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VOL. 34, NO. 42

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023

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40 YEARS

Weyerhaeuser plant celebrates 40 years...

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EDSON

New industrial road planned from 54 Street to Willmore Park Road...

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COUNTY

Evansburg Public Library raises concerns with space in new school...

see page 4

Red Brick Harvest Bazaar returns

by Niki Luymes

The Edson Cultural Heritage Organization (ECHO) hosted the return of the Red Brick Harvest Bazaar on October 14. The Event serves as both a fundraiser for the Red Brick and also gives local vendors a chance to sell their wares. The event ran from 10am to 3pm at the Red Brick. This year there were three parts to the Harvest Bazaar. First was the canned preserves sale which was the fundraising aspect of the event. All the preserves were donated by the community and all proceeds from their sale go directly back to ECHO and the Red Brick. The variety of preserves offered included everything from salsa

continued page 2



There was a great selection of items at the Red Brick Museum's Harvest Bazaar. 23 different vendors came out to sell their wares at the October 14th event. photo Niki Luymes

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Red Brick Harvest Bazaar returns

continued from front

and pickled carrots to canned peaches. There was also a selection of baked goods, gift baskets, and bags of popcorn for the kids.

The second part of the event was the Vendor Market setup throughout the Red Brick. There were 23 vendors in total selling a variety of wares including veggies, clothing, soaps, spices, and various handcrafts. There was also a free draw of a specialty gift basket. The final aspect was the lunch offered by the Pioneer Cabin next door to the Red Brick. They served delicious soup and pie to all who made their way over.

The Red Brick used to do three major fundraisers a year. This includes the Bazaar, the Tree Festival in December, and the spring Strawberry Tea. All three events were put on hold during the pandemic years. This is the first year since then that the Harvest Bazaar has taken place in person, instead of being a social media auction. Despite that break, there was little issue putting this year's event together. "We advertised we were doing it and our tables were booked within the first week. Everybody was excited to come back," said Kirsty Maskowitz, Museum and Archives Coordinator for the Red Brick.

The whole event was put together by ECHO and run by Red Brick staff and community volunteers. This year proved to be very successful. It was never extremely busy, but there was a consistent stream of people making their way through. The Red Brick was able to sell out of most of their preserves by the end of the day.



The upstairs and the downstairs of the Red Brick Museum were full of vendor booths at the Museum's Harvest Bazaar on October 14th. photo Niki Luymes



The Red Brick Museum's Harvest Bazaar on October 14 served as an excellent fundraiser. All the proceeds from the preserves and baked goods went directly back to the Edson Cultural Heritage Organization and the museum. photo Niki Luymes

EVENT REMINDERS

November 14:
Coping after natural disaster. Community information session from AHS addiction and mental health teams. Wildwood community hall 1pm-3pm.

November 16:
Coping after natural disaster. Community information session from AHS addiction and mental health teams. Peers Multiplex 1pm-3pm.

Register at yhcounty.ca/registration or by calling 780-325-3782 or by email yhc_fcass@yhcounty.ca

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Edson Weyerhaeuser OSB Plant celebrates 40 years

by Niki Luymes

On October 14, the Edson Weyerhaeuser OSB Plant invited the community out to celebrate their 40th anniversary. There was free food, games, music, and tours offered from 1pm to 4pm to celebrate the milestone.

Local rock band Alberta Moonshiners performed live from 1pm to 3pm. Guided mill tours also took place at this time. Starting at 2pm was a free pig roast lunch and celebration cake to all to enjoy. The information booth, free giveaways, and kids activities were running throughout the whole event. "We wanted to open up the facility to the community. We get a lot of question on what we do here and what we make," said Natalie Peace, Mill Manager at Edson OSB.

The Edson OSB Plant first opened in 1983 under the name Pelican Spruce Mills. In 1989 it was purchased by Weyerhaeuser which has operated it ever since. Between the forestry aspect, contractors, and everyday employees Weyerhaeuser employs over 350 people in Edson and the surrounding area. The main export of this plant is wood sheeting including high-end wood flooring which they have become well known for and is sold internationally.

The 40th anniversary party served as outreach to the community and also as a thank-you to all the people who have worked with the plant over the years. "We also want to thank the community in which we operate, all of our employees for their loyalty, dedication, and hard work, our contractors, and everyone who came out," said Peace. Over 200 people made their way out to the plant over the course of the event. This included

many Weyerhaeuser retirees and current employees.

