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The Weekly

ANCHOR

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The Weekly Anchor

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024

WWW.WEEKLYANCHOR.COM

VOL. 35, NO. 47

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

TOWN

Town approves AGENT program in response to increased encampments..

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SHOP LOCAL GIFT IDEAS

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COMMUNITY

Chozen Breed RC Edson donates \$6,000 to Edson LEAP..

see page 11

2023 Spring Disasters: After Action Report

by Shaylyn Thornton

Yellowhead County Council heard from General Manager of Protective Services Albert Bahri at their November 19 meeting,

who presented an "After Action Review" of the 2023 Spring Disasters.

"Following the 2023 Wildfires and Floods, County Administration immediately

began to look at the response and lessons that could be learned," said Bahri.

The items that were "very clear" for Administration to begin actioning included a larger

Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) footprint, increased training access and opportunities, increasing the number of volunteers and special

continued page 3



Approximately 50 vendors took part in the Holiday Market that was held at the Edson Royal Canadian Legion on November 16 and 17. Vendors had lots of positive feedback saying that it was amazing how busy it was. Vendors included how appreciative they were for the community's support. photo submitted by Deanna Mitchener

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see our ad on page 7

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**Still some great items in our proshop
for Christmas and we do gift
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**40% off all clothing, and the rest of
the merchandise have some deals too!**

**Come on down, say hi and get your
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**Proshop will be open every day leading up to Christmas
Call 780 723-7191 for more details.**

2023 Spring Disasters: County After Action Report

continued from front

operations groups, and a review of current emergency plans, response models, interactions with Alberta Forestry, as well as full-time staffing levels of YCFD.

Administration also scheduled a third-party review of the disasters, completed within a six-month period following the closing of the ECC. The review was completed by 9Zero Solutions, a third-party consultancy.

9Zero Solutions initially presented their review on March 6, 2024, sharing 11 themes with a summary of best practices and opportunities for each theme. The consultancy noted that the compilation of this report has taken months to complete, and in that time, they were “pleased to report that Yellowhead County continues to advance learnings from the response.”

“They have taken action to increase staffing, provide continued training, and streamline logistics,” 9Zero Solutions noted. “This is encouraging and demonstrates an environment of continuous learning and openness to change where needed.”

The 11 themes developed by 9Zero Solutions were the Emergency Management Program (EMP), Operational Response, Alberta Wildfire, Evacuation, Emergency Social Services (ESS), Provincial Coordination, 911 Dispatch, Communications, Training & Education, Mental Health & Wellness, and Community Education & Empowerment.

Administration has worked continuously to address the opportunities identified both internally and from the After Action Review. Conversations with the Edson Forest Protection group were had, especially regarding unified command for incidents.

11 Fire Smart public engagement sessions were held throughout the County in 2024. County staff also took a Fire Smart Home assessment course and now can complete assessments in

coordination with the Edson Forest Protection area.

Public engagement sessions were held for residents interested in placing their names on a list for fire response with equipment and/or person power for the 2024 fire season. This list will be updated yearly.

Conversations with Forestry regarding response, unified command, and communications are still ongoing, but it was noted that the Province has introduced bills in 2024 that were passed that will create change to these conversations. What those changes look like is not yet known.

Extensive Emergency Management and ESS training plans were established, as well as a very extensive Fire Services training plan. The footprint of the ECC has been increased dramatically within Station 12 for large events, and a mobile command expansion module is in the 2025 budget for consideration.

On the Fire Services side, several staffing changes occurred in 2024, which improved coverage and response times dramatically. Training ramped up into high gear for all these crews on all aspects of the current response model.

Steps have also been taken to enhance mental health and wellness supports, and ESS supplies have been placed in a mobile pod that can be moved from one location to another.

Emergency reporting software has been added to the 2025 County budget for approval. The software would allow templates to be created for many different processes, such as crisis communication and communication with staff.

The lessons learned from the disasters as well as the review allowed the County to respond to the Jasper wildfires, supporting

them for over 40 days with Fire Services personnel and equipment, as well as ESS support.

Councillor Brigitte Lemieux asked Bahri for an update on the consultancy's recommendations to “encourage Alberta Wildfire to land a program to formally engage farmers and equipment during large scale events.”

“From a provincial perspective... it's still very fluid,” Bahri said. “There's no provincial initiative that's out there right now.” The County has continued to take steps on a local level.

Bahri also spoke about YCFD's Special Operations group, which “anybody that wants to help can apply for.” These individuals are firefighters but offer “logistical support” such as moving equipment and driving units, as opposed

to “direct firefighting.”

Lemieux noted her disappointment with the Province, stating, “I think in order to effectively attack these disasters we need not only local support, we need provincial support.”

Councillor Dawn Mitchell asked about whether the Fire Services staffing changes have made it easier to “find and retain firefighters and paid persons versus volunteers.”

“Absolutely, when you turn it into a career people are more willing,” said Bahri. “Our volunteers do a spectacular job, but they work so whatever job they have... they have to find time outside of that to do the Fire Service.”

Council accepted the After Action Report as information.

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

Council has approved the 2025 Capital and Operating Budgets

A \$40.03 million operating budget was approved that balances several factors such as cost of services, affordability vs. demand for infrastructure, financial sustainability, reserve management, and alignment with the Strategic Priorities of Council.

