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The Weekly Anchor

VOL. 35, NO. 03

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024

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COUNTY

FCSS programs in rural Alberta facing challenges...

see page 3

TOWN

Council approves \$300,000 for Ag Society's new arena...

see page 4

COMMENT

Transparency not always easy...

see page 6

Town updated on Disaster Recovery Programs

by Niki Luymes
received information on the 2023 wildfires and the June 16 2023 Disaster Recovery Programs (DRP). This update to June 22, 2023 overland flooding. From the initial announcement dates of each of these programs, the Town has three years to confirm and submit all claims related to either. In summary, during the May and June wildfires the Town

continued page 2



The Edson Food Bank had the local Embers group over for a volunteer work bee on January 16 helping to bring food from the basement (see page 12). photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener

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Town updated on Disaster Recovery Programs

continued from front

incurred initial expenditures of \$1,312,806.15.

On December 8, 2023, the Town requested reimbursement of 50% of the recovery costs, as instructed in the Disaster Assistance Guidelines.

The Town is anticipating this initial partial reimbursement from the province in January 2024. However, since submission the Town has incurred an additional \$46,739.23 in expenses for fire fighting assistance provided by other municipalities. These additional expenses will be added to the 2023 Wildfires DRP claim bringing the current total to \$1,359,545.38.

These numbers do not include the cost involved in the potentially significant charge from Edmonton for reimbursement of Town residents use of the City's Evacuation Centre. When or if received, this number would be added to the DRP claim.

"Ultimately, the DRP Program reimburses back to the Town 90% of all eligible recovery expenditures. This is the final reimbursement percentage amount which is determined after the initial 50% reimbursement provided to the Town," said Paul Hanlan, General Manager Corporate Services.

The Alberta government confirmed the 2023 Overland Flooding DRP on November 29, 2023. While the Town is still preparing the required project list for this flood event, the current estimated total of recovery of expenditures is \$857,483.13. Administration also decided to add \$241,000 in the 2024 Budget for remediation of damages received during the

flood event. This brings the current estimated and planned expenditures for this DRP up to \$1,098,483.13.

"We just wanted to add this for council's information," said Chief Administrative Officer Christine Beveridge. "When it comes to these programs we typically don't see funding for years. These programs are typically three year programs. [These expenses] will show in our books for the coming year as well."

Councillor Krystal Baier asked for clarification on what "show in our books" means for the operating budget. "Is that just like how we see our capital projects that we carry forward, does it carry on in that same way or is it affecting our operating budget?"

Beveridge explained that the town had already paid the expenses, so there would not be any affect on the budget's outgoing expenses.

Councillor Greg Pasychny asked what the town might expect the cost from the city of Edmonton to be for the evacuation centre. The regional centres cost around \$800,000.

"The reception centres in Edmonton, were open for 7 months this year. So there is some pressure on the Province to pay that outright and not distribute it to the various municipalities," said Hanlan. "At this point there is no clear direction and I would be uncomfortable hazarding a guess on what that cost could be. My understanding is that the City of Edmonton spent considerable funds on their evacuation

centres."

Council accepted the 2023 Disaster Recovery Programs update as information.

Letters have been circulated to the community providing a claim submission reminder for those who qualify for funding under the Disaster Recovery Program for the June Floods. The deadline to apply is February 26, 2024, and it covers uninsured losses. It is important to note private sector claimants (residents) can only make one claim per property. This is for the lifetime of the property and includes subsequent owners.

- Residential Portal:
<https://recovery.alberta.ca/SitePages/Home.aspx>
- Small Business:
<https://www.alberta.ca/disaster-recovery-programs>

- **Library Board Appointment** - Council has appointed one additional member to the Edson Public Library Board. All vacancies have been filled on the Board.

Motion out of Closed Session - Grant Allocation. Council has directed Administration to proceed with submitting a grant application to the Alberta Environment and Protected Area Grant Funding Allocation as discussed in closed session.

Next meetings – The next Council Meeting is scheduled for February 6th, 2024, at 7:00 pm, in Council Chambers.

Mackay Community Association

AGM

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

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weekly
anchor.com**

EVENT REMINDERS

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

Bethel Pentecostal Church presents: Daddy-Daughter Date Night

January 27th at 6pm - Branch Inn Restaurant

Buffet dinner, followed by a Flower Giving Ceremony where the fathers will speak love and hope over their special girls. All ages are welcome, whether your daughter has just been born or already has kids of her own. Every girl wants to be blessed by her daddy!

Buffet
\$27 per adult
\$15 per child

This is a formal event! Invite your daughters to dress to the nines and accompany them in your best shirt or tux and tie.

Please see Awana Edson on Facebook to register.
Thank you to The Branch Inn Restaurant for hosting our event.

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FCSS programs in Rural Alberta facing many challenges

by Dana McArthur

Wendy Robinson, Yellowhead County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Supervisor, presented a recently completed and released study by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) on the challenges rural FCSS programs are experiencing.

During the County's Governance and Priorities meeting on January 16, Robinson explained that the RMA shared the report with its membership as well as with the provincial government. The report outlines some of the key challenges rural and remote FCSS programs face and provides policy recommendations for the RMA and individual municipalities to focus on.

FCSS is a crucial service in towns, villages, and rural communities across Alberta. Relying on the efforts of dedicated staff and supported by municipal decision-makers, FCSS offices in every corner of the province support strong families, connected seniors, and healthy children. FCSS is a massive part of what makes Alberta's rural communities great.

Policy recommendations to come out of the study include that the provincial government must increase core funding for FCSS programs across the province. There is a rising need for the types of vital services and programs FCSS offices provide to their community. Many municipalities across rural Alberta have been forced to increase funding beyond their required 20% to prop up to meet the demand. Even so, FCSS programs across rural Alberta are facing significant fiscal pressure, often being forced to curtail programming, make smaller contributions to partnering community organizations, and reduce staff hours.

The Government of Alberta (GOA) must do more to ensure in-person provincial social services remain in or are returned to rural communities. At a minimum, the province must revisit the decision to transition so many support services and client intakes to "1-800" lines and online web portals. Not only has this decision placed incredible stress on rural FCSS offices, it has also proven to have significantly negative impacts on vulnerable people throughout rural Alberta who find it very difficult, if not impossible, to navigate this new system.

The GOA must insure that future public policy related to social service delivery in Alberta is

approached through a rural lens. The practice of applying a "rural lens" to public policy decisions refers to an assessment that specifically considers how a proposed policy change will impact rural regions and peoples.

They must also insure that social service policy in Alberta is designed with meaningful contributions from rural FCSS programs. More must be done by the GOA to intentionally engage rural FCSS offices when making broader social service delivery decisions that will inevitably impact rural communities.

Councillor Brigitte Lemieux asked, "Do the key challenges in this report resonate in your office?" Robinson responded, "Very much so. I was one of the ones that were interviewed and some of my comments are in the survey, so they very much fit in with what we're experiencing." Robinson added, "We did receive some funding, a 4.5% increase in the last year, but that was our first increase in provincial funding since 2015."

Lemieux summarized, "So we're seeing an increase of individuals walking into your office. We're seeing that their needs are more complex. And we're seeing a decrease of provincial supports. I don't see this as [provincial] downloading. I see this as offloading. I really hope that meaningful funding will come forth."

Councillor Dawn Mitchell said, "The provincial government funding is meant to cover 80%. Yellowhead County makes up the difference of 20%. How much more are we contributing over the 20% in order to meet the needs of our community?"

Robinson responded, "I don't have the exact numbers as it changes from year to year depending on our budgets. This year we are receiving \$329,000 from the provincial government towards the FCSS program and our budget is over a million at this point. We're significantly over the 20%."

Mayor Wade Williams concluded, "I have to say as well, it is a tremendous amount of downloading to the municipalities."

Council voted to accept the report for information. Discussions will continue to take place during the next RMA meeting. Results of the County's Social Needs Assessment, in combination with findings from this report, may play a role in determining the strategic directives of the Yellowhead County FCSS Department.



