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The Weekly

ANCHOR

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The Weekly Anchor

VOL. 35, NO. 02

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

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TOWN

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COMMENT

Federal government plans Plastics Registry...

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Family Winter Fun Day Curling Party in Peers

by Niki Luymes
 the Family Winter Fun Day Curling Party in Peers. The event took place January 5, from 1pm to 3pm at the Peers Multiplex. All ages were welcome to come and enjoy this time of community and winter fun. Each family in attendance was provided with curling equipment. They then spent time on the ice learning the basic moves. By the end of the event there were quite a few smiles to be seen. "Everyone who

continued page 2



There were lots of smiles at the Family Winter Fun Day Curling Party. The event took place January 5, at the Peers Multiplex. It was a great way to introduce kids to a classic Canadian pastime (see story page 3). photo submitted.

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Family Winter Fun Day Curling Party in Peers

continued from front

attended had a great time, the kids really enjoyed trying out curling and learning how to throw the rocks and sweep," said Yellowhead County Parks and Recreation Events Planner, Jina Materi.

While trying out curling was the main attraction of the event, there were other activities as well. Yellowhead County provided some small crafts and games for kids to have fun with off the ice. This was enjoyed alongside free snacks and refreshments.

Like all of the Family Fun Days, this event was completely free and curated by the County to create family connections and new experiences right in our own backyard. The curling party had five different families in attendance. "This was the first family event in a few years that involved curling, however, we host events similar to this one several times throughout the year," said Materi.

Previous events include ice skating in Evansburg and Peers, and tobogganing in Tipple Park. These are all planned as part of a partnership between Yellowhead County Parks & Recreation, FCSS and Heritage, and the BEST and Wellness Programs through GYPSD.



Yellowhead County provided some small crafts and games for kids to have fun with off the ice during their Family Winter Fun Day Curling Party on January 5 at the Peers Multiplex.

Mackay Community Association

AGM

Annual General Meeting
February 15, 2024
6:30 p.m. All are Welcome!
 at
Mackay Community Hall

JOB ADS GO ONLINE at weekly anchor.com

West Fraser

West Fraser is a leading diversified forest products company, named for the tenth time as a winner of Canada's Top Employers for Young People for 2023. Are you interested in working for a company that offers both a challenging work environment and a rewarding career path? Edson Forest Products is currently accepting applications for:

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EVENT REMINDER

January 21:

World Snow Day. Join us at Bear Lake Park for afternoon fun
Setzers Sleigh Rides, Campfires, Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing. 1pm-3pm.

Year in Review with Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara

2023 was a challenging year for not only our citizens and businesses but for the municipality as well. Despite these challenges, Town of Edson staff worked hard to deliver on Council's Strategic Plan while dealing with multiple emergencies.

What were the most significant accomplishments that Council achieved over the past year?

Significant work on our new Land Use Bylaw was completed and should be finalized early in the new year. This will set the town up for future growth making it easier to do development within the town. We created an Economic Development Position and we are starting to create an Economic Development Strategy which will also help us grow our economy. The development of the Pivotal project, completion of the Glenwood Rink revitalization project, Library construction and progress on Vision Park redevelopment are all accomplishments of the last year.

What were the biggest challenges to overcome in 2023?

The wildfire and flood emergencies in 2023 were the biggest challenges of the year. Despite the damage, financial impacts, and stress that it caused the community as a whole, it also disrupted or delayed a number of capital projects which have been deferred into 2024. Even with all the extra pressures from the emergency events, much work was accomplished and I'm incredibly proud of the resilience our staff and community has shown throughout the year.

What can residents expect from Council in 2024?

We have several flood and storm/sanitary sewer projects as a part of the capital plan in 2024 so residents can expect to see plenty of construction around the community. Completion of the Library project and starting construction on the YCE Centre are all priorities for Town Council in 2024.

What challenges do you expect in 2024?

Increased costs of delivering services is always a challenge. This year attracting doctors to our community will be a new challenge which we haven't experienced in over a decade. We are already working together with the local physicians' group on ways we can assist. Continuing to lobby the Provincial Government to fix Highway 16 through Edson properly will be a focus for council.

Moving Forward...

With lack of snow so far this Winter we ask people to be diligent and be prepared for emergencies this spring. Emergency preparedness is a focus for 2024. The province has already warned of drought conditions so we can expect water restrictions throughout Alberta in 2024. While we hope we don't have a repeat of 2023, we need to be prepared just in case we don't see much needed moisture.



Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara

Clearing the trees by the landfill and some other fire smart activities planned for 2024 will help protect our community. We need residents to be prepared and have a plan in place for their households.

New Year: Better Choices, Better Health

(AHS) Living with a chronic health condition can be hard. But help is available.

If you or someone you support are living with a long-term health condition and have been struggling, this could be the year you take control of your health and create a better quality of life.

Better Choices, Better Health is a free six-week long workshop series designed to empower participants with the skills and knowledge to manage their health.

You will learn about:

- Managing symptoms like pain, fatigue, stress.
- Talking to loved ones, healthcare professionals and your colleagues about your health needs.
- Dealing with difficult feelings.
- Ways to eat healthy and stay active.
- Problem-solving and setting realistic plans.

The workshops are led by trained volunteer leaders, many of whom live with a chronic health condition. The volunteer leaders understand the challenges participants face and provide a supportive and welcoming environment for everyone.

Because those living with ongoing health conditions are often faced with the same day-to-day challenges, Better Choices, Better Health focuses on teaching tools and techniques common to all chronic conditions.

Depending on your needs there are two workshops to choose from:

- Better Choices, Better Health® - Chronic Disease: for those with conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, arthritis, gastrointestinal (GI), depression, long COVID-19 and others.

- Better Choices, Better Health® - Chronic Pain: for those with conditions like fibromyalgia, complex regional pain syndrome, persistent pain, migraines, arthritis and others.

Workshops are offered virtually via Zoom and in-person. There are several dates and times to fit most schedules, but spaces are limited.

Find a workshop that works for you: ahs.ca/bcbh



Members of the of Chozen Breed RC Edson Chapter stop by the Edson LEAP Centre with an amazing donation of \$6000 before Christmas. "Once again we are completely humbled by the amazing donation we received from this group, and to everyone who supported them in making this donation possible". photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener



Kindergarten students from Mary Bergeron School were very excited to tour Henry Family Vision Care before the Christmas break. After a tour, small groups of students rotated through three different examination rooms. In one room they checked out lenses and used magnifying glasses to play a fun game of eye spy. In another room they checked out the machines that take pictures of the eye before the actual eye examination. In the final room, Dr. Krista Henry explained how she does an eye exam. Students got to try some of the tools and equipment out themselves. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener

Construction Management appointed for YCE Multiplex in Edson

by Niki Luymes

At their respective Council meetings on January 9, The Town of Edson and Yellowhead County voted in favour of the construction management firm Clark Builders for the new YCE Multiplex Facility.

Yellowhead County and the Town of Edson are moving ahead in 2024 with the construction plans for the Yellowhead County Edson (YCE) Multiplex located in Edson, Alberta.

The company chosen as the Construction Management will function as both an advisor during the budgeting process, and eventual general contractor. In September 2023 the committee invited various companies to submit proposals for the project. Seven proposals were submitted, and from those seven, three were invited to respond.

Following a thorough evaluation process, Clark Builders, a renowned construction management and general contracting company, has been appointed the construction manager for this highly anticipated project, which includes a new pool, arena, and walking loop, stated a subsequent joint release from the Town and County. The project also includes

renovations to the Centennial Arena, repurposing the Memorial Arena to accommodate curling, and planning of potential space for a gymnasium.

"After deliberations on December 19, 2023, the Steering Committee unanimously endorsed Clark Builders as the choice for the Construction Management team of the YCE Multiplex Facility," said Doug Wagstaff, Edson's General Manager, Community & Protective Services. "Clark has the depth, expertise, experience, availability, and organization necessary to successfully plan and construct this project."