The evening ended with speeches from various members of the Weyerhaeuser team including Ryan Beaver, Vice President of Panels, "When I think about over 40 years and how many people have had a positive impact on this place—how many people have contributed a piece of themselves to this facility—that's who we're here to honour today. We're here to honour all those people. But that's also the people of this community that we've had partnerships with. Our suppliers, our customers, all those people. If we don't have those people we don't have a business. So we're here to honour all those partnerships we've had over the years," said Beaver.

The plant was also presented commemorative plaques from Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara and Yellowhead County Mayor Wade Williams along with the local MLA Martin Long and MP Gerald Soroka.

"It so fantastic to see Weyerhaeuser continuing to go strong in our community," said Mayor Zahara. "We appreciate the partnership we have with Weyerhaeuser and their employees and all they give back to the community. The Town of Edson would not be successful if it wasn't for Weyerhaeuser."

"Weyerhaeuser, you have been a tremendous industrial leader and partner in our region. We truly appreciate your presence and long term commitment to both Yellowhead County and the Town of Edson," said Mayor Williams, "On behalf of Yellowhead County Council, staff, and residents thank you for your commitment to our local economies. We wish you another 40 years of success."



The Edson Weyerhaeuser OSB Plant opens its door to the community on October 14 to celebrate their 40th anniversary. The event featured free food, activities, and tours of the mill. photo Niki Luymes



Weyerhaeuser's Vice President of Panels, Ryan Beaver, came out to the Edson OSB Plant for the 40th anniversary celebrations. He gave a speech thanking the community and employees for making the plant such a success. photo Niki Luymes



Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara (center) gave a thank you speech at the Edson Weyerhaeuser OSB Plant's 40th anniversary celebrations on October 14. photo Niki Luymes



The Edson Weyerhaeuser OSB Plant's 40th anniversary celebrations on October 14 featured a Kids Fun Zone. The event welcomed people from all around the area. photo Niki Luymes

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Questions about immunizations?
Call 811, your primary care provider
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Evanburg Public Library raises concerns with space available at new Evansburg School

by Dana McArthur

Currently, the Evansburg Public Library is housed at the Grand Trunk High School. The public library and the school share a space of 329 square meters, as part of the library collection belongs to the school (GYPSD).

GYPSD is undertaking the reconstruction of Grand Trunk into a new K-12 school located in Evansburg. This amalgamation and modernization will encompass two feeder schools, Wildwood School and Evansview School which will be combined and housed out of the existing Grand Trunk High School footprint, with the current grades. The school will have a capacity of 515 students.

As part of the challenges of this redesign and construction, the school is only able to offer the public library a dedicated space of 64 square meters. A shared flexible space would also be provided.

Yellowhead County Library Board was formed in 1997 and is responsible for library services delivered from three libraries in the County. The board provides library services to Yellowhead County residents through three branch libraries: Evansburg Public Library, Wildwood Public Library, and the Niton Public Library. In addition, the board provides supplemental funding to the Edson Public Library and the Hinton Municipal Library in order to service Yellowhead County residents who live within those two regions.

During the Yellowhead County's Governance and Priorities committee meeting on October 17, Sandra Cherniawsky, Chair of the Yellowhead County Library Board and Robert McClure, Director of Library Services gave a presentation regarding the challenges.

McClure explained that in 2022, Evansburg registered 10,664 unique visits, answered 1,467 reference questions, and delivered 395 programs to 6,540 unique attendees. Their public computers were used 604 times and staff facilitated 54 one-on-one tech help sessions. The library also offers a safe place for kids and seniors to go, he explained.

"Moving into the [smaller] space would require downsizing the collection proportionately from 10,708 items to 1,952 items," said McClure. "3,000 items is the minimum number of items in a collection a library serving a population the size of Evansburg should have. Most importantly though, moving into the 64 square meters offered would not allow enough room for the library to have programs or meetings or provide workspace for residents." The presenters also raised concerns with library access points and hours of operation when the school is locked.

Cherniawsky added, "Should council decide it's best for the library to move to another facility Yellowhead County Library Board has savings to pay for this. Anticipating this situation years ago these funds were approved to be set aside for any potential renovation or relocation cost (approximately \$65,000).

"We as a board have come to the conclusion that staying in the school is a step back for the Evansburg Public Library. A key part of what we do in libraries is we grow alongside the communities we serve—and in the space offered by the school board—we will not be able to do that," said McClure.

McClure added that through their partnership, the public library would still maintain its relationship with the school so that the students and the staff could have access to library services.