“Council is committed to passing budgets that keep affordability in mind as we continue to face extreme inflationary pressures and infrastructure demands. This is a difficult balance considering the increasing costs to municipalities, but we feel we've been presented a fair budget that addresses the needs of the Town with quality levels of service for our residents, stated Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara.

The anticipated municipal tax levy increase for 2025 is 4%. This assumes no growth in assessment as that data is not yet available. On an average residential assessment of \$350,000, this would equate to an estimated increase of \$8 per month. This budget also includes an approximate increase of 3% in user fees and an average of 5% in utility fees. This allows the Town to keep pace with inflationary costs, maintain current service levels, and contribute towards the operating and capital reserves for future planning.

Council has also approved the 2025 Capital Budget. A large focus remains on infrastructure improvements and flood mitigation efforts with sanitary sewer and road upgrades. The much-anticipated start of the YCE Multiplex Project is scheduled and funded for 2025, as well as some improvements at Vision Park and the purchase of an Aerial Truck for the Fire Department.

The 2025 Capital Budget includes twenty-seven (27) initiatives with an investment of \$42,086,075. The Capital Budget is funded 53.1% from grants, 21.1% from reserves, 20.1% from other local governments and boards, and 5.6% through debentures.

Hear for the
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November 30th Skate With Santa 2PM-5PM

Edson & District Leisure Centre

Santa Claus
Cookies
Refreshments

*All skaters
must wear
a helmet*



Santa Claus Parade 6PM start

New Route!





TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2024

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

Alberta Traffic Safety Calendar

Transportation and Economic Corridors

November

Child safety seats



Pedestrian safety
Wildlife
Winter driving

December

Impaired driving



Winter driving
Fatigue

The Town of Edson aligns its Traffic Safety Priorities with the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan, with an aim to reduce road traffic fatalities. Each month the Alberta Safety Plan has a specific focus for information and enforcement activities. December's focus is Impaired Driving, Winter Driving, and Fatigue. For more details on the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan, visit <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-traffic-safety-plan.aspx>



PHOTO ENFORCEMENT LOCATIONS FOR DECEMBER 2024



For more information on photo enforcement, including a list of frequently asked questions and stats, visit www.edson.ca/photo-enforcement.

December 1st.	13 AVE NEAR POPLAR PLACE
December 2nd.	49 ST NEAR 12 AVE
December 3rd.	4 AVE NEAR 54 ST
December 4th.	46 ST NEAR MARY BERGERON SCHOOL
December 5th.	56 ST NEAR VANIER SCHOOL
December 6th.	48 ST NEAR PARKLAND/PINEGROVE SCHOOL
December 7th.	4 AVE NEAR 59 ST
December 8th.	2 AVE NEAR RAILWAY OVERPASS HWY 16
December 9th.	56 ST NEAR VANIER SCHOOL
December 10th.	13 AVE NEAR POPLAR PLACE
December 11th.	48 ST NEAR PARKLAND/ PINEGROVE SCHOOL
December 12th.	2 AVE NEAR 53 ST
December 13th.	4 AVE NEAR 43 ST
December 14th.	4 AVE NEAR 59 ST
December 15th.	2 AVE NEAR RAILWAY OVERPASS HWY 16
December 16th.	12 AVE NEAR 49 ST
December 17th.	48 ST NEAR PARKLAND/ PINEGROVE SCHOOL
December 18th.	13 AVE NEAR POPLAR PLACE
December 19th.	49 ST NEAR 12 AVE
December 20th.	12 AVE NEAR 49 ST
December 21st.	4 AVE NEAR 59 ST
December 22nd.	HWY 16 NEAR 25 ST
December 23rd.	49 ST NEAR 12 AVE
December 24th.	48 ST NEAR PARKLAND/ PINEGROVE SCHOOL
December 25th.	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
December 26th.	13 AVE NEAR POPLAR PLACE
December 27th.	2 AVE NEAR 58 ST
December 28th.	4 AVE NEAR 59 ST
December 29th.	HWY 16 NEAR 25 ST
December 30th.	2 AVE NEAR 53 ST
December 31st.	4 AVE NEAR 54 ST

- Additional locations may be photo enforced on the above dates.
- Photo enforcement may not operate on all dates above.

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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.

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.**



Town approves AGENT program in response to increased encampments and loitering

by Niki Lutmes

Edson Town Council has recently taken note of an increase in the number and frequency of encampments and incidents of loitering within Edson. The Town noted that this issue is presenting challenges to public safety and general

community health. At their November 19, meeting council was able to vote on the implementation of the a program to hopefully alleviate some of these concerns—the AGENT program.

The program essentially preauthorizes Peace Officers and

RCMP to act as agents for businesses owners. This will allow them to take immediate action with individuals who are thought to be a disruption, a danger, or otherwise unwelcome. Each participating business will receive an AGENT sticker to display prominently at their main entrance as a cue to Enforcement Services and RCMP as to their participation in the program.

Businesses will still be responsible for calling the RCMP if they notice unwanted individuals on their property, and for clean up after removal. Part of the program is proper training to deal with bio-hazard waste such as needles and drug paraphernalia. "This program aims to strengthen community safety and collaboration between local businesses and enforcement agencies, ensuring a secure environment for all residents and visitors in Edson," said Eric Christensen, Enforcement Services Manager with the Town of Edson.

