

A sister publication to The Free Press, Morinville, Alberta

McConnells honoured for service to Vilna Community

By Megan Suitor

Diane and Ellis Mc-Connell were the guests of honour for Vilna's monthly community supper on February 12. The couple recently retired from owning the D&E Family Grocery in Vilna after 39 years of service.

The couple, who were surrounded by the family that they had raised in Vilna, were surprised as speaker after speaker stood to commemorate the huge role the McConnells have



Mayor of Vilna, Leroy Kunyk presents Diane and Ellis McConnel with a plaque of appreciation on February 12.

Continued on page 3

Valentine's Day is for everyone

By Irene van der Kloet

Traditionally, on February 14, Valentine's Day is celebrated. Valentine's Day originated as a Christian Feast Day on which a martyr named Valentine was honoured. Officially, the day is called Saint Valentine's Day. There are different legends as to how Valentine's Day got its name. In the 14th and 15th centuries, Valentine's Day became associated with romantic love. In the 18th century, people in England started to give their loved one's flowers and confectionary on Valentine's Day. In Italy, people began to send each other greeting cards. Valentine's Day has evolved from a day for romantic lovers to a day for everyone: friends, neighbours, and co-workers at work, all wish each other a happy Valentine's Day, and it is not uncommon for people other than romantic lovers


to give each other gifts for Valentine's Day. In the Smoky Lake region, various restaurants celebrated Valentine's Day with particular meals. The Smoky Lake Inn offered a special dinner, and after dinner, guests could move to the bar to enjoy live music by Tara Harder and Gene Sobolewski. Pub 28 saw guests enjoy their Valentine's dinner, as did Métis Crossing and the Gathering Place Co-Op. Whereas the decor was still very much in the sphere of romantic love, groups of friends and co-workers at work could be seen going out for a particular Valentine's dinner. These days, relationships can be manifold, and in a world with so many different ways in which people are connected, all relationships can be celebrated on Valentine's Day. Sometimes the day is referred to as "Galentine's Day"

Continued on page 7

Small farming family looking to rent cropland in Thorhild County. Willing to pay competitive rates.



Please call 780-904-8965



Annual General Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Rendez Vous Centre
9913 - 104 Street
Morinville

ELECTIONS

sturgeonrcwa@gmail.com

Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch



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NEW LISTINGS
OPPORTUNITY IN NEWBROOK
 This over half an acre lot is in Newbrook which is just off highway 63 about an hour north of Edmonton. Great location for many business ideas. Selling this lot at lot value only; however, there is a 4 room motel and former bar that was built in 1994 on the site. There was a fire in the bar area a few years ago and it has not been cleaned up. The motel end, along with the boiler room have some damage in 2 units. The exterior of the building has metal clad roofing and vinyl siding with wood accents over the siding. Building is built on concrete slab with in floor hot water heating in the motel part and forced air furnace for the bar area. There appears to be no structural damage to the exterior walls or roof except a few of the bottom 2x4s of the trusses. The interior of the bar area has smoke damage throughout. Motel area is about 1300 sq ft and bar/kitchen/bathroom area is just over 3000 sq ft. Opportunity to restore and run your own motel/cafe/bar or bring your imagination. Great price! **\$49,900. Call Heather to view.**

HALF DUPLEX CONDO IN MORINVILLE
 Three bedroom townhouse style condo with attached garage! This property offers an open concept kitchen and living room with fireplace. Down the hall is a 2pc bath and access to the insulated garage. Upstairs is a primary bedroom with vaulted ceiling and 3pc ensuite, as well as two additional bedrooms and a four piece bath. Downstairs is a finished basement with high ceilings, another 2pc bath, and laundry as well as flexible open space for a family room, office, or even an additional bedroom. Back deck accessed from the living room lets you enjoy the green space. Great opportunity for a starter home, those looking to downsize, or investors! **\$249,900. Call Tara to view.**

BUNGALOW WITH DOUBLE ATTACHED GARAGE IN THORHILD
 1434 sq ft home with full basement features a large kitchen with lots of cabinets and corner pantry, formal dining room, 3 bedrooms, main floor laundry room, 3 pc main bath and 4 pce ensuite. Upgrades over the years include windows, metal roof, new drywall, and flooring. The main bath has a newer corner shower and the ensuite has a newer soaker tub. Furnace and hot water tank installed in the last few years. There is laundry hookups both upstairs and in the basement. The basement also has a chimney for a wood burning stove. The basement exterior walls are insulated and it is waiting for your future development. The 24'x24' attached garage is insulated and finished inside and has one overhead door. The framing is in for a second overhead door. **\$159,900. Call Heather to view.**

GRAIN LAND NW OF THORHILD
SOLD **\$184,900**

STARTER HOME WITH HEATED GARAGE
SOLD **\$99,900**

NEW LISTINGS
FULLY RENOVATED IN REDWATER!
 Beautifully upgraded 3 bdrm 2 bathroom 16x80 mobile home on a huge pie lot that backs onto a park in a cul-de-sac in Redwater. Home was built in 1991 and had a new metal roof and vinyl siding installed in 2007. Hot water tank was replaced in 2012. Since 2015 it has had a new furnace and air conditioner, new appliances, new high end laminate and linoleum throughout, new interior doors, baseboards and trim, windows, light fixtures, toilets, bathroom vanity and sink, bottom kitchen cabinets and countertops, sink and taps, and more. All expansion strips were removed and joints filled in and the whole house was painted. Vaulted ceilings, skylight, pantry, built in china cabinet, huge master bedroom with soaker tub, walk in closet and large 2nd and 3rd bedrooms are some of the features. Yard is fenced with a gate to the park and has two nice storage sheds. There are extra pilings already in for a deck or addition. Room for a garage on this lot. You own the lot so no rent! Must be seen! Move in ready! **\$139,900 Call Janine to view.**

