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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024 WWW.WEELYANCHOR.COM VOL. 35, NO. 45

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



**RECYCLE**

EDRS hosts "massive" Christmas garage sale...

see page 2

**WILDFIRE**

End of Wildfire Season stats for the Edson Forest Area...

see page 9



Parkland Lodge holds a monthly Crib Tournament where they have a lot of fun, competition and build friendships. photo submitted Deanna Mitchener

## Foster Parents urgently needed in Edson

McMan Foster Care is urgently seeking foster parents in Edson. There is a critical need for foster caregivers in Northern Alberta.

McMan is looking to recruit foster caregivers as soon as possible. They are looking to find families to support 20 children in care.

When there are not enough foster caregivers in an area, children need to move out of their communities to a location with more bed spaces available. They lose their friends, schools, and family connections when they must move. McMan Foster Care's goal is to keep children close to their biological families and in their schools.

Foster Caregivers are compassionate people who open their hearts and homes to children in need. These children have experienced trauma and need a caring adult to guide them. McMan provides ongoing support to caregivers who want to become foster parents.

"Becoming a foster parent is an

continued page 2

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# EDRS hosts “massive” Christmas garage sale

by Shaylyn Thornton

The Edson & District Recycling Society and Take it or Leave it invited shoppers to their annual Christmas Garage Sale on Saturday November 2. The event ran from 10am to 4pm in the Reuse Building.

“There was a wide variety of items,” said Barb Tivadar of the many artificial trees, tree stands, wreaths, lights, ornaments, and both indoor and outdoor decorations that could be found at the sale.

The event was advertised as a “great place to find decorations for your Santa Claus Parade Float!” and proceeds from the sale will be going towards educational programs offered by the Recycling Depot.

With some of the shoppers sharing what they planned to do with their new-to-them items, Barb said, “It is nice to know that the decorations from the sale will be used to decorate community halls, classrooms, local organizations, and support an intergenerational program in Wildwood, as well as residents decorating their homes.”

With the holiday season coming up, interested shoppers can find the items that were not sold during the sale at the Reuse Building and the Take it or Leave it at 5237 1st Avenue in Edson. Information on EDRS and upcoming events can be found on their social media or on their website at edsonrecycle.com.

“We would like to thank the community for supporting this event,” said Barb. “It was well attended.”



Shoppers visited the Reuse Building in Edson for the Edson & District Recycling Society's annual Christmas Garage Sale. photos submitted



Many different items including ornaments and wreaths could be found at the Edson & District Recycling Society's annual Christmas Garage Sale.

## Foster Parents urgently needed in Edson

continued from front

incredibly rewarding experience,” explains Corie Entrop, Program Manager, Communications and Engagement. “McMan Foster Care is with them every step of the way as they become Foster Parents, so they are never alone when becoming a Foster Caregiver.”

McMan Foster Care encourages those

interested to visit its website at [mcm.ca/become-a-foster-parent](http://mcm.ca/become-a-foster-parent) or call 780-453-0417.

Of note, McMan Foster Care is looking in particular for Indigenous families and families from the LGTBQ2S+ community.

Almost anyone can foster! People who are single, same-sex couples, and renters are all eligible to apply.

### Teacup Tiny Home for Sale

Discover the perfect blend of simplicity and comfort in this charming tiny home. Thoughtfully designed with modern finishes, it offers efficient living in a compact space. With a bright, open layout, and eco-friendly features, this home is ideal for those seeking a minimalist lifestyle or a weekend retreat. Enjoy the serenity of nature with all the conveniences of home, including a fully equipped kitchen, stylish bathroom, and plenty of natural light. Make this delightful space your own oasis!



Please call for pricing.

**1-780-817-4865**

#### EVENT REMINDER

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.

### Yellowhead Agricultural Society

### Annual General Meeting

@Pinegrove Hall

November 28th, 2024

Doors open at 5:30pm

Supper at 6pm

Meeting at 7pm

Please RSVP to Kailee by Nov 21st

780-728-8039

# 19th Annual Festival of Trees auction online due to flooding

by Shaylyn Thornton

The Edson Cultural Heritage Organization (ECHO), which operates the Red Brick Arts Centre and Museum, is once again hosting their annual Festival of Trees silent

auction. The auction is made up of donated holiday creations and gift items from individuals and businesses throughout the community.

The Festival of Trees is the largest fundraiser for ECHO and funds

raised go towards continuing the legacy of the Red Brick, which is celebrating over 110 years of supporting education, arts, and culture in the region.

While the organization usually invites would-be shoppers to view the items in person, flooding damage from a major storm on August Long Weekend has meant the auction will be online only this year. Bidding will occur on the private '19th Annual Festival of Trees' social media page. You can also find links to this from the Red Brick profile on FB social media. All of the generously donated and decorated items from local residents and businesses will be

posted in the auction from November 16 to 20, with an online description including donor information.

Bidding on these items will begin on Sunday, November 17 at 12pm and will end on Wednesday, November 20 at 9pm. Winning bids will be announced by 4:30pm on Thursday, November 21. All bidding in the auction must be in \$1 increments, and detailed rules and payment information can be found on the Facebook page.

For more information on this great fundraiser and how to take part, contact the Red Brick for more information at 780-723-3582 or echored@telus.net.

## Town Council appoints municipal election Returning Officer

by Niki Luymes

In preparation for the upcoming 2025 municipal election, Edson Town Council was tasked with appointing a Returning Officer.

In accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) 13, Council must appoint a Returning Officer for the purposes of conducting municipal elections.

During the November 5 Town Council meeting, Council voted to appoint Adrienne Tait to the position.

"Adrienne has been with us for a couple years now and her passion

for municipal government and elections, and everything in between, has been something we've benefited from as an organization. I have full confidence in Adrienne's abilities to conduct this election on behalf of the Town of Edson," said Christine Beveridge, Chief Administrative Officer.

"This is an excellent choice," added Councillor Peter Taylor.

The motion to appoint Tait was made by Councillor Gean Chouinard. Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment.

### Barrhead Feeders Association

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- Offering financing at Prime less .35%
- Minimum of 5% down (the only security needed)
- Buy and sell where and when you want
- Can include vaccination, price insurance, processing fees into loan
- Administering Alberta Breeder Finance Inc (ABFI)

#### November 20, 2024

- Supper at 6 pm - Meeting at 7 pm  
at the  
Barrhead Neighbourhood Inn

#### Guest Speakers:

**Brian Perillat**, MSc, P.A. -Agribusiness Specialist-  
Market overview of key factors driving the cattle market, calf prices ranges & spreads, importance of data management.

**Doug Roxburgh**, Beef Consultant, Bulls Eye Feeds – Receiving & Transition of Cattle.  
What is your strategy?

**To RSVP or for more information please call - 780 674 2456**

## FALL IMMUNIZATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Protect yourself from respiratory viruses this season.

Visit [ahs.ca/vaccine](https://ahs.ca/vaccine) or call 811 to book an appointment.