This item was previously discussed at the November 12, Committee of the Whole Meeting, where council discussed the plan and some of its finer details. During this week's meeting, council came back to vote on whether to approve the implementation.

"In terms of contacting businesses, are we also using the our EDO (Economic Development Officer) and our Town Development Officer, the Chamber, and RCMP officers as to get that word out? If any businesses do have questions, you are okay with directing them to you office [Enforcement Services]?" asked Councillor Peter Taylor.

Christensen answered that they had already begun reaching out to local

businesses and the Chamber to gain their assistance in spreading the news. He also added that the Enforcement Services office would be more than happy to answer any questions. "Absolutely we will take any calls in regards to this program."

Councillor Trevor Bevan asked if the officer would continue to stick around after removal to prevent return or to stop new parties from interfering with those cleaning up. "We will probably stay in the area," answered Christensen. "We're going to give these unhoused people a chance to remove their stuff prior. So we might give them an hour or however long we need to give them to get out of there. Once we come back, if they are not gone already, we will make sure they are off the property. Then, we will assist the businesses in figuring out if they want us to stick around for a bit while they do the cleanup. We'll work with those businesses throughout the program."

After some brief questions and discussion, Councillor Bevan made the motion that Council approve the implementation of the AGENT program. The motion was then carried unanimously.

It is estimated that cost to the town to run the AGENT Program will be \$3,000, which will be absorbed into the budget. This includes forms, window stickers, and promotional materials. The AGENT program began operating almost immediately with a launch at the November 20, RCMP Town Hall. Businesses were be able to register there to participate in the program. To participate in the AGENT program contact the Town's Enforcement Services.

Town seeks Small Communities Opportunity Program grant

by Niki Luymes

At the November 19, Edson Town Council meeting, council voted on whether or not to endorse the Town applications to the Small Communities Opportunity Program (SCOP). SCOP is a provincial grant that, if approved and accepted, will allow Edson to create programs to benefit local small businesses.

"This grant is provided by the Government of Alberta to primarily solve challenges and find opportunities in rural areas," said Morgan Roberts, Economic Development Officer For the Town of Edson. Municipalities could receive between \$20,000 and \$100,000 to be used towards local projects.

The Town of Edson has built their application around business supports. This encompasses things like an ambassador program, small business skill development, and economic development capacity building.

If the application is successful, the

grant may cover up to 90% of the total project cost. Should the grant be unsuccessful, the initiatives will be scaled down within the proposed budget for 2025. Additional grant funds have been applied to support additional areas under this project.

A breakdown of the numbers include: The Town is applying to SCOP for \$58,500. The planned Ambassadors Program would be \$20,000; Business Resources and Skill Based Training \$40,000, and Capacity Building (Including CRM) would be \$5,000. The total project budget would be \$65,000. This leaves \$6,500 to be funded through the Town of Edson budget.

The SCOP grant submission deadline is December 20, 2024. After Roberts presentation, Council voted unanimously to endorse the application for the Small Communities Opportunity Program grant to fund business supports within the Town of Edson.

CEAT offers free self-defence classes during Anti Bullying Week

by Niki Luymes

The Edson Community Engagement Action Team (CEAT) offered some free self-defence classes recently for adults and kids, during Anti Bullying Week. These classes were taught by the Edson Taekwondo Club.

The classes took place at the Red Brick on Nov. 12 and 14th, with participants asked to bring a donation to the Edson Food Bank if possible.

The classes were separated by age with the kid's class starting at 6pm and the adult's class starting at 7:30pm, however, the groups were small enough that they were combined. The class started at 7:30pm and finished at 9pm on both days.

Each class began with a quick warm up, then Coach Jamie Hobbins led the group through the basic concepts of self-defence. This included kicks, punches, holds, and proper stance. The group took their time to learn and practice each move before going on to the next lesson.

"We thought this was a good way to empower

people to protect themselves. We wanted to make people feel safer in our community, so we wanted to give them the opportunity to learn those skills. CEAT has run a program like this before two or three years ago, so we thought we would try it again," said Lexi Abbot, Program Coordinator with the Town of Edson and CEAT.

CEAT is a community based team that pools resources to engage and

create community. Their focus is on Edson and Yellowhead County where they work to bring in and create events. "Through various initiatives and education events we work to enhance the safety and well being of all. Our team continues to lead initiatives such as Random Acts of Kindness week, Anti Bullying Week, and then bringing in guest speakers," concluded Abbot.


SCHOLARSHIPS

Peers and District Cultural & Agricultural Society

Post-Secondary education scholarships are available to students from the Peers and Fulham area.

Application deadline is Friday, December 6, 2024


For application guidelines please email: Peersagsociety@gmail.com



TOWN OF EDSON


Public Information & Notices 2024

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



EMERGENCY EXERCISE

DECEMBER 6, 2024



The Town of Edson will be the host of a large-scale, multi-agency, emergency exercise throughout the day on Friday, December 6th, 2024.

The site for the exercise is in the vicinity of Parkland Composite High School and Ecole Pine Grove School, there will be a large police and first responder presence. Do not be alarmed, this is an EXERCISE ONLY!

This is a non-school day; therefore, students will not be impacted.