Wendy Robinson, Yellowhead County FCSS Supervisor, presented to County Council a recently released study on the challenges rural FCSS programs are experiencing.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Sealed RFPs for: Galloway Station Museum Cleaning Contract

The Edson and District Historical Society invites proposals for facility cleaning services. The contract will be limited to the actual supplies delivered or the services performed. The successful bidder of this proposal will be the primary supplier of the service being proposed for the 2024 to 2027 calendar years. Go to <https://www.gallowaystationmuseum.com/janitorialrfp> for RFP documents.

Submissions may be made in person, or by mail at the following address:
Galloway Station Museum
223 - 55th Street Edson, AB T7E 1L5
email submissions: manager@gallowaystationmuseum.com

**Time/date for RFP Closing is 2:00 pm, local time
Friday February 9th, 2024 and all proposals must be clearly marked.**

All inquires regarding this RFP shall be addressed to:
Shari McDowell, Galloway Station Museum
223 - 55th Street Edson, AB T7E 1L5 780-723-5696
Sealed proposals will be opened in the presence of the Galloway Station Museum Manager and at least one member of the Edson and District Historical Society Board Executive.

EMPLOYMENT



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- Shipping/ receiving material.
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- Pickup & deliver compressor parts to various locations, including sites.

The right candidate will possess:

- Experience in the compression industry is preferred but will train the right candidate.
- Excellent verbal and communication skills.
- Mechanically inclined.
- Ability to work overtime hours as required.
- Strong time-management skills.
- Strong organizational skills.
- Prioritizing skills.
- Excellent work ethic.
- Valid class 5 driver's license.

Location: Edson

Wages to be determined based on experience.

Please email your resumes to candice@revalve.ca

Town approves \$300,000 toward Yellowhead Agricultural Society's new indoor arena

by Niki Luymes

Edson Town Council put forward a motion at their January 16 meeting to consider adding \$300,000 to the 2024 Operating Budget and grant funding for the Yellowhead Agricultural Society's (YAS) construction of a new indoor riding arena.

This would be another step in YAS's building project that begun in November of 2023. In November delegates from the society presented their plans to Council for a new indoor riding arena at the Edson Rodeo Grounds along Rodeo Road. It was then that they made the request for \$300,000 from the town.

Work on the structure has already begun, with an uninsulated metal walled arena going up in November. The plan is to complete the project in phases, which will eventually culminate in a fully operational, year-round indoor riding arena. To complete the project, YAS is seeking \$1.224 million. This capital will come from a combination of donations, sponsorships, and grants. YAS indicated a facility like this is in high demand and once in full operation they expect rental revenue to cover the operating costs.

This motion would move the \$300,000 request into the operating budget instead of being a one-off expense. "We think that would be the best way to look at requests like this," said Doug Wagstaff, General Manager Community & Protective Services, "We can have it within the whole context of what the spending over the next year, and our priorities, will look like going forward." The carrying of this motion will not

approve the grant, it will simply table it till the 2024 budget deliberations.

Mayor Kevin Zahara had a concern with this proposed motion. "YAS did present to us a while ago. They have their funding in place from other entities. I'm a little concerned that we're going to delay a decision on this and potentially hold up their project that's going strong," said Mayor Zahara. "Can they hold off on getting an answer on this until the spring when we pass our operating budget?"

Wagstaff explained that Administration had discussed this topic with YAS leadership. The phase by phase nature of the build would allow for a bit of flexibility. "The sooner they get the money, the sooner they could complete the entire phasing. But at the same time, they are prepared to proceed as they get the money to do so," said

Wagstaff.

"From where I sit," explained Mayor Zahara, "we've had multiple presentations on the project, we know the project, and we have approved funding twice previously. I think that council has the information that we need to determine whether or not we want to fund it."

After this discussion, the motion that Council direct Administration to include \$300,000 for consideration in the 2024 operating budget as grant funding to YAS toward construction of a new indoor riding arena, was defeated.

Instead Council voted to Direct Administration to include \$300,000 in the 2024 operating budget for the YAS Arena funded from the revenue sharing reserve.

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.

Rachel Notley resigns as Alberta NDP leader

Alberta NDP leader Rachel Notley announced her resignation as head of the party on January 16. Notley said she will remain until the election of the next leader of the party.

"I'm here today to announce that I will not be leading Alberta's NDP into the next election," Notley said. She added that she has not made a decision on remaining as an MLA.

Notley was first elected as leader of the Alberta NDP in October 2014 and served as the party's only elected Premier of Alberta after forming a majority government in 2015.

Notley described the job as leader as privilege. "It's remarkably meaningful. The fact that every day it's such a privilege to be in a position to make positive change, and maybe you don't get exactly what you want every day. In fact, what I learned in government that for every one decision you look forward to making you had to first swim through nine other ones."

"I think it makes sense for any leader after an election to take stock and make a decision about what's best for them and also the party that they lead, depending on the outcome of an election." Notley didn't indicate when she made the decision to resign. "There's no question that part of what drove my decisions around timing was the desire to lead our caucus

through their procession to ensure that there was stability as 19 of the most credible and talented new MLAs that this legislature has ever seen."

Notley said that the leadership race would be an exciting one. "The leadership race that is to follow is a tremendous opportunity to showcase the strength of our party. The strength of our convictions and the talent of our of our caucus, as well as all those who call themselves members of the party."

Local West Yellowhead MLA Martin Long said, "I would like to extend my best wishes to the Honourable Rachel Notley and recognize her many years of dedicated service to our province. Ms. Notley's commitment to public service is commendable and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors."

In a statement on X (Twitter), Premier Danielle Smith thanked Notley for her years of service to Albertans. "Serving as Premier is an extremely demanding job, and she served in that office with an honour and dignity reminiscent of her late father, another honourable and loyal Albertan and public servant," Smith said. "I wish Ms. Notley all the best in her future endeavours and whatever comes next for her and her family."

-with files from Dana McArthur

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The Weekly Anchor

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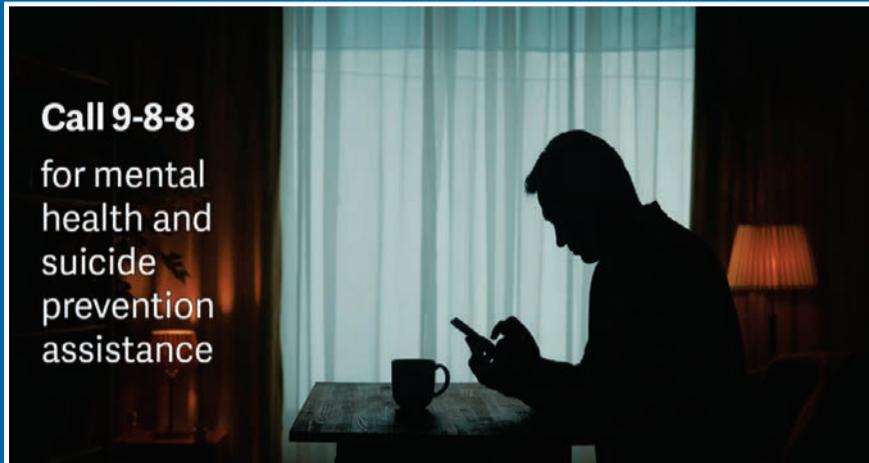
Monday to Thursday 9am to noon



TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2024

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



Call 9-8-8
for mental
health and
suicide
prevention
assistance

9-8-8 number for mental health and suicide prevention

A new three-digit number, 9-8-8, has been implemented across Canada, for mental health and suicide prevention services. You will be able to call or text 9-8-8 from anywhere in Canada for free and will be directed to the appropriate mental health crisis or suicide prevention service in your area. In the face of increased demand for crisis services, 9-8-8 will provide:

- A number that's easy to remember in a crisis situation.
- Support in English and in French, by phone and text.
- Quick access to support from trained responders, available 24/7/365.
- High quality, evidence-based, equitable suicide prevention and crisis support for everyone in Canada.