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# EARS' Haunted Forest raises over \$14,00 for animal rescue and care

by Shaylyn Thornton

The Edson Animal Rescue Society (EARS) held their 8th Annual Haunted Forest fundraiser from October 24 – 26. The much-loved event is the non-profit organization's biggest fundraiser of the year.

This year, the event saw 338 attendees for the Little Goblin Glow in the Dark Night on Thursday October 24, 1,002 attendees on Friday, and 868 attendees on Saturday. This brought the total number of attendees over the three nights to a whopping 2,208!

Revenue from the event came from a number of sources. The group's glow stick sales brought in \$750 while their Adopt-a-stuffy program and glitter tattoos brought in \$1,630. The bake sale brought in \$4,366 and the total for admission donations was an incredible \$7,400.

All together, that's \$14,146 raised towards rescuing and caring for animals in our area. What an incredible feat by organizers, volunteers, sponsors, and all who attended. People are looking forward to next year already.

Up next for EARS is a Purdy's chocolate fundraiser and an online auction. Both fundraisers can be found on the Edson Animal Rescue Society's social media.



Halloween at the Lodge: Once again the Parkland Lodge Auxiliary had the pleasure of judging the costumes at the lodge. So many dressed up making it was hard to pick, but the winners of the four \$25.00 gift cards for A&W that were donated by Cardium Vac were: Angela M, Shirley S, Alice W, and Barb T. Our three members dressed up as well. Pictured are Carol M, Carol B, Angela M, Shirley S, Alice W, Barb T and Alice. submitted



The Senior Girls at Holy Redeemer High School won 3rd place over the weekend of November 2nd at a tournament in Edson. The girls defeated Mayerthorpe to capture the bronze medal. photo submitted Deanna Mitchener

JOIN US FOR THE

# Santa Claus Parade

November 30th at 5:30pm

Theme: Your favorite Christmas movie

Scan QR code for registration form and route

Send completed registrations to [sydney.davenport@edsonfriendshipcentre.org](mailto:sydney.davenport@edsonfriendshipcentre.org)

More information call 780 723 5597







# TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2024

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

## Senior Lifeguard School

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\$600

Gain essential skills and certifications while making a positive impact in your community. With comprehensive training and leadership development, you'll be ready for exciting job opportunities as a Lifeguard-Instructor!

Contact us Phone Number 780-723-7665

## Help plan our 2025 event!

We are seeking new members to join the Eddie's Big Run Committee. An event this size takes a lot of work behind the scenes, and we need more help to ensure it returns year after year!

**What is the commitment like?**

- Committee term runs January-July.
- Committee members meet once a month January - April and then more frequently in May before the race as needed.
- Oversee or assist with planning an area of the event (ie. fundraising, breakfast, entertainment, volunteers, etc.)
- Ensure your area of responsibility is executed on race day
- Support the success of the event and provide recommendations on future trail development!

**For more information, please contact Hannah at 780-725-0582 or HannahM@edson.ca**

## Edson Housing Strategy Let's Talk Housing!

The Town of Edson wants to better understand the current housing situation in the community and create a housing strategy. The strategy will support the development of affordable and diverse housing types to meet the needs of both current and future residents of all ages and abilities. Residents and interested and affected parties will have a key role in this work.

### Community Workshop (Drop-In)

Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
5:00 - 7:00 pm

Edson and District Leisure Centre  
1021 49 St, Edson, AB T7E 1T7

Provide your feedback and ideas on housing gaps, barriers, opportunities, and priorities in Edson by attending our open house or completing the online survey from **November 4 to 22, 2024.**

### Complete the Survey

Scan the QR code  
Or visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/EdsonHousing>

For more information about the project visit [www.edson.ca/housing](http://www.edson.ca/housing) or contact:  
Morgan Roberts | Economic Development Officer (780) 723-4401 [ecdev@edson.ca](mailto:ecdev@edson.ca)

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## NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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Every week the team behind this paper works tirelessly to provide readers the latest about



**From the Publisher's Desk**

Dana McArthur  
Member Canadian Association of Journalists

same flyer customers, meaning that the crown corporation can decide on a whim the fate of newspapers with flyers.

what's going on in the community they call home. There are late nights and early mornings. There are hours and hours spent writing and rewriting. There are pages to layout and proofread. There are deadlines that need to be hit and then, like magic, words and pictures that once existed only in the journalist's mind are transformed into something tangible – a printed newspaper, the weekly miracle.

Readers can be forgiven if they assume that once the paper has been sent to press, that the whole process starts over again. Even the greatest newspaper in the world needs help with distribution. The Anchor has a great team who unfailingly sort the papers, inserts the flyers, and deliver our newspapers to stores, centres, and our street-boxes in the region.

Like many newspapers, we use Canada Post to help further our reach. On the surface it seems like an ideal situation – publishers give the papers to the post office who then delivers them. Simple, right?

If only.

First of all, that level of service is expensive, with many publishers spending more on mailing their papers than they do in creating them. Many newspapers have left Canada Post completely and rely on their own well-developed network of pick-up locations. Then there's also the fact that newspapers and Canada Post often compete for the

the fate of newspapers with flyers. However, for the most part, Canada Post can and has been a great business partner, despite the occasional labour disruption, service change, or mix-up.

Without that service, remote residents and communities would be much harder to reach. This is why both Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers need to come to an agreement to avoid any prolonged shutdown.

If there is a lengthy strike or lockout, newspapers will find a way to do their civic duty. They'll make greater use of their websites. They'll drop more copies at stores, libraries and community centres. The Weekly Anchor also has replica editions free online. The news always gets out. The ads always get out. Newspapers will not let their communities down.

However, both sides would be wise to remember that in an era of sharply declining post volumes, local newspapers are often the largest and most reliable customer of the local post office. If that business was lost it would mean less revenue for Canada Post and fewer members for the union, which is something that neither side wants.

Whatever happens, newspaper will adapt and survive. Hopefully, so will Canada Post and CUPW.

*\*with files Gordon Cameron - OCNA*



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Your Local Independent Newspaper

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

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**Edson RCMP Occurrences**  
For the week of: Oct 28 to Nov 3, 2024

Assistance Calls 14; Theft Complaints 14 and Traffic Complaints 12; topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 1; Alarms/False Alarms 0; Animal Calls 6; Assault 4; Cause Disturbance 3; Child Welfare 0; Fail to Comply with Conditions 1; False/Abandoned 911 Call 0; Family Orders and Agreements 0; Fraud 4; Harassment/Criminal Harassment 1; Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 1; Information File 0; Lost or Found property 7; Mental Health Act 2; Mischief or Damage 7; Missing Person/Request to Locate 1; Municipal Bylaws 0; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 2; Recovered Stolen Property 0; Sudden Death 0; Suspicious Persons 10; Traffic Collisions 5; Traffic Violations 4; Trespassing 3; Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; and Wellbeing Checks 6.

**KID'S CORNER**

Meet Mckynlee in grade 4 at Mary Bergeron Elementary School.