FARM LAND NORTH OF GIBBONS
 Two 75 Acre parcels of land north of Gibbons. The land is zoned agricultural and fully fenced with a crop lease of \$3000/yr. on each 75 Acres. Easily accessed by Highway 28 and close to town. **Asking \$289,900. For each parcel. Call Glenn for more info.**

BUNGALOW ON DOUBLE LOT
 Very solid, well built bungalow on a huge 130'x110' double lot in the hamlet of Thorhild. Upgrades include new paint, main floor flooring, shingles on both house and garage as well as upgraded attic insulation. Gorgeous classic sculptured ceiling in living room and well kept mahogany doors, trim and cabinets. This home features double 3/8" drywall throughout the main floor. Basement is partially finished with a 3 pce bath and large family room. There is plenty of room to add another bedroom and make a bit smaller family room if needed. The huge yard has lots of large, mature native trees along with apple, crabapple, chokecherry and plum trees. Lots of room to park an RV, set up a playground, or to have a massive garden. There is even a clothesline. Good sturdy single detached garage finishes this great property. **\$179,900. Call Heather to view.**

UPGRADED HOUSE AND SHOP
SOLD **\$139,900**

NEW LISTINGS
2.32 ACRES FOR ONLY \$249,900
 Great opportunity here for an affordable acreage in Sturgeon County, just a few miles west of Legal and less than 1/2 hour to Edmonton. 960 sq ft bungalow built in 1973. Kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms and 4 pce bath on main floor. Basement has a walkout door to the yard, 2 pce bathroom and is framed for 3 more bedrooms. Upgrades over the years include windows, kitchen cabinets, some flooring and complete bathroom upgrades. Both front and back decks have maintenance free railings. There is also a mechanical lift to allow access to the back deck and house with a wheelchair. The 2.32 acres is well treed and mostly fenced. There is an older garage that would also make a nice barn or large chicken coop along with a storage shed. Only 1 mile off pavement. **Call Heather to view.**

72.5 ACRES WITH MOBILE SW OF MORINVILLE
 This home has updated flooring, a primary bedroom with 3pc ensuite and walk in closet, two additional bedrooms with 4pc bath, open concept kitchen with skylight, a dining area and attached living room with vaulted ceilings, as well as an addition with a family room and backdoor mudroom. The 16 x 8 ft front deck offers additional room to entertain or enjoy the yard. The property is fenced with a gate for security and boasts mature trees as well as a vegetable garden and storage shed. Easy access to Hwy 37 or Sec Hwy 642 makes travelling into town a breeze. Come see what the heart of Sturgeon County has to offer! **\$499,900. Call Glenn to view.**

78.53 ACRES FOR THE NATURE LOVER
 Gorgeous fully treed land about 1 hour north of Edmonton in Thorhild County. Approximately half large, mature spruce trees with the south end deciduous trees. There is an access off the range road and a trail was cut into a bit of clearing for camping. It has become a bit overgrown but could easily be cleared out once again. Great opportunity to build your cabin or dream home. Great for hunting or nature lovers with lots of wildlife. Owners have seen lots of deer and moose. Excellent possibility of subdividing a 10 acre parcel from this piece. **\$147,500 Call Heather for more info.**

5.51 ACRES WITH UPGRADED BUNGALOW
SOLD **\$299,900**

GLENN FISHER TEAM
RE/MAX REAL ESTATE
 Each office independently owned & operated.
 10018 - 100 Avenue, MORINVILLE
 Website: www.glennfisher.com Email: glenn@glennfisher.com

GLENN FISHER: 780-913-2493
HEATHER MOELLER: 780-699-7914
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Continued from page 1

played in the community, and to thank them.

The evening was emceed by Vilna Ag Society Vice President Bernie Buyar, who opened the evening by thanking all in attendance for coming to recognize and celebrate Diane and Ellis for over 39 years of service.

“They committed to our community, but they also provided a lot of employment, and the community is grateful for that because you provided employment for a lot of people,” Buyar said.

As members from the community continued to speak about the McConnells, it became apparent that the couple’s service to the community went much further than owning the local grocery store.

In his speech, Smoky Lake County Deputy Reeve Dan Gawalko summed up the community impact of the McConnells by saying, “I would like to thank you for being part of Vilna, the county, the firefighters and all of the clubs.”

Ed English, representing the fire department, shared that “one of the first things Ellis did when they bought the store was to join the fire department. They even had a fire phone in the store and spent countless hours helping.”

Speakers were quick to share stories that showed that it was not just the grocery service that the McConnells provided to the community, their connection went much deeper and reached all facets of Vilna. The Vilna Ag Society shared how not only did the couple donate to the fair every year, but they also provided help in many other ways. The fire department shared how Diane always made sure to have candy ordered for the fire department for Halloween and parades. Buyar talked about how Ellis joined the Old Timers hockey team, and “all of a sudden we started to win the odd game. He ended up being the scoring leader, and he also had the most penalty minutes for our team.”

Carmen Bergeron

spoke of the shock she experienced when first shopping at the store and finding out so many people were allowed to carry a tab, and the trust that the McConnells had in the community members.

Aspen View Public Schools Board Trustee Donna Cherniwchan shared memories of going to D&E Family Grocery.

“They knew everyone by name and greeted them when they entered the store. A trip to Diane’s meant an ice

cream cone, candy and Diane’s smile. They are a couple that provided an amazing service, and also committed wholeheartedly to our community,” shared Cherniwchan.

After so many heartfelt speeches of gratitude, it was time for Diane and Ellis to take the podium.

Ellis shared how their journey as grocery store owners began back in August 1983, when he noticed a for sale sign in the store window while stopping on a

trip from Edmonton to Ashmont.

“On October 1, 1983, the store was ours and we started the process of learning to be shopkeepers”

The couple began their journey in Vilna living in the residence at the back of the store, where they were often greeted by residents who realized their grocery needs only after the store had closed. This is where the new owner of the store, Sandeep Kommina is currently living as he

learns to run a store just as Ellis and Diane did 39 years ago.