Councillor Penny Lowe said, "Could you explain to the rest of council what it would look like to try and provide those services out of that designated space?" McClure replied, "The library would essentially regress to being a pick up and drop off location for items"

Mayor Wade Williams stated, "In the last meeting that council members had with the GYPSD they indicated to us that they wanted the library to stay within the school. They indicated that they realized 64 square meters was tight, but they also indicated that the common space would be available for the library, for the most part. They did



Grand Trunk High School in Evansburg is being transformed into a new K-12 school for the area.

indicate to us that through the renovations there were going to be issues, but they were committed to making it work. I straight up asked the question 'Does GYPSD support libraries in schools?' They said they do and they would love to keep it there. I do understand your concerns, but we

have to step back and take a look at the entire picture and we have to talk to our partner, which is the Grand Yellowhead Public School Division."

Council accepted the Yellowhead County Library Board presentation as information.

Completed shoeboxes can be dropped off at Edson Baptist Church by Thursday, November 16, 2023

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TOWN OF EDSON

Public Information & Notices 2023

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The Edson & District Public Library is currently seeking new board members. Both Town and County residents are welcome to apply.

Application forms are available on the Town of Edson website at
www.edson.ca/town/boards.

Completed forms may be submitted by email or dropped off in person at the Town Office (605 50 Street). Please submit your application by November 3rd at 1:00 PM.

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*Sani-Dump closes
October 30th*



Edson's Sani-Dump is winding down for the winter season. Water will be turned off on October 23rd, but the facility will remain open for dumping until Monday, October 30th.



REQUEST FOR TENDER

2024 Hauling Waste Compaction Trailer

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November 2, 2023 at 2:00pm
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Email Submissions attention to: Darin Borysko, Utilities Manager
Email: darinb@edson.ca

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT

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

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



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New light industrial road planned from 54 Street to Willmore Park Road

by Niki Luymes

The Town of Edson Administration requested a decision from Council to approve reallocating \$150,000 from the 2023 Capital-Road Repairs Budget to procure tree removal and detailed design for the construction of a new light industrial rural road TWP RD 532, between 54 Street to Willmore Park Road.

"Secondary access/egress to the south industrial area is warranted, even without the Pivotal development proceeding," stated a report to Council from Clayton Kittlitz, General Manager, Infrastructure & Planning and CAO Christine Beveridge.

At present, the town landfill, one county residential property, and five private businesses (not including Pivotal) use 54 St. as their only access and egress. There is a bridge crossing in this area that has been damaged by flooding on more than one occasion, which needs upgrades or replacement, according to a recent assessment. A cost assessment is now underway. The creation of the road would also allow access in and out of the area while allowing for potential repairs or reconstruction to take place.

Without a secondary road into the area two private businesses, the county residence, and the landfill will be inaccessible if the bridge crossing becomes impassable. Deemed more critical is the lack of secondary access and egress for emergency purposes. Train traffic at the CN Rail Yard blocks the 54 St. crossing multiple times a day for extended periods.

Pivotal Energy Partners made a commitment to provide temporary emergency access/egress to the area and this commitment was secured through a condition of approval for DP-019-2023 for striping and grading of their plant site.

Only a verbal commitment could be secured with CN and building a temporary road would be an expensive throwaway cost for Pivotal. The temporary road would be built above a cutline created during the placing of a sanitary pipeline. This road could never be permanent due to the pipeline not being buried deep enough.

Administration is proposing accepting the verbal commitment from CN under the condition that Pivotal contributes funds earmarked for the temporary emergency access/egress, to the building of a permanent rural industrial road within the existing TWP RD 532 road allowance.

It is proposed the project will be a 2024 Capital Project managed by the Town with contributions coming from benefiting landowners (future) and the Pivotal contribution. No dollar figure has been determined or committed at this time.

Councillor Greg Pasychny started off the question period by asking about the tree removal. "Part of the \$150,000 talks about the removal of the trees. Is that for the entire quarter south, so it would be a substantial firebreak or is that just a road allowance amount of trees?" Kittlitz replied, "I think our plan would be to take the road allowance plus a little bit more, but it would not be the entire area. I suggest it would be a little bit wider than the road allowance, since it's our land."

Pasychny then asked, "Has any work been done to figure out what the cost would be to remove the trees to the end of the property line to create a significant firebreak." Kittlitz responded, "No, we have not done that, but certainly if it's the will of council we could pursue that."

Councillor Gean Chouinard asked, "Is there any value to those trees? If we could get someone to come in and possibly log it all, since it's ours, we could get rid of the trees at virtually zero cost." Kittlitz replied that Administration had looked into that option. "We weren't able to find a local tree removal provider who saw value in those trees. But, if council supports the motion we could certainly pursue that more."