Q: What do you want to be when you grow up?

A: I would like to be an actor/singer, because I like to sing and act.

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- Edson Sobeys (outside box)
- Edson Tags North (inside)
- Edson Post office (outside boxes)
- Edson and District Leisure Center (outside box)
- Edson, Home Hardware (inside)
- Edson, Thymes Two (outside box)
- Edson, Your Independent Grocer (inside)
- Edson, Parkland Lodge (inside)
- Wildwood Post Office (outside box)
- Evansburg Post office (outside box)
- Evansburg Super A Foods (inside)
- (Peers and Niton pick-up locations will be added in the event of a post office labour disruption.)

## Town of Edson's communication specialists attend Crisis Compass symposium

### New town emergency website to be activated during crisis situations

by Deanna Mitchener

We can never be over prepared when it comes to emergency situations or disasters.

The Town of Edson sent its communication specialists Steve Bethge (communications coordinator) and Jennifer Hoogerdijk (communications officer) to attend Crisis Compass, a crisis communications symposium in Calgary on October 24 and 25th.

"The symposium featured experts from the field including world renowned Dr. Vincent Covello and Dr. Timothy Coombs, who spoke on some of the science behind crisis communications, as well as some tips and tools available," said Bethge.

"There were also sessions on the increasing dangers of misinformation and disinformation, artificial intelligence, and some case studies from the City of Calgary and the University of Waterloo," Bethge added.

"One of the key messages coming out of the conference was preparation. The Town of Edson has been working diligently on that over the years with the building out of our information network and tools. We've also taken some lessons learned from previous emergencies and put them into action," Bethge explained.

A new Town of Edson web page has also been set up for use during emergencies. [www.edson.ca/emergency](http://www.edson.ca/emergency) will be activated only during emergency situations with a listing of all current information on the incident.

"Smaller pieces of information will continue to go out as blogs on the website, through our mobile app, and on our social media channels, all pointing back to the new emergency web page for a complete listing of details," said Bethge.

"We'll also take advantage of our electronic

sign boards and work with our various community partners and agencies to reach as many people as possible, including those that may not be connected to the internet. We are very committed to ensuring our residents are well informed, especially during a crisis," Bethge added.

"Another thing the Town of Edson has been heavily focused on is training. All staff, especially those involved in the Emergency Coordination Centre during a crisis, have been meeting regularly and attending specialized training for their roles," stated Bethge.

The Town and other partners are also undergoing two mock emergency exercises this winter. An airport exercise is scheduled for November 8, with another mock disaster planned for early December.

"With an increase in extreme weather and wildfire emergencies in recent years, the Town of Edson is committed to the safety and well-being of our residents," concluded Bethge.

## Town investigates suspected leakage of water into sewer system

by Niki Luymes

At the November 5, Town Council meeting, Council received an update on a suspected leakage into the Edson sewer system. This update included details on the investigation process, along with the details discovered.

The issues first came to council's attention at the August 15, 2023 Council meeting. Jeff Admundson from McElhanney, an engineering and geomatics firm, presented Council with the Sanitary Sewer Condition Assessment Report. In this report, he noted that the sewer system on the north-west side of Edson had a 17.5% infiltration rate. This means that the sewer was flowing higher than expected, and an investigation would need to be done to uncover why.

"Basically why we went there is that we should see some kind of drop in our manhole sensors in the evenings. The one by the RCMP station was still staying about 15 to 17 litres/second which is obviously a little bit higher than what we should see, which is about 3 to 5 litres/second sometime during the night," said Darin Borysko, Fleet

and Utilities Manager.

After approval by Council, the Utilities Department began narrowing down the possibilities. In March 2024, they obtained water samples from the storm pond and sanitary sewer line running south of the RCMP station to rule out infiltration from that area. They then completed a camera exploration of the sewer mainline. During the latter, they discovered that a gasket had dislodged from the pipe joint near the RCMP station resulting in a surcharging of the line. Based on these discoveries, the department determined additional

flow testing was needed to accurately identify the area of concern.

In June of 2024, a third party was hired to install flow monitors and smart covers. There were a total of three flow monitors; one for each main sewer line coming from Glenwood, and one at 1st Avenue and 55th Street. A smart cover was installed at 3rd Avenue and 55th Street.

The data was then analyzed in July of 2024 by McElhanney. The results indicated that Glenwood was not the source of the infiltration.

Now that the general area is being narrowed

down, the goal in 2025 is to investigate specific areas. The area they will be checking are the sewer lines between 62 St and 54 St. "We are going to work our way west to east, and see if there's any increase in flow and narrow it down," said Borysko.

The monitors we put on the manhole covers are monitoring the flow—is that correct?" asked Councillor Gean Chouinard. "Yes," answered Borysko. "Its a sensor that measures the flow and it's real-time data. We usually want to get a couple months worth of data. We want to get those highs and lows, and what we want to see is

consistency."

Councillor Krystal Cacka requested clarification on the nature of the infiltration in those lines. "So we've confirmed that it's not just someone leaving the tap on all night, and we're expecting it to be groundwater infiltration? Do we know what the reason is for it?"

"I honestly don't know at this time. That's the struggle at this moment. Now that we have a little more time we can start camera-ing the lines and see if there's a service that's always running, or a crack in the pipe that causing infiltration," answered

Borysko.

Councillor Trevor Bevan asked if they had checked the records for metered water usage in the area. Looking at those numbers may indicate if water is infiltrating or not. Borysko replied that they have been monitoring those records because of the number of hotels in that area. According to what they've seen it has been consistent. However, if their systems have old leakage, especially if the hotel has a pool, those numbers may not show up as anomalies in the records.

Council then voted to accept the update as information.



### Holy Trinity Silent Auction & Bazaar

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PKE Water Store & More Roy-L Flush Shekinah Coffee

Staal Gardens Shopper's Drug Mart Sobeys

Tim Hortons Thymes Two Colleen Trydal

Wendy's Wilden's Yellowhead Florist



Congratulations to Louise Robidoux, winner of our door prize from Staal Gardens!

Thank you to the Galloway Museum for providing us with such a lovely facility!

Special thanks to everyone who supported our event and to our many volunteers.

visit our free online newspaper at [weeklyanchor.com](http://weeklyanchor.com)



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

**Yellowhead County is looking for a COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER!**  
 You could make a difference as a **Ag Services Appeal Board Member!**

This committee adjudicates property owner appeals of orders and penalties issued by the County's Agricultural Services pursuant to the provincial acts the County enforces. This committee will meet as required. Training required, costs for training will be covered.  
 Term will be January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025.



**Apply ONLINE**

Questions? Call us at 780-723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030

**FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH**

**We wear purple in November to support the movement to end family violence.**

Children who witness violence in the home have twice the rate of psychiatric disorders as children from non-violent homes.\*  
 In Alberta, 74% of people report they personally know at least one woman who has been sexually or physically assaulted.\*\*

By wearing purple, we show solidarity with victims, help destigmatize the issue of domestic violence, and signal that we are a safe space for individuals experiencing family violence.