Who is behind 9-8-8?

In 2021, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) began a public consultation to determine if Canada should have a three-digit service for suicide prevention. In 2022, they issued their decision, adopting 9-8-8 as the number. This is the same number already in use in the United States.

The number went into service on November 30th, 2023.



Public Notice



Town Facility Closures Tuesday, January 30, 2024

The following Town of Edson facilities will be closed on Tuesday, January 30th, for professional development.

- Civic Centre
- Protective Services Building (Fire Hall). *Emergency response is not impacted.
- Edson Landfill
- Edson and District Leisure Centre (re-opening at 3:30pm)
- Public Works Building

Facilities will return to normal operating hours on Wednesday, January 31st, 2024. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience while staff attend this important function.



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.

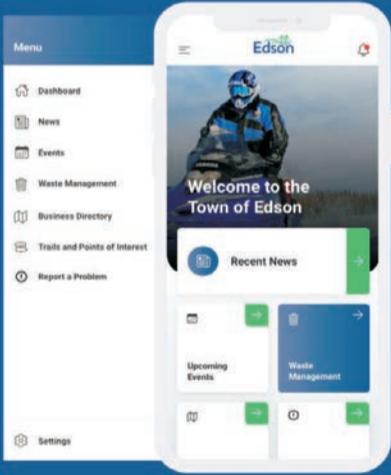
Up to \$68 million is available in disaster recovery funding to help Edson, Whitecourt, Yellowhead County and Woodlands County recover from June flooding.

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.

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Edson

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.**



The Weekly ANCHOR

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Comment

ADVERTISE LOCAL

Transparency not always easy

This week we tip our hats to the Yellowhead County Administration and Council for their dedication to public transparency.



From the Publisher's Desk

Dana McArthur
Member Canadian Association of Journalists

I have some experience working on similar sound systems and I can empathize

with the technical challenges and time deadlines involved. It would have been easy to step back to an in-person only meeting.

However, news arrived that morning that the Mayor's microphone and one handheld mic was operational and they were going to give it a try. With cameras on, the portable mic was passed around the room to whoever needed to speak and they managed to conduct a successful live-stream for the viewing public. Well done!

Transparency is an essential component of democratic government. A transparent decision-making process builds the foundation of good municipal governance.

Due to technical issues with their sound and live-streaming system for Council meetings, it appeared touch-and-go if streaming or recording would be available for their January 16 G&P meeting.

Op/Ed

Warm Homes, Cold Reality: Share Your Carbon Tax Story

In Yellowhead, where recent temperatures have plummeted to below -40° C, the reality of the carbon tax hits differently than intended. In our region, where heating homes is a matter of life and death, the carbon tax imposed by the NDP-Liberal coalition becomes a glaring burden, exposing the policy's disconnect from the realities faced by Canadians, including those in our own cities, towns, and rural communities.

Gerald Soroka MP Yellowhead



community. We are being punished for the basic act of keeping our

homes warm, while the policy itself has yet to show any real contribution to reducing carbon emissions.

This situation calls for more than passive observation. I urge every resident and business owner in Yellowhead, whether in rural areas or our towns, to share your gas bills (with redacted personal information) with large carbon tax costs and your stories to my email: gerald.soroka@parl.gc.ca. We need these real-life accounts as evidence to challenge this ineffective and unfair tax policy. Your voices will be crucial in our fight to expose this tax scheme for what it is and advocate for a more reasonable, effective approach to environmental policy.

Touted as a measure to combat climate change, the carbon tax has spectacularly failed to meet its own environmental goals. Despite the financial strain it has placed on Canadians, especially in colder regions, it has not led to any significant reduction in emissions. This clearly indicates that the carbon tax is less about environmental stewardship and more about implementing a tax scheme under the guise of climate action. It's a policy that penalizes Canadians, like those in Yellowhead, for whom natural gas is not a choice but a necessity.

The impact of this policy is felt most acutely in our gas bills. It's a common sight now: the carbon tax portion exceeding the actual cost of natural gas. This is not just a flawed policy – it's an unfair economic imposition on our

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Publisher/Editor Dana McArthur

Published by: 422247 Alberta Ltd.

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Edson RCMP Occurrences

For the week of: Jan 8 to 14, 2024

Traffic violations topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences at 9. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 0; Assistance 3; Alarms/False Alarms 4; Animal Calls 3; Assault 2; Cause Disturbance 2; Fail to Comply with Conditions 0; False/Abandoned 911 Call 5; Family Orders and Agreements 0; Fraud 3, Harassment/Criminal Harassment 0; Lost or found property 0; Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 1; Information File 0; Mental Health Act 2; Mischief or Damage 2; Municipal Bylaws 1; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 0; Recovered Stolen Property 0; Sudden Death 1; Suspicious persons 3; Theft Complaints 4; Traffic Complaints 6 ;Trespassing 0; Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; and Wellbeing Checks 1.

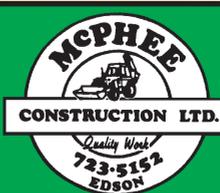
KID'S CORNER



Meet Emerson, a student at Westhaven Elementary School.

Least favourite food? Chicken

Who is the funniest teacher at Westhaven? Mrs. Dani



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

Quality Work

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Braund's was pleased to be able to make a donation to the Edson Food Bank recently in the amount of \$11,598 thanks to the support of the community. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener

U13-1 Sabres brought home Gold from the Canmore tournament over the January 13 weekend. The Sabres defeated the Sylvan Lake Lakers 3-1 in the Gold Medal final. Way to go Sabres! submitted by Deanna Mitchener

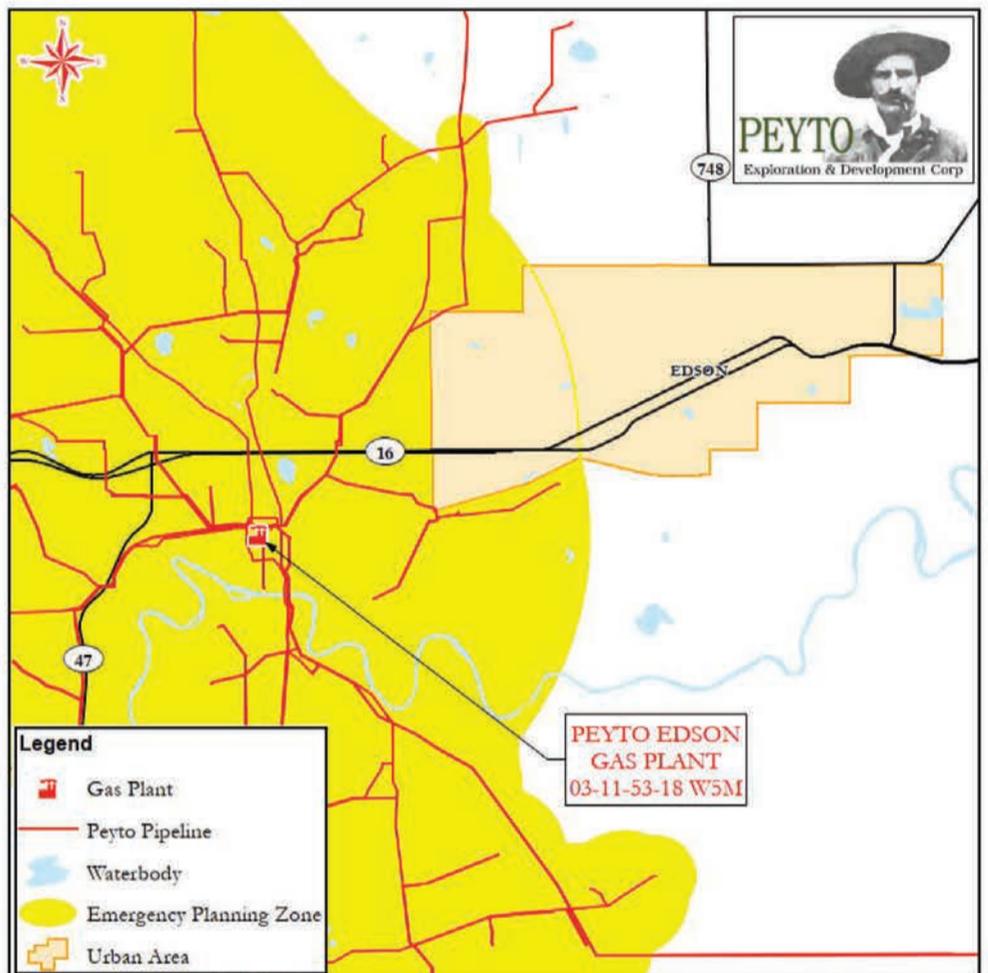
PEYTO EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT CORP. SOUR OPERATIONS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

On October 18, 2023, Peyto Exploration & Development Corp. (Peyto) purchased Repsol Canada Energy Partnership, which holds the Canadian upstream oil and gas business of Repsol Exploración, S.A.U. including all related midstream facilities and infrastructure located predominantly in the Deep Basin of Alberta. This includes the previous Edson District Sour Operations emergency response plan (ERP).