Clark Builders is an Edmonton based company and is one of Canada's leading Construction Managers and General Contractors. The company has experience with similar projects, including the Camrose Aquatics Centre, Beaumont Sports and Recreation Centre and over 20 sports and recreation projects in the Greater Edmonton area.

"Through their submissions and interview Clark clearly articulated their relative experience with building new arenas and aquatic facilities, coupled with renovating and upgrading facility components and systems whilst maintaining safe

operations of existing programs," added Wagstaff.

"This project has been very frustrating from the get go," commented Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara. "I'm very happy to see the light at the end of the tunnel with shovels in the ground and construction hopefully occurring later this year."

The YCE Multiplex project will be funded in partnership between the Town of Edson and Yellowhead County. Clark Builder's proposed construction management fee for this project is 2.6% of the total construction budget. The current target for this budget is \$59,300,000, so this could reflect a fee of around \$1,541,800. "This recommendation is within the overall project target budget of \$70 million," said Wagstaff. However, the construction budget is still to be finalized by the Steering Committee.

The next stage of the project is to meld the ongoing schematic design work with construction management input that will include a cost analysis and constructability review. In September, the Town and County selected GEC Architecture to perform the architectural and design functions

on the YCE Multi-plex project. Clark Builders will begin work with GEC Architecture, Town of Edson, and Yellowhead County on the schematic design of the YCE Multiplex. This will lay the groundwork for the construction planning during this important stage of the project.

In a follow-up statement Zahara added, "Edson Town Council is excited to see this important step forward. We have the team in place to ensure we get a facility that is focused on functionality and meeting the needs of our regional community. A lot of work has occurred in the last several months to get us to this milestone in the project. Town Council is firmly committed to getting this project complete as reflected in our Strategic Plan."

Yellowhead County Mayor, Wade Williams stated, "With this step of hiring an experienced and accomplished construction management team, we're moving ahead to provide a modernized recreation hub for our regional community. Our residents will get a multiplex that will deliver a range of recreation services and promote healthy active living for current and new users."



TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2022

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

Edson Snow Clearing Process and Priorities



www.edson.ca/snow

Triggers

Snow removal is generally triggered when there has been a snow event of 10cm or more, or if snow and ice pack has been determined to be excessive.

****No Snow Control or Ice Control will occur in school zones between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to reduce the risk of pedestrian or vehicle accidents.**

NEW FOR 2023/2024 SEASON - The Town of Edson will be contracting out snow removal for sidewalks along 2nd and 4th Avenue this snow season. For more details on the Sidewalk, Facility, and Trail Snow and Ice Control Policy, visit our website.

Priorities

Priority 1: Emergency Access Routes – completed within 3 days of the end of a snow event.

Priority 2: Essential Services Routes – completed within 5 days of the end of a snow event.

Priority 3: Collector Routes – completed within 6 days of the end of a snow event.

Priority 4: Residential Routes - completed within 21 days after all other priority routes (1-3) have been completed, unless service times and priorities are reset.

Priority 5: Town owned or operated parking lots – completed when time permits.

Detailed priority maps can be found on our website.

Procedure

Once a Snow Event has ended, Snow Control will begin.

A grader will work approximately one (1) hour ahead of other Snow Control personnel and either:

- a) push snow into a Windrow along the centre line of the road or boulevard; or
- b) push snow into the ditch along the roadways with rural profile; or
- c) push snow onto a boulevard where it will not cause issues with motor or pedestrian traffic and not cause any issues with flooding.

The snow blower will then load windrows into tandem trucks and snow will be hauled to an authorized snow storage site.



TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2024

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION TOWN OF EDSON

Notice is hereby given that under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, the Town of Edson will offer for sale, by public auction, in the Council Chambers located in the Edson Civic Centre, 605 – 50 Street, Edson, Alberta on

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. the following properties:

Plan Address	Block	Lot	Civic
162 3259 Glenwood Drive	1	1	7995
162 3259	1	2	

Each designated manufactured home and parcel of land will be offered for sale subject to a reserve bid and to the reservations and conditions contained in the existing registration documentation, and any other conditions the Town deems necessary.

The Town of Edson may, after the public auction, become the owner of any designated manufactured home and parcel of land not sold at the public auction.

The terms of sale are payment in full by cash or certified cheque by 4:00 p.m. on the date of the public auction.

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

Dated at Edson, Alberta, December 12, 2023

Paul Hanlan, General Manager of Corporate Services



Provincial Flood Supports & Disaster Recovery Program Application Info

Deadline to apply for the Provincial disaster recovery funding related to the June flooding is Feb 26th, 2024.

Up to \$68 million is available in disaster recovery funding to help Edson, Whitecourt, Yellowhead County and Woodlands County recover from June flooding.

Residents and business owners can now submit applications for disaster financial assistance to help with uninsurable costs incurred from flood-related damage to homes and property.

Visit <https://www.alberta.ca/disaster-recovery-programs> for Disaster Recovery Program Application information and the application form.

DOG LICENCE RENEWALS

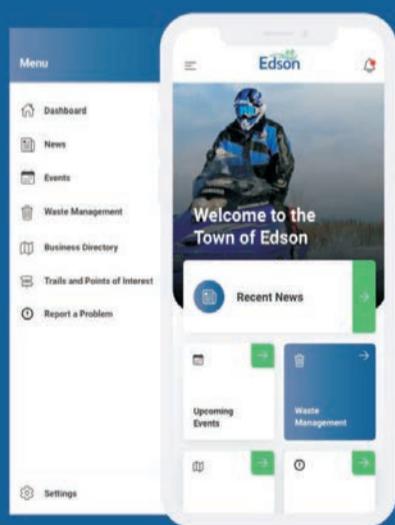


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A reminder that Town of Edson dog licence renewals are now due. Dog licence renewals are at half price if paid on, or before, February 28th, 2024. The regular price for a renewal is \$40 for altered dogs and \$70 for unaltered dogs. Proof of spay/neuter certificates are required at the time of an initial licence application. Application forms can be picked up at the Town Office or downloaded from the Animal Control Bylaw section of our website at www.edson.ca/bylaws



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NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Recent Development Permits approved by the Development Authority, under the Town of Edson Land Use Bylaw 2070 as amended, can be found at www.edson.ca/departments/planning/development-permit-applications. Additional information can be requested from the Planning Department at 780-723-4402 or engineeringandplanning@edson.ca.

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



Federal gov't plans for Plastics Registry

The Federal Court of Canada recently ruled that federal government's plan to classify plastics as toxic, is not only unreasonable — its unconstitutional. Despite that ruling, Trudeau's Liberal government has chosen to appeal the decision.

Ottawa, and Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault, continue to ignore calls from Alberta and others to accept the court's decision.

As a result, Alberta's government will participate in the appeal and will argue that the federal government's decision to label plastic as a "toxic substance" is nothing more than an unconstitutional intrusion into provincial jurisdiction.

"It is past time for Ottawa to listen. We have told them they are overreaching their jurisdiction, the private sector has told them so, and so have both the Supreme Court and the Federal Court. Ottawa cannot assume regulatory authority over any substance simply by designating it as toxic. We will continue to push back against Ottawa's unconstitutional actions, including through this legal action, until they listen," stated Alberta Premier Danielle Smith.

"The Federal Court clearly ruled that the federal government's plastics ban policies were unconstitutional. The federal government's environmental policies and constitutional overreach have been heavily criticized and this ruling further confirms the indisputable nature of provincial jurisdiction in these matters. We are intervening in this appeal and will continue to participate wherever and whenever necessary to protect Alberta's interests," Minister of Justice Mickey Amery stated.