Mayor Kevin Zahara expressed his support for the motions. "With Pivotal coming to our community, it's a huge opportunity. This is the biggest development that this community has seen since Weyerhaeuser was built. It's going to be a major taxpayer, a source of major employment, and support our natural gas industry."

Zahara added, "I certainly want to see us going east as well as west. I think that it is a better opportunity for the safety of all residents and ease of access for people to be able access from Land Fill Road to either Willmore Park or Golf Course Road. The challenge that we have is that we do not own all the land to the Golf Course Road."

The motion that Council approve reallocating

\$150,000 from the 2023 Capital-Road Repairs Budget was passed by a unanimous vote. This motion means that the project will move forward with the design and pricing.

A second motion was made for Council to instruct Administration to come back with progress report and total dollar amount to remove all the trees to the south of the boundary for a larger firebreak. This motion was also passed.



Robin Corser, Jackie Mitchell, Linda Browne, Arlene Vanderwell, Dawn Mitchell, and Kristie Gomuwka beside the new logo of 100 Women Who Care Edson, added to the ESTS bus. photo Deanna Mitchener

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Accounts Payable Clerk
Full-time Permanent
LOCATION: Edson, AB
COMPETITION NO. 23-042

Reporting to the Accounting Supervisor, the Accounts Payable Clerk is responsible for performing accounting duties and maintaining information related to Accounts Payable for Yellowhead County. This position will assist the General Manager of Corporate Services and the Accounting Supervisor with all financial and clerical duties as assigned.

The salary range is \$59,860-\$74,227 per year.

Yellowhead County offers a competitive benefit plan. To apply please submit resumes and cover letters online at www.yhcounty.ca/jobs

A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online. The competition will remain open until **October 27, 2023 at 4:30 PM.**

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

Human Resources
Yellowhead County
Email: jobs@yhcounty.ca

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



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Community Peace Officer Level 1
(Entry-Level or Experienced)
LOCATION: Edson, AB
COMPETITION NO. 23-043

Reporting to the Peace Officer Sergeant, the Community Peace Officer is part of the overall Protective Services Department team working to promote public safety and community standards through education and enforcement of Yellowhead County bylaws and appointed provincial acts.

The salary range is \$84,186 - \$104,391 per year.

Yellowhead County offers a competitive benefit plan. To apply please submit resumes and cover letters online at www.yhcounty.ca/jobs

A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online. The competition will remain open until filled.

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

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Approved Development Permits have been issued authorizing the following:

Permit No.	Location	Proposal	Date	Appeal Deadline
D23-131	Plan 1620018 Blk 2, Lot 1 NW-29-53-17-W5 North of Edson	Single Detached Dwelling with Addition & Secondary Suite Internal	Oct 5/23	Permitted Use
D23-128	Plan 1320417 Blk 1, Lot 7 SW-36-53-17-W5 Edson North Estates	Existing Secondary Suite External & Accessory Building (Garage)	Oct 5/23	Permitted Use
D23-133	NW-1-55-10-W5 Chip Lake Area	Addition to Single Detached Dwelling (Covered Deck)	Oct 10/23	Permitted Use
D23-134	NE-12-53-8-W5 Evanburg Area	Accessory Building (Shop)	Oct 17/23	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. 09.21 provides that any person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority may appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board or Alberta's Land and Property Rights Tribunal (dependent on jurisdiction of the appeal authority). Appeals under the jurisdiction of Yellowhead County's Subdivision and Development Appeal Board require a written notice of appeal and a payment of \$500.00 payable to Yellowhead County within 21 days 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.

COPING AFTER A NATURAL DISASTER

A community information session from AHS' Addiction and Mental Health teams

If you are wondering about your own coping, are concerned about friends or loved ones, or simply looking for a safe space to connect with neighbors about the events of the last summer, this is for you!

AHS will provide information on typical stress responses and indicators that further support may be needed.

After the session, therapists will stay to answer questions and meet individually with those who wish to.

Wildwood Community Hall
November 14 | 1 PM to 3 PM

Peers Multiplex
November 16 | 1 PM to 3 PM

Marlboro Community Hall
November 28 | 1 PM to 3 PM

ALL RESIDENTS OF EDSON AND YELLOWHEAD COUNTY ARE WELCOME!

FREE INFORMATION SESSION

Register at yhcounty.ca/registration, by calling 780-325-3782, or by emailing yhc_fcass@yhcounty.ca



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

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY IS BEAR COUNTRY. REMEMBER TO PRACTICE BEAR SAFETY.