Need more information on how to support someone experiencing family violence, please contact FCSS for a helpful guide to services and supports.

Want ribbons to distribute in your community? Contact 780-325-3782 or yhc\_fcsc@yhc.ca

\*Elliott, Psychiatric News 2004  
 \*\*Canadian Women's Angus Reid Omnibus Survey, 2012

**End of Wildfire Season stats for the Edson Forest Area**

Caroline Charbonneau, RPFT

October 31 marks the end of wildfire season and fire permits are no longer required until March 1. Keep in mind that safe burning practices are always in season. Check your winter burns often and ensure they're fully extinguished.

Since January 1, 2024, Alberta Wildfire has detected 114 wildfires in the Edson Forest Area burning a total of 290.57 hectares (ha). To date, 30 wildfires were determined to be caused by lightning. Of the 290 ha burnt this year, 195 ha were caused by lightning fires. There were 84 human-caused wildfires, that accounted for 95 ha burnt of the 290 ha.

Of the 84 wildfires that were caused by humans, 12 were from various industries mostly from mechanical failure, spark, friction or hot exhaust. Powerlines caused 14 fires, often due

to downed trees on lines, 1 from railroads and 11 were incendiary. Many of the incendiary wildfires were determined to be caused by copper wire burning.

Residents were found to cause 15 of the wildfires, often from unsafe burning or burning without a permit. Recreationalist also caused 15 wildfires, 11 of these were abandoned campfires and one cooking and warming fire in the fall. There are 16 wildfires that remain under investigation or are undetermined.

These statistics are consistent with the average number of wildfires and hectares burnt for our forest area and reflect the proactive approaches to wildfire prevention and safe burning practices of residents and industry. Respecting fire bans and restrictions, following fire permit conditions and using care when having a campfire all contributed to reducing human-caused

wildfires. PROVINCIAL WILDFIRE UPDATE

Since January 1, 2024, Alberta Wildfire responded to close to 1,210 wildfires within the Forest Protection Area of Alberta, which is slightly above the 5-year average 1,060 wildfires. At this time last year, we had responded to 1,080 wildfires. Around 705,000 hectares of forest have burned so far this year, slightly more than the 5-year average of 640,000 hectares. At this time last year, more than 2.2 million hectares had burned.

**Quick facts**  
 - Alberta Wildfire had almost 1,900 firefighters, contractors and support staff working on Alberta's provincial response.

- Alberta Wildfire also received assistance from other agencies with

more than 1,300 firefighters and support staff arriving from around the world to assist.

- While most wildfires were caused by people, we had 410 lightning-caused wildfires in July, the highest number in 20-years.

Although Oct. 31 marks the end of Alberta's wildfire season, we remain vigilant and ready to respond to any potential wildfires across the province. The Edson Forest Area has permanent staff that can respond to any new wildfires and is supported by a winter seasonal wildland firefighting crew, pre-positioned in the area.

For local wildfire information and learn how you can protect your home and property, visit the Edson Forest Area Wildfire Update - <https://srd.web.alberta.ca/edson-area-update>.

**Peek-a-boo, healthy you: Toddler-friendly health tips from Edson pharmacist**

Callen James Kenyon, Edson pharmacist and owner



From climbing on the furniture to drawing on the walls, toddlers are always finding ways to get into mischief. For many parents, this chaos is part of the fun—until mysterious rashes, scratches, and sniffles start to appear.

Balancing work and home life becomes even more challenging when little ones get sick. That's where pharmacists come in. They provide a convenient and accessible way for parents to receive professional health advice and care without any hassle. Whether it's a minor cough, a pesky cold, or just reassurance that a diaper rash is nothing serious, pharmacists are ready to help. Plus, with pharmacies open early and late, you can easily find a time that fits into your busy schedule, making it simpler

to manage your toddler's health needs.

With knowledgeable pharmacists

available to assess and prescribe treatments for many minor conditions, you can quickly address health concerns and get back to the important task of enjoying life with your little one.

As your Edson pharmacist, here are some essential health tips every parent should know.

Bye bye, diaper blues: Diaper dermatitis, better known as diaper rash, is still very common in toddlers. In fact, most babies will have at least one diaper rash before being toilet trained. While it is a very common experience, diaper rashes are the ultimate toddler tantrum trigger. Luckily, your local pharmacist is here to help when your little one's bottom is in a bind. Your local pharmacist

can offer expert advice and recommend topical ointments to help soothe diaper rashes to ensure your toddler is happy and healthy. And for those tough cases, pharmacists in Alberta can even assess and prescribe for diaper dermatitis.

Worm-free wonders: If your toddler is antsy and itchy, especially at nighttime, it could be those pesky pinworms causing a ruckus.

Pinworms are parasites that live in the digestive system. They are very common in young children as they spread easily in group settings such as daycares and schools. If your child has pinworms, everyone in your family needs to practice good hand hygiene to limit the spread. Visit your local pharmacy today to receive expert advice on preventing the spread of pinworms and walk away with over-the-counter or prescription treatments, as necessary, to ease your toddler's discomfort.

Hive fives: Does your little one have reddish bumps accompanied by itchiness? Hives are very common in

children, affecting up to 25 per cent of kids at least once. Luckily, your local pharmacist is here to help turn the hive hassle into a simple fix!

From recommending effective treatments like antihistamines or soothing creams to providing expert advice on managing triggers and minimizing itchiness, your local pharmacist has all the solutions needed to get your toddler back to their happy self. And if you didn't know, pharmacists in Alberta even have the authority to prescribe medication for hives.

Pharmacists are like superheroes for your little ones, always ready to handle everything from coughs to colds with expert care and a friendly smile. So, parents, keep in mind that your pharmacist is here, day and night, to help keep your toddler healthy and happy.

Callen James Kenyon is the pharmacist and owner at the local Shoppers Drug Mart in Edson. Visit [ShoppersDrugMart.ca](https://www.ShoppersDrugMart.ca) to find your nearest store.

**Tax Recovery Auction Notice**

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

Notice is hereby given that under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Yellowhead County will offer for sale, by public auction, in the Yellowhead County office in Edson at 2716 - 1st Avenue, Edson, Alberta, on Thursday, November 28, 2024 at 10:30 a.m., the following lands:

ROLL	Lot	Block	Plan	Acres	C. of T.
028860		1	9121717	20.64	132 129 039
033092	6,7	5	7433AN	LOT	172 296 671
301950	11	14	118HW	LOT	092 206 304
301978		W1/2 14	558CL	LOT	862 220 409
306312	W1/2 2	12	2137HW	LOT	162 023 272

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

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

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

Yellowhead County may, after the public auction, become the owner of any parcel of land that is not sold at the public auction. Terms and conditions of the sale will be announced at the sale or may be obtained from Yellowhead County. Redemption may be affected by payment of all arrears of taxes and costs at any time prior to the sale.