In addition to intervening in the appeal, the Alberta government states it will monitor any further legal action taken to remove plastic manufactured items from the current Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. Several Calgary-based companies producing compostable plastic bags are now caught in the ban and will be



From the Publisher's Desk

Dana McArthur
Member Canadian Association of Journalists

barred from supplying Albertans with low-emissions alternatives to traditional plastic shopping bags.

"Instead of listening to the courts and to Canadians, the federal government has chosen overreach once again. We will continue standing up for our constitutional jurisdiction while focusing on more effective ways to reduce plastic waste and keep it out of landfills," stated Alberta's Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, Rebecca Schulz.

Alberta has a strong commitment to reducing plastic waste, including the recent Extended Producer Responsibility program, which encourages businesses to find new ways to recycle materials and reduce waste. The province also advocates for strategies that promote recycling and developing local markets for transformed plastic waste.

Apparently not satisfied with waiting on their attempt to overturn the Federal Court of Canada ruling on plastic, Guilbeault has proposed a federal "Plastics Registry".

Does this scheme sound reminiscent of the failed "Gun Registry" but for plastics?

It is true that far too many plastics end up in our landfills, waterways, and streets. So part of the Fed's plan to mandate better labelling of what is and isn't recyclable, seems like a helpful idea.

Alberta's Environment Minister, Rebecca Schulz called the proposed plastics registry a "waste of time, tax dollars". "Alberta is committed to effective plastics management, which is clearly the jurisdiction of the provinces and territories."

What we can be sure of is that a federal registry would add another costly layer of bureaucracy and red tape. And in all likelihood, would drive up the cost of packaged goods.

A higher cost for groceries is the last thing Albertans need, as many already struggle to put food on the table and keep the bills paid.

Perhaps the Liberal government will eventually figure out how to stay in their lane.



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Edson RCMP Occurrences

For the week of: Jan 1 to 7, 2024

Assistance calls topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences at 19. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 1; Alarms/False Alarms 3; Animal Calls 0; Assault 3; Cause Disturbance 3; Fail to Comply with Conditions 3; False/Abandoned 911 Call 5; Family Orders and Agreements 1; Fraud 0; Harassment/Criminal Harassment 2; Lost or found property; 4; Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 3; Information File 3; Mental Health Act 5; Mischief or Damage 3; Municipal Bylaws 0; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 2; Recovered Stolen Property 0; Sudden Death 1; Suspicious persons 2; Theft Complaints 9; Traffic violations 9; Traffic Complaints 9; Trespassing 0; Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; and Wellbeing Checks 5.

KID'S CORNER

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What's your favourite food?
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What is your favourite TV show?
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Plans underway for new Community Hall in Evansburg

by Dana McArthur

Yellowhead County has begun the design process for a new community hall in Evansburg.

Members of the Royal Canadian Legion in Evansburg have operated and maintained both the Legion and community hall facility for local veterans and residents for the past 75 years. Maintaining operations and funding the ongoing maintenance and repairs of their building has been challenging for the Legion, stated General Manager of Community Services Crystal McNernie in her presentation to Council on January 9.

In February, 2022, County Administration received a letter from the Evansburg Legion requesting that the County purchase their building in Evansburg and lease back the basement which houses the Victory Lounge. If that was not possible, they asked for funding to help cover the rising costs of operating the community hall upstairs.

The County decided not to purchase the building due to its age and cost of repairs, opting to explore the possibility of a new

community hall.

In the meantime, the County began providing funds for the operational utility expenses of the Legion's Community Hall, provided through a recreation grant. "The Legion did note that this support has been crucial in the branch being able to continue to operate and serve their community," said McNernie.

In the summer of 2022, the Legion facility was listed for sale, prompting a review by County Administration regarding options for providing a community hall facility to the hamlet of Evansburg should the Legion's sell and the facility is no longer be available.

On December 12, 2023 members of the Evansburg Legion presented to Council regarding their current operations and desire to continue to operate the Community Hall facility for the next several years. To do so, they asked for the County to continue to provide operational funding support, covering 100% of the community hall utility expenses, for the next few years. "We are recommending at this point that we continue this funding for the community hall portion only of the

operational expenses in both 2024 and the 2025 calendar years. If this assistance is required beyond 2025, we would come back to Council prior to the 2026 budget cycle for consideration," stated McNernie. Council voted in favour of continuing to fund the hall portion of the Legion as stated.

Within the 2023 budget, Yellowhead County Council directed Administration to allocate funds to complete an overview and conceptual design report for a community hall addition to the Evansburg Arena.

"This new hall would address the limitations of the current facility and create an opportunity to build a multi-purpose facility that when joined with the Evansburg arena would create a central hub for recreation, cultural, and various other service delivery options," McNernie said.

In 2023, Administration engaged the services of BR2 Architecture to begin conceptual design work for the new community hall facility. A draft conceptual design is in progress, with community engagement and feedback sessions still to take place.

Administration will continue to work with BR2 Architecture to complete concept designs for a new community hall in 2024, with high-level cost estimates for construction. Completion of the concept design is currently budgeted at \$200,000. Construction of new hall is planned for 2025/2026.

Councillor Anthony Giezen made the motion to direct administration to continue to pursue the development of a new community hall, adding, "The reason I would support this motion is that I think this is a good solution. We know that the Legion Hall is getting towards its end of life."

Councillor David Russell said, "I too support this motion. I think the logic attached to building this facility is excellent, especially considering the challenges that we faced last year. If this new facility has the ability accept people evacuating, the logic fits."

Mayor Wade Williams added, "I also will speak in support of this motion. I think it's a good idea to move ahead with the design and have a shelf-ready project when we're ready to move ahead with this. I'd like the idea of having a shovel ready project when the time comes."

Council voted to approve a Community Hall Operational Grant to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 196 Evansburg to cover 100% of the eligible operational expenses for the Community Hall portion of the facility, to a maximum of \$20,000, in each of 2024 and 2025, with funding provided through the recreational grants budget allocation.

Council voted to direct Administration to continue to pursue the development of a new community hall in the hamlet of Evansburg.



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8:00 AM - 4:30 PM



Need an opportunity to share and learn about Alzheimer's?

If you are a caregiver for someone who has Alzheimer's disease or dementia, join us at an Alzheimer Support Group meeting, offered on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

This month's group is meeting on January 17 and the next is February 21. Contact Karen at 780-325-3782 or kschatz@yhcounty.ca for more details.

January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month and a chance for individuals to learn more about dementia and its impact on the people living with dementia, their families, their caregivers, and their communities.



Join us for

Pilates

at the Robb Multiplex!

February 15 - March 7 (Thursdays)
10:00am - 10:45am

\$40 for four week session
or \$12/class drop in

Please bring a mat and a water bottle
Open to all ages and abilities

Register online at
yhcounty.ca/registration



Approved Development Permits have been issued authorizing the following:

Permit No.	Location	Proposal	Date	Appeal Deadline
D23-159	Plan 1821493 Blk 1, Lot 5 SW-19-53-7-W5 Evansburg Area	Accessory Building (Warehouse for Modular Home Construction)	Jan 2/24	Permitted Use
D23-156	NE-20-54-7-W5 North of Evansburg	Manufactured Home	Jan 3/24	Permitted Use
D23-118	SE-2-55-14-W5 North of Peers	Natural Resource Extraction & Processing (Gravel Pit) Variance for Crusher Site	Jan 15/24	Feb 5/24

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 Yellowhead County Land Use Bylaw NO 09.21 provides that any person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority may appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board or Alberta's Land and Property Rights Tribunal dependent on jurisdiction of the appeal authority.

Appeals under the jurisdiction of Yellowhead County's Subdivision and Development Appeal Board require a written notice of appeal and a payment of \$300.00 payable to Yellowhead County within 21 day of the publishing of the Notice of Decision.

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

Ice Skating & Winter Fun!

Thursday, February 8th | 12-2 PM
Robb Skating Rink & Park
5101 52 Ave, Robb

BRING YOUR SKATES AND WINTER GEAR AND COME OUT FOR AN AFTERNOON OF WINTER FAMILY FUN!