Peyto is an Alberta-based public company focused on the responsible development and production of natural gas and natural gas liquids. Peyto regards the safety of people, the public, and the protection of the environment of paramount importance. Peyto is committed to sustainable energy development that is rooted in the principle of operational excellence throughout the full life cycle of operations.

Peyto has several existing pipelines and facilities in close proximity to the Town of Edson. The Peyto Edson 03-11-053-18 W5M Gas Plant is located southwest of the Town of Edson. The Town of Edson intersects within a pipeline Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of 5.79 km.

As per Alberta Energy Regulator Directive 071: Emergency Preparedness and Response (February 2023), this information is being provided to the public regarding Peyto's sour operations ERP to comply with this directive. Directive 071 outlines requirements for emergency preparedness and response for sites regulated under the Oil and Gas Conservation Act that must be met to obtain regulatory approval. More information regarding Directive 071 can be found at: <https://www.aer.ca/regulating-development/rules-and-directives/directives/directive-071>



The ERP has three primary public safety measures:

Shelter-In-Place Procedures

Shelter-in-place is considered the primary public safety measure when the hazard is of a limited duration or the public would be at a higher risk if evacuated. Shelter-in-place creates a protective buffer from higher (more toxic) concentrations that may exist outdoors. Shelter-in-place is most effective when the movement of outside air into the buildings is minimized. If you are instructed to stay in your residence, do not leave your house or attempt to start any vehicles until emergency response personnel advises you that it is safe to do so or until other appropriate emergency actions can be taken (such as evacuation).

Evacuation Procedures

In the unlikely event of a long-term release, it may be necessary to evacuate to ensure your safety. You will be contacted by emergency response personnel and will be provided with a safe route to an established evacuation centre. If phone calls are not answered, emergency responders will proceed to your residence to ensure you are informed of the emergency. Take the following steps if you are evacuated: gather all residents and bring any medications, tightly close windows and doors, turn down the thermostat, shut off any air exchange fans, and drive safely on the route provided. Proceed directly to the reception centre and check in with emergency response personnel, and wait for further instruction.

Ignition Procedures

In conjunction with Shelter-In-Place and Evacuation strategies, the release may be ignited at the source in order to reduce public exposure to the hazard. The combustion of gases being carried high into the atmosphere allows additional time for the public to safely evacuate. The decision to ignite would be made in consultation with the Alberta Energy Regulator. If the On-Site Supervisor determines that ignition is required, they are fully authorized to ignite the release.

Peyto has prepared a public information package outlining operations in the area and detailing public safety measures. If you have any questions or would like a copy of the package, please contact Jesse Kirillo at 780-712-0452 or H2Safety at 403-212-2332. For more information about Peyto, please visit www.peyto.com.

Contact Information

Peyto 24 Hr Number: 780-712-6777



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

Valentine's Family Dance

Grab your loved ones and join us for an evening on the dance floor!

Snacks & drinks provided

DJ Services provided by Music By Taz

Evansburg Legion

Friday, February 9th

6-8 PM

\$10 per family

Registration is required. To avoid cancellation, please register by February 2nd at yhcounty.ca/registration.



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



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



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Gravel Checker (Seasonal)
LOCATION: Edson, AB
COMPETITION NO. 24-015

Under the supervision of the Area Supervisor, the Gravel Checker is a seasonal position that is responsible for carrying out a variety of road maintenance and construction activities. The term of this seasonal position is April 29, 2024 to August 30, 2024.

The hourly wage range is \$22.93 to \$24.96 per hour.

To apply, please submit resume, cover letter, two (2) written references, and the most current copy of your driver's abstract online at www.yhcounty.ca/jobs

A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online. The competition will remain open until **March 15, 2024 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.



Notice of Public Hearing PROPOSED BYLAW NO. 07.23

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

Notice is hereby given that all Public Hearings will begin at 9:30 a.m. on **February 13, 2024**, in the Council Chambers of the Yellowhead County Administration Building located at 2716 1st Avenue, Edson, Alberta.

The purpose of this hearing is to allow persons to make known their views with respect to the proposed Bylaw no. 07.23 being a Bylaw to amend part of the SE-26-53-16-W5M from RD-Rural District to CRD - Country Residential District.



All written submissions will become public information upon receipt by the Yellowhead County Council.

Copies of Bylaw No. 07.23 are available for public inspection during regular office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Yellowhead County office located at 2716 - 1st Avenue, Edson, Alberta. Further information may be obtained by contacting the office at 723-4800, or 1-800-665-6030.



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
D24-002	Plan 1123208 Blk 1, Lot 3 NW-16-50-26-W5 Jasper/Hinton Airport	Staff Accommodations - Discretionary - Variance Front Yard Setback	Jan 17/24	Feb 7/24

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.

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

Brianne 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.



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

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

SUPPORTING THE FIGHT



"Working together to link individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia to a community of learning, services and support."

Alzheimer Society of Alberta and NWT

First Link is a direct referral system that connects individuals and families affected by dementia to a coordinated learning and support program from time of diagnosis throughout the progression of the disease. Call 1-866-950-5465.

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.



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	Beaver Meadow
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™.



Edson LEAP Centre hosting developmental clinic

by Deanna Mitchener

The Edson LEAP Centre is holding their next developmental clinic on January 27.

Anna Vander Haeghe, the Pediatric Occupational Therapist Director at the Edson LEAP Centre, said, "The Edson LEAP Centre operates out of the lower floor of the historic Edson Red Brick building. The LEAP Centre began operations in Sept of 2020 and is filling a gap in our community offering services for families raising children and youth with differing needs."

"At LEAP we believe that all children regardless of ability should have equal opportunity for learning opportunities, enriched environments, and access to their community

and the different programs," said Vander Haeghe.

"LEAP has partnered with many organizations in Edson over the past three years to offer free programs. In 2022, the Edson Friendship Centre had a vision to provide Developmental Clinics to our community as they were no longer offered by Alberta Health Services. With grant support, they were able to secure funds and partnered with the LEAP Centre," Vander Haeghe said.

"Up to this date, the Edson Friendship Centre with LEAP has run seven free day long community developmental clinics for ages 0-18. We have had over 70 participants attend and have made referrals to other local agencies or medical personnel for 70% of them," said

Vander Haeghe.

"With the support and answers that families receive at these clinics, 100% of the attendees were very satisfied with the information they received. A huge thank you to the Edson Friendship Centre for continuing with this incredibly important community resource through 2024," Vander Haeghe added.

If you have questions about your child's development (any age and any concern) please reach out to them at info@edsonleapcentre.com. To register for the clinic please contact the Edson Friendship centre 587 817-8233.

If you are interested in donating to this non-profit email them at edsonleapsociety@gmail.com"

Pet visits beneficial for senior residents

by Deanna Mitchener

Usually when we think about pets—children come to mind. The presence of a pet prompts feel-good hormones and that's true for kids as well as our senior population.