“I’ve been looking for a store for many years,” shared Kommina. “I came to Alberta six months ago, and this store had a good projection for the future, and was the best one for me.”

The store was listed for sale on October 13, 2022, and sold only three weeks later. The takeover date for Kommina was January 31, 2023, and Ellis spoke of the mixed emotions felt by Diane and himself.

“We were handing over the place where we had worked and lived for so many years.”

Diane closed their speech with a note of gratitude to everyone in the community.

“We would like to thank all of our customers for all of these years, and we would like to welcome the new owner and wish him all the best.”

Everyone in attendance rose in a standing ovation, thanking the McConnells for all of their support over the past 39 years.



The D&E Family Grocery stands on the main street in the Village of Vilna, and is where the McConnells served the community for over 39 years.

THE EARLY BIRD PRIZE

YOUR OKANAGAN LAKEFRONT TOWNHOME



VALUED AT \$878,365



EARLY BIRD DEADLINE MARCH 2, 2023



starslottery.ca 1-855-STARS-68

EARLY BIRD DRAW: MARCH 17, 2023. MAIN DRAW: APRIL 5, 2023. DRAWS WILL TAKE PLACE AT 3950 12TH ST NE, CALGARY, AB. STARS MAIN LOTTERY WILL ONLY SELL 1,260,000 TICKETS AND WILL BE SOLD AT \$30 EACH, A SET OF 4 FOR \$75, A SET OF 8 FOR \$125, A SET OF 20 FOR \$275, AND A SET OF 35 FOR \$400. LICENCE 611781. TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ALBERTA. MUST BE 18+ TO PURCHASE. PLEASE PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

Sturgeon COUNTY

March Meetings and Important Dates

9613 100 Street,
Morinville, AB T8R 1L9
County Centre Office
Ph: 780-939-4321
Toll Free: 1-866-939-9303
Emergency After Hours:
780-939-4321

Meeting schedule is subject to change. Members of the public are welcome to observe or listen in. For teleconference details and links to the livestream, click on the meeting notice in the following locations:

- Council Meetings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/CouncilMeetings
- Board and Committee meetings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/Calendar
- Public Hearings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/PublicNotices

ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC)	Mar. 1	9:00 AM
Economic Development Advisory Board	Mar. 8	1:00 PM
Transportation Advisory Committee	Mar. 9	5:00 PM
Calahoo Villeneuve Sand & Gravel Extraction Advisory Committee	Mar. 13	9:00 AM
Community Services Advisory Board	Mar. 13	5:30 PM
Regular Council followed by Committee of the Whole	Mar. 14	9:00 AM
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	Mar. 14	2:00 PM
Agricultural Service Board	Mar. 24	9:00 AM
Regular Council followed by Committee of the Whole	Mar. 28	9:00 AM
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	Mar. 28	2:00 PM

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PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 9



SUDOKU

		1		9				2
		3						6
5	8							
9	1			5		4		
								1
		2		8		3		
		6	7				9	
4						1	2	7
			4	8				

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

CROSSWORDS

	1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8	
9					10			11			12
13					14		15				
16				17			18				
19			20		21					22	
	23			24		25				26	
		27			28		29		30		
			31			32		33			
			34				35		36		37
	38			39			40		41		42
43				44			45		46		47
48			49	50					51		52
53							54			55	
56								57			
	58									59	

- 57. In an inferior way
- 58. Colors clothes
- 59. Dried-up

- 24. Pastries
- 26. Turns away
- 28. Satisfies
- 30. Gift adornments
- 32. San Diego ballplayers
- 34. Manufacturing plant
- 35. Check or guide
- 37. Dogs do it
- 38. Chilled
- 40. Scorch
- 42. Unproductive of success
- 43. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 45. Attack with a knife
- 47. Feel bad for
- 49. Enclosure
- 50. Assert
- 51. Geological times
- 55. Midway between east and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Gastropods
- 2. Confusing
- 3. Romanian monetary unit
- 4. The rate at which something proceeds
- 5. A prosperous state of well-being
- 6. Asked for forgiveness
- 7. Makes less soft
- 8. Part of speech
- 9. Outside
- 10. Advice or counsel
- 11. Badness
- 12. Protein-rich liquids
- 14. Not moving
- 15. Call it a career
- 18. Poetry term
- 20. Not wide

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sea grape
- 5. European public health group (abbr.)
- 9. A way to delight
- 11. Appetizers
- 13. Ancient heralds' wands
- 15. Make a booking
- 16. '___ death do us part
- 17. Pearl Jam frontman
- 19. Spider genus
- 21. Fill with high spirits
- 22. A major division of geological time
- 23. Catch
- 25. An independent ruler or chieftain
- 26. Electronic music style (abbr.)
- 27. Influential Spanish

- cubist painter
- 29. Illegally persuades
- 31. A way to derive
- 33. British School
- 34. Appear alongside
- 36. Surely (archaic)
- 38. Harsh cry of a crow
- 39. A day in the middle
- 41. Kansas hoops coach Bill
- 43. The longest division of geological time
- 44. The first sign of the zodiac
- 46. Appetizer
- 48. Link together in a chain
- 52. A bacterium
- 53. In a way, forces apart
- 54. Cheese dish
- 56. Combines