SKATING, SNOW GAMES, CAMPFIRE, HOT CHOCOLATE AND MORE!



FREE DROP-IN STYLE EVENT BUT PLEASE REGISTER AT YHCOUNTY.CA/REGISTRATION TO HELP US ESTIMATE NUMBERS

Brought to you by Yellowhead County Recreation & FCSS Departments

Wildfire Preparedness Community Sessions

Firesmart™ Community Series

FireSmart™ for residential properties, farms & acreages. Learn how you can create a FireSmart™ community. Open to the public.

- Evansburg (Fire Station 10) (Jan. 23)
- Wildwood Community Hall (Jan. 30)
- Niton Community Hall (Feb. 1)

All sessions are from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at local community halls or Fire Stations, but may need to be rescheduled due to weather conditions. Visit www.yhcounty.ca, or [Facebook.com/yellowheadcounty](https://www.facebook.com/yellowheadcounty) or 1-800-665-6030 for updates.

Jan 23	Evansburg	Feb 15	Fulham
Jan 30	Wildwood	Feb 20	Peers
Feb 1	Niton	Feb 22	Pinedale
Feb 6	Brule	Feb 27	Hattonford
Feb 8	Pine Grove	Feb 29	Marlboro
Feb 13	Robb	May 18	Cadomin

Home Sprinkler Kit Giveaway!

Enter to win one of 12 home sprinkler kits. There will also be information on how to purchase them for your home and book a FireSmart™ assessment for your home.



Learn how to make your home FireSmart™.



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



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Lieutenant (Full Time, Permanent)

LOCATION: Stationed in Edson, AB or Evansburg, AB
COMPETITION NO. 24-013

Under the general direction of the General Manager of Protective Services, reporting to the Fire Chief or designate, and stationed out of assigned station, the Lieutenant is responsible for the operational readiness of their assigned station. The position is responsible for reporting all activity, and the need for specific training based on operational requirements to the assigned Captain. The position also fills the role of Truck Officer during emergency response as required.

The salary range is \$71,334 to \$88,454 per year. Yellowhead County offers a competitive benefits package. This is a full-time, permanent position. Successful candidates will be stationed at the Edson or Evansburg YCFD Stations.

To apply, please submit resumes and cover letters on our web page at www.yhcounty.ca/jobs

A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online. The competition will remain open until January 29, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

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

Human Resources
Yellowhead County
Email: jobs@yhcounty.ca

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



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Firefighter (Full Time, Permanent)

LOCATION: Stationed in Edson, AB or Evansburg, AB
COMPETITION NO. 24-014

Under the general direction of the General Manager of Protective Services and reporting to the Fire Chief or designate, and stationed as per staffing requirements, the Firefighter is responsible for the operational readiness of the apparatus and equipment to be used during the shift in the station they are posted to. The position provides emergency response as required, in accordance with the Yellowhead County Fire Services Standards.

The salary range is \$64,739 to \$80,276 per year. Yellowhead County offers a competitive benefits package. This is a full-time, permanent position. Successful candidates will be stationed at the Edson or Evansburg YCFD Stations.

To apply, please submit resumes and cover letters on our web page at www.yhcounty.ca/jobs

A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online. The competition will remain open until January 29, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

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

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Email: jobs@yhcounty.ca

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REGISTER YOUR EQUIPMENT FOR 2024 WITH YELLOWHEAD COUNTY

Deadline for Registration is April 1, 2024.

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.



Farm and Business Succession Planning

Join us at one of our free in-person workshops discussing how to successfully transition your farm or business to a new owner or family member.

We've gathered a panel of experts to discuss financial, legal, and tax strategies when planning to transfer the ownership of an agribusiness to another owner or family member.

Kelly Robinson, BA, MBA
Senior Relationship Manager and Financial Solutions Advisor at Servus Credit Union in Whitecourt

Dean Hendrickson, CPA, CMA, CFP
Partner at Hendrickson Black Chartered Professional Accountants in Mayerthorpe

Brienne MacLeod
Associate Lawyer with Birdsell Grant LLP Barristers and Solicitors in Stony Plain and Whitecourt



It's never too early to start thinking about succession planning.

Tuesday, January 30 | 12:00pm-2:00pm

Peers Multiplex | 5114 51 St, Peers

OR

Thursday, February 1 | 6:00pm-8:00pm

Evansburg Legion Hall | 4823 50 St, Evansburg

Snacks and refreshments will be provided. These workshops are free but please register at yhcounty.ca/registration.



100 Women Who Care Edson aids local non-profits

by Deanna Mitchener

The 100 Women Who Care Edson's first meeting of the year is happening on January 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Cabin and you are invited to come check them out and even bring a friend or co-worker along.

Member, Dawn Mitchell, said, "Members are making a huge impact in Edson through their generous donations to non-profit organizations. The collaborative effort and dedication of the members contributes significantly to the betterment of their community, and the organization's growth reflects the shared commitment to making a positive difference."

In the past year and a half \$33,800 has been donated to five different non-profit organizations in Edson.

In June of 2022, Edson LEAP Society received \$5,100.00 from 51 members. September 2022, Edson & District Public Library received \$6,600.00 from 66 members. January 2023, Edson & District Oldtimers Recreation Society received \$6,700.00 from 67 members. May 2023, Edson Seniors Transportation Society received \$7,400.00 from 74 members. And in September of 2023, Edson Community Care Foundation

received \$8,000.00 from 80 members.

100 Women Who Care membership numbers continue to grow with each meeting. The goal is to be 100 members strong in 2024. To become a valued member of 100 Women Who Care Edson you can register through their social media page (100 Women Who Care Edson) or by emailing wwc.edson@gmail.com "Proxy votes are always available for members who are unable to attend in person, so please do not let a busy schedule deter you from participating," said Mitchell.

"The 100 Women Who Care's structured approach to the nomination and donation process ensures that the funds go to deserving and impactful organizations in the local area," Mitchell said.

Only members in good standing may nominate a local organization. Nomination forms must be submitted no later than January 22 for the January 30 meeting. The organization must be operational for one year or more prior to the meeting date and be based in Edson or the Edson area of Yellowhead County. All funds received must benefit the local community.

Pioneer Cabin offers a welcoming place for all seniors

by Deanna Mitchener

With the temperature dropping, don't feel like you have to stay at home and be bored. If you are a senior and looking to escape your home for a while, why not stop in at the Edson Pioneer Cabin? Every Tuesday they have a hot lunch with homemade soups and sandwiches. All ages are welcome to attend.

Crib card games are on Monday nights starting at 7 p.m. Whist card games are every Thursday starting at 6:30 p.m. Shuffleboard is on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00

p.m.

Pool players can join in every Monday and Friday at 10:00 a.m. as well.

If you are not into these games you can always just stop in for a hot coffee and a warm visit to get out of the house.

They also have a library on hand where you can sign out a book to curl up under a warm blanket and lose yourself in a good story.

The Pioneer cabin is located at 4836 7th Ave in Edson. You can also call (780)-723-5777 if you have any questions.

~ Obituary ~

Catherine Mary Louise (Rupert) Priestley-Wright

Feb. 22, 1936- Jan 8, 2024
87 years old



In loving memory of Marylou Priestley-Wright born in Wetaskiwin, Alberta and passed away on Jan 8, 2024 in Edson, Alberta.

Left to mourn is her husband Fred Priestley-Wright, her children Janice Dick, Rick (Marion) Mclean, Michael Mclean, Jayne (Mike) Ilcisin, 10 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, sister-in-law Helen Rupert and stepsons Peter Priestley-Wright, Lars Priestley-Wright and Lance Priestley-Wright.