Visiting with a pet can lower symptoms of depression and sadness, and help support good mental health. Animals bring comfort and spending time with them can make healing faster and easier.

Unlike the big city centres, Edson and area does not have an organized pet therapy program. But many local families do have safe and friendly pets—not necessarily used for pet therapy.

Research has found that visits with therapy dogs improves cardiovascular health in heart patients, precipitating lower blood

pressure, and lowers stress hormone levels. Regular visits with therapy pets can also reduce the amount of medication some people need to manage medical conditions. Anxious patients experience slowed breathing, and the interaction with friendly animals can actually boost the immune system.

If you have a safe and friendly pet, please look into taking them to the Parkland Lodge for some visits with the seniors.

Some of these seniors have had to find homes for their pets in order to move into the lodge. For some seniors those fur-babies were a huge part of their lives, and they miss them dearly.

So, make 2024 an even happier season for seniors, and see how much joy you and your pet can bring. For more information please contact Parkland Senior Citizen Lodge at (780) 723-3522.

(Jan 17, 2024) Due to the recent snow fall the fire advisory has been removed for the Edson Forest Area.

The risk of a wildfire could be present year-round depending on weather conditions and snow levels. Monitor the weather forecast, check your winter burns and ensure they're fully extinguished.

If you see smoke or flame in the forest and suspect it's a wildfire, call 310-FIRE.

EDSON FOREST AREA WILDFIRE UPDATE

The wildfire danger in the Edson Forest Area is LOW. Above seasonal temperatures and the lack of significant precipitation for the past months have increased the risk of a wildfire in the forest area. This means that a fire can easily ignite where there is exposed dead or dry vegetation.

A wildfire is likely to burn into the ground and smoulder for a long period of time. This is why it is important to fully extinguish any cooking or warming fires while

recreating or hunting and to use extra caution if burning debris.

Wildland firefighters are on standby and ready to respond if a wildfire does start. We ask that if you see smoke or flame in the forest, report it to 310-FIRE.

Since January 1, 2023, there have been 88 wildfires in the Edson Forest Area burning a total of 234,558 ha. There are currently six active wildfires, all are classified as under control. Of the active wildfires, one is human-caused, four are caused by lightning and two remain under investigation.

The wildfires will continue to be monitored for activity and be actioned by local wildland firefighting crews when needed. A reclamation plan has begun and equipment have started working on identified areas. This work is anticipated to continue into the winter months.

None of these wildfires pose a threat to any communities or properties, including the Town of Edson.



Navigating the Way to Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing



Tara Burdock, Wellness Navigator Supervisor



Trystan Atkinson, Wellness Navigator Grande Cache Community High School



Delaney Ueland, Wellness Navigator Parkland Composite High School, Edson



Stacey Cherry, Wellness Navigator Harry Collinge High School, Hinton



Hannah Kasper, Wellness Navigator Jasper Jr./Sr. High School



Jenessa Mulgrew, Wellness Navigator Grand Trunk High School, Evansburg



Board Priority 4: System Health and Wellness



GNS: Good News Story

You will see a new group of positive role models in our high schools this year as part of the Division's new System Health and Wellness Priority and Mental Health in Schools Grant from Alberta Education - our team of Wellness Navigators, led by Tara Burdock.

Working alongside the Bringing Empowered Students Together (BEST) Team and Family School Liaison Counselors (FSLCs), the Wellness Navigator's role is to promote health and wellness by bringing preventative universal programming to students. There is a Wellness Navigator located in each of the five high schools in the Division.

Wellness Navigators are responsible for delivering programming in classrooms, the community, and with small targeted groups. Topics and activities are geared to:

- leadership development,
- self-advocacy,
- health and wellness,
- social-emotional learning,
- boundaries & consent,
- healthy relationships,
- online safety,
- mindfulness, and
- high school completion

Navigators are also responsible for connecting with community agencies and running out-of-school programs/activities on non-school days, so expect to see them out and about in your community this year!

Community Welcome Project brings back a personal connection

by Deanna Mitchener

Our community used to have a person come to your house if you were new to the area or just had a baby. We lost that personal connection of someone coming to your home, back when Covid hit. The closure of the Welcome Wagon Canada happened in May of 2020.

The Edson & District Historical Society decided to reintroduce this program to the community in their own capacity, with the Community Welcome Project through the Galloway Station Museum. It has been very nice that they stepped up to help with this project.

Cassie Kushniruk Gift Shop & Travel Centre Coordinator for the Galloway Station Museum & Travel Centre shared some of the history and how the transition went.

“The Community Welcome Project is actually facilitated by the Galloway Station Museum with a grant from the Town of Edson. We started the program when the Welcome Wagon went under because we saw the importance of this program in the area.”

“Welcome Wagon was established in Canada in the 1930's with the intention of introducing new residents to their communities and congratulating new parents with locally-sourced gifts and useful information. The Edson & District Historical Society received a Town of Edson Community Development Micro Grant, and donations contributed by local businesses, to make this program possible.”

“We recognized a service gap in the community with the closure of the Welcome Wagon and were in a unique position to help. The EDHS was happy to partner with the Town of Edson to address that gap and provide this much-needed service to Edson and the surrounding area.”

“Town of Edson FCSS granted

the Galloway Station Museum with \$1560 toward the revamp of the

Community Welcome Wagon program. The Community Welcome Project helps community members and newcomers to Edson to know what is going on in Edson and the surrounding area. It helps them to feel connected and engaged. This program also helps community members feel a sense of belonging in Edson.”

“Both of these program outcomes are important to the FCSS mandate, as FCSS hopes to encourage organizations and agencies to provide programs and services to help make individuals within the community feel connected and engaged.”

“The goal of Family and Community Support Services is to help communities increase the social well-being of individuals, families and communities. The Special Project Grant gives agencies and organizations the opportunity to provide services like the Welcome Project to the community of Edson.”

“Under the Community Welcome Project, newcomers will be provided with a bag chock full of important information on Edson, as well as some goodies from various local businesses and the Galloway Station Museum, including samples, coupons and special freebies. In addition to these items, the baby bags will also include essential baby-related items, such as formula, soothers and diapers, as well as information on infant programs in Edson. This program is completely free and is open to both Edson and Yellowhead County residents.”

“To be eligible for a Newcomer



Views & News

by Deanna Mitchener

Bag, applicants must have moved to the area within one calendar year.

Any parent who is expecting or has a child who is one year or younger is eligible for a Baby Bag. This does not only apply to first-time parents—parents can receive a Baby Bag for each newborn.”

Eligible program recipients will set up an informal meeting with Galloway Station Museum staff, where they will be provided with a bag and an introduction to what is available to them in Edson and area. Bags can be delivered or picked up at the Galloway Station Museum.

Anyone is welcome to reach out to the Community Welcome Project for information on services or to set

up a meeting to discuss what programs and services are available locally.

To receive a Community Welcome Project bag, or to nominate someone for a special bag, please visit gallowaystationmuseum.com/welcome-to-edson-project. For more information on the program, please phone the Galloway Station Museum at 780-723-5696, or email info@gallowaystationmuseum.com

This is great information to share with any newcomers or a family with a new baby. If you know of anyone please help spread the word.

Special thanks goes out to the Galloway Station Museum and Travel Centre and to the Edson and District Historical Society for running this project, and supplying the information.

January traffic safety tips: Intersection safety

Alberta's government is reminding drivers to slow down and proceed carefully through intersections.

Statistics show intersection-related collisions increase in January, largely due to winter driving conditions. One in four collisions on Alberta roads occurs at an intersection, resulting in thousands of dollars in damages, countless injuries and needless deaths each year.

Pedestrians, cyclists and motorists converge at intersections at different speeds, increasing the risk of collisions. Preventable collisions are largely due to driver error, such as driving too fast for conditions, making an improper left turn, failing to stop at a stop sign or

disobeying a traffic signal. We all have a responsibility to ensure our roads are safe for everyone.