Be aware that roads and trails in the area will be closed off for the duration of the event. We ask that residents keep their distance and allow crews to focus on the exercise.

Programming at the Edson & District Leisure Centre will not be impacted.

We appreciate your patience as we conduct this important exercise to ensure our community, and all agencies involved, are better prepared for potential future emergency situations.

www.edson.ca

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Check Facebook for more details!

No Points awarded or Redeemed during the Sale

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PRICES YOU LOVE

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 Phone 723-6677

Santa Claus Parade

Nov 30 @ 5:30pm
Theme: Your favorite Christmas movie





Nite Owl

Late Night Shopping
Thursday, December 12



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

Yoga Nidra & Sound Bath

Join Renae & Peggy for a blissful experience to allow your body to truly rest & repair.

Marlboro Community Hall
 Sunday December 8th
 4:30 - 6:00pm
 \$25



Beginning with a gentle yoga flow, then settling into a comfortable stillness for a guided yoga sleep while wrapped in the beautiful sound and vibrations of the sound bowls. Please wear comfy clothes and bring water, a blanket, a pillow and anything else to make yourself extra comfortable.

Register online at yhcounty.ca/registration or by phoning Jina at 780-723-4800



GOOD NEIGHBOUR Snow Shoveling Program

Do you have a member of your community that could use your help to clear their sidewalks?

Reach out to someone in your neighbourhood who may need help and you could be nominated as a

GOOD NEIGHBOUR!

Nominated volunteers will be entered into the prize draw in April!



Have a **GOOD NEIGHBOUR** who is helping you out with snow removal?

Nominate them and enter them into April's volunteer prize draw!

PLUS - you can recognize your volunteers with an "I Have a Good Neighbour" sign!

Prizes include gift cards to Subway, Wildwood 2-for-1, Sammy's, and various other exciting rewards.

Nomination forms and recognition signs are available at the Yellowhead County Wildwood and Edson Offices, or contact Karen at 780-325-3782 or kschatz@yhcounty.ca



Approved Development Permits have been issued authorizing the following:

Permit No.	Location	Proposal	Date	Appeal Deadline
D24-148	SE-14-53-10-W5 Wildwood Area	Home Business Small-Vehicle Repair	Nov 15/24	Permitted Use

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 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.

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.
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

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



ROADSIDE BRUSHING WORK

Attention Yellowhead County residents! Winter roadside brushing and mulching work is underway throughout Yellowhead County until mid December to help improve safety on our county roads. Please be mindful of crews, reduce your speed in work zones, and follow all posted signage.



You're invited to ATCO's Yellowhead Mainline Project Open House

ATCO is proposing a new energy infrastructure project that will be a significant driver of lower-carbon economic growth in Alberta. The Yellowhead Mainline project will expand the capacity and enhance the efficiency of the province's natural gas network for Alberta's growing economy.

Please join us at ATCO's Yellowhead Mainline Project Open House to learn more about the project.

Thursday, November 28th (5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

Niton Community Hall | #1, 5408 50 Street

Wednesday, December 4th (5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

Fallis Community Hall | 53303 RR 52

Tuesday, December 10th (5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

Onway Heritage Centre | 4708 Lac Ste. Anne Trail North

Questions?

P: 310-5678

E: yellowheadproject@atco.com

W: gas.atco.com/yellowheadmainline

We will be holding more open houses in January 2025 at Namao, Fort Saskatchewan, and Josephburg. Details will be posted on our website once they are confirmed.



Provincial Bat Specialist talks about bats

by Deanna Mitchener

The Galloway Station Museum and travel centre had Lisa Wilkinson, Senior Species at Risk Biologist and Provincial Bat Specialist with Alberta Environment and Parks come and do a presentation on bats recently. The presentation was well attended by kids and adults. Wilkinson gave a presentation and allowed time for questions at the end.

Wilkinson said, "The museum staff had made some batty treats, such as cookies with bat wings, for everyone to enjoy. There were lots of display items, including a bat skeleton, a preserved bat, photos, and information on how biologists study bats. There were activity books and posters to take home. The Museum staff also led a craft to make a flying paper bat."

During the presentation, Lisa shared some information on debunking myths about bats. "Bats are not flying mice or rodents. Bats are not blind, and do not get caught in your hair. Bats are not dirty and disease ridden. True, they can have rabies, but it is uncommon and there is no risk to people if there is no contact."

"There are over 1400 species of bats found throughout most of the world. All bats in Canada are small, eat bugs and insects, and use echolocation to catch prey. There are nine species of bats in Alberta. In the winter, many bats hibernate and some migrate south. Bats are superheroes, so to speak, as bats eat insect pests including farm and forest pests. They

save farmers billions of dollars by acting as natural pest control. In tropical places, some bats pollinate plants, including many food producing plants that people rely on. In tropical places, some bats eat fruit, dropping seeds and helping forests regenerate," Wilkinson explained.

"Many bats are threatened and need our help. We can help by learning about bats, not harming or disturbing roosting bats, and maintaining good bat habitat such as big old trees for roosting and wetlands for feeding and drinking."

"Threats to some bats include the white-nose syndrome, which is a disease caused by a fungus that can grow in caves. It irritates bats during hibernation and causes them to arouse at a time when there is no food available, so they starve to death. Alberta recorded its first case of the disease this year. It is responsible for the death of millions of bats across North America. Some species are now endangered," said Wilkinson.