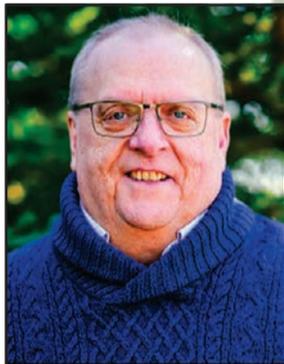
Marylou was predeceased by her parents Lloyd and Ellen Rupert, sister Marguerite McAuley and brother-in-law Les McAuley, brothers Ed Rupert, Wilt Rupert and sister-in-law Edith Schreiner, Alf Rupert and sister-in-law Lil Rupert, and grandson James Aaron Mclean.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

~ Obituary ~

SLEZAK, Henry 'Grant'

May 30, 1960 – Neepawa, Manitoba
December 29, 2023 - Calgary, Alberta



Henry 'Grant' Slezak passed away on Friday, December 29, 2023, after a long battle with lung cancer. Grant was born on May 30, 1960, in Neepawa, Manitoba, to Lawrence and Verla Slezak. He spent most of his school years in Neepawa. After high school, Dad headed west to find fame and fortune. Having a love of the land from farming with his dad, uncles, and cousins, it wasn't surprising that he sought work outdoors with men and equipment.

It was there, on his first pipeline job, that he found his passion in the Canadian oil and gas industry. In 1981, after an accident that required extensive time off, he headed home for some TLC that only a mother can provide. It was during this time off that he would meet his future wife and partner, Leann Beth Slezak (nee Drayson). Mom and Dad were married, and for the next 39 years, they loved, laughed, and raised their family, fighting through the good times and the bad, making mistakes, making bigger mistakes, but eventually realizing they were far better off together than apart. Adding to the mix, Andrew Cody was born in 1984, followed by Michael Ryan in 1987.

Dad remained at home while the boys were young, taking jobs where he could. His best times were spent with his boys, being a Beaver leader with Boy Scouts, a hockey and baseball coach, camping, or just hanging out. The opportunity to move back west came in 1992, and off they went.

Dad and Mom built two companies, both oilfield-related; the first didn't last long, but they persevered, and out of sweat, hard work, and a love of doing what you do, their last company has survived 25 years and counting.

Besides his loving wife and partner of 40 years, Dad is survived by his sons Andrew and Michael, his grandchildren Arianna Rose and Caden James, who gave him so much joy and pleasure, his sisters Bev (Ken) Donaldson and Tannis (Barry) Slezak, his brother Rick (Laurie) Slezak, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and their children. Dad was predeceased by sisters Dawn Leann Wharton and Sharon Leigh Buchanan.

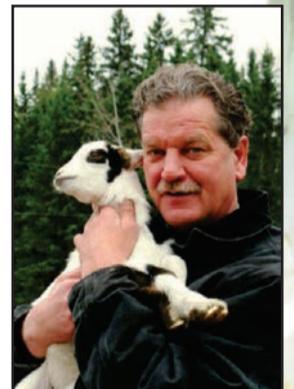
Dad wasn't a big "in lieu of" type of guy, but if you need to spend your money, spend it on your family, take them out for dinner, raise a glass to the old man, recall a memory, and live your life to the fullest.



McInnis & Holloway
403-243-8200

~ Obituary ~

Len Kneteman



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Leonard Neal Kneteman. Len passed away at the age of 67 on his beloved farm in Yellowhead County on New Years Day, 2024.

An Edson native, Len was born to George and Jaqueline Kneteman (Sutherland) on August 18th, 1956 and had six brothers and sisters.

Len had a 40-year career as a heavy equipment operator for Coal Valley. In retirement, Len enjoyed working part time for his son-in-law Brian as a Line Locator in the oil patch. Len was happiest on his farm "doing his chores", spending time with his daughters & grandsons Wyatt, Liam, and Vance and hanging out with his buddies. Ever the animal-lover, his cows, goats, chickens, dogs, and army of cats filled more of a role as pets than they did farm animals.

Len is predeceased by his father George, brother Bruce, brother-in-law Dwight, father's in-law Wynn and Walter.

He is survived by his loving family:

Wife Alyson, daughter Lauren (Brian) with grandsons Wyatt and Liam, daughter Kelsey (Trevor) with grandson Vance, mother Jaqueline, brothers Jeff (Barb) and Orey (Carol), sisters Bonnie, Gaylayne (Larry), and Jayne (Tim), mother-in-law Marlene and sisters-in-law Trish (Arlan), Jeanene (Ray).

A celebration of life was held on January 11th, 2024, at the Edson Legion at 1:00 PM. In the spirit of Len's love for animals, a donation can be made in his name to the Edson Animal Rescue Society.

FOOTHILLS MEMORIAL CHAPEL

A Division Of The Caring Group Corp.
Edson 780.723.3575 Hinton 780.865.1234
www.foothillsmemorialchapel.com

Chautauqua Edson Arts Council brings season of exciting performances

by Niki Luymes

The Chautauqua Edson Arts Council, is proud to bring around another season of exciting musical performances in 2024. Each year Chautauqua curates a roster of around five performers.

Whether you enjoy a specific genre, or prefer new and exciting performances, this season may have something just for you. With genres ranging from bluegrass and R&B, to tribute bands everyone can find something to enjoy.

Chautauqua, Edson Arts Council is dedicated to bringing quality, unique acts to Edson audiences. The council has been active in Edson since 1982. While the group usually brings in musical performances, they also on occasion have dramatic performances. All of this year's performances will be held at the Hatlen Theatre at the Red Brick Arts Centre and Museum.

Chautauqua is a part of the Arts Touring Alliance of Alberta. Each year volunteers attend the Alberta Showcase in October. "So essentially we go and the performers who want to tour in Alberta, and have gone through the jury process, will do a 15min set. Then we get to see what they do and decide if it's right for our audiences," said Robyne Wilock, Chautauqua President.

The dates for the season were also chosen to best fit the Edson community. "As soon as the weather is good people clear out and are away," said Wilock. "People said that they would be open to a fall show, and we tried one this past year. It was in September and it probably was too early, because many were still camping around then. In the past it was all about picking days when people would be around."

The season opened on Saturday, January 13



The Mbira Renaissance Band - will appear on Saturday, March 9 at the Red Brick.

with a singer/songwriter double-bill featuring Amy Bishop and ZENON. Zenon is an alternative music singer with R&B sensibility. Bishop is a performer who sings from the heart, drawing from a depth of experiences to creating truly moving music.

The rest of the season is as follows: Monday, Jan. 29 is Jake Vaadeland & The Sturgeon River Boys with their unique blend of retro-bluegrass and rockabilly. Feb. 24 is Canadian folk heroine Cara Luft and friends. The Mbira Renaissance Band brings their mbira-inspired, Afro-fusion music on Saturday,

Mar. 9. Finally the season closes on Saturday, April. 13 with Gord's Gold: a tribute to Gordon Lightfoot by an all-star band of Edmonton musicians.

"We definitely have people who are really strong supporters and have been season ticket holders for a very long time," said Wilock. Tickets for this season have been on sale since Dec 14. While most have already been sold, there are a few remaining. So if you are interested in any of these performances, make sure to get your tickets quickly. More information about the performances and tickets available can be found at edsonarts.com.

Make self-care part of your new year's plan

It's the beginning of a New Year, so let's not get caught up in staying too busy. Take some time for yourself and do some self-care.

Self-care includes all the things you do to take care of your wellbeing, such as your emotional, physical, psychological, and spiritual health.

Self-care means taking care of yourself so that you can stay healthy, you can do your job, you can help and care for others, and you can do all the things you need to and want to accomplish.

Not over-pleasing others by maybe taking on a lot of extra shifts at the job, it is about taking care of yourself first, so you can continue to do the things you need to do and the things you love.

It is important to maintaining a healthy relationship with yourself. It means doing things to take care of your mind, body, and soul by engaging in activities that promote wellbeing and reduce stress.

By looking after ourselves it enhances our ability to live fully, vibrantly, and effectively. The practice of self-care also reminds both you and others that your needs are valid and a priority.