Jeffrey Morrison  
 General Manager Corporate Services

**- LANDFILL -**

**WINTER HOURS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2024**

WYR Landfill in Hinton

Winter Hours:

Monday to Friday  
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday  
 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Closed on Sundays & Holidays.

Please ensure all loads are secure.

For more information, please call the West Yellowhead Regional Landfill at 780-865-1414.

**Yellowhead County**

Approved Development Permits have been issued authorizing the following:

Permit No.	Location	Proposal	Date	Appeal Deadline
D23-028	Plan 1823454 Blk 1, Lot 1 SE-31-54-7-W5 Evansburg Area	Home Business Medium-Wedding Venue- Campground Addition- Discretionary	Oct 21/24	Nov 11/24
D24-132	Plan 0521637 Blk 1, Lot 1 SE-28-53-8-W5 Evansburg Area	Existing Single Detached Dwelling with Existing Addition (Carport) & Outdoor Storage (RV Units)- Discretionary	Oct 29/24	Nov 19/24
D24-144	SW-29-53-11-W5 Cold Creek Area	Work Camp (20 Person Bunkhouse)- Discretionary	Oct 31/24	Nov 21/24
D24-145	NW-6-53-17-W5 Ansell Area	Staff Accommodations (Lookout Cabin)- Discretionary	Oct 31/24	Nov 21/24
D24-146	NE-24-56-25-W5 North of Hinton	Natural Resource Extraction & Processing (Class 1 Gravel Pit) - Discretionary	Oct 31/24	Nov 21/24

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

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

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



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## Travel Log:

# Release of baby turtles truly amazing

by Deanna Mitchener

On November 2, this reporter got to help with a baby turtle release in San Carlos Mexico. I found it to be very interesting and wanted to share with our readers. If you ever get a chance to watch or be apart of a turtle release, do it, it is truly amazing.

I just happened to walk into a used book store hoping to find a couple of books to occupy some time. There, I met Wendy Weineberg who volunteers with a program called Centre for Rescue, Rehabilitation, Investigation of the Fauna Silvestre (CRRIFS). A non-profit organization with the purpose of rescuing wild animals from risky, sick, or injured situations.

Wendy said, "Back in 2018 we were noticing that a lot of baby turtles couldn't make it from their nests on the beaches back out to the water. ATV tracks were digging down into the sand and making it hard for the babies to climb over. We decided to intervene and try to help these babies make their journey back to the sea."

"Turtles lay eggs from July to November. The babies hatch four to six weeks later, from August through December. Our volunteers walk the beaches every morning at sunrise during the season and look for turtle tracks," said Wendy.

"Once we find the nests, we probe for the eggs and put them in a container. Then they all get categorized and labelled. We keep them all at our incubation centre, where they are monitored three to five times a day," Wendy explained.

"We need to watch and see when they start hatching. Once they are hatched and feeling ready to go, we only have a few hours to release them. We then try to find a spot on the beach that is quiet to release them and help them find the water. They get released in the same area that the nest was found. A nest usually has anywhere from 80 to 120 eggs. We have a lot of baby turtles that get released here in San Carlos," Wendy said.

"One of our main fundraisers here is to adopt a nest. You can follow virtually from anywhere around the world or if you are here in San Carlos you can follow their journey," said Wendy. "When the eggs are ready to crack you will be notified when and where for the release, so you can take part. Some of the teachers at the school will adopt a nest with the class and their families. It's good for families in the area to learn about the

turtles and try to keep the beaches safe and clean," said Wendy.

Volunteer Bernadette Lopez said, "Today we are doing a quadruple release of baby turtles. Some mornings we find three or four nests. With it taking 45 to 60 days for the hatchlings to hatch. When we find multiple nests, we have a lot of babies ready to be released at the same time. We have about 15 miles of beaches in this area that we monitor."

"The babies use a small temporary tooth, called a caruncle to break through their shells. They're nourished during their first few days by a yolk sac, an onboard energy pack attached by an umbilical cord," Lopez explained. "It provides the nutrients needed for their epic journey ahead."

"When we release the babies we need to be seven metres from the water to set up. This gives the babies the time they need to use their 'GPS' we call it, to find their way to the sea by following the sun. They are considered an endangered species, so we are trying to get better numbers and hopefully have better survival rates," said Lopez.

"Nest temperature determines a hatchling's sex. Warmer temperatures will be female, cooler temperatures will be males. When the female turtle is ready to lay her eggs, she will use her rear flippers to dig a chamber then deposit her eggs, cover and conceal the nest, and return to the sea," said Lopez.

"Sea turtles provide no maternal care for their eggs, so the little aquanauts face a daunting journey making their way from sand to sea. This is where we can help by monitoring the area for birds swooping in on the babies, as well ensuring the public doesn't try to pick them up or an ATV runs them over. Only about one in 1,000 turtles survive to adulthood. Hatchlings can die of dehydration if they don't make it to the ocean fast enough. Birds, crabs, and other animals also prey on the young turtles," said Lopez.

This was a great way to spend the afternoon. I got to help rake the sand before the release. The volunteers then using gloves will pick a baby turtle up and place it inside a coconut shell. Then we put the shell down on the sand to release the baby and watch them race towards the water. Close to 400 baby turtles were released. I feel so fortunate to have been able to be a part of this magnificent experience.



Reporter Deanna Mitchener recently participated in a release of baby turtles while travelling in Mexico.

## ~ Obituary ~

### Paul Arne Led Hansen

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Paul Arne Led Hansen in Edson, Alberta 2024/10/26.

Paul was born the second oldest of 9 children in Denmark 1939/01/29. He entered the Army for a short time before moving to Sweden in 1958/59 where he worked in a Volvo car plant. He then emigrated to Canada in 1960 to live up his dream of being a farmer. Paul worked on a few farms in southern Alberta before buying his own section of raw land in Bonanza, Alberta, where he cultivated the land himself and raised cows, horses, chickens and pigs. For the first few years he lived alone in a smaller wooden house on the farm, until he married Maureen Cryne at the Bay Tree Hall in 1967. They had 3 children: Philip, Arne and Monica, which led to a bigger house being built on the farm. The family moved to Edson, Alberta, in 1978, to purchase Edson Auto Parts and later he owned Hansen's House Moving.

Paul was predeceased by his first wife Maureen, partner Carla Bouchard, brother Eric Hansen and brother Borge Hansen. He will be forever missed by his children Philip (Monique), Arne and Monica (Stacey), and 7 grandchildren Breanna (Mike), Justine (Ryan), Zoie (Jordan), Jayden (Isaac), Gabby, Gavin and Jeorgia. He will also be forever missed by his Danish family, brothers Henning (Margit), John (Hanne), Peter (Ellis), Mogens (Ulla), Ulrich (Annette), sister Rita (Erik) and numerous nieces and nephews. He will be a great memory to share for his upcoming Great Grandchildren.