"Wind turbines are causing migratory bats to be killed when they fly into turbines during their fall migration south. Some species are becoming endangered. Habitat loss and alteration is also causing concerns," added Wilkinson.

For more information about Alberta bats, you can visit www.albertabats.ca - it's the Alberta Community bat Program.

The Galloway Station thanked everyone who joined them for the Let's Talk About Bats. Participants enjoyed bat-themed snacks, bat



Lisa Wilkinson, Senior Species at Risk Biologist and Provincial Bat Specialist with Alberta Environment and Parks, gave a presentation at the Galloway Station Museum and Travel Centre about bats.

punch, and the kids had a blast making their very own flying bat craft to take home.

CN donates \$10,000 to the Edson & District Public Library

Submitted, Sheila Buckle, Vice-Chair, Town of Edson Library Board

The Edson & District Public Library is delighted to announce that the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund granted \$10,000 to support our Furniture Fundraising Drive.

"With this amazing donation we purchased beautiful, movable shelves which frame our bright, revitalized Children's area" said Robin Corser, Library Board Chair.

"The new shelving allows us to reconfigure the children's space to accommodate various activities and provides a place to showcase new and appealing books to encourage children and their parents to read," said Robin, "fostering the development of early childhood literacy and socialization skills." The library continues to fundraise to replace the existing bookshelves with lower and more accessible ones to better serve our patrons and improve sight lines throughout the library for our staff. "Thanks to the wonderful generosity of Weyerhaeuser and many others in our community, we have received \$200,000 to date bringing us ever closer to our \$250,000 goal," said Sheila Buckle, Library Board Vice-Chair.

In both rural and urban settings, the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund supports hundreds of important organizations and programs in the communities where they operate with funding, time, expertise and resources. Weyerhaeuser made its first charitable donation in 1903 and has provided more



The Edson & District Public Library was thrilled to welcome the team from CN to our new space on September 16th to celebrate their generous \$10,000 donation to the library in support of the library's furniture fundraising campaign. Pictured from left to right: Sara Tonowski (Library Manager), Robin Corser (Library Board Chair), Ed Ogloza (Library Board), Donna Williams (Library Board), Kyri Anayiotos (CN), Karen Jensen (CN), Mike Hiscock (CN) and Chad MacDonald-Winsor (CN and Library Board).

than \$266 million in grants through its formal giving program, which was established in 1948.

More information on the Weyerhaeuser grant application process is available online at www.WY.com

If anyone wants more information or would like

to join Weyerhaeuser on the Library's Wall of Recognition, please contact Sarah Tonowski Library Manager at (780) 723-6691, stonowski@edsonlibrary.ca.

Please come and enjoy our newly renovated and expanded library. Membership is free.



The Ladies Auxilliary at Branch # 51 Edson Royal Canadian Legion held a small vigil and service at the veteran plots in Edson Cemetery on November 10. This was the first time a vigil has been held. Candles marked veteran headstones in the area bringing light to the darkness. photos submitted Deanna Mitchener

Chozen Breed RC Edson donates \$6,000 to Edson LEAP

by Deanna Mitchener

The non-profit Motorcycle Riding Club, Chozen Breed: Edson Chapter, recently donated \$6,000 to Edson LEAP Society.

Sean McCarthy, with the club, said, "We decided a few years ago to choose the Edson LEAP Society as a group we would like to support, as they haven't been recognized very much. This is now our third year donating to them, in which we raised \$6,000."

"Something new we did this year was to open the dinner and auction up to the public. We would love to have a great turnout for next year in hopes of raising even more money," said McCarthy.

"We hosted a big fundraiser dinner at the Lions Hall on November 2. Then, with help from local businesses, we started off with a silent auction and moved to a live auction. There was a cash bar which also goes to LEAP and the volunteers helping were actually members of LEAP," said McCarthy.

"All in all, it's a great cause and we are trying to make it bigger. Chozen Breed RC Edson would like to thank everyone who played a part in us being able to donate \$6,000 to the Edson LEAP Centre. We have been so fortunate to be able to help this organization and hope for many more years ahead," said McCarthy.



On November 14, Chozen Breed RC Edson, donated \$6,000 to the Edson LEAP Society. Pictured are Alyssa Warnock, Corey Ross, Paul Sabourin, Christina Gauchier, and Sean McCarthy.

Fulham School hosts Fearless in the Forest adventure



Good News Story

(GYPSD) Students at Fulham Community School enjoyed a new outdoor learning adventure through the Fearless in the Forest program.

The program is set up to deliver safe and informative sessions for students to learn about nature and have fun outdoors! The program offers experiential learning opportunities based on the Alberta curriculum.

Facilitators from the program were on hand to share their passion for the outdoors and taught all students from kindergarten to Grade 6 about a variety of topics including: Plant identification and animal tracking; Hiking/Forest walking; and Outdoor Indigenous games.

In addition, the land acknowledgement was done by using the school's focus on our five senses.



The U13-1 Edson Excel Projects Sabres took on the CNN Spurs at the Edson & District Leisure Centre on November 9. photo Shaylyn Thornton

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ADVERTISE LOCAL

Shop local matters

With the holiday season upon us, it's time to contemplate

Views & News
by Deanna Mitchener

massive foreign corporations like Amazon, Facebook, and Google.

what shopping local means to a community. There are a whole lot of reasons why this makes good sense.