Make sure to keep garbage and compost as clean and emptied as possible. Take it to a transfer station to avoid issues. Pick and rake-up crab apples and other fruit to reduce bear conflict on your property.

www.alberta.ca/bears-and-residents FOR BEAR AWARENESS TIPS

BUSY BODIES TODDLER DROP-IN!

Join us for a morning full of movement!

November 6th
10:15 - 11:00am
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Stay and play program - parents are encouraged to join the fun!
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Congratulations to the winners of our 2023 Farmers Appreciation Draws!

\$250 Gift Certificate to Woodland Lumber & Building Supplies goes to Rod Hay	\$250 Gift Certificate to Mike the Mechanic in Peers goes to Gayle Caldwell
\$250 Gift Certificate to Peers Farm & Feed Supplies goes to Gary Moffatt	\$250 Gift Certificate to Laurich Holdings Farm Supply Store goes to Anthony Rosadiuk
\$250 Gift Certificate to Wighty's Tire & Mechanical goes to Alain Gros-Louis	\$250 Gift Certificate to Ray Agro & Petroleum Ltd goes to Elizabeth Webb

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Would you like to be a producer of weed-free forage in Yellowhead County?

Yellowhead County is one of 20 municipalities who are part of the Alberta Certified Weed-Free Forage program and we want to help you get certified!

How It Works

- A crop must be inspected within 10 days of harvest
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Interested in getting your field inspected?
Contact Yellowhead County Agricultural Services at 780-325-3782 or email the AISC at info@abinvasives.ca.

For a list of Certified Weed Free Forage Producers, or to be added to the list, visit abinvasives.ca

Black Knot | Info & Pruning Guideline

Black Knot - What Is It?

Yellowhead County's Agricultural Services Department has received numerous calls regarding black growths on residents' fruit trees. These tar-like black swellings are a sign of Black Knot and will distort and stunt any tree species within the *Prunus* genus. Black Knot reduces the aesthetic value of affected trees and, if left long enough, may result in eventual death of the tree. The disease spreads in the spring, attacking new growth on branches. The spores released by the fungi can be carried by wind and splashing rain.

The only reliable method of controlling Black Knot is pruning.

Black Knot - Pruning

- Only prune between November and March.
- Cleanly cut off at least 6 - 8 inches below the knot, better to prune back to a healthy collar, then leaving a stub.
- For knots on branches or trunks that can't be removed, use a knife to cut away diseased tissue down to good wood and then 1/2 inch beyond the edge of the knot.
- Cleaning your equipment properly is another good way to prevent the spread. Pruning shears should be dipped in a 1% bleach/water solution between cuts and once you are finished pruning ensure you run your tools under water for 10 minutes and dry thoroughly.
- Treat pruned branches like hazardous waste, they can release spores for up to 4 months. Burn, bury, or wrap them in plastic and throw them in the trash. Do not compost.

Questions? Call 1-800-814-3935 or 780-325-3782.

Yellowhead County's Trails Master Plan revised

by Dana McArthur

"In 2018 a Trails Master Plan (TMP) was produced for Yellowhead County by McElhanney and utilized the results from community engagement and other analyses to present a series of recommendations for each Hamlet and Campground," explained Crystal McNernie, General Manager of Community Services, in her report to Council during the County's Governance and Priorities meeting on October 17.

The TMP is a high-level conceptual plan that offers a vision of trails throughout the County. The focus of the 2018 plan was on non-motorized trails and connectivity to existing parks areas. It also suggested 'grand' ideas such as signature trails and expansive lakeside trail builds. "Some of these trails suggestions were utilized, while most have been unfeasible," said McNernie.

The main issues included restrictions on private, crown, and industrial land. The plan also did not account for difficulties such as crossing over train tracks, privately owned waterfront properties, and industrial right-of-ways among other examples. "The plan was reviewed and achievable outcomes were extracted," said McNernie.

The new version outlines the summary, completion updates, analysis of the TMP, and recommendations by location within a five-year operational plan.

"Due to the fire and flood disasters experienced within our municipality this spring/summer, Administration will be unable to implement the 2023 trail projects identified in the five-year operational plan," said McNernie.

The plan has been updated with trail builds identified in 2023 being pushed to 2024, those identified for completion in 2024 being pushed to 2025, and so on.

Councillor Brigitte Lemieux suggested some wording changes for clarity be incorporated into the new document.