- Intersection safety tips
- If you can't see the wheels of the vehicle in front of you, you've stopped too close.
- When approaching an intersection or crosswalk, always be alert for vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists.
- Pedestrians always have the right-of-way at an unmarked intersection or stop sign unless otherwise indicated by signage.
- Elderly pedestrians or those with disabilities may need more time to cross the road. Please be patient and wait until they finish crossing.

~ Obituary ~

Dennis Leo Boisvert

December 3, 1960 - January 12, 2024

Avid outdoorsman, astute gregarious businessman, exceptional chef, loving father and devoted husband are just a few words to describe Dennis Leo Boisvert who passed away unexpectedly on January 12, 2024, in Edmonton, AB at the age of 63 years.

Dennis was born December 3, 1960, in Edmonton, AB and was raised in Slave Lake, AB. Upon graduating from high school, he obtained his Meat Cutting Certificate and worked with his parents, Leo and Stella, in the family grocery and clothing store. Dennis also enjoyed working for Rainbow Pipeline. Dennis obtained his private pilot's license and enjoyed flying.

Dennis then attended the University of Lethbridge where he met the love of his life, Shari. He graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor of Management degree with a major in Finance. He then moved to Edson, AB to open a brand-new convenience store gas station – TAGS located near the Westhaven area.

He and Shari got married in 1987. Dennis was very successful and opened a second TAGS store in 1998. Both Shari and Dennis became fully involved in the Edson community. While Shari attended law school, Dennis was granted the order of Justice of the Peace in 1991. He fulfilled those duties until the date of his death. He was a craftsman; some of his projects were building a stone fireplace in his house, stone pillars with Chinese lions, stone fence, and a hand carved wooden mantel.

When the children, Jasmine and Jordan, were born he gave them pet names which carried onto their adulthood: "Peanut/Princess" and "Baby Buffalo". He was the consummate Dance Dad and would proudly attend Jasmine's dance festivals. Dennis was involved as Jordan's coach/trainer in Edson Minor Hockey for over 10 years and was awarded the Sportsman of the Year Award and Trainer of the Year Award. He held great pride in the kids' accomplishments: Jasmine as an environmental scientist and Jordan as a law school student.

Dennis sold both TAGS stores and retired in 2022 after 36 years of business in Edson. He relished his new time off. He loved cooking; if you were lucky, you received a piece of his smoked salmon that he caught from his yearly salmon fishing trip with Jordan and his brother-in-law James. He enjoyed listening to his political and nutritional podcasts, spending time with his 3 dogs, feeding the squirrels/deer on his acreage, being Shari's full time cook and maintenance man for the law office, cycling on his bicycle, and simply enjoying life.

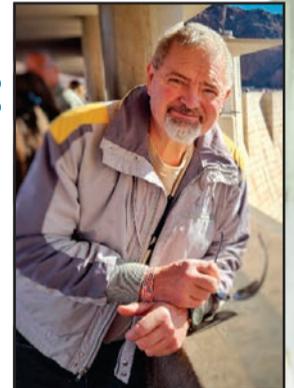
We will miss his sage practical advice, his caring and generosity to family, friends, pets and nature, his wonderful cooking, his hugs and his hearty laugh.

Dennis is survived by his wife Shari, children Jasmine and Jordan, siblings Terry, Lynda (Roger), Laura (Dave), Jim (Chris), and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Leo, and his mother, Stella.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Edson Legion, 5016-5th Ave., on January 28, 2024, at 1:00 pm. The service will be live streamed with the link available on the day of the service on the page of the obituary of Edson Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his name to the Heart & Stroke Foundation or Edson Animal Rescue Society (EARS).

FOOTHILLS MEMORIAL CHAPEL

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



Grand opening of AFD Petroleum's card-lock station in Edson

Card-lock station welcomes commercial and individual customers to fill-up

by Niki Luymes

Edson Town Councillors and guests braved the cold to officially welcome AFD Petroleum to the Edson business community on January 10. Together with AFD staff, they officially cut the opening ribbon on the new card-lock gas station west of Edson along Highway 16.

The event also featured free sandwiches, cookies, and beverages for everyone attending. This is the sixth card-lock Station that AFD has built in Alberta. AFD is an Alberta owned company that specializes in petroleum distribution through fuelling stations that provide both diesel and gasoline. They use tanks manufactured in their own facilities with state of the art fuel leveling and tracking technology.

"Primarily we deal with industrial supply, pipeline companies, larger transportation companies, and remote loggers; things of that nature," said Scott Cordell Sales Manager with AFD. In total they have 25 stations across the continent, not including the tanks set up on specific company camps. "We're all over western Canada, the Yukon, and Alaska. We've got a card-lock system network from the lower mainland of B.C, though Alberta, and all the way up the Alaska Highway."

This card-lock station will also be accessible and usable by the general public. Anyone can come up to the station and use a debt or credit card to fill up their vehicle. Alternatively, you can register for a free AFD account and pay monthly for future fills. "You don't have to have any type of special membership at all, just a credit or debit card to use the pumps. Or, you can call and get set up with an account, then basically you'll receive a bill once a month. That is available to individuals as well as companies," added Cordell.

AFD is a private, family owned company that has been active in Alberta for nearly 35 years and is excited to be working in Edson. "We've been in the region forever.

We have a card-lock and an office in Hinton just right up the road, so this was a natural fit for us, logistically," said Cordell.



Edson Town Councillors Trevor Bevan and Gean Chouinard braved the cold to welcome AFD Petroleum to the Edson community on January 10. photo Niki Luymes

Embers lend a hand at Edson Food Bank



The Edson Food Bank had the local Embers group over for a volunteer work bee, on January 16. Amy Pillage, Program Coordinator for the Edson Food Bank Society said, "The group compiled kids snack bags, bakery bags, brought up supplies from the basement, donated and put away 99lbs of food, plus they had a fun time doing it. We're so appreciative when our local service groups reach out." It sure is extra special when kids get involved. Jayne Buchwald is the group leader for Embers. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener

January 9, 2024

Yellowhead County Council Highlights

Ag Response Letter from Minister – Council received a letter from the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation addressing why Yellowhead County was not eligible for the 2023 AgriRecovery Program for livestock producers and the 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program. The minister's letter stated that livestock producers in Yellowhead County did not meet the severe drought criteria as set out by the federal government.

Operational Support for Evansburg Legion – Council approved a Community Hall Operational Grant to the Evansburg Legion for the Community Hall portion of the facility, to a maximum of \$20,000, in 2024 and 2025.

YCE Multiplex Construction Management – Council approved the YCE Steering Committee recommendation to award the Construction Management and Construction Services contract for the YCE Multiplex Facility to Clark Builders for a fee of 2.6% of the construction budget. Council also accepted an update on the YCE progress to date.

Proposed Subdivision – Bylaw 07.23 received first reading amending Land Use Bylaw 09.21 for Part of the SE 26-53-16-W5M. The approval of the bylaw would allow for a subdivision to create two new county residential parcels. A Public Hearing is scheduled for February 13, 2024.

Road Work Contract – The consulting engineering services agreement for road improvement projects for TWP 543A, TWP 544, and RR 144A was awarded to V3 Company in the amount of \$522,381.00 (excluding GST) for preliminary engineering, detailed design, tender preparation and award, construction administration, and post-construction services.

Marlboro Water and Wastewater – Council gave Administration approval to proceed with re-designing the Marlboro lagoon and explore the most feasible and economical options available for the discharge of treated effluent to adjacent wetlands or creeks. This direction anticipates significant cost savings.

Edson RCMP assist Jasper police with drug-related search warrant

On Jan. 12, 2024, Jasper RCMP, with the assistance of the Edson RCMP Integrated Traffic Unit, and RCMP Police Dog Services executed a search warrant at a Jasper residence. The 6-month-long investigation, assisted by RCMP Western Alberta District Crime Reduction Unit, focussed on the distribution of illicit street drugs in the Jasper community.