Paul loved adventures, family time, traveling, frequent trips to his home country Denmark, camping, hunting, fishing, conversations, and afternoon naps. He was a hard worker his whole life and did what he had to do to make his dreams come true. Paul will be remembered for his generosity, laughter and his jolly demeanor. He cherished his life's journeys and encounters with the people he had met along the way.

A Celebration of Life will be planned for his family and close friends at a later date.

#### FOOTHILLS MEMORIAL CHAPEL

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## Event Reminder

November 23

Pinedale Hall Annual Christmas Bazaar/Market. 15229 Township Rd 543. Contact Cindy Wood 780-712-9139 to book a table.

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# County Council considers natural gas aggregation contract

by Shaylyn Thornton

Yellowhead County Council heard from Financial Analyst Jana Marcelo and General Manager of Corporate Services Jeffrey Morrison during their October 22 meeting. Marcelo presented a proposed natural gas aggregation contract between the County and Alberta Municipalities.

“Yellowhead County has historically utilized both natural gas aggregation and standalone variable contracts for energy supply,” said Marcelo. “Aggregation contracts enable participants to combine their gas volumes, potentially achieving lower rates.” The current standalone variable contract will expire on December 31 of this year.

Participation in the aggregation is voluntary, and each participant must sign a participation agreement.

“The current aggregation proposal offers municipalities the opportunity to lock in a fixed natural gas rate for up to three years, reducing the risk of sudden price spikes. The goal of the aggregation is to leverage economies of scale to provide price stability,” explained Marcelo.

Marcelo pointed out that, if market prices remain low, the fixed rate could actually result in higher costs compared to the current variable contract. “In the short term, market forecasts suggest that natural gas prices will likely remain below the estimated aggregation prices, which are capped at \$3.50 per gigajoule (GJ),” she said.

In 2023, the County's average cost was \$3.05 per GJ, and the average cost for the first half of 2024 was \$2.83 per GJ. “Historically, gas prices tend to rise during the winter months due to increased demand,” noted Marcelo.

Based on these average costs and forecasted pricing, “It is

recommended that the County not participate in the natural gas aggregation contract at this time, as current market forecasts indicate that natural gas prices are expected to remain lower than the proposed aggregation rates,” said Marcelo. Administration recommended that Council receive the proposed contract for information purposes.

Councillor David Russell asked about the ability to sign into the contract in the future. “Is it safe to assume that if the circumstances change and prices proceed to go up and the market increases, that we would be able to get on board again?” he asked.

Marcelo explained that the contract will again be offered in the fall of 2026 “so we should have that option to go into that aggregate contract.”

Councillor Brigitte Lemieux inquired about gas co-ops and how they fit into the aggregation contract. “Yellowhead County must purchase some of its gas from gas co-ops,” she said. “Are they part and parcel of the aggregation contract?”

GM Morrison noted that his “understanding as it pertains to co-ops is that they have the business within an area and that other providers can not provide within that area.”

Morrison said that he would want to get back to Lemieux with additional information, but that “Based on kind of a high-level thinking, we would still have certain contracts that fall on the variable rate within those co-op providers and then the agreement through Alberta Municipalities would then pick up the rest of the municipality.”

Council voted unanimously to accept the proposed natural gas aggregation contract as information.



On October 29, students from Mary Bergeron School had a fun afternoon outside decorating 400 pumpkins. MBE thanked all the parents, grandparents, siblings, and other helpers who embraced the 'chaos' to make their Pumpkin-Fest a huge success. photo submitted Deanna Mitchener

## \$\$\$

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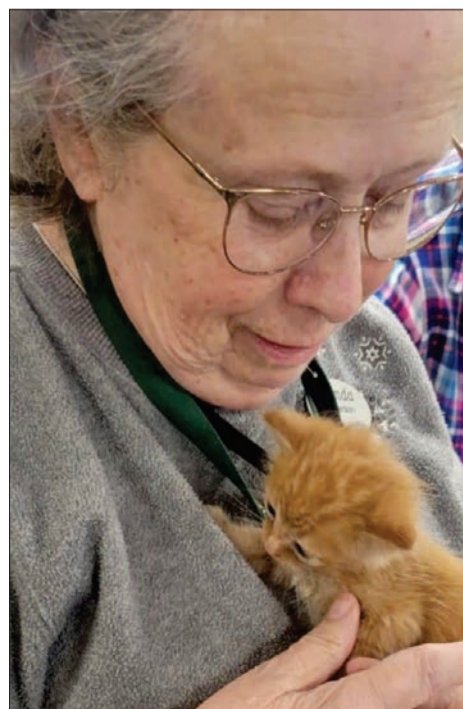
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On November 1, residents at Parkland Lodge fell in love with some fur babies. Fur babies make good companions, even just for a short visit. Please remember to bring your fur babies to the Lodge for seniors to enjoy, they are always welcome. photos submitted

**A** Monthly update on the Oil & Gas and Energy Industry

# ENERGY EDUCATION IN ACTION

## Premier Smith responds to federal government's proposed oil and gas emissions caps

Premier Danielle Smith, Minister of Energy and Minerals Brian Jean, and Minister of Environment and Protected Areas Rebecca Schulz responded strongly to the federal government's announcement on oil and gas emissions caps.

The federal government outlined its draft regulations on Nov 4, which will enforce a hard cap through a cap-and-trade system on the oil and gas sector. "These are not just draft regulations," Federal Environment and Climate Change Minister Steven Guilbeault said. "We're the only oil and gas producer in the world to do this."

***"I'm pissed. I'm absolutely angry because we've been working with these guys for two years because we have a plan that would reduce emissions responsibly by 2050," Premier Smith told reporters at a press conference on November 4.***

Smith stated the federal draft regulations would require oil and gas producers in Canada to limit greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent below 2019 levels. "This will lead Alberta and our country into economic and societal decline."

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers said it, and its members, believe the

draft emissions cap regulations, if implemented, would likely deter investment in Canadian oil and natural gas projects.

The Pathways Alliance, a group of Canada's largest oilsands companies, stated that the cap was a "misguided proposal" that would drive cuts in oil and gas production and have a negative impact on Canada's economy. "A decrease in Canadian production has no impact on global demand — meaning another country's oil will simply fill the void."

Smith stated, "They continue to act like they're working collaboratively with us, and then they come out with exactly the same policy that they put forward a year ago with no changes whatsoever," adding,

***"This is not a responsible policy. [Guilbeault] has a deranged vendetta against Alberta. It's very obvious."***

The Alberta government has argued that this plan is an infringement of the province's exclusive jurisdiction over its resources, as outlined in the Canadian Constitution. During the press conference, Smith said Alberta's government plans to "actively explore the use of every legal action," including a constitutional challenge.

From 2019 to 2022, emissions from the sector fell by seven percent. According to the latest data from the Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta

has now officially reduced methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 52 percent since 2014, even as production has continued rising.

The new regulations look to force emissions from upstream oil and gas operations to fall to 35 percent less than they were in 2019, sometime between 2030 and 2032.

Ottawa said it will continue to consult on the regulations until Jan. 8, and the final will be published next year. This means the regulations will not be finalized until 2025, and the next federal election could happen before they are in force.