BREAKFAST WORD SEARCH

L	A	T	N	S	A	U	S	A	G	E	L	E	H	H	T	I	I	D	
C	M	T	R	K	W	N	U	C	D	L	U	I	A	P	I	O	R	P	N
R	C	K	S	E	L	F	F	A	W	M	L	S	S	A	A	P	I	S	R
C	B	O	W	A	S	Y	L	A	I	B	H	L	F	I	D	W	E	A	L
F	E	G	T	U	O	E	T	U	U	B	N	R	P	F	O	K	S	E	W
E	S	R	E	N	M	T	R	H	R	T	A	Y	O	S	A	K	E	A	H
R	G	T	E	L	A	T	H	O	M	P	L	L	N	C	N	I	I	E	K
F	W	N	C	A	I	S	W	C	S	Y	S	D	N	O	B	M	S	L	R
W	A	H	T	U	L	N	S	M	N	N	A	F	P	K	E	U	T	W	
D	F	L	R	N	S	S	O	I	I	E	P	K	E	M	E	D	E	I	B
G	P	F	O	B	H	O	E	F	O	P	R	M	D	H	I	L	E	N	O
P	D	H	D	N	T	H	F	E	B	R	K	F	C	F	E	O	I	A	R
N	A	T	R	H	A	U	W	A	F	O	C	E	O	M	A	O	T	N	D
M	I	U	I	H	M	R	G	R	H	F	G	C	O	G	O	M	M	B	K
A	Y	E	S	B	S	E	G	F	L	A	O	R	K	T	E	Y	P	F	P
B	O	B	E	E	L	K	L	R	T	C	F	C	Y	A	O	E	S	N	M
I	G	A	P	S	Y	I	L	T	W	N	L	B	L	P	E	H	F	Y	I
F	U	C	E	A	C	O	O	Y	O	S	S	R	K	M	M	H	M	O	E
Y	R	O	R	R	E	C	F	C	H	K	D	E	L	B	M	A	R	C	S
O	T	N	C	Y	D	T	H	D	T	O	A	K	B	I	D	O	H	U	C

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- | | | | | | |
|--------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| BACON | BIALYS | CREPES | HAM | OMELET | SCRAMBLED |
| BAGELS | CEREAL | CROISSANT | HASHBROWNS | PANCAKES | SMOOTHIE |
| | COFFEE | FRENCH TOAST | MUFFINS | PARFAIT | TEA |
| | COTTAGE CHEESE | GRANOLA | OATMEAL | SAUSAGE | WAFFLES |
| | | | | | YOGURT |

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Opportunity awaits you, Aries. You just need to know where to look to get the best deal. Start chasing after your heart's desire because you could just get it this week.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



A financial windfall could be just over the horizon, Taurus. Stay the course over the next several days and wait and see what falls into your lap. You may be very surprised.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



People in your life want the best for you, Gemini. Accept their support and good wishes and use each as a guiding light when challenges arise.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



The stars are all but shouting that you need some self-care right now, Cancer. Put aside all of the tasks you think you need to do and turn attention to tending to your own needs.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Leo, your love interest seems like he or she is keeping something from you, but avoid drawing any conclusions. A surprise may be in store for you.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Virgo, take it slow may be the advice that is coming your way, but that might be hard right now. Your time is in demand and many people are seeking your expertise. Take a breath.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



You don't have to travel too far to find happiness this week, Libra. It's in all the small things around you. No extraordinary gestures are needed to make you smile.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, a potential love match could be on the horizon. Approach this with caution, but don't be afraid to share your thoughts and dreams with someone special.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Be careful when sharing your deepest desires and secrets, Sagittarius. There are many people you can trust, so make an effort to identify them before opening up.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Capricorn, your dreams can take you far, but smarts and action need to factor into the equation as well. Start fleshing out your plan and get moving.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Your friends can be a great help when you need some relationship advice this week, Aquarius. Seek their input and factor it into any decision you make.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Pisces, if a friend or family member causes drama for you, don't let it get in your way. Offer to help but be ready for this person to seek their own path.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES HEALTH CARE AIDES

The Smoky Lake Foundation operates Seniors & Community Housing in Smoky Lake County (Smoky Lake, Vilna and Waskatenau)

We currently have Health Care Aide positions available to serve our Vilna location. Small resident count, rewarding and enjoyable work environment, benefits and competitive wages.

COVID VACCINE NOT REQUIRED

Please inquire by calling Heidi at 780-636-3545, for more information.



4612 McDougall Drive, PO Box 310, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0
Phone: 780-656-3730 Fax: 780-656-3668
Email: county@smokylakecounty.ab.ca Website: www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - ROAD CLOSURE BYLAW 1429-23

TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to the Section 22, Section 216.4 and Section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of Smoky Lake County is proposing to adopt Bylaw 1429-23 to close and dispose of, a portion of Undeveloped Government Road Allowance, located along the East Side of River Lot 10 (Victoria Settlement).



The Public Hearing to obtain public input on proposed Bylaw No. 1429-23 will be held at the location and on the date and time as follows:

Date: March 16, 2023
Time: 9:15 a.m.
Place: 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, Alberta & online via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86085444606?pwd=aXJNaVpJc0hUdG81MG1DNmxWbVZmZz09>

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT anyone wishing to make a verbal or written representation may do so at the hearing, or by providing the representation to the County's Chief Administrative Officer before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2023. It would be beneficial for individuals to provide advance notice to the County at (780) 656-3730 of their intention to make a presentation at the hearing.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT a copy of the proposed Bylaw may also be inspected at the Smoky Lake County office located at 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, Alberta, & online at www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca.

Jordan Ruegg
Planning & Development Manager/
Development Authority Officer
Smoky Lake County
4612 McDougall Drive, Box 310, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

Holy Family Catholic School Waskatenau news



Valentine's Day at Holy Family Catholic School in Waskatenau was a beautiful occasion filled with love, as students and teachers alike shared their affection for one another. It was a reminder that love and relationships are essential parts of our lives, and we should always cherish and nurture them.

Pet therapy at Diamond Spring Lodge



On Valentine's Day, Diamond Spring Lodge resident Nestor Buryn enjoyed time with 17-year-old Captain Jack The Macaw Bird. Captain Jack loves to chat with new friends and enjoys doing tricks for treats.