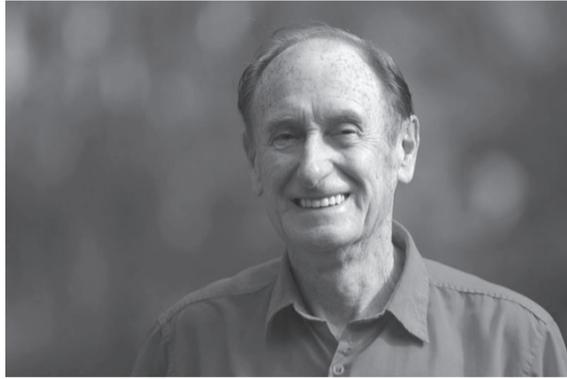
As a result of the search warrant, multiple items were seized, including:

Suspected cocaine; Suspected methamphetamines; Suspected fentanyl; 2 shotguns; 3 rifles; 2 handguns; 2 replica handguns; and 1 conducted energy weapon.

Two Jasper residents are currently facing multiple charges, which are pending crown approval. An additional release is anticipated once charges are approved and laid.

“These inherently addictive and toxic substances pose significant public safety concerns. Coupled with the use of weapons in their distribution, these substances greatly increase public safety concerns. As the investigation proceeds, Jasper RCMP will continue to focus on these types of criminal activity. This is part of our mandate to provide a safe community,” stated Sgt. Rick Bidaisee, Jasper RCMP Detachment Commander.

Former Pine Grove teacher Frank O'Keeffe launches new book



Former Edson School teacher Frank O'Keeffe launches new book "Paddy and Me".

Frank O'Keeffe, a former teacher at Pine Grove School turned author, has recently released his latest book 'Paddy & Me'.

Frank married local Edson teacher Patricia (Paddy) Healy. Later in life Patricia was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. She passed away on Oct 1st 2021.

The book is a memoir documenting their lives and shared adventures over their 60-year marriage. Frank draws from his memories and Paddy's diaries and letters to ensure that her life and accomplishments will not be erased.

“It's a very sad thing to walk in the sand and see the tide erase your footprints like you've never been there at all,” Patricia wrote long before she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Frank was born in Dublin, Ireland, and began his writing career there while in fourth grade. One day Frank's regular teacher was ill, and his class was combined with another. In order to keep this large group of students quiet, the teacher offered a prize of sixpence for the student who could write the best story. Frank wrote a story about a plane carrying racehorses that crashed in the South American jungle. He won the sixpence prize, earning his first income as a writer.

Shortly after finishing school, Frank emigrated to Calgary, Canada, and got his first job at a bank in Kimberly, BC. When he realised that the cost of room and board was taking up most of his bank wages, he quickly returned to Calgary. He worked for an insurance broker for a few years, and while there, he wrote skits for the annual Christmas parties.

Wanting to see more of the world, he took his wife Patricia (who he married in 1961) and then two-year old daughter to explore Australia, travelling there by ship for a working holiday. He was immediately offered a job for a few months with the same insurance brokerage in Sydney. The family later travelled for several months, living in an old Volkswagen camper van and working at jobs such as fruit picking, working on a huge sheep station, and as a janitor/gardener at a school.

They returned to Calgary, visiting the Philippines, Hong Kong and Japan on the way. Frank returned to the insurance business and became a partner in an insurance agency in Quesnel, BC, moving there with his wife, daughter and new young son in the late 1960's. They lived on a quarter section of land in the forest west of Quesnel and while living in the area, his third child, another son, was born.

At this time Frank gave up his career in insurance and returned with his family to Calgary to attend the University of Calgary, where he obtained a Bachelor of Education degree and started a teaching career, moving to Edson, Alberta. There he was a part-time librarian at A.H. Dakin Elementary School and also taught second and third graders. He took up writing again when he found that his class was expected to put on a performance at the annual Christmas concert, and his original scripts got rave reviews from both parents and the local newspaper. He also became the editor of the Teachers' Association Newsletter and wrote a humorous column for a year for the local weekly newspaper.

He next moved to Pine Grove Elementary School in Edson and taught fourth graders. While working there he met fellow teacher Martyn Godfrey, who liked the pieces Frank wrote in the teachers'

newsletter. Martyn had just had his second young adult/children's novel published and encouraged Frank to try writing a novel for young people. Frank came up with the idea for Guppy Love, told Martyn about it, and Martyn said, “It sounds great. If you don't write it in three months, I'll steal the idea.” Frank completed it in three months and Guppy Love became his first published novel.

Putting down roots in Edson, the family bought a quarter section of land a few kilometres from town and built a house on the property. Before long, first-grade teacher Patricia and Frank were also raising cattle and chickens, and beekeeping. During the next few years Frank was able to turn some everyday events – incidents on the farm, his two sons' and Patricia's involvement in minor hockey, and the closing of a local school – into six more successful young adult novels.

Because he was travelling across Canada so much to do readings and writing workshops in schools and libraries, Frank took a leave of absence from teaching, and never went back. He and Patricia moved to Peachland, BC, in the Okanagan Valley to enjoy their retirement. There, Frank also took up work in two local garden centres. They returned to live in Calgary in 2009, a few years after Patricia was diagnosed with Alzheimer disease.

Patricia spent several years in long-term care homes, until Frank decided to care for her at home in her final years. Sadly, she passed away on October 1, 2021.

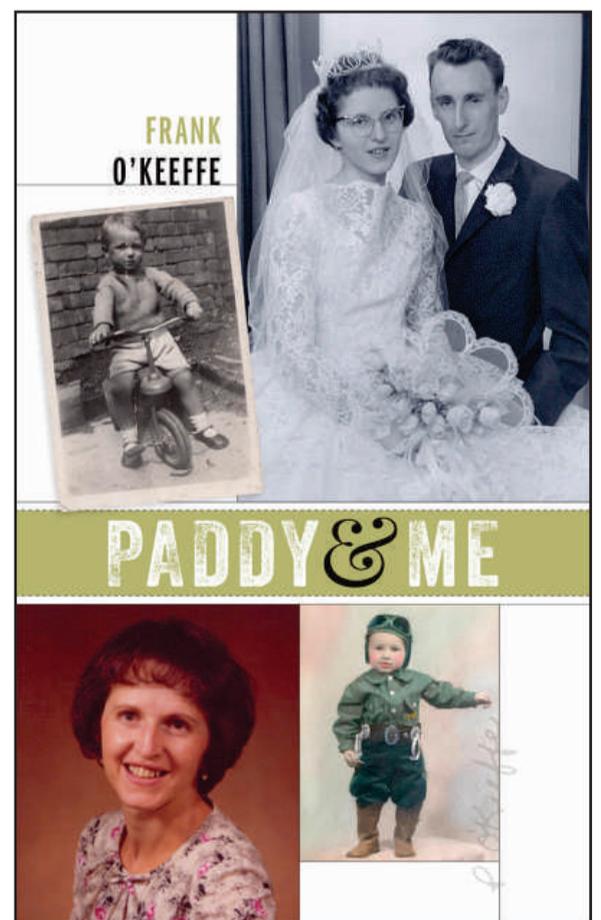
During this time, Frank also began writing novels for adult readers: Woodbine (historical fiction); The Grand Getaway (a humorous adventure story); and Outside Enniskerry and Beyond (a collection of short stories). All three are widely available on Amazon, along with his two most recent young adult books, Harry Flammable, and Mad About Marvin. A memoir titled Paddy & Me was also released on Amazon in 2023.

O'Keeffe's books are available at the Red Brick Arts Centre and through Amazon.ca.

Bobbi-Dawn Drader, Office Manager for the Red Brick Arts Centre & Museum recently said Frank O'Keeffe has some wonderful books he has written. “We carry his books in our gift shop and recently just got his new book Paddy & Me. Frank and his family resided in Edson where he taught for many years.”

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of Paddy & Me will be donated to Baycrest, a global leader in brain health and dementia research.