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### Industry supporters of responsible energy



**A** Monthly Update on the Coal Industry

# ENERGY EDUCATION IN ACTION

## Countries choose coal for diverse reasons

Countries now face the reality that no silver bullet exists to solve their energy challenges. The global energy crisis of 2021-23 underscored the resilience of coal as a power generation source, mitigating severe consequences that could have escalated without coal as a backup.

The closure of European industrial operations and the risk of populations suffering through unaffordable energy costs or no energy at all exemplifies the crucial role of coal.

In many non-OECD Asian nations, coal is the most cost-effective and reliable electricity source, enabling economic growth. Moreover, coal's contribution to energy security, affordability, and reliability (the energy trilemma) benefits the energy economy, providing essential backup to

renewables and supporting high-value manufacturing jobs, research and development, and job security within the coal value chain, particularly in mining operations.

Coal, a fossil fuel, originates from plant remains that date back millions of years. Over these vast periods, layers of plant debris were subjected to intense heat and pressure, triggering a transformation process. This process involved the consolidation and compression of plant matter between other rock layers, known as strata.

These conditions, over time, metamorphosed the plant matter into a dense, carbon-rich substance we now identify as coal. The creation of coal seams, essentially layers or bands of coal embedded within other rock strata, is a result of this prolonged geological process. This process is referred to as 'coalification', and the rank and quality of coal are determined based on the degree of metamorphosis it undergoes.

The energy we extract from coal today is stored solar energy from millions of years ago. During their lifespan, plants absorb sunlight through photosynthesis, converting it into chemical energy. This energy was then stored in the plant matter, eventually transforming into

coal. Hence, when we burn coal, we harness and utilise this ancient solar energy.

The existing coal abatement technologies are a range of efficient technologies that support power and heat utilities, while end-of-pipe or in-boiler emission control systems can capture up to 99% of emissions. These include high-efficiency and low emissions (HELE) plants such as Ultra-supercritical (USC), Combined Heat and Power (CHP), electricity production from coal gasification (Integrated Gasification in Combined Cycle (IGCC)), and co-firing coal with biomass. To achieve these high rates of emission control, sulphur dioxides (SOx), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and particulate matter (PM) can all be captured, and the waste by-products reused in industry and construction. Even other emissions, such as heavy metals, can be captured. *\*FutureCoal*



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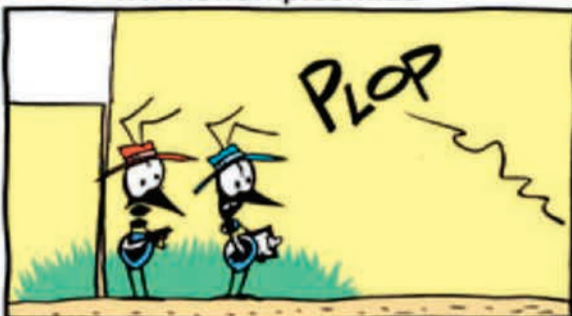
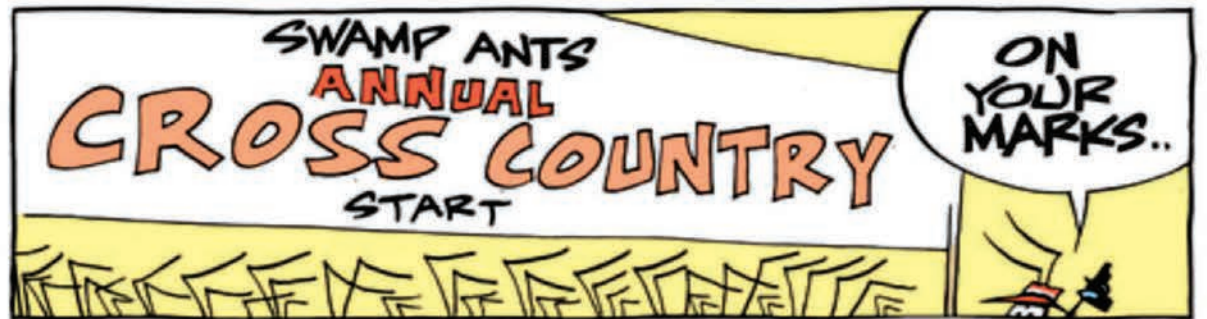
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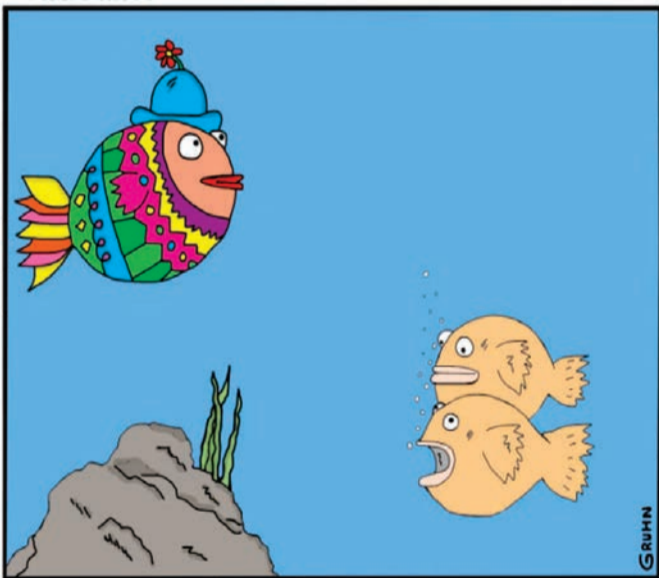
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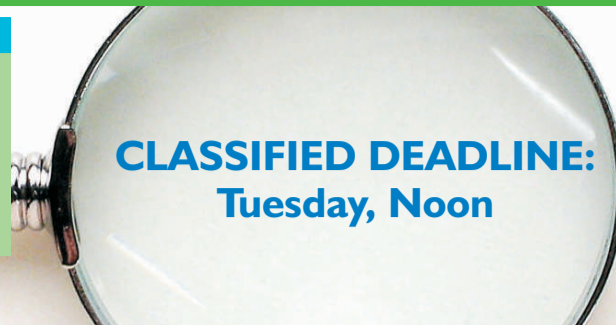
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## CHURCH DIRECTORY

EDSON

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

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

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

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

Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m.  
**EDSON MENNONITE CHURCH**  
6212 - 13 Ave, Edson  
Office hrs: Tues 9am-1pm  
Office phone: 780-723-4992

Pastor Tyson Moerike  
(Call or text 403-966-4705)  
Sunday worship - 9:45

**EDSON-PEERS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
4633-7th Ave., Edson  
Ph: 723-5242

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

**EDSON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**  
1133-55 St. Edson - Ph: 723-5490.  
Saturday Morning Service at 11:00 a.m. Sabbath School at 10:00 a.m.