NOTICE – JOINT PUBLIC HEARING on Proposed Smoky Lake County and Village of Vilna Intermunicipal Development Plan (County Bylaw 1425-22 / Village Bylaw 584-23)



TAKE NOTICE THAT in accordance with sections 606 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of Smoky Lake County, and the Council of the Village of Vilna is giving consideration of an Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) Bylaw. An Intermunicipal Development Plan contemplates and guides the future land uses within the policy area.



The Public Hearing will be held both in-person and via Zoom

videoconference on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 1:15 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) at: Smoky Lake County Council Chambers, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0 or online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86085444606?pwd=aXJNaVpJc0hUdG81MG1DNmxWbVZmZz09>, Meeting ID: 860 8544 4606; Passcode: 835692.

In-person Speakers:

If you intend on participating in person, you are encouraged to pre-register for the Public Hearing by contacting Legislative Services at 780-656-3730.

Speakers participating through Zoom videoconference:

If you wish to speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you are asked to register 24 hours prior to the opening of the Public Hearing by contacting Legislative Services at 780-656-3730. This is to ensure that virtual participants receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Requirements for all Speakers:

All speakers will be given a 5-minute time limit and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission in advance of the Public Hearing.

Written Submissions:

All interested parties are encouraged to express their views by providing a written submission to Legislative Services by email at patti.priest@smokylakecounty.ab.ca.

Persons wishing to view the Bylaw and/or the Public Hearing are invited to attend in person or view the Meeting at the County website at <http://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca>.

Questions? Contact:

Jordan Ruegg or Kyle Schole, of Planning & Development Services, Smoky Lake County at 780-656-3730 / pd@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Or Earla Wagar, CAO, Village of Vilna at 780-636-3620 / vilna@mcsnet.ca

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: By submitting comments on this bylaw, either orally or in writing, the personal information you provide may be recorded in the minutes of the Public Hearing, or otherwise made public. This information is collected in line with section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions, please contact the Smoky Lake County Access and Privacy Officer at 4612 McDougall Drive Box 310, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0, 780-656-3730, or county@smokylakecounty.ab.ca.





GRAPEVINE

MARCH 2023



Scheduled Meetings

Visit our 'Agendas & Minutes' web page for more Council meeting info and the 'Meeting & Events' web page for the complete list of other scheduled meeting dates and community events.

Strategic Plan Open House
February 27, 2023
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Regular County Council Meeting
March 16, 2023 @ 9:00 AM
April 13, 2023 @ 9:00 AM
Public Q & A Period
11:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Policy Committee Meeting
March 29, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

Smoky Lake County
Main and Public Works
Offices will be

CLOSED

April 7, 2023
for Good Friday &
April 10, 2023
for Easter Monday

Box 310
4612 McDougall Drive
Smoky Lake, Alberta
T0A 3C0

Main Office

Phone: 780-656-3730
Fax: 780-656-3768
Toll Free: 888-656-3730

Natural Gas

Phone: 780-656-3037

Public Works

Phone: 780-656-3755
Fax: 780-656-3743

www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Connect With Us



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Adopted Policy Statement No. 02-36-01: Peace Officer Uniform and Equipment.
- Third and Final Reading given to Bylaw No. 1430-23: Planning and Development Public Hearing Procedures.
- Approved to execute the FRIAA FireSmart Program Project Grant Agreement to receive up to \$40,000.
- Approved \$6,000 towards the 3rd Annual 2023 Junior Firefighter Summer Day Camp.
- Amended Policy Statement No.13-01-03: Surface Lease of Municipally-Owned Properties.
- Approved to purchase 2 Councillor Memberships to the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association.
- Approved \$14,640 of funding to the Doctor Retention & Recruitment Committee 2023 Budget.
- Approved \$55,000 of funding to the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) for agricultural extension programming.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Contract Trucks & Equipment: Notice to Register

Policy No. 03-04

Contractors must complete and submit annually a registration form listing each piece of equipment they wish to hire out.

Registration forms must be **delivered in person** to the Public Works Shop prior to, **4:00 PM on May 1st, 2023**

Dust Control/ Suppression Applications

Policy No. 03-39

Public Works is accepting applications for blade mix oil or magnesium chloride dust control/ suppression for rural roads within the County in front of residences.

Deadline to apply is prior to **4:00 PM on May 1st, 2023**

Policies and application forms can be found at:
www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/p/policies

NOTICE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The County's Draft 2023 - 2025 Strategic Plan outlines Smoky Lake County Council's vision for the future of Smoky Lake County.

A Open House Review of the Draft 2023-2025 Strategic Plan has been scheduled for:

February 27, 2023
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Via Zoom Platform:

By phone: 877-853-5257 (toll free)
Zoom Meeting ID: 898 9569 7989
Passcode: 228160

The Draft 2023-2025 Strategic Plan can be viewed at:
www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/p/strategic-plan

Questions? Call 780-656-3730

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Full job details and how to apply can be found on our website:

www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/p/employment

Public Works Manager

This full-time permanent position reports to and receives general management direction from the County's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). The Public Works Manager operates within applicable legislation, the strategic plan, bylaws, policies, and the broad expectations of the County, and sets in motion plans and actions that lead to positive results for the County relative to Public Works' Services and Programs. The Public Works Manager is expected to work collaboratively within the leadership team and is essential in assisting the CAO on proactively addressing and managing public works concerns that may be received.

Smoky Lake County offers an excellent benefit and pension package, a competitive salary, and will negotiate within the position's salary range based on experience and qualifications.

Deadline to apply:
4:00 P.M. on March 1, 2023

The competition may remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

Weed Inspector

Smoky Lake County, Agricultural Services Department has an employment opportunity for the position of Weed Inspector which consists of temporary-full-time work for approximately four months, starting May 1, 2023. The successful candidate must be willing to work flexible hours and preference will be given to students or individuals with a pesticide applicator license or the ability to obtain one, prior experience in agriculture, pesticides, spray operations and weed and plant identification. Smoky Lake County will provide all applicable training.