- with files from Deanna Mitchener



The Weekly ANCHOR Comics & Fun

A Family Literacy Opportunity
provided by The Weekly Anchor

SWAMP by Gary Clark

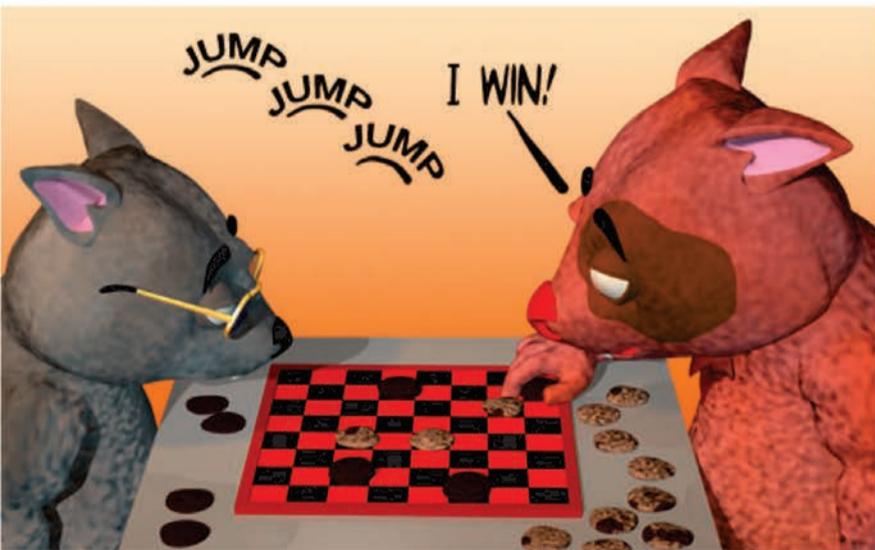


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 5525-2nd Ave., Edson
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 4719 - 9th Ave., Ph: 723-3982
 Pastor Mesh Hit
 Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m.
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 Pastor Tyson Moerike
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EDSON 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.
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 1214 Edson Drive Edson AB
 Phone: 723-3418
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 Rev. Noemi Sogocio, Senior Pastor, 780-600-0050; noemi_sogocio2006@yahoo.ca
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
 4803 - 6th Avenue, Edson
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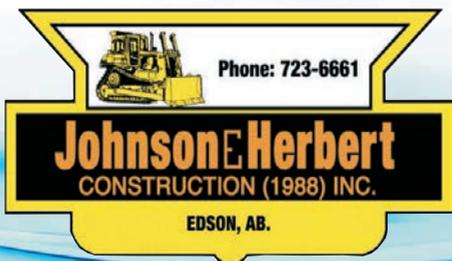
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What's happening, when and where in the community

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.
February 9: Valentine's day dance. Evansburg Legion from 6-8pm Registration is required by February 2 at yhcounty.ca/registration
February 15 - March 7: Pilates at the Robb Multiplex 10:00- 10:45am please register online at yhcounty.ca/registration
Every Thursday: Seniors Chair Yoga Free. 10-11am Leisure Centre Hospitality Room.
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

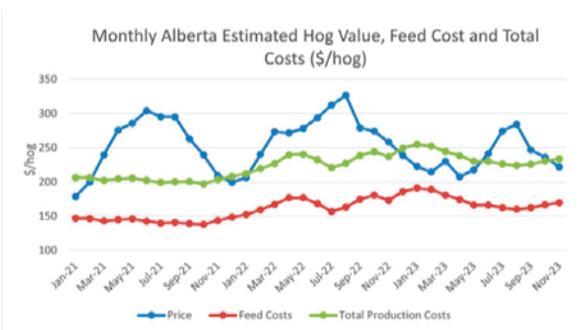
Tough economic times for the pork industry

“According to Rabobank’s annual Global Animal Protein Outlook Report, November 2023, the swine breeding herd will continue to contract in North America,” says Ann Boyda, provincial livestock market analyst with the Alberta government. “Productivity gains in terms of piglets per sow per year have seen production sustained, despite herd liquidation. Although some moderation in feed costs is evident, productivity gains have resulted in oversupply in the North American market and is putting pressure on hog prices. 2024 is predicted to be faced with continued challenges against disease and weather, tight margins and uncertain consumer sentiment.”

The Western Hog Exchange’s Weekly Regional Hog Price Report monitors national hog markets and reports that hog margins are weakening across North America. As of December 1, 2023, losses ranged from an estimated \$27.81 per hog in Ontario to between \$12 and \$17 per hog in Manitoba. Alberta margin losses were estimated to be between \$20 and \$21 per hog for the same period. Quebec margins were estimated at a loss of over \$24 per hog.

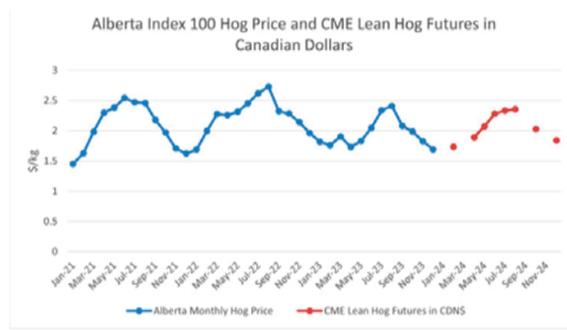
“In Alberta, Index 100 hog prices have been declining since August 2023. Although a price decline is seasonally expected, in combination with higher production costs, producers have been faced with a narrowing window of opportunity for annual profit. In comparison, the profitability window for 2021 and 2022 was from February to November but in 2023 this window narrowed from June to October.”

Figure 1. Monthly Alberta Estimated Hog Value, Feed Cost and Total Costs



The CME Group Lean Hog Futures can provide some insight into 2024. A hog price forecast based on the lean hog futures settlement prices for December 1, 2023, adjusted for exchange rates and United States (U.S.)-Alberta price conversion factor, pegs an average 2024 hog price at \$2.07 per kilogram live weight. The conversion factor is determined by the U.S. and Canadian dressing percentages. The forecasted average price for 2024 represents a decline of 8.7% from the average for 2022, but a potential 4.5% increase over the 2023 year-to-date average hog price of \$1.99 per kilogram.

Figure 2. Alberta Index 100 Hog Price and CME Lean Hog Futures



“Globally, swine herds are predicted to liquidate over the next 3 years,” explains Boyda. “Market uncertainty created by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, weather and persistent inflation are key factors. Another key driver is the rise of new legislation against livestock production. The Netherlands has implemented a buy-out scheme as part of its efforts to drastically slash nitrogen emissions, predominately nitrogen oxide and ammonia, by 50% by 2030. New Zealand’s government has also introduced a targeted carbon tax on gases produced by farm animals, starting in 2025. Denmark, a major hog producing country, has set targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 55% to 65% by 2030. Stricter regulations result in higher production costs. Financial losses lead to less production.”

In the U.S., animal production legislation regulating sale of product raised with specified space

allotment, such as Proposition 12 in California and new Massachusetts regulations, affect the Canadian pork industry. Some firms like duBreton based in Quebec and Maple Leaf Foods have made the transition to open sow housing to meet regulatory requirements. California is a key market for Alberta pork representing \$97.295 million in 2022, nearly 56% of all Alberta pork exports to the U.S. Proposition 12 goes into effect on January 1, 2024.

The North American pork market is highly interdependent. In 2022, the U.S. was Alberta’s second largest pork export market valued at nearly \$175 million, following Japan at \$196.5 million. Mexico comes in third valued at \$66.8 million. Alberta’s live hog and pork export value year-to-date (January to October 2023) is estimated at \$22.1 million and \$291.9 million, respectively. This year-to-date estimate reflects a 20.2% and 40.1% decline, respectively, over the same period 2022. Factors that contributed to lower export values include the weaker consumer pork demand, uncertainty caused by the new production regulations and the deteriorating hog price.

“With lower pork production globally, there still is hope for stronger prices but unfortunately the pork industry may need to ride out some tough times before they arrive,” says Boyda. “Alberta’s pork sector is known for its quality and innovation and must continue to prove its fair treatment of animals and adherence to sound practice in defense of market regulatory challenges.”

The Weekly Anchor

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