**EDSON UNITED CHURCH**  
Edson United Church  
1214 Edson Drive Edson AB  
Phone: 723-3418

**FAMILY OF FAITH CHURCH**  
463 72 St., Edson (formerly Glenwood Hall), Telephone: 780-517-7558

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

Pastors: Pastors John and Ingrid Huizing vfm@shaw.ca  
**HOLY TRINITY**

(An Anglican/Lutheran Faith Community)  
Rev. Johnny Pooten 780-723-3157  
Worship Service 10am Sundays.

All Services will be held at 623-50 St., Edson. (St. Catherine's). Please phone for other information.

**THE NEW JOSHUA GENERATION FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL**  
4911 B 3rd Avenue, Edson, AB  
Sunday Worship at 2:00 p.m.; Fellowship after service.

Rev. Noemi Sogocio, Senior Pastor, 780-600-0050; noemi\_sogocio2006@yahoo.ca

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

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

Call office for weekday Mass times.  
**HARVEST OUTREACH MINISTRY EDSON**  
(HomeChurch) in Dunamis Centre  
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Ph. 780-725-2222

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**CARROT CREEK CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Pastor George Stone  
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**What's happening, when and where in the community**

## Community Events

**November 13:** Housing Strategy Community Workshop (Drop-In). Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Location: Edson & District Leisure Centre (1021 - 49 Street). Phase 1: Identifying Housing Needs

**November 13:** Wellness Wednesday - Tie Dye & Trivia. Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Location: Griffiths Park Centre (5414 - 6th Ave). Join us for a fun-filled night of Tye Dying shirts and Trivia! Register at edson.ca/CDprograms

**November 20:** RCMP Town Hall Meeting - Business Owners. Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. The Edson RCMP, in collaboration with the Homelessness Task Force, are inviting all Edson business owners to a Town Hall Meeting at the Edson Friendship Centre at 5023 3rd Avenue.

**November 20:** Wellness Wednesdays - How to Hygge. Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Location: Griffiths Park Centre.

**November 20, December 4:** Family Time. Join on Wednesdays for some indoor fun, Programs run from 10:30AM-12:30PM Marlboro Community hall. Registration is required visit www.yhcounty.ca/registration

**November 21:** Lite up late night Shopping.

**November 22:** RCMP Centennial Park Light Up & Fireworks. Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Location: RCMP Centennial Park and Galloway Station Museum 223-55 Street, Edson.

**November 22-23:** Christmas Pottery and Gift sale. Friday 10am-5pm Saturday noon-5pm at Edson public Library community room

**November 23:** Pinedale Hall Annual Christmas Bazaar/Market. 15229 Township Rd 543. Contact Cindy Wood 780-712-9139 to

book a table.

**November 30:** Skate with Santa. Time: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Location: Edson and District Leisure Centre. Come skate with Santa while enjoying free hot chocolate, ice sculptures and a cookie making station. Don't forget to stick around to watch the parade at 5:30 pm. \*ALL skaters must wear helmets.

**November 30:** Santa Clause Parade at 5:30 pm

**November 30:** PCHS Grad class bottle drive 10am-2pm

**December 8 :** Winter Market 11am-2pm Marlboro Hall

**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.

**We are proud to support community events**  
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The Weekly **ANCHOR**

# Farm & Field News and Views

## Proposed federal legislation would damage Alberta's livestock industry

*Proposed legislation would potentially place arbitrary restrictions on producers, processors, and consumers in a pandemic*

The federal government's Bill C-293, An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness, is currently moving through the Senate, despite the risks it brings to the agriculture and food industry. Alberta's government is standing with industry members against this highly intrusive legislation that unfairly singles out the agriculture and food industry and encroaches on Section 95 of the Constitution, which sets agriculture within the exclusive jurisdiction of the province.

Under the proposed legislation, public health officials would have the authority during a pandemic to close facilities they consider "high risk," such as livestock operations and meat processing plants, and even "mandate" the consumption of vegetable proteins by Canadians. Not only would this threaten global food security and the role Alberta and Canada play in feeding the world, but it would also open the door for the federal government to tell Canadians what they can eat.

"Farming is woven into the fabric of our national identity, with modern livestock agriculture playing a vital role. Bill C-293, however, goes so far as to pick winners and losers within the agriculture sector, with potentially wide-reaching, catastrophically damaging regulations and restriction of commercial freedoms for agricultural producers and processors." RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

The proposed legislation also introduces several public health mitigation strategies that may not align with local health data and do not adequately reflect specific regional needs. Provinces and territories have exclusive jurisdiction over the planning, organization and management of their health care systems, including response to public health emergencies, and

the federal bill would once again enable the federal government to overreach their constitutional jurisdiction.

"Local governing bodies are in the best position to create emergency preparedness plans that suit the unique needs of their province and territory. The federal government should be engaging meaningfully with each jurisdiction on any Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Plan related to Bill C-293 before being implemented." Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Health

One of the bill's most alarming aspects is the discretionary power it would grant to officials to shut down agricultural facilities without clear, objective criteria. Such uninformed actions could disrupt not only meat supply chains, but also the wider agricultural operations linked to them, including feed production. This threatens to destabilize related sectors and could trigger cascading effects throughout the entire food system.

Additionally, the bill seeks to regulate and possibly phase out certain farming practices considered high-risk for pandemic propagation. This could abruptly alter farm and ranch operations, significantly affect producers and processors livelihoods, and negatively impact our economic stability.

Key Canadian agricultural organizations representing the province's agriculture sectors are echoing Alberta's concerns about this bill.

"Our Alberta family farms are committed to producing safe, high-quality chicken while maintaining the highest standards of biosecurity. We support pandemic preparedness, but Bill C-293 unfairly targets animal agriculture and could threaten the livelihoods of our farm families. We are asking the federal government to ensure this bill is amended so

farmers can continue to feed Canadians without facing unnecessary restrictions." David Hyink, chair, Alberta Chicken Producers

"Alberta Beef Producers supports the overall objective of pandemic preparedness. However, we are disappointed in the current wording of Bill C-293, as it unfairly singles out animal agriculture, despite the industry's critical role in food security and rural economies. We urge policymakers to amend the bill to reflect a balanced and fair approach that supports emergency preparedness without unfairly targeting a single sector." Doug Roxburgh, vice-chair, Alberta Beef Producers

The legislation purports to examine pandemic preparedness and apply learnings from COVID-19, but it has dangerously imprecise language that is open to drastic interpretations. For example, the bill provides for measures to "regulate commercial activities that can help reduce pandemic risk, including industrial animal agriculture." The bill also suggests phasing out "commercial activities that disproportionately contribute to pandemic risk," which puts Alberta's agriculture industry at risk, in addition to others.

Alberta has sent a letter to Alberta senators and the ministers of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Health Canada to relay concerns with the bill's content. Minister Sigurdson requested that the bill be amended with more flexible language to avoid unintended consequences.

Canada already has legislation, animal disease surveillance and action plans to ensure farm food safety and biosecurity programs reduce risks associated with zoonotic disease. This new legislation is therefore unnecessary, especially in its current form.



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