Wage will be based on qualifications and experience.

Deadline to apply:
12:00 P.M. on March 24, 2023

The competition may remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

Smoky Lake County thanks all applicants in advance, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

James Joseph Clarke

It is with deepest sorrow that we announce the sudden and unexpected passing of James Joseph Clarke of Warburg, AB on February 8, 2023 at the age of 51.



Emmet, nieces Ariana, Henley, Briella, and extended family Bret and Kathleen Schroder and father in law Pat Paron, (Maureen). James will be remembered as a devoted family man

James (JJ) will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 23 years Shelley, their two sons Brady and Lucas, his parents Jack and Kathy of Thorhild, sister Kristiana, (Mathew), brother in law Pat Paron (Credwin), grandmother Marian Madden, mother in law Debbie Madden, father in law Manfred Behnke, nephews Jarell, Big Emmet, Little

and for his huge loving heart, community volunteering, helping anyone in need, and generosity of spirit to everyone. He was thought of by many as a second dad, mentor, protector, or big brother.

A Memorial Service will be held on February 17, 2023 at 1:00 pm at Central Baptist Church, 9419 95 Street NW, Edmonton, AB.

Donations can be made in James' name to the Leduc Food Bank (www.ldfb.ca), or Central Baptist Church (www.followingtogether.com)



By Brandie Majeau

“It’s been really awesome!” RAS member and artist Chantal Antoniuk stated. That statement so perfectly summed up The Redwater Art Society. The Redwater Art Society welcomes all local artists of any age, any skill level, and any medium preference to join them and work together to develop their talent. They are open most Tuesdays and every Wednesday, but are looking to expand their hours. People are welcome to drop in and see what is going on, work on their own current projects, walk through the art galleries, or join step-by-step tutorials that RAS hosts.

Currently, their members are working on “Flowers of Summer” paintings to add some color to the dreariness of February and March. It was a cheerful group that huddled around instructor, Carol Mervyn-Keon as she demonstrated the

techniques to create a beautiful snowdrop flower. Carol said they will spend the next six weeks doing flowers and then move on to landscapes. When asked about drop-ins when nothing is scheduled, she said that “if anyone is here for instructing, then we will instruct.”

Doreen Stachniak is one of the original members of the Redwater Art Society and even has one of her paintings in the permanent collection of the Alberta Community Art Clubs Association (ACACA). She mentioned that it is very exciting

that Redwater will be hosting an ACACA exhibition this year. Another local artist and RAS member, Ian Morris, said that he would like to come in more often, but it doesn’t always work out. He explained that this group is so much more than the creativity, it’s also about friendship. He said that the range of knowledge and skill is phenomenal, and whenever he attends, he learns something new. Ian also said how helpful it is to have a second set of eyes look over your work; whether you are new to your skills or have

years of experience, another person looking often can point out something that can make you better.

So, a reminder that when you happen to be in Redwater, peek in and say hello, see what’s going on, and see the amazing works in the Featured Artist Gallery, Members Gallery and Past Members Gallery. The Redwater Art Society is a fellowship; they inspire a helpful attitude and work together to promote individuality and encouragement. And keep your eyes open; much of their work is proudly displayed in local businesses.



Continued from page 1

if the relationships refer to a friendship between women and

non-binary people, though this is typically celebrated on February 13. Maybe one day, someone will come up

with other varieties describing the friendship between men or the connection between pets and their

owners. One thing is sure: Valentine’s Day is no longer the sole prerogative of romantic lovers.

Thorhild County

Summer Employment Opportunities

Thorhild County is accepting applications from candidates to fill the following summer/seasonal positions:

- **Pool Manager & Lifeguards/Instructors**
- **Summer Program Coordinator & Leaders**
- **Labourers** - Various Departments
- **Gravel Checker**
- **Agricultural Service Board Sprayer Operator**
- **Equipment Operators** - Various Departments

For details, please visit our **Careers** page at www.thorhildcounty.com.

Phone: 780-398-3741 | www.thorhildcounty.com
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Baby Buddies & Tot Time

By Brandie Majeau

Thorhild County Family Resource Center is there for you. As a revamp of their previous ParentLink programs, Tammy Keufler, Family Resource Coordinator, is working hard to ensure local families have the resources they need to thrive and grow. On February 14, the Baby Buddies & Tot Time program hosted a Valentine's Potluck Party. While the group played and participated in various crafts, there was a sense of community and connection among the

parents. The program is designed with one special purpose in mind: to connect community members to each other and offer early childhood resources when you need them. With the Covid restrictions no longer an issue, Keufler stated that they are trying to provide predictable programming (currently Tuesday mornings) and try to keep it consistent. Over the past couple of years the programs have been delayed, canceled, run outdoors or with restrictions inhibiting certain activities. "We

are glad to be back in person!" said Jackie Mackay, a parent in attendance at the Valentine's Party.

Currently, 10+ families attend the Baby Buddies & Tot Time program. It is all about connection, resources and reassurances. The reassurances are a big part of the program. It reminds parents that they are not alone in their struggles; they are not alone with their concerns, and yes, they are doing a great job. Keufler looked around and commented, "It's nice that we have people here from all

areas. This is the first time we've had families from Thorhild, Radway and Newbrook in attendance."

The program also brings in specialists to speak with families. It makes them easily accessible and gives families somewhere to look and somewhere to turn to when they are unsure of where to go. Previously, home support workers have been brought in to explain their role and how to access their services, as well as an occupational therapist and other professionals in early childhood

development. Families have also been offered ages and stages screening, again, another way of reassuring parents that everything is well or offering guidance if something needs to be addressed.

Baby Buddies & Tot Time

is a wonderful program. It welcomes all families and encourages more local families to join them. For more information on this program and others don't hesitate to contact Thorhild County Family Resources.