Councillor Penny Lowe said, "Our area has been chosen by the people who live in it to have these walking trails. They're quite appreciated and I'm really glad to see that you have taken each community into consideration as well as for the future and the mine sites and things like that. That will be a very beautiful area for walking trails."

Councillor David Russell added, "I'm very pleased to see that there will be some discussion with the coal branch companies as the mines get reclaimed. I've had a lot of comments from people requesting what's going to end up happening with that. So I'm glad to see that included."

There were some concerns raised by members that the TMP locked Council into decisions or excluded the possibility of adding new trails.

McNernie added, "A stakeholder group or community group that comes to us for support for a trail project that isn't currently identified within the trails master plan —we would still look at it on a case by case basis."

Chief Administrative Officer Luc Mercier clarified, "This master plan is a conceptual plan. There's nothing written in stone. Every operational capital plan going forward for this municipality will be decided by the Council of the day through the budget process or through other plans. This is only intended to say, this is our dream. This is where we think there's potential."

Councillor Lemieux moved that Yellowhead County Council accepts the trail master plan update as information and directs administration to bring the amended plan to a future meeting of council for adoption. The motion was carried.



Leyland Kendall (18) was practicing his jumps at the Skate Board Park in Edson. photo Deanna Mitchener

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Guest Editorial

Banning plastic packaging may compromise food safety

Consumers may perceive non-plastic packaging for food items as risky to their families' health

by Sylvain Charlebois

The Canadian government has introduced a prospective initiative to address plastic packaging pollution within the grocery retail sector. Known as the "Pollution Prevention Planning Notice (P2 Notice)," the initiative specifically targets plastic packaging in direct contact with food items.

Although measures like plastic bag bans and the elimination of plastic utensils have been implemented, these actions merely touch the surface of the broader challenge posed by our dependence on plastics.

P2 represents the next logical and desirable step in combating what is arguably the most significant problem in the food industry – food packaging. However, such changes will not come without considerable challenges.

The utilization of plastic materials for food packaging purposes has surged to a substantial 37.3 million tons annually, as reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Most of these plastics are single-use items that often end up in landfills.

Under the P2 Notice, Canadian grocery retailers would be required to formulate and execute comprehensive pollution prevention plans with the primary objective of reducing, reusing, and redesigning plastic packaging in food distribution.

Based on documents from Environment and Climate Change Canada, the P2 Notice is strategically designed to eliminate unnecessary or problematic plastic packaging and introduce reliable systems based on reuse and refilling for single-use plastic alternatives. The emphasis is on ensuring the recyclability, reusability, or composability of any plastic packaging associated with these products.

In principle, the aim of reducing plastic usage is commendable. However, it is important to recognize that plastics are widely used due to their food safety efficiency and lower costs compared to existing alternatives.

Plastics play a vital role in

preserving food freshness and aesthetic appeal for extended periods. Considering Canada's strong food safety culture, consumers may hesitate to purchase unpackaged or inadequately packaged items, perceiving them as risky.

Food waste is another concern, as plastics enable the safe transportation of products over long distances without compromising freshness or quality. Subpar products are less likely to be purchased by consumers, and this is well understood by grocers.

Despite the popularity of plastics among Canadians, support for their usage could wane during unforeseen events like a pandemic. Public opinion shifts have been observed in the past, with many viewing plastics as a safeguard against bacteria and viruses. Additionally, crime-related concerns arise, as plastics protect fruits and vegetables from potential tampering, as seen in a previous incident with an Australian supermarket in 2018.

Efforts to eliminate plastics are essential, but caution must be exercised. Industry and consumers alike will need to adapt their expectations, accepting certain compromises in convenience and price. However, with higher food prices these days, less than 15 percent of Canadians are willing to pay more for food with greener packaging, which poses a challenge for the industry to innovate without losing essential market support.

Grocery vendors and stakeholders have an opportunity until August 30 to contribute their valuable insights and concerns concerning the consultation document outlining the forthcoming advancements in the P2 Notice. May this process yield fruitful outcomes for all stakeholders involved.

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

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada

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Edson RCMP Occurrences

For the week of Oct 9 to Oct 15, 2023

Traffic Complaints topped the list of Edson RCMP occurrences at 14. Other investigations included: Abandoned Vehicles 0; Alarms/False Alarms 1; Animal Calls 3; Assault 5; Assistance 4; Cause Disturbance 2; Fail to Comply with Conditions 3; False/Abandoned 911 Call 6; Family Orders and Agreements 0; Fraud 1, Harassment/Criminal Harassment 0; Lost or found property, 1, Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle 0; Information File 2; Mental Health Act 2; Mischief or Damage 4; Municipal Bylaws 0; Obstruct/Resist Peace Officer 0; Possess Stolen Property 0; Recovered Stolen Property 2; Sudden Death 0; Suspicious persons 3; Theft Complaints 7; Traffic violations 8; Trespassing 5; Unlawfully in Dwelling 0; Wellbeing Checks 2.