In today's society there is a lot of stress trying to keep up with the pace of daily life. Technology has accelerated our lives without us even knowing. Think of your computer or phone and just how many emails and text



Views & News by Deanna Mitchener

messages you get in a single day, you feel they all need to be answered right away. Most people take their cell phones everywhere, so they are not fully in the moment while trying to relax. At the sound of a beep you jump to see who needs you or what conversation you may be missing out on. Instead you are missing the moment and person you are with, by answering that phone.

People are feeling lonelier and less able to unwind and slow down lately, which makes them feel more anxious and overwhelmed by even the simplest tasks.

Self-care includes everything related to staying physically healthy, including hygiene, nutrition, and seeking medical care when needed. It's all the steps an individual can take to manage stressors in his or her life and take care of his or her own health and wellbeing.

Emotional self-care such as self talk, weekly bubble baths, saying no to things that cause unnecessary stress, giving yourself permission to take a pause, or setting up a weekly coffee date with a friend.

Physical self-care, such as prioritizing sleep,

adopting some kind of exercise routine into your life you can stick with is important. Choose healthy and nourishing foods over highly processed ones.

Spiritual self-care could include attending a religious service, spending time in nature, meditating, incorporating regular acts of kindness into your day, or keeping a journal. It can be as easy as getting outside to enjoy a walk and the scenery around you, or taking some deep breaths.

Weekly manicures or monthly spa days may not be for everyone, but there are plenty of other self-care practices you can adopt. Self-care does not have to cost anything, it's just doing things you enjoy. And a lot of the things we enjoy or feel fulfilled by, cost nothing. Spend some time with family and friends, go for that walk, a horseback riding, or read a book. Try to stop too much multitasking.

Self-care is anything that you do for yourself that feels nourishing. It requires checking in with yourself and asking 'What can I do that will help me feel better?' Engaging in self-care regularly could help you put your best foot forward. When we are regularly taking care of ourselves, we are better able to react to the things that go on in our lives. It's something we do to maintain positive wellbeing.

Go ahead, you owe it to yourself. Look after yourself and enjoy whatever self-care means to you.

Alberta emerges as a beacon of hope

Principal Profiles



Lobstick Zone



Bailey Benson
Niton Central School
JK to Grade 9



Stuart Graham
Wildwood School
JK to Grade 6



James Randall
Evansview School
JK to Grade 6



Heidi Zadderey
Grand Trunk High School
Grades 7 to 12
The Learning Connection
Grades 1 to 12

**West Yellowhead MLA
Martin Long**



As we bid farewell to 2023, it's important for us to reflect on the many successes we shared over the past year, and to prepare for an even better 2024.

2023 saw Alberta reaffirm itself as the beating heart of Canada's conservative movement, with our Government's strong economic policies working to balance the budget, attract investment, create jobs, diversify the economy, and keep life affordable – all while maintaining the lowest taxes in the country for families and businesses.

Despite global unrest and uncertainty, Alberta emerged as a beacon of hope, opportunity, and freedom in 2023 – attracting a record number of newcomers who want to put down roots and contribute to the Alberta story, just as our ancestors did before us.

2023 also saw our Government undertake efforts to fix longstanding issues in Alberta's health care system. We have heard loud and clear that the current system centred around AHS is complex and uncoordinated, and we are moving swiftly to refocus the system around patients and their families, alongside our world-class health care workers who understand the system and its challenges better than anyone.

Amid our many triumphs, our province navigated many challenges in 2023, as well, including a very difficult wildfire season, an inflation crisis borne out of disastrous economic policies from the NDP-Trudeau Alliance, and a litany of newly proposed federal policies that undermine the constitutional rights and jurisdiction of the provinces.

Among the never-ending list of bad ideas from the NDP-Trudeau Alliance is a 2035 net zero electricity plan that is completely unaffordable on an eleven-year timeline, a 2035 gas car sales ban that is reckless and unrealistic, and a single-use plastics ban that has already been struck down once by the Federal Court.

In 2024, our Government will continue standing strong against these unaffordable and unconstitutional ideas from the NDP-Trudeau Alliance, and we will be unrelenting in our advocacy for our people and province.

2024 will also offer more opportunities to attract investment, create jobs, and grow and diversify the economy – with most economic forecasts suggesting Alberta will once again lead the country in economic growth.

From energy to agriculture to technology to renewables to manufacturing to agri-food processing to film and television, Alberta is the place to be.

As we embark on a new year, let's do so with hope, optimism, and the same can-do spirit that has always made Alberta the best place in Canada to live, work, play, start a business, or raise a family.

Our best days are still ahead!



Bailey Benson

Bailey is pleased to return to Niton Central School as Principal! Bailey began her teaching career in 2014 in the Wildrose School Division. She then moved to GYPSD to Niton Central School where she was the Grade 2 teacher. Over the years, Bailey has taught grades one through eight in a variety of subjects. In 2018, she began her role as the Assistant Principal and Learning Support Teacher at Niton until she moved to École Pine Grove Middle School in Edson in 2021 as the Assistant Principal. She received her Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta where she specialized in middle years education, grades four through eight. She recently completed her Master of Education Degree at the University of Calgary for Educational Leadership. When not at school, Bailey enjoys being outdoors, visiting Vancouver Island, skiing, and spending time with her family on her acreage.



Stuart Graham

Stuart started his career in 1993 as the Cooperative Education Coordinator for GYPSD. In 1996, he opened GYPSD's first outreach school and, over the next 15 years, he established, and was the Principal of, outreach schools in Hinton, Jasper, Grande Cache, and Evansburg, known as The Learning Connection (TLC). During that time, Stuart was involved with many initiatives ranging from the divisional level to the provincial and national levels. In 2019, Stuart was seconded to Alberta Education to the position of Complex Behaviour Needs Manager and he worked in that role until his return to GYPSD as the Principal of Wildwood School. Stuart has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta and in 2017, completed his Master of Education from the University of Calgary. Stuart has a firm belief in the importance of building strong connections with students, parents and the community. Stuart's philosophy of collaboration and working within a team approach, leads to shared leadership opportunities for staff and students. Transparency and open, honest communication are cornerstones to Stuart's approach and ensure strong relationships with all stakeholders, while always focused on students as the first priority. Stuart enjoys working in his garage and quality time with family and friends.

James Randall

James started his career in 1994 working at Wildwood School. He left to work in southern Alberta for one year and then returned to GYPSD. He has worked in Niton Central School in Niton Junction, Pine Grove Middle School in Edson, Wildwood School and is currently the Principal of Evansview School. James has been a Principal at the elementary and middle school levels, and spent two years being Principal of two elementary schools - at the same time! He earned his Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta and his Master of Education degree, focusing on School Administration, from the University of Calgary. James believes and promotes a team approach in the school environments that he works in and encourages input from all stakeholders. Working in collaboration with parents, students, and staff provides the optimal learning environment, and achieves the strongest outcomes for students. Communication is key and providing honest and open communication allows all of the team members to understand and set the direction of the school and achieve the goals they set to ensure students are the ultimate winners. In his free time, James likes to play golf, work in his woodshop, and be with his family.



Heidi Zadderey

Heidi began her teaching career in Golden Hills School Division and then moved to GYPSD in the fall of 2008 at Wildwood School where she was the AISI lead, Assistant Principal, and Learning Support Teacher. Heidi transferred to Niton Central School to teach her own daughter in junior high where she continued in the Learning Support Teacher role. Heidi then began her principalship at Evansview School in January of 2017. She loved the year and a half with Evansview staff and students and then became Principal of Grand Trunk in the fall of 2018 where she was able to continue the relationships with students and families from both Evansview and Wildwood schools. Heidi received her Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta and is currently pursuing a master's degree, focusing on Interdisciplinary Studies, from the University of Calgary. She strongly believes that the culture of school impacts learning, and with a positive and innovative outlook, dives into new experiences for students with a collaborative team approach, encouraging input from all staff, students and community members. Strong relationships with all stakeholders are key for student success and open, honest, communication with a strong focus on students adds to the successful school culture. When not at school, Heidi can be found travelling to her children's and students' sports events, spending time near the ocean or mountains, and taking part in outdoor hiking adventures.