Children at the Valentine's Potluck Party: Carson, Zoe, Leah, Jessi, Riley, Laramie, Brett and Dawson



Redwater School news



The Biology 30 students at Redwater School recently delved into the intricacies of the central nervous system. As a part of their learning experience, the students had the unique opportunity to perform a brain dissection, which allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of the brain's anatomy and function. Additionally, the students were tasked with designing brain helmets that reflected the four lobes of the cerebrum, which further reinforced their knowledge of the subject matter. It was a fascinating and engaging way for the students to explore the complexities of the human brain.

Pancake Supper & Ham Bingo

Friday March 3, 2023
Newbrook Hall

Pancake Supper 5:30 – 7:00

Ages 12 and up: \$12.00

Ages 7-11: \$8.00

6 & under: no charge



4-H Ham Bingo will start at 7:00

\$10.00/person for a strip of 3
\$5.00/additional strip of 3

Sponsored by:

Newbrook Ag. & Rec. Society
Newbrook 4-H Club



Requests applications for the following Support Staff position:

1.0 FTE Accounting Coordinator

Aspen View Public Schools, with a division office located in the town of Athabasca, is a rural school division providing diverse and innovative programming to students in a number of communities. The division is unique in that it is surrounded by a multitude of lakes, golf courses and trails that appeal to an active, outdoor lifestyle while still being in close proximity to larger urban centers.

Reporting to the Secretary-Treasurer, the Accounting Coordinator is primarily responsible for overall accounting, accounts receivable, accounts payable and cash receipting. They provide guidance and direction to 10 school business managers ensuring proper execution of accounting procedures in accordance with internal controls, board policy, Alberta Education reporting requirements and CRA regulations.

The successful candidate will be responsible for tasks such as, but not limited to:

- Bank reconciliations;
- Payroll review;
- Administration of purchase cards and financial systems on a division and school-based level;
- Perform internal audits of school-based accounting system;
- Monthly financial statements and reporting to Alberta Education;
- Assist with external audits;
- Liaise with department heads and school administrators for the preparation of annual budgets;
- Prepare miscellaneous reports, journal entries and transaction processing, including annual and quarterly statutory reporting for GST, charities and WCB;
- Review and audit accounts receivable and accounts payable;
- Liaise with insurance provider(s) regarding status of claims.

The required skills and qualifications include:

- Post-secondary degree or diploma in Accounting or Business Administration, or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.
- Relevant experience in public administration in the public sector.

Submit resumes to Aspen View Human Resources in Microsoft Word or PDF format, along with two references by **12:00 noon, on March 3, 2023**.

A current criminal record check including vulnerable sector check, dated within the past six (6) months, must be provided prior to an employment contract being issued.

For further information contact Neil O'Shea, Superintendent at 780-675-7080 Ext. 03.

We appreciate interest in this position; however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Competition Number: DO202309

Human Resources

Aspen View Public Schools

E-Mail – careers@aspview.org

Engage Learning. Ignite Potential. Inspire Success.

SMALL ADS BIG REACH Classified Word Ads require Payment with Order. Low cost - high circulation. Your ad will also run free in the Morinville Free Press. Up to 25 words: \$15.00 per week, GST included. Additional words: 50c/ each. Deadline: Friday 2 p.m. Phone 780-942-2023 E-mail: redwater@shaw.ca or redwaterreview@gmail.com



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Coming Events

COIN SHOW and SALE - Canada's largest. 11 & 12 March 2023, 10 am - 4:30 pm. Lions Centre 11113 - 113 Street, Edmonton. Free market evaluations. Dealers

from across Canada, auctions, displays, coin striking. Family friendly. www.edmontoncoinclub.com.

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2023 AUCTION PROGRAM: Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items for Auction, or Possible Purchase: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, Email Us @ sales@switzersauction.com or Visit Us @ www.switzersauction.com.

Commercial Property

BLANKET THE PROVINCE with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach almost 90 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903 Ext 225; www.awna.com.

Employment Opportunities

FREIGHTLAND CARRIERS INC. is looking for owner/operators to deliver tri-flat deck freight in Alberta,

Saskatchewan or BC. Monday to Friday work. Steady year-round work with substantial increases in rates. Contact Freightland by email at dispatch@freightland.ca or telephone toll free 1-800-917-9021.

Feed and Seed

ALBERTA FEED GRAIN: Buying Oats, Barley, Wheat, Canola, Peas, Screenings, Mixed Grains. Dry, Wet, Heated, or Spring Thresh. Prompt Payment. In House Trucks, In House Excreta Cleaning. Vac Rental. 1-888-483-8789.

WE BUY DAMAGED GRAIN - Heated, Mixed, Tough, Light, Bugs, Spring Thrashed.... Barley, Wheat, Oats, Peas, Flax, Canola. "On Farm Pickup". Westcan Feed & Grain 1-877-250-5252.

HAY FOR SALE

SMALL SQUARES. A L F / T I M / B R / C W mix. Majority no rain. Shredded \$8.00. Phone late evenings

780-942-4107.

Health

HIP/KNEE REPLACEMENT. Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING? The Disability Tax Credit allows for \$3,000 yearly tax credit and \$30,000 lump sum refund. Take advantage of this offer. Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide: Expert help. 1-844-453-5372.

Notices

GET YOUR MESSAGE SEEN ACROSS Alberta. The Blanket Classifieds or Value Ads reach over 600,000 Alberta readers weekly. Two options starting at \$269 or \$995 to get your message out! Business changes, hiring, items for sale, cancellations, tenders, etc. People are increasingly staying home and rely on their local newspapers for information. KEEP people in the loop with our 90 Weekly Community Newspapers. Call

THIS NEWSPAPER now or email classifieds@awna.com for details. 1-800-282-6903, 780-434-8746 X225. www.awna.com.