One of the biggest factors is that for every dollar spent locally, more than half goes back into the community to support local charities, programs, and the local economy.

The small business sector is also a major contributor to local employment and quality of life in the communities they serve. The donations small businesses make to local charities and non-profit groups are often the lifeblood of these organizations.

Newspapers also play a defining role, with local journalism that not only covers our municipal governments, but highlights the efforts, struggles, and successes of our local community groups.

The problem is that local shopping and the local advertising dollars are being continually sucked up by

So please, before you shop online check out this video on shopping local in Edson available on Youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4u6r_W-PKA

Please remember that Google, Amazon, or Facebook are not going to donate to your local non-profit group or add to local employment —nor will they be spending money to send a journalist to our local council chambers or write local stories that benefit the whole community.

Simply put, local businesses cannot survive and grow without the support of local purchasing.

By making deliberate choices to shop local you are helping to support local jobs and the tax dollars those businesses and their employers generate —and that's good for the whole community.

Shopping local matters — now more than ever!

SHOP LOCAL SAVE LOCAL

ADVERTISE LOCAL

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Weekly Anchor

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- 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 prolonged post office labour disruption.)

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Weekly Anchor Newspaper

Edson RCMP Occurrences

For the week of: Nov 11 to Nov 17, 2024

Theft calls topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences at 11 calls . Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 01; Assistance calls 07 ;Alarms/False Alarms 03; Animal Calls 10; Assault 02; Cause Disturbance 06; Fail to Comply with Conditions 0; False/Abandoned 911 Call 02; Family Orders and Agreements 0; Fraud 01, Harassment/Criminal Harassment 01; Lost or found property 02, Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 0; Information File 01; Mental Health Act 02; Mischief or Damage 08; Municipal Bylaws 01; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 01; Possess Stolen Property 0; Recovered Stolen Property 01; Sudden Death 0; Suspicious persons 09; Theft Complaints 11;Traffic Complaints 07;Trespassing 02; Traffic Violations 04;Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; Wellbeing Check 05,

KID'S CORNER



Meet Ruby Ariel in Grade 4 at Mary Bergeron Elementary School.

Q: What's your Favorite movie?

A: Sponge Bob - my mom put it on when I was little and now it's my favorite go-to movie.



Kid's Corner is sponsored by:
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Community Profile

Local business helps empower clients' emotional healing

by Deanna Mitchener

Meet Jocelyn Pettitt, an Energy Therapist who enjoys empowering her clients with taking their emotional healing into their own hands.

Pettitt is certified in the Emotion Code, Body Code, Belief Code, as well as PSYCH-K®. Her sessions have helped hundreds of clients move past their own blockages and limiting beliefs, Pettitt says.

With a passion about sharing this healing modality, Pettitt engages with audiences through workshops and public speaking events. She is an instructor at the Banff Wellness

Retreat, and shares what she has learned about muscle-testing and communicating with the subconscious mind with audiences. She believes in the innate power we have to heal ourselves and loves teaching and guiding her clients on their own healing journey.

Jocelyn is a published co-author of the international bestselling book 'Heal 2.0- You Have The Power'. Her client reach is local and international. Her business, Edson Emotion Reset, has been nominated for the Quality Care Award 2020, 2021, and 2022.

If you would like to learn more you can contact Jocelyn <https://edsonemotionreset.com/>



Jocelyn Pettitt, Energy Therapist

Edson Fire Department seeking new recruits

by Deanna Mitchener

The Edson Fire Department trains for a wide variety of tactical responses. They are a first responders trained primarily to control and extinguish fires that threaten life and property. However, they are also trained in rescue from confinement or dangerous situations.

Brad Milton, Edson Fire Chief, Director of Emergency Management and Protective Services, said, "Our department currently has two full-time staff members. I came on board as Chief for the Town of Edson in April of 2023. In July of this year, we brought on a full time Deputy with Joey Cherpin joining our team.

At full complement we have approximately 40 volunteer (paid on-call) Firefighters."

"Those members are broken up into six platoons that share weekend on-call duty, as well as fill important roles such as Training Officer and Chaplain," Milton said.

"The team meets every Wednesday evening for training. Topics are wide-ranging, including search and rescue, firefighting techniques, marching, medical response, incident command, and much more. We recently conducted a full 1001 Level 1 firefighter certification program in-house, something we plan to continue and expand on as we bring on new

members," said Milton.

"Along with training and response, our members do a lot of volunteer work out in the community. Our members are active in school tours, drills, helping organizations such as the Food Bank, and participating in toy runs, parades, and other community events. The volunteers also rent out a community tent, which helps to raise funds for member events and items around the hall that may not be covered through our regular operating budget," Milton

explained.

"We are always looking for great men and women that are interested in joining our team. We recently ran a recruitment with six new members coming on board. We are always accepting applications. We conduct an intake of new volunteers (recruits) twice a year and we encourage anyone interested to check out our webpage and fill out an application form at www.edson.ca/fire, or to drop off a resume at the fire hall," said Milton.