KID'S CORNER



Meet 5 year old Waylon a grade 5 student at Vanier Community Catholic School.

What is your favorite holiday? Fishing trip
What is your favorite subject? English
Favorite food? Pink salmon
Favorite color? Green
Do you have pets? A cat and a dog.
What do you want to be when you grow up? A farmer, a butcherman and a worker.



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Parker Martin Memorial Kinette Scholarship

by Deanna Mitchener

The Edson Kinette Club has been handing out scholarships for years. Last year the organization decided to change the name to the Parker Martin Scholarship.

Recently Kyla Drader was the recipient of \$1,000 scholarship from the Kinette's. She hopes to pursue physiotherapy after her kinesiology degree. Kinesiologists are health professionals who focus on movement based therapies such as

exercise and physical rehabilitation.

Kyla said, "This means a lot to me because education has always been very important in my life. I've worked hard in school my whole life and the Kinette Club recognizing this means a great deal to me. It puts me even closer to my goal of completing university. Having the Kinettes support me is huge and I'm so grateful to have been chosen by them. They do so much for our town and I cannot thank them enough."



Brigitte De Corte (Kinette), Rhonda Dick (Kinette), Kyla Drader (Recipient of a \$1,000 Kinette Scholarship), Kris Schalm (Kinette), and Jody Martin (Kinette). photo Deanna Mitchener

GNS: GYPSD recognizes School Bus Safety Week



(GYPSD) From October 15-21 GYPSD recognized School Bus Safety Week. This year's theme was Stand Back from Yellow and Black, and offered an opportunity for everyone who rides a school bus, or knows someone who rides a school bus, to join forces in highlighting the importance of school bus safety.

Every year, the Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council puts on a provincial poster contest for students from kindergarten to grade 6 to promote bus safety as well.

Did you know?

Prevention is the key to safety; families are encouraged to visit our website to learn more about the Division's safety protocols. With education and awareness, all children should be able to get safely to school and home again. In addition to school visits to practice bus evacuation drills, GYPSD recently introduced Buddy's Grande Yellow Bus Adventure - a first riders program for kinders to teach them about safely riding the bus.

Thank you for helping to keep our students safe!



HRH Breakfast Window Program

Holy Redeemer has brought back the Breakfast Window for the second year. The Breakfast Window provides students who are in need of a breakfast or snacks for the day from 8:00-8:25. Students are able to take a granola bar, piece of fruit, yogurt tube and a juice box to start their day. "This project has always been in the back of my mind and I wanted to do something easy and simple for the grade 7-12 student body," says Teacher Julie Rothwell. "At the elementary schools it's easier to ensure students have the healthy food they need for the day with the programs being offered and I just felt like our older kids deserve to have healthy options available too if needed. Kids regardless of their age shouldn't have to worry about food at school and I am happy to make it accessible!" A huge thanks goes out to Cenovus Energy for their generous contribution to help maintain the program this year. If any other individuals or businesses would like to get involved, please contact Mrs. Rothwell at julie.rothwell@livingwaters.ab.ca. Here, Mrs. Rothwell is joined by grade 10 student Logan LaRose.



Wildfire season ends on October 31. All burning, with the exception of campfires, require a fire permit during wildfire season. Alberta Wildfire is accepting applications for the 2024 season. Visit their website to learn more.



Chelsey Grimbly and James (7) were out at Willmore Park enjoying a little picnic. photo Deanna Mitchener



A few of the gentlemen that get together at the Pioneer Cabin to shoot some pool. Games are held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. photo Deanna Mitchener.



These helpful Edson and District Recycle Society employees were unloading recycling on Seniors Day recently. Seniors can have staff sort their recycling while they enjoy a free lunch. photo Deanna Mitchener



Nessie with daughters Alice (3) and Celine (10 months) enjoying time at the Kinsmen Park recently. photo Deanna Mitchener

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A: Because it's always spotted.