PUPPIES

THORHILD - PUPPIES FOR SALE. 6 weeks old Shepherd cross. 2 tan, 3 black & tan \$350 obo. Doug 587-568-5437.

FREE PUPPIES - Morinville - Lab collie spaniel, all female (3). Have received 6 & 10 week shots. For more info contact Sam 780-920-1605.

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REDWATER - LARGE BSMT SUITE 2 bdrm apartment. Garage parking, shared yard, separate entrance. All appliances, utilities included, wifi and cable extra. \$1100/month. Call 780-942-2026.

Services

CRIMINAL RECORD? Why suffer employment/licensing loss? Travel/business

opportunities? Be embarrassed? Think: Criminal Pardon. US entry waiver. Record purge. File destruction. Free consultation. 1-800-347-2540. www.accesslegalmjf.com.

GET BACK ON TRACK! Bad credit? Bills? Unemployed? Need Money? We Lend! If you own your own home - you qualify. Pioneer Acceptance Corp. Member BBB. 1-877-987-1420. www.pioneerwest.com.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS
Estate of Kevin & Elizabeth O'Neill
Kevin passed August 18, 2022
Elizabeth O'Neill passed February 1, 2023
If you have a claim against this Estate, you must file your claim within 90 days with the estate at 2-11 58222 RR 221 Redwater, AB T0A 2W0
and provide details of your claim.
If you do not file by the date above, the Estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

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SUDOKU

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or visit your community newspaper

Ochre Park School has PreK/ Kindergarten Open House



By Megan Suitor

Those interested in enrolling their children in the PreK or Kindergarten programs at Ochre Park School were invited to an open house on the evening of February 16.

The school's principal, Mr. Calvin Anhorn, vice principal Jenaia Gingras and Sturgeon Public School Board Director of Learning Shelley Greenwood were on hand to answer questions and provide a face to a name for parents.

Mrs. Tarra Larson, the PreK teacher at the school, presented details about what the program entails and how to apply for your child to be part of the program.

"Screening is required for this program," explained Mrs. Larson. "The district begins screening in March, and children must be accompanied by a legal guardian."

Bookings for screening appointments can be made by calling the central office at 780-939-4341 ext. 1257. Children enter the program primarily because of a need for speech and language help or because of behavioural difficulties.

The PreK program is based on learning through play.

"We don't do worksheets because that isn't how a three-year-old's brain works," said Mrs. Larson. "We nurture strengths and curiosities, and our number one goal is to create a relationship with your kiddo."

Children in the program

have access to an array of specialists, including a speech and language practitioner, an occupational therapist, and an educational psychologist.

The kindergarten open house was presented by teacher Mrs. Geneva Fossen.

Children who attend kindergarten at Ochre Park are split into K1 and K2, with K1 attending on Mondays and Wednesdays and K2 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fridays alternate between the classes.

Similar to PreK, the program is structured to be child-centered and play-based, but Mrs. Fossen explained, "the new curriculum has quite a few skills that we have to expose the kids to."

After registering, before school begins in the fall, students will attend a staggered entry that consists of a couple of students.

"It eases some of the anxiety because when the children come back for their first full day, they will at least know a couple of other students," said Mrs. Fossen. Parents are notified of their child's staggered entry day in August.

Bussing is available for all students for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. There is, however, no mid-day bussing available for students in PreK who end their day at 11:20 a.m.

Children who were born in 2020 are eligible for junior PreK, while students born in 2019 can enter senior PreK. Those born in 2018 can enter kindergarten.

Property Re-inspection Notice

Notifications of Reinspection and Request for Information forms were mailed to Sturgeon County residents whose properties are up for re-inspection this year.

In accordance with the Municipal Government Act (MGA), Section 295, Request for Information forms are sent out and reviewed every five years to establish equity within Sturgeon County and ensure our records correctly reflect the physical attributes of your property.

A detailed map of this year's inspection area can be found on our website under **Interactive Property Map, 2023 Cyclical Inspection Area**.

Only residents who received the 2023 Notice of Reinspection letter need to respond.

Submit your property details:

- **ONLINE** at www.sturgeoncounty.ca/PropertySurvey with the unique code at the top of your Request for Information form or by
- **EMAIL:** assessmentservices@sturgeoncounty.ca
- **MAIL:** 9613-100 Street Morinville, AB T8R 1L9
- **PHONE:** 790-939-0601 or toll free 1-866-939-9303

Starting in March, areas in green are scheduled for reinspection along with the following multi-lot subdivisions:

Aspen Ridge	Austin Acres
Fernwood Estates	Osthoff Park
Freemore Estates	Brook Hollow
Pinewood	Braun Village
Dream Nook	Clearview Acres
Hillsborough	Lilly Lake Estates
Golden Heights	Woodridge
Lostpoint Lake Estates	Waterdale
Gibbonslea	Juniper Hills
Maple Ridge	Fort Augustus Park
St. Nicholas	Riverside Park
Sturgeon Valley Estates	Hu Haven
	Pilon Creek Estates
	Lamoureux

QUESTIONS?
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www.sturgeoncounty.ca/PropertySurvey

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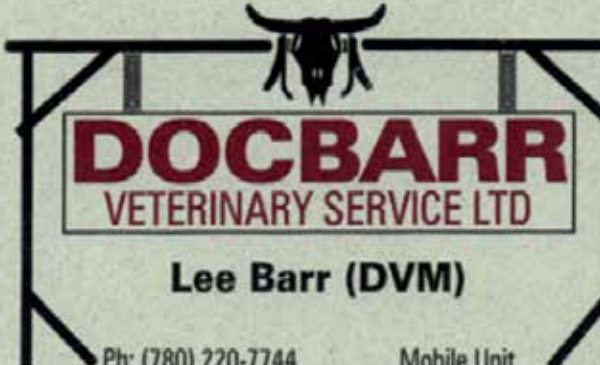
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