Alberta activates contingency mail delivery plan

November 15, 2024: Alberta's government has a plan to ensure critical government mail continues to be delivered during the service interruption at Canada Post.

In response to the service disruption at Canada Post, Alberta's government is taking steps to ensure critical mail between Albertans and the government continues to flow.

Starting Tuesday, Nov. 19, mail can be accepted from Albertans at designated Alberta government offices across the province to ensure it reaches the proper destination. No stamps are required. The full list of designated buildings is available on Alberta.ca

Albertans who receive mail from the provincial government will receive a notification by email or phone indicating where and when they can pick-up/drop-off their mail. Alberta's government will never ask for personal information over the phone or for anyone to click on a link in an email. Non-critical mail will be held by the originating department until Canada Post mail service resumes.

Some departments are participating in a Canada Post program to deliver social-economic cheques once a month during the disruption. Many departments that issue cheques also offer direct

deposit. For more information, or to inquire about signing up for direct deposit, Albertans should contact the government department that issues the payment.

Additional information will be posted online as it becomes available.

Quick facts

Only critical mail can be delivered to the general public during a work interruption. Non-critical or promotional mail should not be sent during this time.

Ministries must arrange for staff serving the public to accept and forward critical mail from Albertans to the appropriate government recipients.

Critical mail is material that must reach its intended recipient to avoid health, safety, financial or other significant harm to Albertans, significant risk or loss to government, or legislative non-compliance and that cannot be delivered expediently by courier, fax, electronic or other means.

Canada Post employees will deliver federal and provincial government socio-economic cheques one day per month during a work interruption.

Additional information will be posted on Alberta.ca as it becomes available.

~ Obituary ~

Robert (Bob) Carter

Obituary for Robert (Bob) Carter

It is with great sadness that the family of Robert (Bob) Carter announce his passing on November 7th 2024, in the Edson Hospital, at the age of 77.

Bob was born in Leigh, England, the second son of John and Ivy Carter. When he was 9 years old, the family moved to the seaside resort of Blackpool on the coast of Lancashire. At the age of 19 he suffered serious injuries in a traffic accident, which necessitated an extended stay in hospital. It was while in the hospital for a second round of surgeries that he met his wife, Joan. They were married on November 7th, 1970 and in 1982 they emigrated to Canada with their son, Paul. They lived in Lethbridge for six years before moving up to Edson in 1988. Bob never let his disability rule his life, he would find work or create his own business to earn a living. He was Past President of the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 51 and an active brother in the Edson Masonic Lodge # 68.

Bob is survived by his wife Joan, son Paul and partner Jody, granddaughter Brittney, grandson Taylor and partner Shae and their daughter Addison, as well as his family in England, sister-in-law Jean, nephew Mark and his partner Una, brother and sister-in-law Dennis and Margaret and their family.

He was predeceased by his parents John and Ivy, brother Thomas and his Uncle Donald.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alberta Cancer Society or the Heart and Stroke Foundation in Alberta.

A Memorial Service for Bob will be held at the St. Catherine's Anglican Church (617 - 50St, Edson) on December 5, 2024, at 11:00 AM with a Reception at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #51 (5016 - 5 Ave, Edson) to follow.

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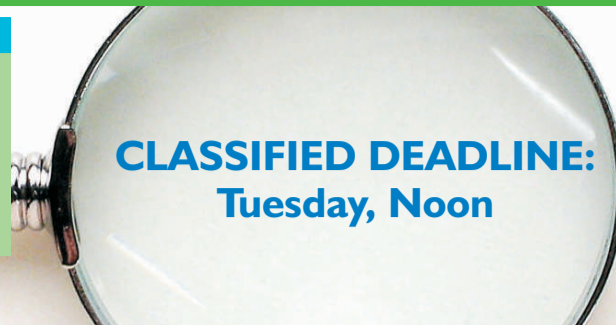
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Wildwood Legion Bottle Depot is hiring bottle sorters. Forklift experience would be an asset. Please drop resume off at the bottle depot on Tues- Sat from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm or email to rcibr149@gmail.com

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of:
Irene Theresa Tilby
who died on August 29, 2024.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by:
January 2, 2025,

with:
Shari L. Boisvert;
Boisvert Law Group

at:
324-50th Street, P.O. Box 6568
Edson, AB T7E 1T9

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

What's happening, when and where in the community

Community Events

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

November 30: Skate with Santa at 2:00pm, 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.

November 30: Santa Clause Parade 6pm to 7:30pm, Santa is coming to town!! Join us on a new route to welcome the big guy in red to Edson!

December 1: Light the Night with Trail Community Hall. 3:00-5:00pm Gingerbread house making hot chocolate and a fire. Watch us turn on the halls Christmas lights

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

December 8: Yoga Nidra & Sound Bath. Marlboro Community Hall, 4:30 - 6:00pm, Register online at yhcounty.ca/registration or by phoning Jina at 780-723-4800

December 11: Seniors and Community Appreciation Dinner, Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Edson and District Recycling Depot. Come and Join us at the Recycle Depot, Wednesday December 11, 2024 for a Turkey dinner with all the fixings. This is our annual Seniors and Community Appreciation Christmas Event.

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.