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Sept 23-Oct 18: Seniors Tech Tips Every Weds 9:30am-10:30am Edson Community Learning 111 54St Suite 105. Register 780-712-3500
November 10, Dec 8, Jan 12, Feb 9, March 8, April 12: Join Trail Hall for potluck suppers for more information call 780-728-5641
October 27: Halloween Family Dance. Wildwood Community Hall 6:00pm-8:30pm Wear your costumes Registration required yhcounty.ca/registration
October 29: Jack-O'-Lantern Junction. Pumpkin drop off at 3:00pm-5:30pm Free exhibit 6:00pm-9:00pm Pumpkin carving contest 9 & under/ 10-13/ adults/seniors location Kinsmen Park. For more information visit edson.ca/cdprograms
November 4: CWL Bazaar 11am-3pm in the basement of the Catholic Church
November 6: Busy Bodies Toddler Drop-in. ages 0-5 Brule Community Hall 10:15am-11:00am please pre register through yhcounty.ca/registration
November 14: Coping after natural disaster. Community information session from AHS addiction and mental health teams. Wildwood community hall 1pm-3pm. Register at yhcounty.ca/registration or by calling 780-325-3782or by email yhc_fcass@yhcounty.ca
November 16: Coping after natural disaster. Community

information session from AHS addiction and mental health teams. Peers Multiplex 1pm-3pm. Register at yhcounty.ca/registration or by calling 780-325-3782or by email yhc_fcass@yhcounty.ca
November 17: RCMP Centennial Park Light Up, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
November 18: Holy Trinity Anglican Lutheran Church annual Christmas Bazaar at Galloway Station Museum 11:00am-3:00pm Craft sale, bake sale, silent auction and light lunch if you have any questions please call 780-728-4026.
Nov 25: Country Dance Night - Couples or Singles 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Galloway Station Museum
November 28: Coping after natural disaster. Community information session from AHS addiction and mental health teams. Marlboro Community Hall 1pm-3pm. Register at yhcounty.ca/registration or by calling 780-325-3782or by email yhc_fcass@yhcounty.ca

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Farm & Field

News and Views

Cyber security and your farming business

As agricultural and agri-food businesses become more and more digitized and connected online, the risk of cyber disruptions increases. Cyber disruptions can have devastating effects including interrupting key services, impacting consumer trust and affecting business profitability. Put cyber security measures in place to prevent cyber disruptions, and to protect your business.

Minimize your risk of a cyber disruption

Cyber incidents can lead to many types of disruptions, such as cyber extortion, breach of confidential information and technology failure. Take practical steps to improve your cyber security and protect your business.

Gather information and plan ahead

Take time to document information on your business-critical digital systems. Identify ways to protect systems from a cyber incident and recover them as quickly as possible after a disruption.

Stay alert to the ways your cyber security can be compromised

Don't click on unverified links in emails or text messages. As well, never reveal business or personal information to unsolicited callers. Always confirm calls directly with your financial services or suppliers first, including IT service providers.

Put physical and digital safeguards in place

Make sure your hardware and software is up to date, apply all current patches, lock server cabinets and use strong passwords.

Watch what you share on social media

Don't over-share information about your business or farming operations. Even seemingly harmless practices like sharing your vacation plans can put you at risk.

Back up your most important information regularly

Back up and store information in a safe place. For example, back up your data on an external hard drive and on a cloud back-up service.

Ask your suppliers about their cyber security safeguards

Ask your suppliers how they safeguard their information, and yours, and what tools they use.

Don't use public Wi-Fi to access your on-farm digital systems

Instead of using public Wi-Fi, purchase and use a VPN (virtual private network) service for mobile devices.

Make a sketch of your on-farm networks and digital systems

Map out the computers, sensors, servers, mobile devices, automated equipment, environmental control systems, financial systems, and other hardware that are connected within your on-farm networks. Use this to understand what information is critical to your farm business and what could happen if it's corrupted or not available. This will help you identify any vulnerable areas and create a plan to make them more resilient.

Make a list of suppliers

Keep a list of all suppliers whose services involve points of contact with your on-farm digital systems.

Consider your priorities

Be familiar with how you would prioritize getting your systems and technologies back up and running after a cyber disruption. For example, prioritizing your harvesting equipment, biosecurity systems, renewable energy sources, animal welfare, etc.

Reach out to your IT service providers and sector associations

Get technical help and stay informed about new threats and how to manage them.

Content adapted from the Community Safety Knowledge Alliance.

Report a cyber incident

If you believe you may have been a victim of a cyber incident, report your concerns to the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security's Cyber Centre. The Centre can provide advice, guidance and services. *Agri-News*



Ellis Mulvihill (7 months), Ashley Drummond with son William (2), were out at the Marlboro Park. "This is our first time out here. We heard Marlboro had a great park so we decided to check it out. It is a lovely park." photo Deanna Mitchener.

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