Edson enters Northwest Alberta Emergency Resource Agreement

by Niki Luymes

On January 9, the Edson Town Council voted to officially enter into the Northwest Alberta Emergency Resource Agreement, a multi-municipality mutual agreement for the Northwest region of Alberta.

This agreement serves as the conduit and overarching agreement for the Northwest All Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) allowing any signing member to access inter-community support. Specifically this will allow the town wider access to equipment and personnel in an emergency situation.

"This is a very large agreement with a number of municipalities. This can assist us in a large event to get anything from a dozer to a frontend loader, to simple fire equipment and the like," said Edson Fire Chief Brad Milton. "What this does is open up many more doors for us. Not only will we have access to the North-central All Hazards Incident Management Team that we had access to this summer, but the Northern Incident Management Team as well."

The Northwest Alberta Resource Agreement will allow the Town of Edson greater access to equipment and personnel to assist us during a large events. Current signatories include the Town of Whitecourt, the Town of Slave Lake, Woodlands County, Mackenzie County, and 30 other municipalities. This agreement will not supersede any existing agreements. If any member of the agreement puts out call for something specific, only municipalities that are able can answer the request.

AHIMT not only covers fire protection assistance, but can also be utilized for other municipal equipment. For example, graders could be requested in the event of a large winter storm or ice storm. It also includes personnel support for Emergency Social Services (ESS) and the running of an Emergency Coordination Centre.

"Not only does this provide Edson with additional resources in our time of need, but as a reciprocal agreement, if called upon, we can support other signatories in supplying what we can to assist others in their time of need. The significant benefit is this creates access to a larger pool of municipal equipment and people to assist during a large, sustained event," stated Chief Milton.

During discussions Councillor Trevor Bevan asked if this agreement was still open for other communities. Chief Milton stated that was correct and that they hoped to extend the invitation to more communities in the future.

Councillor Krystal Baier asked if being a part of the the Northwest Alberta Resource Agreement would have changed the situation we were in this past summer with the fires and floods. "We did receive a lot of help from other communities rather quickly. I'm just wondering what would have been different if you put this template on what we've already been through?"

"It may have changed the outcome slightly," answered Chief Milton. "Again what it does is just allows us more access to more equipment. The idea with any mutual aid agreement that we may maintain or enter into, doesn't mean that the municipality we're calling has to provide equipment. But it may have opened up more doors to have access to more equipment."

"There are multiple different ways we can go about acquiring equipment during an emergency," added Chief Milton. "Obviously this spring and summer was an unprecedented year. So there was a large amount of equipment that wasn't available. If we had a normal fire year that was a threat to the town, this may suffice."

Motion out of Closed Session: Council approved an amendment to the Edson Medical Centre Agent Corporation Lease and authorized the CAO to finalize the lease. Council noted the intent of the Town purchasing the Medical Centre was to ensure a consistent medical service in the community, and the approved lease adjustments show the Town's commitment to working proactively with the physician group, in a fair manner, to help retain and attract physicians to the community.



A fun paint night was held at the Edson Friendship Centre before Christmas. It was not just a paint night, it was time spent making new friendships, while creating personal masterpieces to treasure. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener.

OpEd:

Where have all the teachers gone?



ATA President Jason Schilling

by Jason Schilling

Alberta's students deserve the best. Unfortunately, our ability to attract and retain teachers to work in public schools is being eroded.

Dedicated teachers are exiting the province and exiting the profession because of how untenable working conditions have become. With an influx of new students into classrooms in recent years, teachers are facing a workload that feels overwhelming, impossible, and unrelenting. Not only are class sizes large, but the unmet needs of the students are tremendous.

The government routinely shares that Alberta has one of the best education systems in the world, and we do. However, while the government takes the credit, teachers and school leaders are doing the work of propping up a system on edge. That work is becoming more and more complex and challenging.

Work intensification and the moral distress of seeing students struggle without getting access to the supports they require are wreaking havoc on the teaching profession.

This school year has seen another very large increase in the number of students across the province. School divisions in Edmonton and Calgary alone are seeing an addition of up to 16,000 new students. Rapid growth in the student population has been going on for years. Sadly, the funding of our schools has not kept up.

The most recent data from Statistics Canada paints a dire picture. Alberta's schools are by far the lowest funded, per pupil, in the country. As a result, we have a significantly higher ratio of students to teacher than every other province. Public education in Alberta would need an increase of 1.2 billion dollars to bring Alberta just to the Canadian funding average.

Every student in public schools deserves to have their learning needs met. It is irresponsible and, frankly, quite shocking that Alberta students are dead last in Canada when it comes to funding.

I know that teachers are not alone in this concern. Recent public opinion polling the ATA conducted showed that 72 per cent of Albertans believe class sizes are too big, while 68 per cent of Albertans believe the government is not spending enough to support our public schools.

What does this lack of funding actually look like on a day-to-day basis in our schools and classrooms? Students crammed into overcrowded classes with the number of students too often creeping up into the high 30s and low 40s. A lack of resources such as textbooks and teacher guides to support newly introduced curriculum. Too many classes without educational assistants and too many students going without the extra support they require to succeed.

It is easy to see how this sustained neglect to adequately support schools is impacting the people who work in those schools. Increasingly, teachers and school leaders are feeling a sense of despair when they cannot meet the needs of their students on a daily basis. This feeling of hopelessness is driving great teachers and school leaders, who want to do their very best for our students, away from the profession. Currently, there are several school jurisdictions across the province with job postings that are going unfilled.

The issues in education are quickly becoming normalized and that's not right. It doesn't need to be this way.

We need to move the narrative away from the idea that public education is an expense that we cannot afford. We cannot keep asking our public education system to do more with less. By underfunding our public schools, we are failing a generation of students who will one day be our province's leaders.

As the legislature returns this fall, it is my hope that our elected officials will look at education as an investment in our students and their futures. We have an amazing resource in Alberta of teachers who are educating the leaders of tomorrow. We can't afford NOT to properly fund public education in Alberta.

Jason Schilling is the president of the Alberta Teachers' Association and a teacher from Lethbridge, Alberta with 25 years of experience in the classroom.

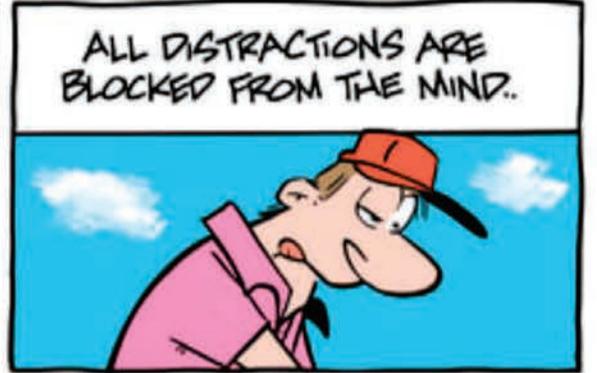
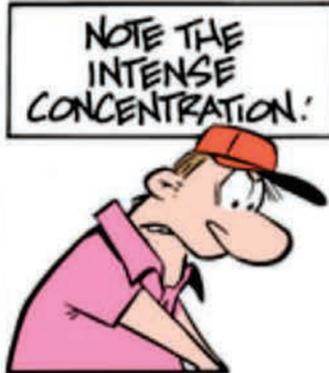
Photo: Courtesy the Alberta Teachers' Association