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 vmf@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

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Telephone: 723-3661.
Pastor Father Thomas Basani (SAC)

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CARROT CREEK CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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COMMUNITY COWBOY CHURCH

Niton Junction Hall Tuesdays, 7 p.m. 780-712-3502

Evansburg Library relocation options considered

by Shaylyn Thornton

At their September 24 meeting, Yellowhead County Council directed Administration to bring back options for the integration of the Evansburg Library into the Tipple Park site. This directive came after the urgent need for a new library space was highlighted, due to the significant reduction of the library's space within Grand Trunk High School.

The library dropped from 3,500 square feet to 684 square feet, severely limiting its capacity for collections, programming, meetings, and quiet reading. The reduced space restricts essential library services and is insufficient to meet community needs.

General Manager of Corporate Services Crystal McNernie noted that the September 24 meeting did discuss an option of integrating the library into the proposed community hall site, but that "Administration does feel that there are significant concerns with incorporating a library into that facility."

"[This is] primarily due to the fact that, at maximum capacity of the arena, the community hall, and the library, there would be significant user conflicts," McNernie explained. "The experience of those users would be negative as they try to integrate themselves and the flow of that facility [when] it's at its max capacity."

Locating the library at Tipple Park would offer several community benefits, including a convenient and central location, adequate parking and accessibility, and the ability to synergize services with the museum.

Following Council's directive, Administration worked with BR2 Architecture to refine concept plans for the library's integration at Tipple Park, resulting in

the development of three options for consideration.

Two of these options involved expansion. Option 1A involves the layout originally recommended and supported by the Yellowhead County Library Board (YCLB) and the Pembina Lobstick Historical Society (PLHS), and it aligns well with the space and functional needs of both organizations. McNernie noted the estimate for this expansion was \$1.3 million.

Option 1B involves an alternative design, simplifying some construction requirements while maintaining essential programming, storage, and circulation needs. The estimate for this project was also \$1.3 million.

Both expansion options provide flexibility and support the shared goals of YCLB and PLHS for an integrated facility.

Additionally, a stand-alone facility was considered as an alternative to expansion, recognizing the potential benefits of allowing the library to operate independently while still maintaining close proximity to the Tipple Park Museum. This option would enable flexible and cross-functional use of the site, where both the library and museum could serve the community while benefitting from shared location synergies.

However, with a stand-alone facility there is a substantially higher cost implication, with a current estimate of approximately \$3.1 million. A separate structure would require duplicating certain spaces, such as mechanical rooms, washrooms, programming areas, and a parking lot, which are necessary for an independent building but reduce overall space efficiency, resulting in higher construction and operational costs compared to an integrated expansion.

"Therefore, while a stand-alone facility offers operational independence, the cost and efficiency trade-offs must be carefully weighed against the integrated expansion options," said McNernie.

If Council approves moving forward with any of the three options, the typical next steps for the project would include engaging an architect, completing schematic design, finalizing detailed design, preparing construction drawings, and tendering the project.

The anticipated timeline for completing all steps is approximately 6-8 months. Additional time for engagement with both the Pembina Lobstick Historical Society and the Yellowhead County Library Board would also need to be considered.

McNernie recommended that Council for Yellowhead County direct Administration to bring back the above options to a future meeting of Council for decision.

Councillor Penny Lowe, who also sits on the County's Library Board, thanked McNernie for Administration's work on the project. "I think you have taken the interest of both parties into great consideration. We have the opportunity here to add on to a building and make it, what I feel, is extremely suitable for both," she said. "I think you've done an exceptional job."

Councillor Brigitte Lemieux stated her preference for Option 1B, citing that the smaller library space in Option 1A as a concern, while Councillor Anthony Giezen preferred Option 1A, saying, "I think it has less of an impact. It's kind of more tucked in." He added, "I 100% agree that the library should be integrated into the museum. I think that's the best community fit."

Mayor Wade Williams agreed that "it makes perfect sense to integrate the library into the Tipple Park Museum." "I would not favour a stand-alone, so I would be looking at Option 1A or 1B," he said. "I feel strongly that both these user groups are going to complement each other and... it's a disservice to the community if we don't try and integrate these."

The potential integration of the Evansburg Library to the Tipple Park site will be brought back to a future Council meeting for decision.

Chouinard awarded the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal

submitted by Deanna Mitchener

In a ceremony held on November 12, Edson Town Councillor Gean Chouinard was awarded the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal, presented by Member of Parliament Gerald Soroka.

This medal, minted in recognition of King Charles III's coronation on May 6, 2023, is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to their communities or Canada as a whole.

Councillor Chouinard was recognized for his outstanding dedication and service to the Edson community. His nominators highlighted his tireless volunteerism, describing him as a first responder to community crises and the last to leave. Chouinard's work during the Jasper Wildfire, where he volunteered

as a bus driver for the Edson Seniors Transportation Society, was particularly noted. In the early hours of the morning, he transported vulnerable seniors to safety, exemplifying his selflessness and commitment.

The King Charles III Coronation Medal is the first Canadian honour to feature the Canadian Royal Crown approved by His Majesty. It symbolizes significant contributions to Canada and reflects the profound impact recipients like Councillor Chouinard have made.

Chouinard was visibly moved by the recognition and thanked the community for their support. The ceremony concluded with the formal presentation of the medal, which Chouinard is encouraged to wear proudly as a testament to his service and dedication.



Councillor Gean Chouinard was awarded the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal.

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