsored by:  
**Sand & Gravel Sales/Hauling**

*Quality Work*  
*Serving Edson & District Since 1974*