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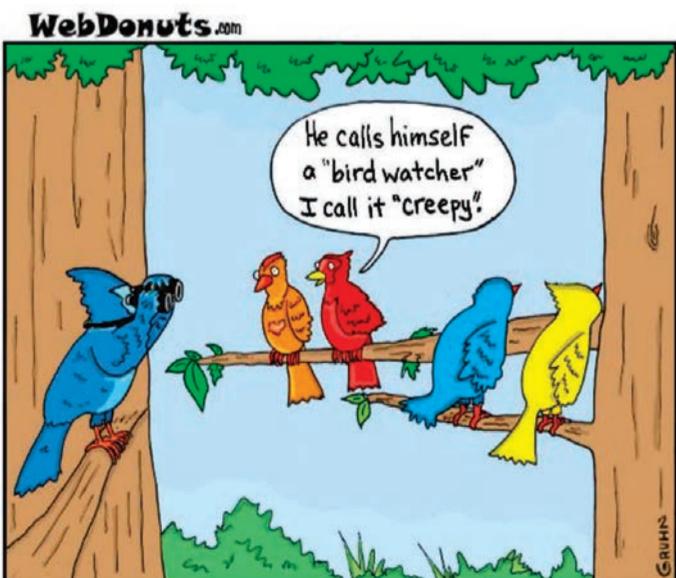
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Q: Why did the scarecrow win a Nobel prize?

A: Because he was outstanding in his field!

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EDSON ALLIANCE CHURCH
 5525-2nd Ave., Edson
 Ph: 723-5776 Pastor Bryan Walter
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
 Wednesday: 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting.
EDSON BAPTIST CHURCH
 4719 - 9th Ave., Ph: 723-3982
 Pastor Mesh Hit
 Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m.
EDSON MENNONITE CHURCH
 6212 - 13 Ave, Edson
 Office hrs: Tues 9am-1pm
 Office phone: 780-723-4992
 Pastor Tyson Moerike
 (Call or text 403-966-4705)
 Sunday worship - 9:45
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 Ph: 723-5242
 Pastor: Ryan Hoogerbrugge
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EDSON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
 1133-55 St. Edson - Ph: 723-5490.
 Saturday Morning Service at 11:00 a.m. Sabbath School at 10:00 a.m.
EDSON UNITED CHURCH
 Edson United Church
 1214 Edson Drive Edson AB
 Phone: 723-3418
FAMILY OF FAITH CHURCH
 463 72 St., Edson (formerly Glenwood Hall), Telephone: 780-517-7558
 Sunday: 10:00 am - Coffee and Donuts; 10:30 am - Morning Service
 Pastors: Pastors John and Ingrid Huizing vfm@shaw.ca
HOLY TRINITY
 (An Anglican/Lutheran Faith Community)
 Rev. Johnny Pooten 780-723-4366
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
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 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.
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COMMUNITY COWBOY CHURCH
 Niton Junction Hall Tuesdays, 7 p.m. 780-712-3502
GREEN GROVE UNITED CHURCH
 Niton Junction - Ph: 795-2568
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ENTWISTLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Employment Opportunities

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Manager must live on site in own RV unit. Full-service lot provided. For complete job description package please call 780-775-3805 or email sprucepointpark@gmail.com. Closing date: Until a suitable candidate is found.

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What's happening, when and where in the community

Community Events

Jan 10 to Mar 20: Family Time. Join us on Wednesdays for some indoor fun! Program runs from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Marlboro Community Hall (January 10 & 24 February 7 March 13). Peers Multiplex (January 17 & 31 February 14 March 20). Registration is required. www.yhcounty.ca/registration
January 7-28: Yoga in Marlboro Sundays from 4:30pm-5:30pm ages 12+ all abilities welcome. Please bring your own yoga mat and water bottle. Register at yhcounty.ca/registration
January 7-28: Yoga in Peers. Sundays from 6PM-7PM ages 12+ all abilities welcome. Please bring your own yoga mat and water bottle. Register at yhcounty.ca/registration
Jan 12, Feb 9, March 8, April 12: Join Trail Hall for potluck suppers for more information call 780-728-5641.
January 17: Alzheimer Support Group meeting. This month's group is meeting on January 17 and the next is February 21. Contact Karen at 780-325-3782 or kschatz@yhcounty.ca for more details.
January 23: Firesmart Community Series. Evansburg (Fire Station 10) (Jan. 23); Wildwood Community Hall (Jan. 30); Niton Community Hall (Feb. 1). All sessions are from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at local community halls or Fire Stations, but may need to be rescheduled due to weather conditions. Visit www.yhcounty.ca
Jan 25: 5:30 to 6:30pm Bird Conservation Workshop. Pick up a build-your-own Nesting Box Kit and join our informational webinar on bird conservation! \$15/kit (includes webinar access). Register at www.yhcounty.ca/registration. Registration opens on January 2nd. Registration Deadline: January 17th, 2024.

January 21: World Snow Day. Join us at Bear Lake Park for afternoon fun Setzers Sleigh Rides, Campfires, Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing. 1pm-3pm.
January 30: Farm and Business Succession Planning. 12:00pm-2:00pm Peers Multiplex. February 1, 6:00pm-8:00pm Evansburg Legion Hall. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Workshops are free but please register at yhcounty.ca/registration.
February 8: Robb Ice Skating & Winter Fun! 12-2 PM Robb Skating Rink & Park. FREE DROP-IN STYLE EVENT BUT PLEASE REGISTER at yhcounty.ca/registration TO HELP US ESTIMATE NUMBERS.
First Wednesday of Every Month: Senior's Recycling Day. Between 10 am and 1 pm, senior citizens are welcome to visit the depot for snacks and refreshments while their staff unloads your sorted recyclables free of charge.

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The Weekly **ANCHOR**

Farm & Field

News and Views

Canola prices are still struggling

Continued strong crushing demand and improved export demand is needed for Canadian canola prices to sustain improvement.

"Canola prices have been struggling this crop year to the frustration of producers who had been expecting a seasonal post-harvest price improvement," says Neil Blue, provincial crops market analyst with the Alberta government. "There are a number of factors affecting the canola market."

Canola prices started to rise following the 2021 drought in Alberta and some other oilseed producing countries. Post-Covid economic improvement was also a demand supporting factor.

Following the high prices of the 2021-22 crop year, world oilseed production rebounded. Australia produced a record canola crop last year and was a major competitor on the world market. Brazil produced a record soybean crop earlier this year and is currently projected to produce about the same volume in 2024, despite some adverse weather to date.

"Although a certain level of Canadian canola demand is stable, at high prices the more flexible demand will move to less costly alternative vegetable oil sources," explains Blue. "A canola negative so far this crop year is lower Canadian canola exports.

According to weekly Canadian Grain Commission data, canola exports at the one-third point of this crop year are down from the year ago pace by 620,000 tonnes, or 23%. Fortunately, Canadian crushers have used 300,000 tonnes more canola than a year ago to date, but total canola usage is still lower."

Statistics Canada in early December bumped up its estimate of 2023 Canadian canola production by one million tonnes to 18.33 million tonnes. Although the higher production estimate was expected, confirmation of the higher production with exports lagging last year implies the potential for

a sharp rise in canola carryover.

"The major positive for canola prices is continuing strong crusher demand. Crushing margins remain profitable, implied by the estimated values of canola meal and canola oil relative to canola seed. Both canola product markets are well developed."

Canola oil demand has been growing with the increasing demand for renewable biodiesel, and Canadian canola oil exports have been increasingly bound for the U.S. However, because a portion of canola's market via canola oil is tied to biodiesel, it is subject to the price of diesel and crude oil. Both of those markets have been weakening lately, on ideas that supply will outstrip demand as world economies slow into 2024.

"So, during the winter into next spring, for Canadian canola prices to sustain improvement, continued strong crushing demand and improved export demand is needed. Crop concerns in South America may redevelop and provide at least a temporary price

boost. Canola basis level signal of canola market changes provide a good condition," says Blue.



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